

Roman Catholic Persecutions in Colombia, South America

Insomuch as

- 1) It is an established fact that the present government of Colombia, South America, has signed a Concordat with the Holy See at Rome;
- 2) That the Concordat agreement has officially designated the entire Indian territories of Colombia as missionary territory for the Roman Catholic Church exclusively;
- 3) That as a result evangelical missionary work in the Indian territories was for a time completely closed, and then until recently permitted to resume on a very limited and curtailed basis, and this only because of concerted protest;
- 4) That all religious and evangelical work in the Indian territories came under the edict which prohibited any form of educational program on the part of evangelical missionaries;
- 5) That co-existent with the signing of the Concordat with Rome there arose throughout Colombia a condition of violent, bloody, and fanatical persecution against evangelical missions and national non-Catholic Christians involving burning of churches and chapels, physical and bodily hurt to both national Christian leaders, missionaries, and believers, with actual bloodshed and persecution, and, in all, a complete disregard of the Colombian constitution in its provision for religious liberty, and that such persecution still exists;
- 6) That within the past few weeks there has been a renewed application of the Concordat with Rome with reference to the Indian territories, resulting in a complete closing of evangelical missionary work in many areas;
- 7) That one of our approved mission agencies of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, having two missionary couples working in Colombia, in Indian territory, has come under the most recent edict which has resulted in the closing of their Baptist church and the cessation of all missionary work in the area.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

That the GARBC in 25th Annual Conference at Seattle, Washington

- 1) Declare its unqualified support of the baptistic and Scriptural principles of religious liberty and freedom to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all peoples of the world;
- 2) Declare its deep concern with regard to the attitude of the government of Colombia, South America, in permitting the almost unrestrained persecutions of evangelical believers in direct violation of the principles of religious liberty guaranteed under its present national constitution;
- 3) Protest positively and actively against the renewal of the discriminatory government decrees which have closed the Baptist church and shut off the work of the missionaries of approved agencies of the GARBC;
- 4) Call upon our entire Baptist constituency and upon all others who uphold the principle of religious liberty to voice their protest publicly and also through available governmental channels against this bigoted and discriminatory attitude and action involving missionary work in Colombia;
- 5) Realizing the effectual power of prayer, call for a great prayer effort within our local churches in both public and personal participation that God may overrule and deliver from the powers of evil and the persecution of individuals unto a great ongoing of the Gospel in the dark and needy land of Colombia, and in other lands where a totalitarian government, whether Roman Catholic or atheistic, has prevailed to the hindrance of the Gospel.

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