

## **Concern on Governmental Interference in Church Matters**

WHEREAS certain recent developments in our beloved nation are causing alarm over trends which bring the complete secularization of society and the possible persecution of Biblical Christianity; and while we do not necessarily agree with the policies or actions of these examples, these do demonstrate our concern:

- the court-directed closing of the Christian School in Louisville, Nebraska, which resulted in police dragging praying Christians from the building;
- the court cases in Arkansas and Louisiana which decided against allowing creationism to be taught in public schools;
- the case against Bob Jones University vs. IRS, which the University lost before the Supreme Court, which has set a major precedent of governmental judgment of what is acceptable doctrine;
- the decision of the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals to deny the elected school board of Lubbock, Texas, to allow the public school facilities to be used by students to assemble before or after school hours to debate, discuss, or study religious matters;
- and other similar cases of harassment, interference, and blatant prejudice against the evangelical philosophy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches meeting in Niagara Falls, June 27–July 1, 1983 warn our churches and agencies of these open attacks from State and Federal bureaucracies and courts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to pray for our elected and appointed officials that they will honor the freedoms and rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Acts 5:29; I Timothy 4:1–2; I John 5:19.

*Niagara Falls, New York  
June 27–July 1, 1983*