

Resolution

Regarding a Baptist 400th Anniversary With a Special Opportunity to Share Baptist Heritage

Whereas many Baptist historians agree that the establishment of a Baptist church in Amsterdam, Holland, by a group of refugees from England four hundred years ago in 1609, was the first church in so-called "modern times" known to hold the recipe of Baptist beliefs, politics, and practices that characterize Baptists today, and

Whereas this tiny band of believers pastored by John Smyth set forth concepts that we today cherish as Baptists, such as the Lordship of Christ, the Bible as the sole written authority for faith and practice, salvation only by grace through faith, believer's baptism, the priesthood of all believers, the autonomy of the local church, and religious freedom for all, and

Whereas holding these beliefs cost Baptists dearly through the years; considered traitors by governments and heretics by state-supported churches, they remained steadfast in spite of fines, imprisonment, banishment, public whippings, torture, and death, and

Whereas after years of persecution Baptists in Colonial America led the way in the struggle that finally brought religious freedom to the United States of America, and

Whereas the road that brought us to what we enjoy as Baptists today in a free land is a bloody one, soaked with the blood of our Savior who died for our sins, with the blood of patriots who fought and died for political freedom, and with the blood of Baptist martyrs and others who died for the cause of religious freedom, and

Whereas major characteristics of Baptist life, such as diversity and freedom, are evident in the various views about the beginning of Baptists, and

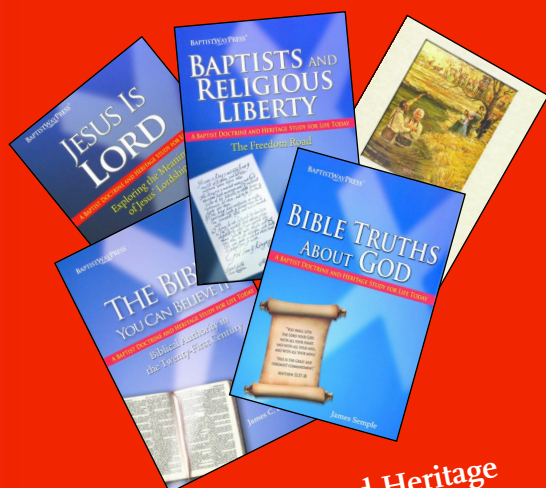
Whereas Baptists throughout the world are celebrating the 400th anniversary of this historic church in Amsterdam;

Be it therefore resolved that the members of the Baptist Distinctives Council of The Baptist General Convention of Texas urge Baptist individuals, churches, associations, institutions, and other Baptist entities in Texas to utilize the 400th anniversary celebration

- to retell the Baptist story,
- to emphasize those beliefs and practices which Baptists have held dear these many years in spite of horrible persecution, and
- to pay tribute to the Baptists of the past who paid a high price to make possible what we today enjoy.

Baptist Distinctives Council

Some resources to help **TELL** the Baptist story and to **SHARE** our Baptist heritage including Bible study materials and books on Baptist beliefs are available on the Web sites www.baptistdistinctives.org and www.baptistwaypress.org or by contacting BaptistWay Press, 333 North Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246 or calling 1.866.249.1799



Baptist Doctrine and Heritage Study Series



Leader's Guide and Children's Book



Bible Study Materials on Baptist Beliefs