

## DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

The churches of this association heartily subscribe to and agree to defend and promulgate the historic Missionary Baptist Faith and Practice, the interpretation of which is tersely stated as follows:

1. The Trinity of God. (Deut. 4:35; Psalms 83:18; Matt. 28:19; I John 5:7)
2. The infallible and plenary verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:21)
3. The Biblical account of creation. (Gen. 1:1, 11, 21; I Cor. 15:39; Acts 17:24-29)
4. The personality of Satan. (Job 1:6; Eph. 2:2; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10)
5. Hereditary and total depravity of man in his natural state involving his fall in Adam. (Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-18)
6. The virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ. (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Gal. 4:4)
7. Christ's blood atonement for fallen man. (Eph. 1:7; Heb. 2:9; John 3:16)
8. His bodily resurrection and ascension back to His Father. (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:5-6; Acts 1:9-10)
9. The person and work of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-17, 24; 16:7-14)
10. Justification before God by faith without any admixture of works. (John 3:3-8; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; Rom. 4:1-6)
11. Separation of God's children from the world. (I Peter 1:14-19; I Thes. 4:3-4, 7)
12. Water baptism (immersion) to be administered to believers only and by Divine authority as given to the Baptist church. (Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:4)
13. The Lord's Supper, a church ordinance, to be administered to baptized believers only and in scriptural church capacity. (I Cor. 11:23-34)
14. Eternal security of the believer. (John 10:28; 5:24; Eccl. 3:14; Rom. 8:1)
15. The establishment of a visible church by Christ, Himself during His personal ministry on earth. (Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 1:1-13; Matt. 4:18-22; 18:15-20)
16. World wide missions according to the Great Commission which Christ gave His church. (Matt. 28:18-20)
17. The perpetuity of missionary Baptist churches from Christ's day on earth until His second coming. (Matt. 16:18; 28:19; Eph. 3:21; I Tim. 3:15)
18. The right of scriptural churches to be held as equal units in their associated capacities, with equal rights and privileges for all. (II Cor. 8)
19. The subjection of all scriptural associational assemblies and their committees to the will of the churches, so that they shall forever remain as servants of the churches originating them. (Eph. 1:22-23)
20. The separation of the Lord's Church from all so-called churches or church alliances which are not in harmony with the Word of God. Open communion, alien baptism, pulpit affiliation with heretical churches, modernism, and all kindred evils arising from these practices are unscriptural. (Jude 3; I Thes. 3:14)
21. The only valid baptism is that administered by the authority of a

scriptural missionary Baptist church. Any so-called Baptist church which knowingly receives alien baptism, habitually practices this or other evils as those listed in statement 20 cannot be a scriptural Baptist church, nor can its ordinances remain valid.

22. The personal, bodily and imminent return of Christ to earth. (Acts 1:11)
23. The bodily resurrection of the dead. (I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thes. 4:14-17; John 5:28-29)
24. The reality of heaven, involving divine assurance of eternal happiness for the redeemed of God. (I Cor. 2:9; John 14:2; Heb. 11:16; rev. 21:22)
25. The reality of Hell, involving everlasting punishment of the incorrigible wicked. (Matt. 24:41; Luke 16:23; Rev. 20:15)
26. We believe in absolute separation of church and state. (Matt. 22:21)

NOTE: The following statements are not binding upon the churches already affiliated with this association, nor require adoption by churches petitioning this body for privileges of cooperation, nor to be a test of fellowship between brethren of churches. However, they do express the preponderance of opinion among the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, Baptist Missionary Association of Mississippi and the East Central Baptist Missionary Association.

1. We believe in the pre-millennial return of Christ to earth, after which He shall literally reign in peace upon the earth for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)
2. We believe the scriptures to teach two resurrections: the first of the righteous at Christ's coming; the Second of the wicked dead at the close of the thousand year reign. (I Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:4-6; 12-15)

## ANNUAL SESSION

On Saturday, September 24, 1983, at 9:30 A.M., the Annual East Central Association met with Dykes Chapel Baptist Church, Richton. The meeting was opened with a song, "Victory in Jesus", and a prayer by Brother George Reddin.

Brother Arnold Knight, Secretary of State Missions, gave the devotion from Proverbs 24:16.

Brother Theodore Broom, pastor of Dykes Chapel, gave a hearty welcome to the Association. Brother Junior Burnett, messenger from Zions Rest, gave the response.

Brother Lonnie Howell, moderator of the Association, called the first Annual Session of the East Central Association to order.

The first order of business was the election of officers. They are as follows: Moderator, Brother Lonnie Howell; Assistant Moderator, Brother Ralph Brand; Clerk, Mrs. Mary Jo Howell; Assistant Clerk, Mrs. Cromer Cook; Treasurer, Brother Henry Lott; Assistant Treasurer, Brother Danny Parker;