

THEY TORE THE OLD LIGHTHOUSE DOWN

by Dr. Greg J. Dixon

**Indianapolis Baptist Temple Property Sold For \$1,500,000 For A Charter School
Property Had Been Appraised At \$6 Million
Only \$255,000.00 Paid To Federal Government Toward The Bogus Judgment**

THE LIGHT HOUSE

There's a Lighthouse on a hillside
That overlooks lifes sea When I'm tossed
it sends out a light that I might see

And the light that shines in darkness
Now will safely lead me home
If it wasn't for the lighthouse
My ship would sail no more

And I thank God for the lighthouse
I owe my life to Him
Jesus is the Lighthouse
And from the rocks of sin
He has shown the light around me
That I might clearly see

If it wasn't for the lighthouse
Tell me where would this ship be?

Everybody who lives around me
Wants to tear the lighthouse down
The big ships don't sail this way anymore
Ain't no use in it standin' round
Then my mind goes back to that
Stormy night when just in time I saw the light
The light from that old lighthouse
That stands upon the hill.

I thank God for the Lighthouse
I owe my life to Him
And if it wasn't for the lighthouse
tell me where would this ship be?

By Rony Hinson

Under the backdrop of a fallen woman taken in adultery the Lord Jesus Christ said to her pharisaical tormentors, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." There is no question that when they nailed Him to the cross the apostate religious world in particular thought that they were turning that light of Deity out and they never expected it to shine on their sinful lives again. Who has not thrilled at the way our Lord exposed their hypocrisy when they tried to trap him by bringing a woman who had been caught in the very act of adultery to see if He would uphold Moses law in regards to the stoning of adulterers. But saying nothing he just simply wrote on the ground, "as though He heard them not." Some believe that He wrote the names of women that those religious leaders had been with or the towns that they had visited to carry out their unfaithful trysts. Whatever He wrote it had a powerful impact on them because when He said, "He that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone at her." The scriptures say,"...And they...being convicted of their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last." (John 8:1-11) The scripture also says, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the

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Nat'l. UBF Meeting - Indianapolis, Indiana
October 7-9, 2002

UNREGISTERED BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING**OCTOBER 7-9, 2002****HOST CHURCH - INDIANAPOLIS BAPTIST TEMPLE**

Rev. Greg A. Dixon, Senior Pastor Dr. Greg J. Dixon, Pastor Emeritus

THEME: The New Testament Assembly:**“Where burdens are more important than buildings.”****MONDAY: OCTOBER 7 - 7:00 P.M. - “A Burden For Liberty”****Guest soloist - Michael Combs Speaker - Dr. Greg J. Dixon****TUESDAY: OCTOBER 8****9:00 A.M. - “A Burden for Missions”****Missionary-TBA****9:45 A.M. - “A Burden For Ministry”****Rev. W.N. Otwell****10:30 A.M. “A Burden for Evangelism”****Dr. Larry Lilly****11:15 A.M. - “A Burden For Preaching”****Dr. Robert McCurry****WEDNESDAY: OCTOBER 9****“A Burden for Missions”****Missionary Markos Boussios, Greece****“A Burden For Membership****Pastor Andrew Green****“A Burden for Missions”****Missionary Edgar Nono, Phillipines****“A Burden For Worship”****Pastor Ron McCurry****12 Noon - 2:00 P.M. - LUNCH****12:00 Noon - 2:00 P.M. - LUNCH****Afternoon Seminars****2:00 - 4:00 P.M. - “A Burden For Women”****2:00 - 4:00 - “A Burden For The New New Testament Church”****Dr. Greg Dixon****4:30 - 5:00 - Q&A Time on How to Pastor a true New Testament Church. A Syllabus will be provided for all present.****Afternoon Seminars****2:00 - 4:00 P.M. - “A Burden For Women”****2:00 - 4:00 P.M. “A Burden For The New Testament Church”****Dr. Greg Dixon & Dr. Bob McCurry****2:00 - 5:00 P.M. - Barbara Ketay will be present to help Pastors to unregister their church. (Please call for preliminary instructions. 317-783-6753)****5:00 - 7:00 P.M. - DINNER****7:00 P.M. - “A Burden for Truth”****Guest - Mr. Jack Caulfield****(A 90 minute drama presentation of the life of William Tyndale)****5:00 - 7:00 P.M. - DINNER****“A Burden For America****Guest - Dr. Howard Phillips****(Founder and President of Conservative Party) Former Presidential Candidate****Day Meetings (9 A.M.-5 P.M.) - Ramada Inn - 4514 South Emerson (I-465 and Emerson Avenue) - 317-787-3344****Night Meetings (7:00 - 9:00 P.M.) - Emmerich Manual High School - 2405 Madison Ave****MOTELS: Ramada Inn (Conf Hotel) - 787-3344 - 4514 S Emerson - \$44.95 + tax****Holiday Inn - 317-783-7751 - 5120 Victory Dr - \$69.00 + tax****Motel 6 - 317-783-5555 - 5151 Elmwood Dr - \$43.99 + tax****Super 8 - 788-0955 - 4530 Emerson - \$49 + tax****Red Roof Inn - 788-9551 - 522 Victory Drive - \$44.99 + tax****The above hotels are all located at (I-465 @ exit 52) Also, if you call ahead and have AAA or other discount cards, you could receive a lower rate.**

world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.” (John 3:19, 20)

We as believers are called lights in this sin benighted world and are also commanded by our Lord to let our light shine. For He said, “Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine among men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14a, 16) Every disciple of Christ that has been martyred for their faith down through the centuries have been persecuted and killed because their tormentors were trying to put out the light of truth that shined from and through them. The scriptures are clear when they were tortured or killed the perpetrators of those evil acts were in reality crucifying our Lord anew. This truth is emphasised in Matthew’s Gospel when he quoted the Lord Jesus as saying that as you treat the brethren of Christ so treat you Christ as well. (Matt. 25:42-45)

One of the greatest truths of the ages is that an individual believer cannot be separated from Christ. Paul writing to the saints at Colosse said, “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col. 1:27) This is one of the most powerful truths in the universe. God through Christ has identified himself with the blood washed redeemed of the ages, which means that to touch a believer in any way either physically or emotionally through slander or gossip is to do the identical same thing to the Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe church folks should think twice before having roast preacher for Sunday dinner.

Saul of Tarsus learned this the hard way on the Damascus road as recorded in Acts chapter nine. After the stoning of Stephen which he consented to he continued to breath out threatenings and slaughter against the Lord’s people as he relentlessly made “...havock of the church, entering into every house, and hailing men and women committed them to prison.” (Acts 8:3) But when he met the Master face to face on that lonely

road he heard Him say, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest..." (Acts 9:4c-5ab) He could never get over the fact that when he was scattering the church of God in reality he was fighting against Christ. In his defense before King Agrippa as recorded in Acts chapter 26 he said, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities."

The collective body of believers assembled and serving Christ through the vehicle of the local church is even a greater and more powerful light in a community than individual saints as the assembly of God shines forth the gospel of Christ in its neighborhood and throughout the city. In fact the Lord Jesus said concerning this collective light, "...a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put in under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." (Matt. 5:14b-15) John the Revelator said that this candlestick represents local churches, which Christ holds in His right hand. "...The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches." (Rev. 20a).

The significance of all of this is evident. Christ, the individual believer, and the local church, which is made up of baptized believers, are all His lights in this world, but only as the believer and the church is walking in the light of His word. "This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:5-7)

The Indianapolis Baptist Temple has been a faithful candlestick that has shown forth the light of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the city of Indianapolis and around the world for fifty-two years. From the twenty-sixth block of South East Street it has shined brightly for fifty years. The church without question has been a city set upon a hill. 6000 people heard the gospel of Christ at one service. With few exceptions its members have knocked on every door in the city to tell people of all ages that Jesus saves. At great personal sacrifice they conducted radio and television broadcasts to the city and nation. In fact it was one of the first churches in America to go on TV. The number of souls that have been saved at this location is innumerable. During one ten year period there were over 20,000 recorded first time salvation decisions. According to *Christian Life Magazine* the Temple was the 11th largest Sunday school in the U.S. from 1971-'74 averaging more than 3300 per week. Elmer Towns also featured the church in *Americas 10 Fastest Growing Sunday Schools*.

The congregation has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to home and foreign missions. Approximately 200 young men and women have gone out from the church in full time Christian work including 12 families who have gone to the mission field. For thirty years the church conducted a Christian educational ministry that the entire Christian community benefited at the lowest of costs to the families involved. The church has also been faithful in sending forth the light of God's moral law to the city and across the land. The congregation nearly single handedly held back the floodgates of pornography, legalized gambling, rock music concerts, and the legalization of sodomy. Along with others they have been a strong voice against Abortion on Demand, Sex Ed. in public schools, etc. However from 1982 the church may have shined as the

greatest light of all as they stood for religious liberty and the encroachment of the Internal Revenue Service and other governmental agencies upon the inner workings of the churches in our land. They have led the way in the right of the New Testament churches to be able to operate in the U.S. without having to be a state controlled legal entity. From 1998 until the church property was raided and seized by federal agents after a 92 day siege on February 13, 2001 the Temple waged a battle clear to the Supreme Court of the U.S. at a cost of over \$300 thousand and laid \$6 million worth of property on the line to uphold the First Amendment so that the Lord's churches can exist openly in America today. Even after they lost this historic battle in the courts, as the judges of the land said that a New Testament church cannot legally exist in our nation today, the churches light is still shining forth as an example as to how a church can continue to exist without legal standing. Under the able leadership of Pastor Greg A. Dixon the church is literally a church without walls as it continues all of its ministries with the exception of the church school. In fact they are having more in attendance in rented facilities than they were having before the buildings were seized.

In reality a local church (assembly) owns nothing and in that it is not a legal entity it cannot own anything. Everything that it possesses belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. If that which is held for Christ by the congregation is marred deliberately by those who attend, or is stolen, or is bulldozed to the ground by wicked government and its agents, their actions by every practical means is against the Lord Christ Himself.

When those workmen though ignorantly tore down the buildings where the congregation of the Baptist Temple had worshipped for over fifty years they were actually striking blows against the Lord Jesus. Just as the soldiers though ignorant had driven spikes into His hands and feet at Calvary the workmen that drove their instruments of destruction into the heart of the Lord's sanctuary were no different than those soldiers who

drove the spikes into the hands and feet of our Savior and not unlike the Centurion who drove the spear into His side. Paul wrote of this when he said "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (I Cor. 2:8)

Not only will those who participate in the persecuting of the church of God be held responsible for crucifying the Lord Jesus afresh but also those who consent to it and support its destruction are just as guilty according to the scriptures. Even though the Rulers who plotted the death of Jesus and the crowd who cried Crucify Him, Crucify Him were not personally involved in His death yet according to the apostle Peter they will be held responsible in the day of judgment unless they repent. In his sermon on the day of Pentecost he said, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:" (I Cor. 1:23)

From the human standpoint the Baptist Temple lost their court case and finally their property and buildings because the overwhelming majority of the Indianapolis community said in essence, "**Tear The Old Light House Down.**" But the greatest tragedy is not that the modernist crowd stood against the church, which we would expect, but nearly 100% of the evangelical and fundamental preachers and people were against us in this fight. In fact to our knowledge not one pastor in the greater Indianapolis area spoke up for us publicly including the so-called Independent Baptist pastors. Andy Ross a black evangelist and Ed Towne a former professor of religion at Christian Theological Seminary spoke up but no one else did to our knowledge. Obviously If they had known that they were crucifying the Lord of glory there attitude would have been far different. By there support of the government openly and silently they said, "Crucify them! Crucify them! In fact in several face-to-face meetings Marshal Frank Anderson in essence told us that if we could get a crowd of people to come and stand with

us that there was no way that he could or would raid the church facilities. But we waited for 92 days and the preachers never came.

While most were silent some have publicly called for the destruction of the Indianapolis Baptist Temple. Below we document the very words that many said through the media during the time of the Baptist Temple's great struggle for religious liberty. Without fear or favor of the great or small we present the following record of those who were bold enough to say before God and man, "**Tear The Old Light House Down.**" We also would like to say for the record that none of those quoted below except for the E-mails ever contacted us personally to ask our side of the story.

People in the Indianapolis area said, "Tear it down"

Colleen Tiffany who has served as church secretary of the Baptist Temple for more than twenty-five years lives across the street from the old IBT location and she and her husband Bob has had to endure the entire ordeal of seeing the buildings that they have Loved and revered torn down to the bare ground. Recently while planting flowers in her front yard a man from the neighborhood, carrying a camera to record the demolition, walked up and said, "Well the Baptist Temple isn't any more." She replied, "The Baptist Temple still exists and we are meeting at Jonathan Byrd's Conference Center next Sunday morning at 9:30 am." This man near seventy reflects the reaction of most people who live in the neighborhood. He knew Mrs. Tiffany was a member of the Baptist Temple and apparently couldn't refrain himself from letting her know of his feelings concerning the demolishing of the church property.

Mrs. Tiffany was also the brunt of another cruel verbal attack on the church, this time from a local policeman. One evening she and Karen Plemons a lady from the church had driven over onto a street in back of the IBT property to get a better view of the demolition from the rear of the auditorium. It was the same

time that the red theatre style seats had been bulldozed from the sanctuary and piled high on the back parking lot. After sitting there a few minutes they drove on to Southern Ave. that is the main street north. A policeman pulled them over and told Mrs. Plemons, who was driving, to put her hands outside of the window where he could see them. Then he asked them if they had their seat belts fastened which they did. When Karen asked him why they were stopped he said that they were having a lot of "break ins" in the area and just wanted to check to see who they were. She explained that they were on that side street to get a better view of the wrecking of the IBT property he said, "Well that's not the Baptist Temple any more."

The spirits of these two individuals reflects what the polls taken by the local media were indicating. According to them more than 70% of the people from the Indianapolis area were saying that the IRS, U.S. Justice Department, the courts and federal marshals were right in raiding and seizing the church property for the payment of an alleged tax debt. But it is evident that the media and religious leaders were influencing them along with the educational institutions that they had attended through the years because they were all for the most part saying, "**Tear The Temple Down.**"

This attitude was also exhibited with the banner headline in *The Indianapolis Star* on February 14 the morning after the raid which blared, "Feds Seize Baptist Temple." Most people cannot separate the church (the Lord's assembly) from the church house. In fact since the raid many of those who attend the Baptist Temple, including my wife, have been asked by relatives, friends and neighbors, "where are you going to church now?" To them no church house no church. Another example of how wide spread this view is happened at our nations capitol recently. Pastor Greg A. Dixon's daughter Lindsay flew to Washington D.C. with her junior high class for a day in late spring. Someone had arranged for Indiana Congressman Dan Burton to greet the young people. While there he was told that Mrs. Dixon was with the

group. With that information he went back to where Kathy was standing and greeted her. During the brief conversation he said, "And what is your husband doing now?" She said that she thought about saying, "Running for your office" but she refrained herself.

But most of the criticism of the Temple's position has come from those who believe that the church should pay their taxes because Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar..." In fact the members of the Baptist Temple basically lost the battle of public opinion because they could never get over this one hurdle. Most people automatically assume that the government is right and the church is wrong because they have been taught that not only does the Bible say to pay our taxes but it also says that we are to blindly obey government. But these mindless people never stop to think that there is to be no Caesar in America and certainly no Caesar but Jesus Christ over His divine assembly the church. Neither do they understand that the Bible does not teach that we are to, "pay our taxes", and neither does it teach the unlimited submission to the civil magistrate. But over decades of brainwashing they cannot separate these things out in their thinking. Neither can most people make the difference between loyalty to the nation from loyalty to the government that controls the nation so we shouldn't be surprised that the press quickly led the people to line up on the side of big government in our case. Also ignorance of the doctrine of the New Testament Church caused most people to make no distinction between the responsibility of the individual and the collective duty of the local assembly. The Courts could not or would not make this distinction either. The following examples highlight these misconceptions. These incidents also show that people are not willing to allow the Baptist Temple to practice their religious faith if that faith conflicts with their understanding of the bible even to the extreme of supporting the police powers of the state to destroy those who they disagree with. But Calvin roasted Servetus and the Lutherans in Germany butchered the Anna-Baptists after the

Reformation so why should we be surprised.

Many people across the nation said, "Tear it down"

Out of hundreds of letters, e-mails and phone calls we have chosen three e-mails that reflect the basic attitude that we were encountering almost daily over the eight years that we battled for religious liberty and especially during the 92 day siege. These e-mails have been cleaned up as to spelling, etc.

From LeAnne-"Your church should be seized. Who do you think you are? As American citizens everyone has to pay social security, withholding and Medicare. Why do you think you are better than us? Just because you are a pastor you think you are not subject to the same taxes we are. Do you think if Jesus were on this earth he would refuse to pay taxes which benefit not only those drawing social security, especially the elderly, but all the other programs that our taxes help to pay? I don't think so. To me it looks like your church is turning into some kind of sect, branching off because you don't like what the government says. It's people like you that give our country a bad image, tax evaders and crooks of the system... You just up and decided that you were not subject to taxes in 1984, who gave you the power to make that decision, God? I don't think so.

From Tinyman-"I know that you will probably not read this entire e-mail because I do not support you. I noticed on the news today that your church lowered an American flag. How hypocritical. You fly an American flag, yet you protest having to pay taxes that all Americans, Christian and non alike must pay. It seems to me that you are picking only appropriate bible verses that you can exploit for your own gain. Your comment about Waco was so IDIOTIC!...tells me that you are planning violence. It is people like you who drove me away from the church 20 years ago. I think you should study the bible more so you can be honest about both sides of the issues. If you have read

my letter this far, thank you, and I think you should do the right thing and pay your back-taxes! You are losing supporters every day this goes on. Militia members from other states are not sympathetic to YOUR Cause. Only there because of their hatred of the government. Thanks for reading, I guess I don't expect a response, I just hope your FOLLOWERS don't resort to violence. Once again thank you.

From Deyrl-Springfield, Illinois-"You asked 'What would you rely on to teach that we are in defiance of the gov'n't.' I would answer the exact passage that I quoted in my original e-mail. Some people don't like this, but God appoints the governments around the world. This means that even Adolph Hitler was appointed by God. I know that can be hard to swallow, but it is the truth...when Hitler got out of hand God removed him from power through the use of other leaders and their respective nations. This means that government is also appointed by God and it continues that what they say is the law. If they make outrageous demands then we, as Christians, are to meet their demands. I know this is hard to stomach. In my own situation I have some guns I inherited from my grand. dad. I constantly ponder the question of what do I do when the authorities say it is time to give them up. Part of me says, 'Pass the ammunition,' and another part of me says, 'Remember Romans 13. An obedient Christian follows the dictates of the authorities.' I hope that I am never put in the position of having to make that choice, but if it comes I will do what is required of me."

Most of the media both Conservative and Liberal said "Tear it down"

With the exception of a few conservative publications, which included Internet news outlets and talk radio hosts, all of the media both local and national, Either distorted our position, ignored it, or editorially condemned us. In the spirit of gratitude from the pastors and congregation of the Baptist Temple the following will forever be in our debt which we list alphabetically: *American*

Freedom Journal, Angela Neal-head of the Editorial department of *The Indianapolis Star* who wrote four outstanding editorials on our behalf, *Media By Pass*, *The Christian Voice* and *The Howard Phillips Issues and Strategy Bulletin* along with many others. Three inter-net news services—*Sierra Times*, *Vigo Communications* and *World Net Daily* all carried the story and supported us editorially. The talk radio hosts that encouraged us included Alex Jones, Stan Solomon and David Wolf. There were many others that we cannot remember but we will always be eternally grateful. Bo Gritz and pastor W.N. Otwell maintained daily short wave broadcasts at their own expense to keep the plight of our church before the public. We also appreciate Focus on the Family—James Dobson, Point of View Radio program with Marlin Maddox and the Moody Broadcasting Network for keeping their listeners informed even though they didn't take sides either way. Local radio station WBRI carried our broadcast weekly and also kept the public informed through their news broadcasts. It was all of these along with countless others that allowed us to break into the national news outlets such as *The Associated Press*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Times*, *CNN*, *Fox News Network*, etc. But surprisingly a few conservative papers totally ignored the battle such as Jerry Falwel's *National Liberty Journal*, The John Birch Society *The New American* and *Human Events*.

Nearly 100% of the local and national press spoke out against IBT either through distorted reporting or editorial support for the government. The most prominent way that the case was skewered was by constantly repeating the government line that it was a tax issue or that IBT failed to pay their taxes. The church could never get their position before the public that it is a first Commandment and first Amendment issue and not a tax matter. Also that it isn't about money but about control in that the evidence showed that most of those who served the church had been audited and all had paid their own taxes including the total amount of their FICA

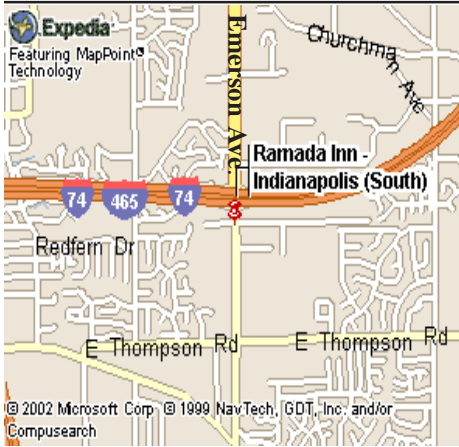
(Social Security). Even to this day many believe that the church collected the taxes but didn't turn it in which couldn't be farther from the truth. Many in the mainline press both electronic and print continually spouted the fed's position that IBT was a bunch of right wing, tax protest, militia nuts who were anti-government to the core. WTHR Channel 13 in Indianapolis was the worst of the lot. From the beginning they showed pictures of weapons and militia uniformed men along with the so-called news of U.S. v IBT on a nightly and daily basis. It was a total distortion in that none of the pictures of arms and militia had anything to do with the Baptist Temple. Following are a few news reports and editorials from the secular media that gives evidence to this attitude.

The Franklin Journal—Article January 4, 1996 By Bryan Corbin—"A tax-protester, Dixon has refused to withhold federal taxes from the earnings of employees since at least 1987." (Editors Note—This decision to sever legal ties with the government at all levels was never one of the pastor alone but it was made only after months of study by the leaders of the congregation and then a unanimous vote of the church members. IBT congregation also had a green light from three constitutional law firms.)

The Tribune Bulletin—Anderson, Indiana—Editorial entitled Our View. "An Indianapolis church has no one to blame but itself for the tax trouble it finds itself in."

Tim Swarens, editorial writer-column, *Indianapolis Star*, Feb. 16, 2001—Church Lost Sight of its true mission—"The legal case against the Baptist Temple and its leaders has been described as a slam dunk. The fact that the church lost at every stop along the legal trail lends credence to that contention. The government, the courts ruled, had every legal right to seize the church. But what about the moral and spiritual implications of this week's takeover, prompted by the church's \$6 million tax debt? Did the federal marshals who seized their temple Tuesday uphold man's laws while violating God's, as church leaders and their followers contend? None of us,

especially newspaper columnists, should pretend to speak for God without a heavy dose of fear and trembling. Yet it's fair to address the Baptist Temple's leaders on their own terms. It's also important to evaluate this week's clash between church and state in light of Scripture. I say important, even in a largely secular society, because all of us should recognize that upholding the civil law is not absolute. Governments are more than capable of passing laws that are evil...It's morally imperative that such laws, which would force us to violate another person's God-given rights, not be honored. Yet neither should we become freelance lawbreakers, ignoring any government edict with which we disagree while dressing our motives in spiritual clothing. The Apostle Paul addresses that balance in the New Testament book of Romans. In Chapter 13, he writes, 'Everyone must submit himself to the government authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established...Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.' Paul then writes a passage that would seem to apply directly to the Baptist Temple case 'This is also why you pay your taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue...When is it not possible to obey and still maintain moral integrity? When government is involved in clear evil (sending Jews to death camps). Or when government forbids or restricts the mission of the church (teaching the Gospel). Objecting to the collection of taxes does not appear to fit those parameters...In truth, the Baptist Temple's case was not built on solid legal or biblical ground. The 17-year fight became more of a personal, rather than spiritual, crusade. The result has been the near destruction of a once vibrant church, which has now traded its witness to the Gospel for a televised showdown over taxes. I like many others...was saddened Tuesday to see federal agents



Ramada Inn, 4514 S. Emerson Ave., Beech Grove, IN South of I-465 on West side of Street.

Two Routes to Manual H. S. from the Ramada Inn are given below



Emerson Ave. N to I-465 West, I-465 West to Indianapolis North (Hwy 31 or East St.) Exit North, proceed on East St. to intersection of East and Madison (a Y) continue North on Madison turn right at Madison Ave. Flower Shop to the Manual H. S. parking lot.

Alternate Route to Manual H. S.



Emerson Ave (N) to I-465 (W) to I-65 (N) to the Raymond St. Exit off I-65 turn left on Raymond to Shelby, turn left on Shelby to Southern (2nd light), turn right on Southern to Madison, turn right on Madison turn right at the Madison Ave. Flower Shop for parking lot to Manual H. S.

**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
John 8:32**

swarming about a church. I wasn't however disappointed with the marshals, who handled themselves professionally while enforcing laws that apply equally to us all.

My disappointment instead was with fellow believers who have lost sight of their true purpose. There is much in the world today that the church is called to do. And there is much that Christians must stand against. The payment and collection of taxes, however, are not among them." (Editors note-Swarens quoted from a modern version of the bible and also clearly in violation of the scriptures judged our motives. A few weeks later he squealed like a stuck hog when the State of Indiana proposed legislation to tax churches for public services. We will deal with this in a future issue of *The Trumpet*.)

The Southside Times-An Indianapolis weekly-Mike Eades, Managing Editor-The Suspense is finally over, Thank God-" The three months waiting are finally over for The Revs. Dixon, their followers, U.S. Marshall (sic) Frank Anderson and everyone else. The Baptist Temple passed into federal hands Tuesday. A lot of the credit should go to Anderson. He and his staff acted with the utmost restraint, waiting patiently for all of the militia nuts to get bored and go home. Then he calmly and respectfully moved in. I also respect the great pains the younger Dixon took to keep blood from being spilled. I still don't agree with his and his fathers stance on withholding taxes, but I very much appreciate his effort to deny the militia more martyrs...I have no doubt that all these folks' feelings about their struggle are sincere and heartfelt. However Dixon senior should have taken the lead over a decade ago and arranged to give Caesar that which is Caesar's-that would not have impeded them from giving the Lord that which is the Lord's. The Baptist Temple will live on in some rented space, which is probably for the best. Its sad that people who worked so hard to build such a nice facility are no longer allowed to use it, but they brought it upon themselves. We all live in the same country and are subject to the same man

made laws, until further divine notice."

Some of the local clergy boldly said, "Tear it down"

The Indianapolis Star interviewed some of the local clergy to find out what they thought about the seizure of the Temple. Following are a few of their enlightened thoughts from the Feb. 14, 2001 Edition which was the morning after the raid.

Rabbi Eric Braun-Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation-"There are times when God's laws supercede that of human beings. But in the Jewish tradition, the law of the land is the law...We are grateful that no one was injured or killed at the Baptist Temple. My hope is that people of faith, would pray for those whose rage takes the place of their understanding of civic obligation." (Ed. Note-Notice the contradiction?)

The Rev. Melvin Girton-Christ Missionary Baptist Church-"I just think it is sad. I feel sorry for the people of the congregation and for the marshal, Frank Anderson. He did not want to have to do this. I wish there could have been some way they could have come out of this with their church. Think about the people who don't have a church home. It's a sad day for our city, our state and our nation" (Ed. Note-Obviously the black preacher was more interested in protecting the black marshal rather than supporting the Lord's church from government persecution.)

The Rev. Karen Snyder-Interim pastor at Augusta Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) "They have an obligation to pay taxes when it's appropriate, and I think it is when you have employees. I don't think it's fair to try to avoid doing so based on religious principles. Most churches have understood that our relations with the government are part of our connection in a civil community." (Ed. Note-We wonder how the sister feels about Paul's admonition concerning women remaining silent in the churches?)

The Rev. Judith Fackenthal-pastor of Garfield Park Baptist Church-"As a Baptist I feel strongly in the separation of church and state. But I believe that

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1. Even though The Trumpet is a ministry of the Indianapolis Baptist Temple and therefore totally responsible for its content, we wish with the Lords help to be a servant to the unregistered churches of the U.S. and around the world and especially to the Unregistered Baptist Fellowship.
2. The Trumpet without apology will present the historic Baptist position on all subjects. We are fundamental in all of our doctrinal positions including the inerrancy of the Scriptures. Eschatologically, we are Pre-millennial. However, we will not hold all contributors or source material responsible to agree with us on all points.
3. The Trumpet will vigorously contend for all of the biblical positions regarding faith and practice in the area of morals, culture, economics and government.
4. The Trumpet will stand vigilantly for the separation of Church and State especially as it is stated in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the various state constitutions.
5. The Trumpet will oppose all worldliness, denominationalism, ecumenicalism, socialism, communism and compromise as promoted by the modern day state church.
6. The Trumpet claims no infallibility. We therefore invite readers to notify us of any errors of fact, judgement, or theology. If any mistake of fact is made, we will try to correct it in the next issue.
7. The Trumpet invites our readers to supply facts, articles and poetry without charge and, if used, credit will be given; if not, it will not be returned.

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the Scripture is clear that we are still in a relationship with the civil society. We don't like government telling us what we can believe or do. But we believe the government has the right to ask us to pay our taxes." (Ed. Note-Whose we?)

Michael Saahir- The imam at the Nur-Allah Islamic Center-"As I watched events unfold, I was saddened because it seems like there remains too much confusion with the issue. The Dixons have talked about religious liberty, but they have also talked against the government. There are enough people turned off of religion for personal reasons. They don't need to see this." (Ed. Note-We won't even attempt to give an answer to this fool in his folly-his crowd of religious fanatics have not only talked against our government but they are trying to blow up the entire country.)

Bishop T Garrott Benjamin, Pastor Light Of The World Christian Church-column-*The Indianapolis Recorder*-May 18, 2001-What happened to Frank Anderson? "He handled the Indianapolis Baptist Temple tragedy with grit and grace. How would you like to execute the closing of a bona fide church under federal order? Frank Anderson as a Christian, was called on to do that - not because of personal beliefs, but because of duty."

David Lee, Pastor-Hope Church (Presbyterian) Franklin, Indiana-Letters to the Editor column, *Daily Journal*-"Dear Pastor Greg Dixon: I feel compelled to write this note to you. (Ed. Note-You will notice that he didn't write it to Pastor Greg A. Dixon personally but sent it via the community newspaper). I watched, with sadness, the resolution to your fight to retain your church building. I listened to you denigrate President George W. Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft...If you complain about a man who uses his bible for more than a doorstop (Mr. Bush), and...a man who has sworn to uphold the laws of the U.S. whether he personally agrees with that position or not (Mr. Ashcroft), then you condemn men who act righteously. Next, I would point out that it was you who personally threw out some of your staunchest

supporters. Those white supremacists were behind you all the way...I find it hard to believe that God would pick and choose whom God chooses to support your position. Gosh, even the Nazi SS storm troopers had a religious motto on their uniforms-and they were government-backed. ...I would note that I am also a pastor. My wife and I, also, must pay quarterly taxes and year-end taxes..." (Ed note-Apparently the good brother doesn't know that the IRS considers him an employee and that his church is breaking the law for not withholding on him.)

We find it interesting that regardless of the religious denomination they spouted the same government propaganda. This is a perfect example of state clergy mouthing the state line to curry favor with their masters. You will also notice that they used the same ploy as the IRS and Justice Department by trying to separate the pastors of the Baptist Temple from the congregation. The official position of the Internal Revenue Service is that a New Testament church is fraudulent and the church is a DBA (doing business as) of the pastor. In other words for a church to legally exist in America today it has to have a distinct legal existence and have a hierarchical form of church government. All so-called Independent Baptist churches that are listed in so-called fellowship directories as the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, etc. are considered legal churches because they fit into the IRS pigeon hole. Incorporated churches that are not listed in those directories or those churches that operate through trustees or a constitution and by laws also meet the IRS definition of a legal church. Their tax-exemption is secure for the time being but they have to make a confession that all religions are equal and meet the same qualifications of those ministries and churches that are organized as Public Charities under the IRS Code 501(c)(3). They also have to declare that the pastor is an employee (hireling) in violation of the admonition of the Lord Jesus. (John 10:12,13)

Some Evangelicals said openly, "Tear it down"

Southern Baptist Convention-Statement by K. Duane Hastings, Editor-For *Faith & Family's Light* magazine, Vice-President: Print & Interactive Communications-Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (SBC). "First, the admonition of Christ to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's (Luke 20:25), "and second, Romans 13:1-7 where the Apostle Paul directs that we should be "subject unto higher powers, "clearly referring to civil government." (Ed note-In this statement Hastings was referring to U.S. v IBT)

Christianity Today Magazine-Article by Ken Walker about the government seizure of the Baptist Temple-March 1, 2001-"...Forrest Montgomery, an attorney whose testimony helped spur a 1984 compromise allowing churches to opt out of the system if employees pay self-employment taxes, calls the church's stance misguided. This business of trying to control pastors from the pulpit or silence [government] critics is off the wall, says Montgomery, former counsel for the National Association of Evangelicals' office in Washington, D.C. [Government officials] are not trying to control preachers. They just want them to pay their Social Security taxes." (Ed. Note-Now we know who sold the churches out in 1984 which resulted in the taking of the IBT property and will eventually end in the taking of many other church property in the future).

Gospel Communications International-through their spokesman Billy Zeoli (CEO) on gospel.com.net-"The Bible clearly tells Christians to a) respect the government and b) pay all taxes due. The Indianapolis Baptist Church refused to do either, reflecting a lack of wisdom, insight and spiritual maturity on the part of that church's leadership. Christian...(sound theology) leads to orthopraxis (correct behavior.) Aberrant behavior, as demonstrated by the Indianapolis Church, may therefore indicate the presence of unsound theology. Bad doctrine produces bad fruit behaviorally...which is as true for

Christians as it is for cultists...Alan Gomes, 'Unmasking The Cults', Zondervan, 1995, p. 47- A church or movement that persists in unsound practice - all or not supported by unbiblical and or extra-biblical teachings - ...(may eventually turn into) a cult of Christianity. (Ed. Note-Later in the article Zeoli mentions the Indianapolis Baptist Temple by name and gives newspaper reports of the raid. Billy has been a personal friend of ours for over forty years. His father Anthony Zeoli "The Walking Bible", who is now deceased, preached for us in Indianapolis many years ago and was much loved by our congregation).

Some Leading Fundamentalists said publicly, "Tear it down"

Dr. Bob Jones III, Chancellor Bob Jones University. Concerning this matter of a free church he wrote in a letter to this preacher dated July 27, 1999 the following words. "You went out in the weeds years ago and have stayed there. If I have been informed correctly of your recalcitrance and defiance toward the government, you have long since departed into unscriptural practices." (Ed. Note- Jones was referring to our unregistered church position which he has vigorously opposed for twenty years.) He then went on to say that this preacher is, "bitter and defiant". (Ed. Note- This crybaby spirit was exhibited against me because I exposed him in the January/February issue of *The Trumpet* for allowing a bunch of Sodomites to parade across the campus of BJU on a Sunday afternoon in order to protect the tax exemption of BJU.) He also spoke at the Faith Baptist Church in Avon, Indiana on November 19, 2000 while the Baptist Temple members and supporters were standing courageously against the most powerful government on the face of the earth to defend religious liberty and the right of the churches and pastors of our nation to have a free pulpit without IRS coercion. A television reporter asked him about the events that were taking place at the Baptist Temple that was carried on the evening news

which quoted him as saying,..." he had known this preacher (Ed note-Greg Dixon) for a long time and that he knows better than to do what he is doing at the church." (Ed note-Does anyone wonder with our so called brethren siding in with the enemies of Christ and His church that we had any chance to prevail in our case?)

Dr. David Cloud-Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Information Service-Dr. Cloud gives the following explanation of this tax-exempt "ministry" that is organized as a public charity under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). "To provide information to assist preachers in the protection of the churches in this apostate hour." Several times during the 92-day siege he acted like an expert voice to keep the fundamental churches informed as to the real issues involved in U.S. v IBT even though he never had the Christian courtesy to discuss the matter with any of the pastors of IBT. In a statement about IBT on Nov. 22, 2000 he joined the ungodly in his snide remark that, "Pastor Greg Dixon, some members of his congregation, and some outside supporters remain holed up inside their congregational sanctuary in spite of the federal court order that they vacate the property to pay back taxes." (Ed. Note-At no time were we "holed" up in the church like trapped rats. People came and went at will. Cloud picked up this language from the secular media. He continued. "...Dixon claims to know God's opinion of every Federal Judge, every IRS agent, and every member of the US Justice Department" (Ed. Note-This is a blatant misrepresentation of any thing that this preacher has said on this issue.) He continued. "I believe both parties are wrong in this affair. I know that the United States government is evil in many ways and there is a sharp departure from the original intent of the founding fathers." He then condemned the government for being unreasonable and wicked in this matter of levying a \$6 million judgment against a small church and then devour all of their property to satisfy it. He continued, "This nation was founded upon the principle of religious liberty, of the government keeping its nose out of the church's business" Then he

castigated us for using reviling which is unhealthy and unscriptural as he used the hackneyed argument that, "The American government is no more wicked than the Roman government under which the apostles and early Christians served...I also believe that churches should pay their taxes and that this does not detract from the Headship of Christ over the churches. The Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles paid taxes even though the taxation was admittedly unrighteous and the books of Romans and I Peter instruct Christians to do the same. The proof texts that he gives for these statements are Matt: 17:24-27; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:12-15. (Ed. Note-There is not one verse among these or any other in the New Testament that says that Jesus and the apostles ever paid a Roman tax. He also shows his total misunderstanding of the principal of sovereignty by failing to understand that only a subject can pay tribute to his master and that for the Lord's church to collect and pay this tax would be to violate the first Commandment concerning having other gods before us. If the church paid the tax the IRS not the Lord Jesus Christ would be the head over the Baptist Temple).

Some prominent "Independent Baptists" said, "Tear it down"

Dr. Mike Randall-Editor, *Baptist Bible Tribune and The Baptist Preacher*. Both of these are published bi-monthly by the Baptist Bible fellowship International. *The Baptist Preacher* is seen primarily by the preachers of the BBFI while the lay folks normally get the *Baptist Bible Tribune*. *The Baptist Preacher* is designed to spread the denominational line and to keep the pastors under the control of the leadership. The March/April 2001 issue contained an eleven-page attack on the Baptist Temple and its pastors in the case of U.S. v IBT. It would not have been written if it did not reflect the overwhelming sentiments of the 3000 preachers that are listed in the Fellowship directory. We only have

room for a very short synopsis of the article but will deal with it in detail in future *Trumpets*. In this article Randal defends church incorporation as being biblical. He also defends the legal and spiritual nature of a church that is totally Impossible to defend scriptrally. Randal has refused to meet me in a debate on this subject at my expense. Web site: www.tribune.org

Dr. Bob Gray, Pastor of the Longview Baptist Temple-Longview, Texas and Editor of *The Baptist*. In the March/April 2002 issue he authors an article on U.S. v IBT entitled: Tribute To Whom Tribute Is Due. The crux of the article is a defense of his church for collecting and paying taxes to the IRS and a slanderous and scurrilous attack on our church for the stand that we took for a free pulpit. One of the statements that Gray makes is: "The government has the right to tax. God's people are to submit to taxation." He is so ignorant of the facts that he thinks the Baptist Temple issue is one of personal taxation rather than the Lord's church (assembly). Gray has also refused to meet me in debate. E-mail add:thebaptist@ibtministries.com

Ron Riffe, Pastor Calvary Baptist Church, Decatur, Alabama and director of Cutting Edge Ministries-P.O. Box 26 Gordo, AL 35466. Pastor Riffe has posted an article about U.S. v IBT on his web site: www.cuttingedge.org <<http://www.cuttingedge.org>> entitled: YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO US-WE HAVE OUR RIGHTS! The good and knowledgeable pastor says, "...pastor Greg Dixon and the...Baptist Temple violated clear Bible teaching when they rebelled against a duly authorized order to pay employment taxes. Does the Bible teach that paying taxes is wrong? Hardly! Look at what Romans 13-1-7 has to say." The whole tax issue is one of constitutionally guaranteed rights and has no Scriptural basis whatsoever. Again, the actions of pastor Dixon and his church in refusing to pay taxes constitute rebellion and this is what God's Word has to say about that", as he quotes I Sam. 15:23. He continues, "And just as a side issue, please consider that our very nation was founded upon acts of rebellion against

King George of England-God's ordained leader at that time! This is a violation of what we just read in Romans 13." (Ed. Note- We understand that this man is 77 years old and he dares to slander the founders of this nation when they were engaged in the same battle as the Baptist Temple and it was and is not rebellion, it is Christian resistance to tyranny. Mr. Riffe should re-read the Declaration Of Independence. It was the King who was in rebellion against God's law and the laws of England not the Americans.)

We need to pray for these so-called preachers and preacherettes mentioned above. They are in great spiritual blindness. Each of them presides over a tax exempt ministry that is organized as a Public Charity under the IRS. They are living high on the hog for the most part. They like their slavery. They are carrying their bucket of slop and they want everyone else to do the same. We will have more to say about these things in future issues of *The Trumpet*.

Pastor Bert Grooten Home With The Lord

After a fierce battle with cancer for several years Bro. Bert Grooten passed away at his home surrounded by his loving family in Kalkaskia, Michigan July 28. He was 63

He is survived by his wife Norma Jane and five sons. Jeffrey, Jerry, Joey, Jay and Jamie along with their wives and 16 grandchildren. Bro. Bert graduated from the Word Of Life Bible Institute of Schroon Lake, New York and became pastor of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in Kalkaskia in 1991 after he and his wife were in wide spread childrens ministry across the nation. The funeral was attended by approximately 300 people at the Liberty Baptist Church in Reed City, Michigan which was his home town. Pastor Larry Lilly, Pastor of the Berean Baptist Church of Terre Haute, Indiana officiated at the service.

Bro. Bert was active for many years in the unregistered Baptist church movement and was a faithful servant and soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a dear and loyal friend to all that knew him and a great warrior against sin and Satan. We will all miss him and wish the best for his dear wife Norma and their family and church. His son Jamie will follow him as the pastor of Lighthouse Baptist.

Prison Evangelist Ken Barber Family Burned Out

By Dr. Greg Dixon

The morning of May 6 started out as most days for the Barber family of Sargeant, Texas which is a little town near Bay City. Their seven children which range from eleven to one years old were looking forward to swimming in the pond behind the house and the other things that kids do in southern Texas in springtime. The rigors of the home school schedule was almost over for the summer except for the refresher times that Bro. Ken Barbers wife Mary insists on even when school is out. Although she has a hearing problem she is a masterful lip reader and can carry on a conversation on nearly any subject. To her she doesn't have a handicap just a greater opportunity to serve the Lord. The kids found out a long time ago that they better not try to put anything over on her.

Who would have ever dreamed that this idyllic day would soon be shattered with a tragic fire that would leave the two house trailers they lived in burned to the ground in a pile of melted metal and Bro. Barber in the Matagorda County jail, the same jail that he ministers to on a regular basis, charged with child endangerment. Thankfully all hands were accounted for with no one injured or the charges no doubt would be much more severe.

It all started with Mary (and the two babies) going to Bay City to take care of

some business and Bro. Ken staying with the kids. Then he left leaving Laura Elisabeth age 11 in charge, who is very responsible and has stayed with the children many times, while he delivered a trailer to a man that he had sold it to. He was only gone about fifteen minutes, but upon returning found the two trailers burning. He had left the children playing a few yards from the house with strict instructions to stay there 'til he returned. When the children discovered the fire Elisabeth and her sister Hannah went inside to call 911, in that the fire had just started in the main home, while Sarah took the others out to the roadside. And then a strange side light took place. A lady dispatcher told her to stay on the phone until the fire department got there. Elisabeth told her that the fire was getting close to the trailer that she was in, but the lady insisted that she stay anyway. Elisabeth being a bright young lady (remember she is a home schooler) thought it much wiser to high tail it out of there rather than ending up as a burnt sacrifice. The firemen made it alright but not before there was nothing left of home number one or two.

Bro. Barber who at the time pastored a Baptist church in Waller approximately 70 miles away and also conducts a full time prison ministry which includes a prisoner release ministry in the area was stunned when he returned home just ahead of the fire department and proceeded to rescue what personal effects that could be saved. Bro. Barber already in near shock over the tragedy was then shocked even further when a

deputy sheriff handcuffed him in front of his children and neighbors and hauled him off to jail for child endangerment because he had left the children in the care of Elisabeth and Sarah. Then the deputy broke the law himself by allowing all five of the kids to ride in the back of a pickup truck with the tail gate down as a neighbor lady took them to her house. In fact, he even mentioned that he knew that he was breaking the state law of Texas. Bro. Barber was kept in jail for two days and finally got out on \$10,000 bail. Thankfully he had the \$1,000 that he had from selling the trailer to put toward his bond. The bond lady showed him kindness by allowing him to go free on his signature for surety as she remarked that she leaves her children at home alone all of the time.

It is obvious that even a casual reading of the law makes it clear that the deputy has misinterpreted the Texas law in this case. He said that you can't leave children with anyone under 15 but it doesn't say that at all. It says that you can't leave anyone in imminent danger with a child under 15. When Bro. Barber left the children were not in any danger.

The county authorities have stated that no charges are filed only a complaint but that charges will be filed if a grand jury brings an indictment. The local publicity has been horrible. It gave the impression that the fire started because the children were left at home alone, when in fact they were not even in the house but around 75 yards away. Most of the people in the area have said that they leave their children at home for longer times than that regularly. We ask our

See Barber's Pg. 12

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Dr. Greg Dixon and Dr. Larry Lilly
will speak among others



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readers to pray that the prosecutor, who is also a home schooler, will simply drop these ridiculous charges against the pastor.

In the mean time their losses are immeasurable. Some one has been kind enough to let them have a home in the area to live until they can get a permanent place. Many have helped with clothing and other personal items but having no insurance on the trailers there is no way that they can buy others without the help of the christian community across the land. We hope each of you who read this account would send as large a gift as possible to them. Also we would like to encourage each church that receives The Trumpet to receive an offering and send it to the Barbers. Possibly you could send a missionary gift monthly for one year. Everyone could do something. Wouldn't it be wonderful because of the love of God's people for those in the family of God that they could get permanent living quarters. Please do not send clothing or other personal items.

The address is:
Pastor Ken Barber
6120 E. 7th St.
Bay City, Texas 77414

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