

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRINTING BULLETINS

Note: Print half as many lasers as needed since each sheet of paper has 2 bulletins.
Printing on a light tan or cream colored paper will provide a more historical look.

If using a printer which prints 2-sided:

Print page 2 on the front side and page 3 on the back side—landscape (horizontal) printing.

If using a printer which prints 1-sided:

Print page 2, then flip paper, place back in tray and print page 3—landscape (horizontal) printing.

After printing, cut printed bulletins in half. A swing-arm cutter works best.

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For permission to reprint any text or images, please contact:

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CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST

The Spread of the Gospel among Native Americans

The story of Baptists and Native Americans is older than the story of the Baptist church in America. Before he founded the first Baptist congregation in the New World in 1639, Roger Williams befriended the native peoples of his new home. Through Williams's friendship, the natives of the upper colonies, including the Massasoit and Canonicus tribes, learned of a Christianity that respected and accepted them as human equals. The Christian fellowship extended to native peoples through Williams, however, proved fleeting, for in the decades and centuries following, white Americans invoking the name of Christ frequently maligned, mistreated, and took advantage of Indians.



Nevertheless, later Baptists in America came to view native peoples as a mission field. In 1801, the Elkhorn Association in Kentucky established a mission to the Indians of the Great Lakes, sending forth at least one missionary, John Young, for a brief period of time. This first organized mission effort by Kentucky Baptists among Indians preceded efforts by the Baptist Triennial Convention. In 1817, Isaac McCoy was appointed by the convention to do mission work among the Miami Indians in Indiana. From this starting point, McCoy in the 1820s established mission work among the Pottawatomies near present-day Niles, Michigan, and the Ottawas near present-day Grand Rapids. In 1840, McCoy published *History of Baptist Indian Missions*.

Early and mid-nineteenth-century Indian mission work found even more fertile root in present-day Oklahoma, at the time Indian Territory. Between 1832 and 1860, Baptist congregations were established among the Muskogee, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole tribes. Slavery and the Civil War, however, hampered gospel work among native peoples. The same divisions present in America took place among Indians, and missionary funding for Indian work evaporated during the war. For example, while many Georgia Baptist congregations prior to the war supported Indian work in Oklahoma, by 1865 few maintained such support. In the decades following, the sectional conflict, Northern Baptists assumed the bulk of mission work among native peoples.

As the nation expanded westward, Northern Baptists (later American Baptists) remained at the forefront of Indian mission work into the twentieth century, while Southern Baptist involvement once again gathered steam by the 1940s. Today, Baptist work among native peoples is especially evident in western states such as Arizona, the Dakotas, Montana, and New Mexico.

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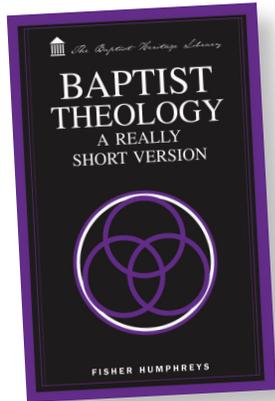
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BAPTIST HERITAGE RESOURCES

Baptist Theology: A Really Short Version

by Fisher Humphreys



**Special Price
\$1.25**

List price \$2.50

Price good through July 31, 2009.

To order this resource,
e-mail BHHS@baptisthistory.org
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The Center for Baptist Studies produces a free monthly e-journal, *The Baptist Studies Bulletin*, which is distributed through e-mail. The Center also offers an on-line certificate program in Baptist studies for both laity and clergy; timely and relevant educational conferences; and a website with valuable Baptist resources. For more information, visit www.centerforbaptiststudies.org.

The Baptist History and Heritage Society publishes a journal, *Baptist History and Heritage*, and newsletter, *Baptist Heritage Update*. The Society also has an informative website, which features an on-line resource catalog, a membership application, and a new series of articles titled "History Speaks to Hard Questions Baptists Ask." For more information, visit www.baptisthistory.org.

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Baptist Studies**
Mercer University

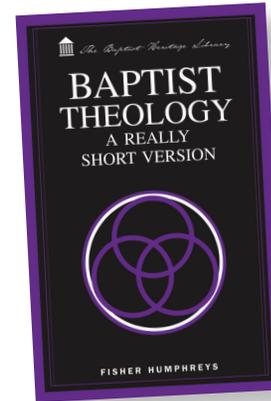
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Bruce T. Gourley, interim director

This bulletin insert is the seventh of twelve to be provided monthly during 2009 by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies. The article was written by Bruce T. Gourley, interim director of The Center for Baptist Studies, Mercer University.

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