

## 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.

Bulletins are copyrighted material.

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

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## CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST

### *Baptists and Social Ministries— Nannie Helen Burroughs*



Jesus in Matthew 25 proclaimed the righteousness of those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit prisoners. Many Baptists in America in the early twentieth-century took his words to heart in an era of urban poverty, widespread lack of education, child labor, and racial prejudice.

Many northern Baptists in the early and mid-nineteenth century advocated for abolitionism, forming an early foundation for what would become broadly known as social ministry. Empowering women, social ministry in Baptist life found primary expression in the temperance movement in the late nineteenth century. Initially focusing on family problems brought about by alcohol abuse, many Baptist women by the turn of the century were activists for broad-based family-focused social ministries. Few Baptist women achieved more in terms of social ministries than Nannie Helen Burroughs, an entrepreneurial religious leader and educator.

Born in Virginia in 1879 to former slaves, Burroughs's father died when she was five, and her mother subsequently moved the family to Washington D.C. in hopes of obtaining a better education for her daughter. Heeding her mother's advice, Burroughs embraced formal education, at the time an elusive achievement for African Americans. Upon studying business and domestic science and graduating from the Colored High School in 1896, a young Burroughs helped establish the National Association of Colored Women. A year later she became an associate editor of the *Christian Banner* in Philadelphia, and in 1900, she moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to serve as a secretary for the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention. Nine years later, Burroughs founded the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, D.C. (later renamed the Nannie Helen Burroughs School, it is now a National Historic Landmark).

Burroughs's philosophy of social ministry, centered on education, focused on the Bible, cleanliness, and employment. She assisted many young African American women in bettering their lives.

Other Baptists in the early twentieth century took social ministries to heart. In New York, Walter Rauschenbusch ministered among the urban poor and provided a popular theological apologetic for social ministries. Among Southern Baptists, Kathleen Mallory led the Woman's Missionary Union in focusing on social services programs, while in Canada Baptist pastor-turned-politician Tommy Douglas (recently named as the Greatest Canadian of All Time) became the father of Canada's public health care system.

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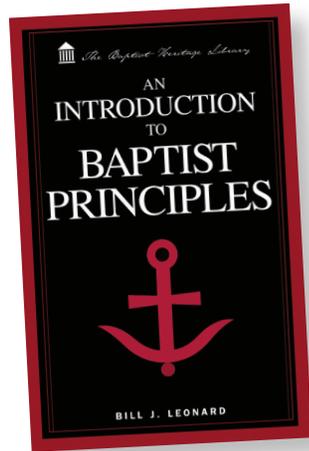
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by Bill J. Leonard



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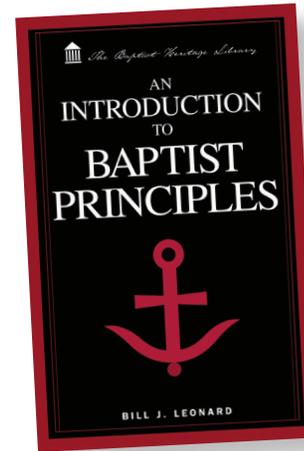
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This bulletin insert is the eleventh of twelve to be provided monthly during 2009 by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies. The article was written by Bruce T. Gourley, Baptist historian and online editor of *Baptists Today*.

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