

# Nearing Ninety: A History of the CARBC

*As the CARBC nears 90 years, an article by David Hollingsworth in his work, The Ongoing Story: A History of the CARBC, traces the background that led to the formation of the CARBC in 1929.*

The Northern Baptist Convention was formed officially in 1907. Those who pressed for a theological shift to the left managed to gain control of the key agencies of the Convention from its infancy, as was later admitted by Shailer Matthews. (See Robert G. Delnay's doctoral dissertation presented to the faculty of Dallas Theological Seminary entitled, *A History of the Baptist Bible Union*, p. 11). From their positions of leadership, the modernists managed to centralize the control of the Convention firmly in their grasp, and by means of that control to promote an infusion of liberal seminary graduates into key pastorates, to control the disbursement of mission moneys, and to emphasize the teachings of Rauschenbusch relative to the social gospel. Of course, greater controls meant diminished autonomy for local churches. Conflict was inevitable.

## FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST ORIGINS

To confront the rising tide of modernism, pre-convention conferences were held from 1920 on to plan fundamentalist strategy. Jasper Massee was designated spokesman in these efforts. By 1922, Robert Neighbor and Oliver W. Van Osdel called for a meeting to establish a protest organization. They prevailed on William Pettingill, William B. Riley and J. Frank Norris to join them in Executive Committee to plan for that meeting of fundamental Baptists. Meeting in a tent borrowed from Dr. Walter Wilson, they organized in Kansas City in 1923 as the Baptist Bible Union, and they adopted the New Hampshire Confession of Faith with a premillennial interpretation of eschatology. Thomas T. Shields was chosen as the first President of the Union.

Neighbor, Van Osdel and Norris were for separation from the Northern Baptist Convention, but Riley, Pettingill and Shields were not so inclined. Riley successfully turned the Union from its separatist leanings by the start of the Kansas City meeting, though he admitted by 1925 that the purging of the Northern Baptist Convention had become impossible (See Delnay, pp. 53, 107).

*In the next issue we will discover what God did in California.*

CARBC Calendar (visit [CARBC.org](http://CARBC.org) for more events):

- July 2-7 Pilot Lake Teen and Junior Summer Camp
- July 22-28 Victory Ranch Junior Camp
- July 29-August 4 Victory Ranch Teen Camp
- August 6-11 Victory Ranch Junior Camp

## CARBC Conference cont.

So what about the stress of hosting a conference? Sure, it wasn't easy. But I discovered four hidden treasures. One, my heart is filled more with thankfulness to God for His blessings on the conference because I was very aware of how many things could go wrong yet how many of them went flawlessly right. Two, our church family served, loved, welcomed, and encouraged. What a blessing to see our church teens giving smiles as they served dinner or to hear laughter from the kitchen as our church members cleaned pots and pans! Three, I attended the conference with many in my church. I was not only encouraged by God's Word; *we* were encouraged by God's Word. Our leadership team discussed afterward what we learned from the conference and how we can implement this in our personal lives and our church life. Four, hosting the conference challenged us to spend much more time in prayer. This gave us eyes to see how God answered those prayers.

Now, I'm not volunteering to host the 2019 CARBC Conference. But I learned that hosting a conference follows what Paul records of Jesus in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Or, it is more blessed to host than to attend!

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# CARBCmessenger

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## The Blessings of Hosting the 2018 CARBC Conference

By Chips Ross

It is a trustworthy statement universally acknowledged: it is easier to attend a conference than to host one. I recently learned, however, a truth not nearly as widespread: it can be more blessed to host a conference than to attend one. I serve as pastor of Westwood Baptist Church in Fresno, which recently hosted the CARBC Bible Conference. Here is our story:

Hearing the preaching of God's Word is the first of two key blessings at each year's CARBC Bible Conference. I was able to sit in on every session, just as if I was attending; I was still encouraged and challenged by God's Word. In hosting the conference, I also had the opportunity to talk at length with our speaker, Pastor Jim Cecy. True, most of the conversations centered on conference details and logistics. But at times we spoke of ministry, encouragement and fellowship, and prayer.

Fellowship is the second of two key blessings. I have to admit, I missed out on what I normally experience at the CARBC Conference. Free from my church ministry and my family responsibilities, I typically engage in lengthy conversations with my ministry coworkers. This year I added preparing for the next event, being master of ceremonies, or fellowshiping with my church family. I did get some great fellowship and enjoyed some lengthy conversations this conference, just not as many.

*(See CARBC Conference cont.)*



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