

NOTICE

PLEASE OBSERVE THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

The following **Petition for Redress of Grievance** has been prepared and posted by Albert F. Cunningham, legal counsel for Indianapolis Baptist Temple, a New Testament Church of the LORD Jesus Christ. We are posting this petition *so that it can be printed and reproduced for immediate distribution* for the purpose of *gathering as many subscribers who would offer their signatures in support* of this petition.

The **Petition for Redress of Grievance** which follows concludes with a sample petition signature page which can be printed and reproduced as necessary for gathering signatures in your community toward submitting this petition to the Congress of the United States.

Please make certain that each line is properly filled in with valid signatures, legible names and addresses so that each line will count in the final presentation. We ask that you please return all completed signature pages as soon as possible, as we are scheduled to present this petition to Congress before the close of business _____.

As each signature page is completed, we ask that you send it *immediately* to Indianapolis Baptist Temple so that we might properly complete this presentation. *Time is of the essence; we have a great window of opportunity to reestablish religious freedom in the United States, but we need your help right now!*

Send your original completed signature pages to:

**INDIANAPOLIS BAPTIST TEMPLE
Post Office Box 11
Indianapolis, Indiana [46206]**

***For further information and/or instructions, please call us at (317) 783-6753
or E-Mail at gadbit@hotmail.com***

Website: www.indianapolisbaptisttemple.com

Petition for Redress of Grievance OF INDIANAPOLIS BAPTIST TEMPLE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

We, the congregation of **Indianapolis Baptist Temple** and people of the United States of America, hereby submit our Petition For Redress of Grievance to you, the elected custodians of our Religious Liberties guaranteed to us as the people of the United States, by the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and by the Ninth Amendment of the United States Constitution that reserves to each and every individual the right to worship his or her Creator in accordance with the dictates of his or her conscience, to redress our grievance against the government of the United States for a flagrant violation of our Religious Liberties (guaranteed to us by the First and Ninth Amendments of the United States Constitution) by tyranny of the Federal Judiciary, the United States Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service in the exercise of their respective powers taken in concert to regulate and control a **Lord's New Testament Church** by taxation, and to totally destroy the Church and its ministries by seizure and sale of the property of God entrusted to **Indianapolis Baptist Temple** by the **LORD Jesus Christ** for the work of the ministries of the Church *pursuant to the Scriptures of the Holy Bible*.

RECITALS:

Indianapolis Baptist Temple is a **New Testament Church** authenticated *solely by the Scriptures of the Holy Bible* as a special assembly of saved people who by water baptism have been added to the assembly at Indianapolis, Indiana by the **LORD Jesus Christ**, and worshipping at the sanctuary of God situated at 2711 South East Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the local visible body of **Jesus Christ** as **His New Testament Church** pursuant to the *Scriptures of the Holy Bible*. The Church polity of **Indianapolis Baptist Temple**, pursuant to its faith in the Holiness of the **LORD Jesus Christ** as *the exclusive, sovereign head of the Church*, is *not* structured as a not-for-profit organization or any other legal entity formed under the laws of any State.

Indianapolis Baptist Temple does *not* claim tax-exempt status by virtue of section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and gifts to the Church are *not* tax-deductible.

Indianapolis Baptist Temple was founded in Indianapolis, Indiana, in March, 1950, as a **New Testament Church** in a succession of New Testament Churches tracing the lineage of the Churches to the persecuted New Testament Churches of the “Dark Ages” to the ancient New Testament Church called, “Bing Joy, Africa” founded by Polycarp in A.D. 150. The annals of history reveal that Polycarp was baptized by the Apostle John in A.D. 95. The *Scriptures of the Holy Bible* report that the Apostle John was with **Jesus Christ** at the Mount of Transfiguration and at Caesarea Philippi when **Jesus** revealed **His Church** in *St. Matthew 16:18*.

The central tenet of the faith of **Indianapolis Baptist Temple** as a **New Testament Church** is the *sovereignty of the Church under the LORDship of Jesus Christ* as the sovereign head of the Church *in all things*. The faith of the Church in the Holiness of the **LORDship of Jesus Christ** as the Head of the Church *requires the complete separation* of the Church from the State. The faith of the first century New Testament Churches in the Holiness of the **LORDship of Jesus Christ**, as the head of the Church caused them to suffer great persecutions for their faith, and they were scattered abroad *preaching Jesus* as recorded in Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8, Verses 1 through 4. From that time to the present date *the New Testament Churches have been persecuted, even unto death, for their faith by the state and organized religions*. During the “dark ages” and the “reformation” the **New Testament Churches** were persecuted by the *state and state-established churches* forcing the New Testament Churches to flee into the uttermost parts of the world. The New Testament Churches fled to the Americas, but only to be *persecuted by state-established churches* in the Colonies as late as A.D. 1789.

In **March 1775**, a young Christian Lawyer, named **Patrick Henry**, rode into the small town of Culpeper, Virginia, and witnessed the brutal public scourging of a preacher of a **New Testament Church** (called “**Baptists**”) who had been beaten so badly with whips laced with metal that the bones of his rib cage could be seen *because he had refused to take a license to preach from the state-established church*. Later, Patrick Henry wrote the famous words that became the rallying cry of the revolution, “*Give me liberty or give me death.*”

At the urging of **Baptist** pastors, spearheaded by **Isaac Backus** and **John LeLand** and the architect of the Constitution, **James Madison**, the first Congress sought to end the persecution of the **New Testament Churches** in the United States by inculcating the doctrine of the New Testament Churches requiring the *complete separation of the Churches from the state* into the Religious Liberty Clauses of the First Amendment of the United States

Constitution by prohibiting Congress from adopting any law respecting the establishment of religion or from prohibiting the free exercise thereof, and by adopting the Ninth Amendment reserving fundamental, inalienable rights of the individual.

James Madison said that what may appear as a right to man may be a duty to his Creator, and *every man has*

the inalienable right to worship his God in accordance with the dictates of his conscience.

Thomas Jefferson said in a letter to the **Baptists** in Danbury, Connecticut, that the religious liberty clauses of the First Amendment built a “**wall of separation between the state and the church.**”

STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCE:

Today, notwithstanding the prohibitions placed on the power of the federal government to establish religion or to prohibit the free exercise thereof, the United States government has launched an unprecedented attack to destroy the **New Testament Churches** in America by attacking the **Indianapolis Baptist Temple**.

Indianapolis Baptist Temple is *under siege* by United States Marshals and “SOG”, (a special operations group, specially trained to respond to emergency and high risk situations, including hostage and anti-terrorist activities) to evict the congregation of the Church from the sanctuary of the Church, which is the *sacred sanctuary of God*, to enforce a court order which is *unconstitutional* on its face ordering the Church properties to be sold to pay taxes assessed by the Internal Revenue Service, **while the judgment of the court ordering the Church to pay taxes is not a final judgment.**

For the first time in the history of the United States, the United States government has literally *destroyed* the ministries of a Church by taxation, *including the educational ministry of the Church*, and has caused irreparable damages and emotional suffering and injury to 500 students, their parents and the congregation. The United States government has seized the parsonage of the Church and has evicted Dr. Gregory J. Dixon and his family from their home of 32 years, rendering them homeless.

On April 13, 1998, the United States of America filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division seeking to reduce to judgement federal employer tax assessments that the Internal Revenue Service had assessed against **Indianapolis Baptist Temple**, for the tax years 1987 through 1993, and to foreclose tax liens against real properties in possession of the Church.

Judge Sarah Evans Barker, Chief Judge, rejected arguments of Pastor Gregory A. Dixon that the taxes assessed by the Internal Revenue Service were *unconstitutional* and that *the Church could not pay a tax or comply with tax regulations* by reason of its religious convictions and faith in the Holiness of the **LORDship of Jesus Christ** as the Head of the Church, and on November 10, 1999, **Judge Sarah Evans Barker** entered judgment against the Church for employer tax liabilities and ordered the sale of Church properties to pay the tax liability.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed the decision of Judge Sarah Evans Barker on August 14, 2000, and on November 13, 2000, Pastor Gregory A. Dixon filed a Petition for Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court seeking review of the decision of the Seventh Circuit.

Pastor Gregory A. Dixon has sought a stay of execution of the judgment entered by the United States District Court ordering the sale of the Church properties to pay taxes pending the review by the United States Supreme Court. The application for a stay order was denied by Judge Sarah Evans Barker, by the Chief Justice of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, by Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, and by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, William H. Rehnquist.

The issue is not taxes. The United States Attorney said in argument before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals that **Indianapolis Baptist Temple** *did not owe a tax*. He said that the Church merely didn't take advantage of its *exempt opportunities afforded by statute*.

The issue is not taxes. *Individual ministers* laboring in the ministries of **Indianapolis Baptist Temple** *paid the taxes* assessed to the Church as self-employment taxes. After an audit of individual ministers, *the Internal Revenue Service* returned *taxes paid as self-employment taxes to the ministers saying that the taxes should have been paid by Indianapolis Baptist Temple*.

The issue is Religious Liberty. *The very foundational purpose for which the religious liberty clauses of the First Amendment were established is at risk*. This issue goes to the very essence of the religious liberty clauses. *A free church is the root of a free society*, a controlled church is the root of a controlled society. **The issue is the right of the New Testament Church to exist in America.**

The issue is control. *The federal government is attempting to control Indianapolis Baptist Temple by imposing a Church polity for the New Testament Churches* and their ministries which is repugnant to their faith. *By the power of taxation, the federal government is attempting to establish a registered state-church for the nation.* **The federal government must be stopped.** **The religious liberties of every church and person in the United States of America are at risk.**

The United States Attorney said during argument before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, **"The concept of an uncontrolled church is untenable in America today."**

By its opinion, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has, in effect, **criminalized** not only the **faith and practices** of **Indianapolis Baptist Temple**, but also **the faith and practices of every New Testament Church in the United States**. The decision exposes all these New Testament Churches in the United States to criminal and civil sanctions for the exercise of their faith in the **LORDship of Jesus Christ** as the sovereign Head of *His* Church.

By its opinion, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has, in effect, *established a registered-state-church, defined* and **subsidized by government** as a **public charity** by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code **as the only lawful church in the United States**.

By targeting a New Testament Church, *the government has actually targeted God*. **God is the issue**. **God is either the Head of His Church or He isn't**. The Seventh Circuit has taken God out of the **New Testament Church** and put its members in a position where they, as a special assembly (i.e., *Church*), have to **choose** whom they will **obey: God or man**.

The issue is a First Commandment issue. ***Who is supreme: God or man?***

God said: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

(Exodus 20:3, King James 1611 version).

PRAYER:

Two hundred and eleven years ago our fathers adopted the “*Bill of Rights*” as amendments to the **United States Constitution** with the express desire to *prevent misconstruction or abuse* of the *limited powers* vested in the federal government by the United States Constitution and to *declare restrictive clauses* to *limit the power of the federal government* by *prohibiting* the federal government from *establishing a state religion* and from *prohibiting the free exercise of religion*, and to *restrict the federal government* from invading those *inalienable rights* endowed to the people by their Creator; among which are *life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*, and the *right of individuals to worship their God in accordance with the dictates of their conscience*.

In 1789, Thomas Jefferson warned that the judiciary, if given too much power, might ruin the Republic and destroy our rights.

Today, his warning rings in our ears. By the *tyranny* of the federal judiciary and the *uncontrolled power* of the federal bureaucracy, the United States government has invaded the *sacred domain* of the **New Testament Church** and has *denied* those inalienable rights reserved to the people *by the taxation of the New Testament Church*.

We have exhausted all remedies; our appeal to the highest court of this land seeking justice and the redress of our grievance *as a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ pursuant to the Scriptures of the Holy Bible* has been *denied*. *We appeal to you as the custodians of our liberties to exercise your fiduciary duties to the people to right this wrong, by instructing the Justice Department to cease and desist from all attempts to collect this unlawful tax and to dismiss the complaint against Indianapolis Baptist Temple in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division in April, 1998. We appeal to you to instruct the Director of the Internal Revenue Service to*

cancel the taxes assessed against the Indianapolis Baptist Temple as an erroneously assessed tax.

As Moses stood before the throne of Pharaoh in Egypt and cried, "Thus saith the LORD, Let My People GO", so we today stand before you with our cry, "JESUS CHRIST IS LORD"; "I AM Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End", saith the LORD. He is the CREATOR of ALL THINGS. "In the beginning was the WORD and the WORD was with God and the WORD was GOD": The NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IS GOD'S. JESUS CHRIST BOUGHT IT WITH HIS BLOOD – LEAVE THE CHURCH ALONE.

Respectfully Submitted this ____ day of December, 2000.

Reverend Gregory A. Dixon
Pastor, Indianapolis Baptist Temple

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Pastor Emeritus, Indianapolis Baptist Temple

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