

## **The International Year of the Child**

WHEREAS the United Nations and the President of the United States have proclaimed 1979 as the International Year of the Child; and

WHEREAS the child of the 1970's surely faces a formidable array of spiritual, psychological, physical, and economic problems; and

WHEREAS the Presidential Commission on the International Year of the Child starts with the premise that the solution to the child's problems lies in government and that taxpayers' money should be used to enable government agencies to take over a large share of child-rearing, and in giving government agencies the power to substitute their decision-making for that of the parents; and

WHEREAS the Word of God establishes the family as the first and only institution for rearing children, and holds parents responsible for loving, instructing, disciplining, providing for and protecting children;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches at the 48th Annual Conference of the General Baptist Churches, meeting in Dayton, Ohio, June 25-29, 1979, strongly object to the recommendations that government agencies regulate child-rearing and substitute their decision making for that of the parents, especially in the areas of education, discipline, and religious training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm our commitment to the home as the best possible environment for the care and nurturing of children and that government agencies should not try to substitute for the home, nor government personnel for mothers and fathers, and that the laws of our land should be constructed to maintain the stability, autonomy, and resourcefulness of the family.

*Dayton, Ohio  
June 25-29, 1979*