

# BIBLE, CHURCH AND WORLD

EDITED BY  
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*President 1983/84*

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The Baptist Historical Society sponsors this tribute to the work of Dr David Russell jointly with the Northern Baptist College and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. It celebrates Dr Russell's fifty years of service in the Christian ministry as scholar, pastor, educator and statesman.

# ВСЕСОЮЗНЫЙ СОВЕТ ЕВАНГЕЛЬСКИХ ХРИСТИАН-БАПТИСТОВ

The All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-  
Baptists in the USSR

Москва, Почтамт

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It is a great honour for me to be asked to introduce this volume of essays to mark fifty years of service in the Baptist ministry by my good friend, David Russell. I gladly join with others to pay tribute to the distinguished leadership he has given to British and European Baptists, to the Baptist World Alliance, and as a faithful representative of the Baptist position within the counsels of the World Council of Churches.

With the coming of *glasnost*, we Baptists in Russia are discovering new opportunities for witness and service, but David was a good friend to Russian believers when times were more difficult. Not all actions promoted in the West in support of Christians in Eastern Europe have been as helpful to us as their promoters have imagined. That is why, without any shadow of doubt, I say that David Russell has done more than many a noisier protestor by his gracious but firm advocacy of our true interests with government bodies both in the West and in the East. In a similar way, his negotiations for religious books and other literature to be made available to us through EuroLit and the Books and Translations Committee of the European Baptist Federation has been enormously helpful, based as it has been on proper, and thankfully fruitful, negotiations with the respective authorities. Again his work with fellow believers, from both East and West, on human rights and the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act has been effective because characterised by full technical command of the intricacies of legislation. Brother David, on behalf of many believers in Eastern Europe, we thank you for all you have done for us, and we gladly join with others in your own country and all round the world in saluting you as a most distinguished European Baptist: scholar, pastor, preacher, advocate, gifted administrator and skilled diplomat.

Such, David, is your multi-coloured spiritual dress, all evidence of rich endowments of the gifts of God given to you. We would like to think that you really belong to our Russian Baptist family: that is why in the name of many thousand Christian Baptists in the USSR, I say, 'God bless you, dear brother, for all that you have done, as well as in your further service for evangelism, education, and unity in Christ, of all those that love Jesus'.

As the apostle says:

Благодарю Бога моего, всегда  
вспоминаю о тебе в молитвах  
моих,

Слыша о твоей любви и  
вере, которую имеешь к Господу  
Иисусу и ко всем святым,

Дабы общение веры твоей  
оказалось деятельным в познании  
всякого у вас добра во Христе  
Иисусе.

Ибо мы имеем великую ра-  
дость и утешение в любви твоей,  
потому что тобою, брат, успо-  
коены сердца святых.

Philemon, v 4-7



The Revd Dr Alexei Bichkov  
General Secretary, The All Union Council of  
Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR