BIBLE, CHURCH AND WORLD

EDITED BY J. H. Y. BRIGGS

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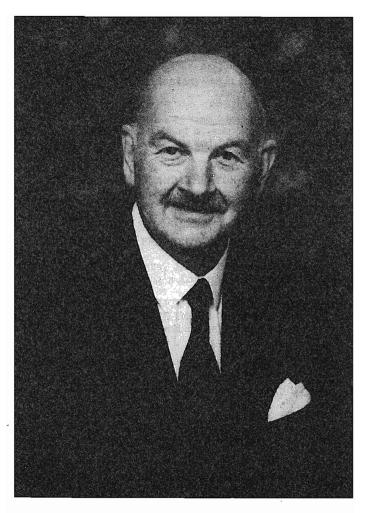
DR. D. S. RUSSELL

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REV. DAVID S. RUSSELL, C.B.E., M.A., D.D., D.Litt President 1983/84

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CONTENTS

The Revd Dr Alexei Bichkov, General Secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the U.S.S.R.	3
DAVID SYME RUSSELL: A LIFE OF SERVICE The Revd Geoffrey W. Rusling, Sometime Vice-Principal of Spurgeon's College, Former Head of the Ministry Department, Baptist Union of Great Britain, and Vice-President, Baptist Historical Society.	4
THE LAST DAYS AT RAWDON AND THE FORMATION OF NORTHERN BAPTIST COLLEGE The Revd David Milner, Minister, Cottingham Road Baptist Church, Hull.	21
THE INTERPRETATION OF PROPHECY AND THE ORIGIN OF APOCALYPTIC The Revd Dr Ronald E. Clements, Samuel Davidson Professor of Old Testament Studies, King's College, University of London.	28
THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN DIGNITY: DR DAVID RUSSELL AND THE ECUMENICAL COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS Dr Roger Williamson, The Life and Peace Institute, Uppsala, Sweden.	35
THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE The Revd Dr Glen Garfield Williams, Former General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches, Geneva, Switzerland.	46
BAPTISTS AND THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH Dr David Thompson, Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, and Lecturer in Divinity, University of Cambridge.	54
WHITHER THE BAPTISTS? The Revd Dr Leonard G. Champion, President-Emeritus, Bristol Baptist College, and Vice-President, Baptist Historical Society.	64

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 Почтовый яшик 520

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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 cur 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 as 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 вспоминая 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 Ипсусе.

Ибо мы имеем великую радость и утешение в любви твоей, потому что тобою, брат, успокоены сердца святых.

Philemon, v 4-7

The Revd Dr Alexei Bichkov

General Secretary, The All Union Council of

Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR