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JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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全日本にキリストの光を  
Christ's Light to All of Japan

RGS03087

March 10, 2004

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention  
Morris Chapman, Chairman

### Resolution on the Withdrawal of the SBC from BWA

On February 17, the trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention decided to withdraw fellowship from the Baptist World Alliance, contingent upon approval in June by the Convention in session. We as Baptists in Japan have received this report with shock and sadness.

Since the founding of the Baptist World Alliance in 1905, the Southern Baptist Convention has been a part of the world-wide fellowship and participated in every facet of work sponsored by the world body.

For the contributions of the Southern Baptist Convention to the Baptist World Alliance and Baptists in Asia, words cannot express our deepest gratitude. At the same time, we are deeply concerned that the Southern Baptist Convention's withdrawal from the Baptist World Alliance, simultaneously establishing a new international Baptist organization, will create confusion and strife in member organizations in Asia and around the world.

Now, we would ask that the trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention reflect on the theological base of the Baptist World Alliance, "There is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism," as well as verse 3 of Ephesians 4, "endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

We join with other Baptists around the world in prayerfully requesting you to reconsider the decision to withdraw from the Baptist World Alliance.

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Hitoshi Taira, President  
Executive Committee of the Japan Baptist Convention