



MacARTHUR BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH

2616 MacArthur Blvd.

Irving, Texas

Phone 255-1128

Prayer Chapel 252-6006

A message from your **PASTOR**

FINAL BUILDING PLANS TO BE PRESENTED OCTOBER 17. A long awaited moment will arrive at our quarterly business meeting, Wednesday night, October 17. At this time we will see and vote on the final plans for our new Worship Center. I can't stress too much the importance of this meeting. It's kind of like a marriage ceremony — speak now or forever hold your peace! I think all of us are going to be excited over the plans — I believe the Lord has given us one of the greatest building plans I've ever seen. We're trusting the Holy Spirit to express His will through the vote of our church on that night. Be much in prayer for this important meeting.

A WORD ABOUT "TONGUES"

The Conference on Revival held last week at Anaheim, California was blessed of God in many ways. It was soon evident that there was a vital need for such a conference because of the many excesses surrounding the "Spirit-filled Life" movement. "If it's extreme, it started in California" is almost a byword out there, and the teaching concerning the Holy Spirit is no exception. Without a doubt Satan is using "tongues" to give the Holy Spirit a bad name. More than ever I sense the need for the stability of the Word of God. More than ever, I see people making the Bible the servant of experience; and experience, like emotions, makes a bad master. While the manifestation of tongues is Scriptural, much of what we've seen is not. Just a few observations about the present "Tongues Movement":

1. **It is Divisive.** The Body of Christ, rather than being unified by this gift, as I Corinthians 12 teaches it ought to be, is being torn apart — and into many parts. Anytime or place where this

particular gift threatens the Body of Christ, it is not of the Holy Spirit because He IS the Spirit of unity.

2. **It Draws Church members from under the authority of their pastors.** Hebrews 13:17 concerning congregational relationships, says, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." The tongues movement has parented many small "home Bible study groups" where members of different congregations are led by a "charismatic" and, more often than not, this leader becomes their spiritual authority rather than their God-appointed pastor. Rather than checking the group leader's teaching by their pastor's, they judge their pastor by the group leader, and unfortunately, assume that if they differ, it is the pastor who is wrong.
3. **It Districts from the primary business of Evangelism and Edification —** Edification of the entire body, rather than self-edification. There is a turning inward apparent in many of those involved. The horizon of their life is limited by their own inner experience. The primary emphasis is upon self-edification, and the meeting is often considered a failure unless newer experiences or a new revelation is received.
4. **It leads to Deception.** One of the side effects is discontent with the simple teaching of the Word. Many of the leaders are claiming visions of Jesus in which they receive "new revelations." One of the better known leaders in our area claimed Jesus appeared to him and told him it was possible to be lost after you have been saved. Who can argue with that? Once we place the written revelation second to "new rev-

elations" we have lost our moorings and are wide open for all kinds of deception. Listen, if one of us sees Jesus, we will ALL see Him! Jesus Himself told us that in the last days men would say, "Lo, He is here. Lo, He is there." Don't run after them, Jesus said, for they are false prophets.

5. One of the saddest effects the false tongue (there is a TRUE TONGUE) movement is having is to **MAKE TONGUES THE CENTER OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.** In the past several weeks I have spoken to a number of Christians in counseling sessions whose first words have been, "I have been blessed with languages," as though this somehow lifted them out of the ordinary. There is almost a worshipping of this experience. No one has ever started off a counseling session by saying, "I have the gift of helps," or "I have the gift of teaching." Those few I know who have what I believe to be the genuine gift never mention it.

In conclusion let me say that there is a genuine gift of tongues and it is given sovereignly by the Holy Spirit to whomsoever He will. It will not lead to division, it will not cause spiritual pride, it will not undermine the pastor's place as spiritual leader, it will not become the object of our wonder.

The only objective part of our faith is the **WORD OF GOD.** Stick to it and you will be spared the dilemma of deception.

PRAY FOR SAN ANTONIO CONFERENCE

Next week the Second Annual Conference on Revival will take place at the Castle Hills Baptist Church in San Antonio. This promises to be one of the spiritual highs of the year. Stephen Olford will be the main speaker each evening and I think it would be worth your while to hear this man of God. I covet your prayers as I speak five times on the Gifts of the Spirit.
Ronald Dunn

**CHURCH TO VOTE ON NEW BUILDING PLANS
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17, 7:45 P.M.**