

Collection #
M 1393

**INDIANAPOLIS BAPTIST TEMPLE AND DR. GREG J. DIXON
MATERIALS, CA. 1979–2007**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 color photo folder, 3 printed books, 2 VHS tapes

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1979–2007

PROVENANCE: Edgar A. Towne, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 1388, Edgar A. Towne Papers, ca. 1983–2011

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0155

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Indianapolis Baptist Temple and Dr. Greg J. Dixon:

The Indianapolis Baptist Temple (IBT) was founded in 1950 by Reverend George Young of Bedford, Indiana. In 1953, the first building was erected on 2711 S East St. Dr. Greg J. Dixon, a graduate of Baptist Bible College of Springfield, Missouri, and his wife Wanda moved from Buffalo, Missouri, to Indianapolis in 1955. Dixon became the second pastor of IBT, serving until 1996 when his son Greg A. Dixon took over as the church's third pastor. Dixon and his wife had two other children, Robin and Jennifer. In the years following Dr. Dixon's term as pastor, IBT saw significant growth in the building as well as the congregation. By the 1970s, IBT had a two-story educational building, an auditorium with seating for 2,500, a nationwide television ministry, and over 1,960 members.

In the late 1970s, Dr. Dixon became a front-runner for fundamentalism. In 1979, Dixon helped Jerry Falwell organize the Moral Majority. Along with being one of the original incorporators, Dixon also served as National Secretary for roughly four years. Dixon left the organization after a disagreement over the Majority's recent support of the civil rights of homosexuals, but maintained his advocacy for fundamental Christian ideals. In the early 1980s, he served as President of the Coalition for Religious Freedom. He argued predominantly for the unregistered churches to be free of state influence, such as licensing of church-operated day cares, anti-discrimination rules, and tax laws.

In 1980, Greg Dixon and Edgar Towne, along with John Hosler of Lifegate Baptist Church and Jim Gentry of United Methodist Church of the Savior, recorded nineteen radio sessions for WNTS. These hour-long programs consisted of discussions of differing views among the pastors, two "fundamentalists" (Dixon and Hosler) and two "main-liners" (Towne and Gentry). Towne kept in contact with Dixon over the years, and wrote numerous publications on his reflections over fundamentalism and the Religious Right.

In 1983, the church unincorporated and ceased operation as a nonprofit religious organization, relinquishing their tax-exempt status. This began a long battle with the IRS over alleged evasion of income taxes for the church's employees. In 1999, Judge Sarah Evans Barker ruled that IBT owed the federal government \$5.3 million in taxes. Leaders of the church attempted an unsuccessful appeal, and in February of 2001, the Indianapolis Baptist Temple building was seized by U.S. Marshals. Marshals were forced to escort multiple members out of the building, and Dr. Dixon was eventually removed via stretcher after refusal to leave. The property was turned over to a receiver for sale and the congregation later moved to another rental building near Southport.

Sources:

<http://www.indianapolisbaptisttemple.com/history/>

<http://the-trumpet-online.com/wanda-dixons-birthday-today-a-tribute-by-dr-greg-j-dixon/>

Information in Collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains clippings (1979–2007), photocopied court cases (1942–2000), issues of Indianapolis Baptist Temple’s “The Trumpet” (1984–2003), two videocassettes (1989, n.d.), two color photographs, and twelve books/booklets on Christianity and fundamentalism, some authored by Greg Dixon. Also within the collection are papers related to the radio sessions between Dixon and Edgar Towne titled “Conversations in Faith,” along with correspondence, articles on fundamentalism, and other miscellaneous papers.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Church and State Issues, 1979–1989	Box 1, Folder 1
Church and State Issues, 1990–2004, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 2
Programs, Conferences, and Notes, 1980–2001, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 3
“Conversations in Faith,” Lilly Endowment, 1980–1982	Box 1, Folder 4
Edgar Towne on Fundamentalism, 1983–1994	Box 1, Folder 5
Articles on Fundamentalism, 1981	Box 1, Folder 6
News Clippings, 1978–1985	Box 1, Folder 7
News Clippings, 1986–2007, N.D.	Box 1, Folder 8
The Trumpet, 1984–2003	Box 1, Folder 9
Photocopied Court Cases, 1942–2000	Box 1, Folder 10
“Christian Challenge Looks at the Homosexuals Issue,” 1980	Box 1, Folder 11
“The Witness and Leading of the Holy Spirit,” 1980	Box 1, Folder 12
“Legalism on Trial,” 1980	Box 1, Folder 13
“The Truth About AIDS,” 1987	Box 1, Folder 14
“Roloff Today,” 1987	Box 1, Folder 15
“Has the United States Already Surrendered to the Soviet Union?” 1988	Box 1, Folder 16
“Authority the Greatest Thing in the Universe,” 1988	Box 1, Folder 17
“State Churches through Incorporation and Taxation,” N.D.	Box 1, Folder 18
“Twice Born,” N.D.	Box 1, Folder 19

CONTENTS

“They Tore the Old Lighthouse Down,” N.D.

Greg Dixon photos, N.D.

Perspective on the First Amendment, Indiana Baptist
College Press, 1980

*“Daddy Won’t Be Coming Home” :The Jimmy Luttrell
Story*, Temple Books, 1989

The Trail of Blood Revisited, Temple Books, 2005

Dr. Greg Dixon Lecture, 1989

Welcome to IBT, N.D.

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 20

Color photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Printed Collections:

Printed Collections:

Printed Collections:

VHS Storage:

VHS Storage: