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A table of contents for *The Baptist Quarterly* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_bq_01.php

all our associational forms and how do we locally, nationally, internationally relate to that larger reality?

What is the future for denominations? Are they, as the prophets of Restoration and house-church predict, irretrievably doomed to extinction in the last years of the twentieth century? Or are we all, however we regard each other, in part at least signs of the coming of the Kingdom?

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THE PAYNE MEMORIAL ESSAY COMPETITION 1987

The Baptist Historical Society offers a prize of £50 for an essay on any aspect of the theme

BAPTISTS AND AUTHORITY

The essay may be an historical or contemporary study. It should be an original, unpublished composition, based on personal research, that has not already been awarded another prize. The text should not exceed 10,000 words, but the submission should also include whatever footnotes and bibliography are considered necessary. It should be presented in typewritten form.

There is no restriction of academic qualification, place of residence or religious profession on candidates. The winning essay, and any other deemed worthy, will be published in the society's journal, *The Baptist Quarterly*. The Society reserves the right to make no award if an essay of sufficient merit is not submitted.

Candidates should send their essays to arrive on or before 30th September 1987. Envelopes should be marked 'Payne Memorial Essay Competition' and should be addressed to

The Secretary
Baptist Historical Society
Bristol Baptist College
Woodland Road
BRISTOL BS8 1UN

Note: The Payne Memorial Essay Competition commemorates the life and work of the Rev. Dr E. A. Payne, C.H. (1902-80), General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a Vice-President of the World Council of Churches and President of the Baptist Historical Society.