

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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75-89

Wrapup

Weber Says Charismatic
 Movement "Divisive"

By Larry Jerden

MIAMI BEACH, (BP)--Jaroy Weber of Lubbock, Tex., elected to a second one-year term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, characterized the charismatic movement as "divisive" anywhere it appeared--whether in the local church or on the convention floor.

Weber, pastor of the Lubbock's First Baptist Church and president of the nation's largest evangelical Protestant denomination, fielded repeated questions about the "tongues" movement during a brief news conference following his re-election.

In particular, the reporters asked whether Weber agreed with statements made by former SBC President W. A. Criswell of Dallas about the charismatic movement several weeks ago. Criswell branded the movement as "near heresy."

"I feel he (Criswell) spoke the sentiments of about 95 per cent of the pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention, including me," Weber declared. "I wouldn't want to use as strong language about it, but my feelings would move in that direction."

Weber said that "wherever we have had this experience, we have had a division of fellowship that has prevented the local church from accomplishing its mission of redemption and discipleship."

He said he hoped it would not be brought before the convention in resolution form, because it would "destroy the spirit of fellowship," but he feared it might. It had not been discussed at the convention in the past, he felt, because messengers felt it was a local church matter and the convention is "not a creedal body but a fellowship anchored around world missions."

"The charismatic movement is a disruptive subject," he said, "but it can be resolved in the local church by good, strong Bible teaching by the pastor."

Weber also declared that the convention "needs to be redemptive" in its actions towards pastors who have left the ministry because of the "pitfalls of the pressures of today's society," but added that the redemptive attitude should only follow the individual's repentance.

"The problems are as old as Christianity," he said, "but the news media have made them more widely known and the pressure of today's society has made it more difficult to avoid them."

He said he was not referring to any "particular" problem, but in answer to a question indicated he included divorce.

"I'm not saying we should make brother so-and-so, who is divorced, pastor of First Baptist Church, but we do need to have some helping hand for him."

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Messengers Extend Study
 Committee; Sidestep Name Change

Baptist Press
 6/11/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to grant another year for a Committee of Seven to study the role of the SBC Executive Committee.

Chauncey Daley, editor of the Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptists' newsmagazine, and chairman of the study committee, said a report would be given at the 1976 Convention in Norfolk, Va. He said the report would be released for study by Southern Baptists well before the Convention.

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The messengers also supported a committee recommendation that the name of the Southern Baptist Convention not be changed at present.

An effort to get the messengers to consider for a year another name, "Cooperative Baptist Churches," failed decisively. The substitute motion was offered by Donald Brown, a Baltimore, Md., pastor. Surveys showed that a decisive majority of Southern Baptists oppose any change in the name, Daley said.

Surveys by 32 state Baptist newspapers showed 35 percent favoring a name change and 65 percent opposed it.

A professional survey showed about 25 percent of Southern Baptist for and 75 percent against a name change, Daley said.

States where the majority of Southern Baptists favored a name change were the newer areas of Southern Baptist work in New England, Michigan, Hawaii, West Virginia, Oregon, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and District of Columbia, Daley said.

Reasons given for opposing the name change included the danger of other groups claiming the name and capitalizing upon it, the problem of communicating a name change, and the absence of a consensus on a suitable name change.

The most popular names listed in the polls were Cooperative Baptist Convention, Continental Baptist Convention, United Baptist Convention, World Baptist Convention and Baptist Convention of America.

In its progress report on the Executive Committee the Committee of Seven noted that the Executive Committee "provides checks and balances to protect the historical principles of the Baptist liberties and autonomy."

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"Cousin, Come Home"--But
Not All At Once

Baptist Press
6/11/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The British view of the United States' bicentennial observance surfaced in humorous fashion just before the initial ringing of a replica of the Liberty Bell at the Convention's opening session here.

"If I don't share your rejoicing with quite the same enthusiasm, I may be forgiven," said C. Ronald Goulding of London, England, one of the fraternal messengers to the convention from more than a half dozen countries.

"Cousin, come home, All is forgiven," quipped Goulding, an associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

"But don't all come at once," he added. "You'd sink us."

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SBC Approves Evangelism Change,
Impact '80s, Site Change

Baptist Press
6/11/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Elected messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention here approved an alteration in their Home Mission Board's evangelism program, adopted a denominational emphasis stretching into the mid 1980s and changed the site of the 1977 convention.

The denominational emphasis, the "IMPACT 80s Emphasis Plan," touches most areas of denominational life. It was adopted by messengers with no discussion and no voiced opposition.

The Home Mission Board's restated program of evangelism also passed without comment from the floor, although the matter was discussed last year at the Dallas convention.

The two recommendations were part of a report by the SBC Executive Committee, which also included a recommendation to shift the site of the June 14-16, 1977, convention from Memphis, Tenn., to Kansas City, Mo.

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"A serious room shortage has developed in Memphis with hotel closings and plans for motel expansion stymied," said Doyle E. Carlton Jr., of Wauchula, Fla., a member of the committee.

"Since we will be out there for four or five days, it would not be a bad idea to have a place to stay," he added. "So we turned our eyes to Kansas City."

Messengers approved the convention site shift without opposition.

The IMPACT 80s plan directs that themes and emphases in the years from 1979-86 "be developed in keeping with the gospel relating to the several critical concerns."

The concerns include family life, leadership development, Bible study, church plannings, study of Baptist doctrine and heritage, community involvement, mission involvement, church growth. and Biblical giving.

The Evangelism statement is a change in the program statement of the SBC Home Mission Board, which has the responsibility for national evangelism.

It spells out three broad areas of concern--evangelism development, personal evangelism and mass evangelism.

Arthur Rutledge, the Home Mission Board's executive director-treasurer, told messengers: "A year ago in this convention a recommendation was introduced that a commission on evangelism be instituted. It was tabled to give the Home Mission Board time to study this matter."

He said a study has been conducted and evangelism has been elevated within the HMB structure from a division to a section, reporting directly to the top administrator.

Rutledge said he believes the revised program statement and structure change "will strengthen evangelism within the Home Mission Board."

The messengers also approved technical program statement changes for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Christian Life Commission, Baptist Committee on Public Affairs, Annuity Board and Stewardship Commission.

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Allen Urges SBC Strategy
On Physical, Spiritual Hunger

Baptist Press
6/11/75

By Roy Jennings

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A leading Texas minister recommended to Southern Baptist here a series of strategies designed to still spiritual and physical hunger pains and shore up society's "sagging morality."

In the keynote address at the 118th annual meeting of the 130-year-old Southern Baptist Convention, Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio urged messengers to attempt the innovative and "risk failing without fearing that we would be failures.

"Some of our finest moments are coming under creative leadership which is willing to do something different," said Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, and former president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"In international missions we are discovering the day of lay involvement in missions, acceleration of crusade evangelism utilizing laymen, natural disasters as days of opportunity for service and change in strategy, and hunger as an urgent responsibility," he said.

"Our strength as Baptists has always been the openness of our people at the grass roots to sense the wind of the Spirit and respond. That breath of mission awareness and willingness to give of themselves is moving in fantastic proportions."

Allen called for a national missions strategy which would involve fitting programs to the various publics discovered in communities and training lay Christians to "impact" each public.

Southern Baptists also need to develop people who will work in the tough places of racially changing neighborhoods and inner cities, Allen added.

He also proposed a network of Christians who would counsel politicians in making decisions affecting society.

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Other strategies Allen put forward involved using dinner theaters and dramatic groups to share the Christian message and a better use of the talents of women executives.

Allen also saw a need for Christians who would supplement the work of chaplains in the military, law enforcement and medical ministries.

The Texas minister characterized spiritual and physical hunger and a sagging morality as an overwhelming opportunity.

"In the last few decades we have followed a path of license rather than liberty, of unrestrained greed breeding injustice, of political leadership by deception. Families fragment in a society in which non-married has become a defensible life style," Allen said.

"Into these graveyards of rotting corpses, of consciences mutilated and eternal principles rejected, we are called to go with a resurrection message."

Southern Baptists need to be on the tip toe of alertness for direction from God Allen said.

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Ceremony Highlights Era
of SBC Financial Growth

Baptist Press
6/11/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A lighted torch carried by a 17-year-old boy arrived at the Miami Beach Convention Center here Tuesday night, June 10, to culminate a 1,400 mile relay and open the celebration by Southern Baptists of the 50th anniversary of their Cooperative Program unified giving plan.

The appearance of Keith Troutman of Concord, N.C., was greeted with a roar and applause from more than 15,000 messengers who earlier had approved a record national Cooperative Program budget for 1975-76 of \$51 million.

Troutman was the last of some 2,153 Southern Baptist boys, members of Royal Ambassador (RA) groups in churches, who had relayed the Cooperative Program torch 1,468 miles from Memphis.

The torch symbolized the Cooperative Program, a unified giving plan to support Southern Baptists' work in such areas as home and foreign missions in 50 states and 83 countries, theological education, evangelism, and Christian social action.

Charles Farmer, Baptist layman from Tulsa, Okla., accompanied the torch runners in an escort van equipped with warning lights, first aid materials and other safety supplies.

Southern Baptists originated the Cooperative Program at their annual meeting in Memphis on May 13, 1925. They contributed about \$5 million through the unified giving plan the first year.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the SBC's Brotherhood Commission which arranged for the torch run, and Michael Speer, associate executive director of the Stewardship Commission, lauded Southern Baptists for their increased gifts the last 50 years.

McCullough also described the torch run from Memphis and Speer led in the signing of a declaration of cooperation involving state executive secretaries. More than one million Southern Baptists have signed the document.

Cooperation was the emphasis of the session which opened with an address by Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

McCall suggested that the convention's beginning was not in Augusta, Ga., (1845) or in Philadelphia, but rather in a baptistry in Calcutta, India, when Luther Rice committed himself to the Baptist mission cause.

"Baptists, needed to get together to carry out God's intentions. We wouldn't stay together long just because we liked each other or agreed with each other. We all add our energies together for the propagation of the gospel," McCall said.

Lynn E. May, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, traced the convention's financial difficulties prior to the Cooperative Program from the founding of the convention in 1845 to the Memphis convention in 1925.

A re-enactment of the Memphis convention was presented by a cast from Miami's Central Baptist Church. The drama was directed by Paula Milton, professor of speech and drama for the Miami-Dade Community College-North, Miami.

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Louie D. Newton, Atlanta, former SBC president, retired pastor and retired state Baptist paper editor, asked, "What is the secret of it all?"

Answering his own question, he said, "Remember how the Cooperative Program was born in prayer, has grown in prayer and will continue to be the lifeline of the Southern Baptist Convention through prayer."

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, concluded, "As we come to the climax of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, we need to remind ourselves that the Cooperative Program is a channel through which we respond to the challenge from God to share Christ throughout the world."

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Sappington Resolution
Tabled by SBC Messengers

Baptist Press
6/11/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention messengers tabled a motion by Mrs. Richard L. Sappington to supplement its statement, "The Baptist Faith and Message," adopted 12 years ago.

An opponent of the motion, Horace G. Hammett, retired general secretary of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, asked messengers to table it because it was not specific enough.

Mrs. Sappington, a Houston, Tex. pastor's wife, who offered the motion, wanted to authorize the SBC "president to call a meeting of men to present a statement of information and guidelines to the agencies of the SBC supplementing the SBC statement entitled 'The Baptist Faith and Message.'"

In rebuttal, Hammett said the Sappington motion "raised some very serious questions and problems."

The men who would draft the statement are not named in the motion, Hammett charged.

In remarks when she presented the motion, Mrs. Sappington suggested they could be the presidents of Baptist State conventions, but this reference was not contained in the motion as published in the official Convention Bulletin.

Hammett said there also was a danger because the motion did not even require a subsequent report to the Convention on how the statement would be supplemented.

In her appeal to messengers to approve her motion, Mrs. Sappington reminded them they had supported her when she appeared at the 1973 Convention in Portland and the 1974 Convention in Dallas. She asked them to support her once more.

In 1973, her resolution dealt with the place of women in Christian service. Last year, it pertained to "Unisex and the Scriptures."

In other action during a miscellaneous business period, messengers defeated an effort to restrict the SBC presidency to a one-year term without a chance for re-election.

Joe W. Burton of Nashville, former registration secretary of the Convention for 18 years, offered the motion to restrict the term of president.

According to Burton, the limitation would "minimize the trend to institutionalizing the office, discourage political striving," prevent any president from exploiting the office, and keep any ecclesiastical hierarchy from developing.

After a brief rebuttal supporting the present status that permits a president to be elected to a second successive one-year term, messengers voiced a resounding "No" to Burton's motion.

A motion to change a Convention bylaw to make it easier for messengers to take direct action on an agency's internal operations was withdrawn. Its sponsor, Bill Sutton of Orlando, Fla., did not appear to advocate its passage.

H. Cecil Chance of Winter Haven, Fla., concurred with a proposal that his motion dealing with the assignment of hotel and motel accommodations for those attending the Convention each year be referred to the SBC Executive Committee for study.

The Executive Committee is responsible for making Convention arrangements.

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Executive Committee
Re-elects Charles Harvey

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Charles E. Harvey, pastor of Sunset Acres Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., was elected by acclamation to his second term as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is comprised of 65 pastors and laymen from 33 states.

Other officers elected to serve with Harvey include William Ches Smith III, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tifton, Ga., vice chairman, and Dennis Lyle of Haywood Hills Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., secretary.

Porter Routh was re-elected executive secretary-treasurer of the committee.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., new national president of the Woman's Missionary Union, was introduced as a new member of the committee by Mrs. R. L. (Marie) Mathis of Waco, Tex. Mrs. Gregory succeeds Mrs. Mathis in the WMU position.

In other action, the Executive Committee voted to move ahead on plans to invite representatives from the Southern Baptist states (who do not qualify for Committee membership because of population) to attend future sessions as observers.

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Weber Reports on Disaster
Coordinating Committee

Baptist Press
6/11/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President Jaroy Weber told a meeting of the SBC Executive Committee here that Southern Baptists concerned about opportunities for response to great disasters now have a channel for immediate action.

Weber is chairman of a Disaster Assistance Coordinating Committee authorized by the Executive Committee last February and officially launched here. The Executive Committee renamed the committee, originally designated as Disaster Relief Committee.

Weber noted that the SEC already has channels for responding to disasters through the state conventions, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board and Baptist World Alliance. But he said the advisory committee could assist the agencies and Southern Baptist church members by getting rapid and accurate information through the state Baptist papers so Baptists will know the scope of the disaster and the channels for response.

"The Disaster Assistance Coordinating Committee will also assist in coordinating the interests of the churches and in responding through state conventions, regions or SBC agencies to disaster needs," Weber said.

Other committee members are James G. Harris of Fort Worth, president of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board; Russell H. Dilday of Atlanta, president of the SBC Home Mission Board; Paul Faircloth of Bladensburg, Md., chairman of the SBC Stewardship Commission; Charles Harvey of Shreveport, La., chairman of the Executive Committee; P. A. Stevens of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the SBC Brotherhood Committee; Roy D. Gresham, executive secretary of Maryland Baptists and president of the organization of state Baptist executive secretaries; and C. Eugene Whitlow, editor of the Baptist New Mexican and president of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Ministers' Wives Elect
Officers; Hear Criswell

Baptist Press
6/11/75

By Mary Ann Ward

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Conference of Ministers' Wives heard W. A. Criswell talk about the woman's role in the church, then elected new officers at their 20th annual meeting here. The group is an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Criswell, pastor of the 18,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, said, "The woman is to have a glorious part in the church," as he talked about how Scripture relates to women.

"The problem is the Bible lies not in what it says but in people not understanding what it says," Criswell said. "You can't take a passage out of context.

"All of the words in the Bible are in a context and come out of a historical association."

Some biblical examples of women's participation in the church have not caught on, he said. "Anytime a Baptist church wants to have deaconesses, it is perfectly Biblical. We

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don't do it because of tradition.' He cited the biblical character of Phoebe as an example of a deaconess.

He also told of events surrounding a statement he made to a group in the Dallas Baptist Association about women participating in glossolalia (speaking in tongues) that was picked up by international new media.

He was widely quoted as saying that if women would quit speaking in tongues, the movement would die. He explained that the passage in 1 Corinthians 14 relating to women's silence in church relates to speaking in tongues and not overall silence. He cited biblical examples of women having a voice in the early church and said Paul in 1 Corinthians 11 gave instructions about how women should dress when speaking.

Asked how his wife copes with loneliness when he travels, he said he didn't have much of an answer.

"She's not inclined to go with me much, but if you want to go with him (your husband) that's perfectly in order." He said he's currently installing burglar equipment and bars on the windows of their home so she will feel safe when he is away.

He stressed the importance of teaching the Bible by telling about his wife's Sunday School class which started in a room about the size of a closet and grew to a present average of 550. "It's because she teaches the Bible," he said.

Elected officers of the ministers' wives for 1976 were Mrs. Robert L. Franklin of Cairo, Ga., president; Mrs. Walter N. Stockburger of Norfolk, Va., vice-president; Mrs. W. Leray Fowler of Houston, Tex., corresponding secretary; and Mrs. John Ramsey of Washington, D. C., recording secretary-treasurer.

Officers-elect for 1977 are Mrs. John Lawrence of Raleigh, N.C., president; Mrs. Bruce Coyle of Memphis, Tenn., recording secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Richard Henderson of Durham, N.C., corresponding secretary.

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Honduran Consul Praises
Hurricane Relief Effort

Baptist Press
6/11/75

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--Southern Baptist lay people were praised here for their contributions of service, clothing and food to Hondurans during the aftermath of Hurricane Fifi.

Lauding the Baptist men was Mrs. Roseargentina Pinel-Cordova of San Antonio, Tex., consul general for Southwestern United States who spoke from a wheelchair to the report of the Brotherhood Commission at the 118th session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Convention Center. Only a few days before, she suffered a broken leg but insisted on speaking to the convention as requested.

Representing the chief of state of the Republic of Honduras, Mrs. Pinel-Cordova said she wanted to express "our most sincere gratitude to the Baptist Brotherhood for their Christian and valuable assistance..."

With the encouragement of state Baptist leaders and the SBC Foreign Mission Board, about 350 Baptist laymen responded to the Hondurans' plight by preparing and dispensing 100,000 meals and building cots, homes, schools and a church.

Mrs. Pinel-Cordova shared the Brotherhood presentation with a Georgia pastor who told how he equipped 200 of his lay people for ministry and witness, and with a young Royal Ambassador from Summerville, S. C., who described a prolific outreach program for boys in his church.

Lewis Abbott, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norcross, Ga., said he has 43 groups conducting ministries as an outgrowth of a Sunday evening training program for more than 200 built around lay evangelism training, spiritual disciplines, and practical ministries.

The theme of redemptive ministry pervades the entire church program," Abbott said. "The spiritual revolution that has exploded in our church fellowship has produced a new life style for the people.

"One young mother led nine people to Christ in a two-month period. A businessman went to the county jail and led to Christ a 17-year-old boy who had robbed him two days earlier. The boy was released to the custody of the businessman and the two are now in church each Sunday," Abbott recounted.

The pastor also told how his lay people had conducted 32 pre-revival coffees, operated four good news clubs in apartment complexes, sponsored a men's prayer breakfast weekly, and led out in a ministry to 50 elderly people.

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"During the past 20 months more than 1,200 persons have accepted Christ through various ministries of the church," Abbott reported. "Many of them have gone into other churches, yet our Sunday School has grown 60 per cent. Baptisms have quadrupled.

"I want to challenge each pastor here to study diligently the ministry and life style of our Lord and begin to implement the true Lordship to Christ through equipping and releasing your laymen as disciples of Jesus Christ," Abbott said.

Testifying about the rapid growth of Royal Ambassadors in his church was Ollie Yost, a 17-year-old Pioneer at Summerville (S.C.) Baptist Church and president of South Carolina Royal Ambassadors.

Identifying his church and town as average, Yost said the church's Royal Ambassador program had grown to include 131 boys and their leaders within 10 chapters.

Besides the usual mission activities involving boys, young Yost said the Royal Ambassadors also seek to share their Christian faith with youthful offenders in a correctional center, conduct vacation Bible schools for less fortunate children, and operate an audio tape ministry for shut-ins.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, said he had a dream that one day millions of men and boys, like Torras, Abbott, and Yost will be involved "in letting God use them to accomplish His purposes through them."