



FEATURES

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75-169

Raising Bees for God:
'How Sweet It Is'

By Adon Taft

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--When a swarm of bees landed in the hedge around his home here a little more than three years ago, S.B. Jordan didn't tell them to "buzz off."

Instead, the 86-year-old semi-retired Baptist minister decided to get the bees busy for the Lord.

He knew something about the insects since his father had raised a few back in Morgan County, Ga. When he was 12, Sam had written to A. I. Root for his authoritative book started when bees nested in the board siding of his Chicago hardware store.

S.B. Jordan also recalled the experience of a rough and tumble railroad section foreman converted under his ministry in Canal Point, Fla. The man became ill and promised God to do something for the church if he could gather 50 barrels of honey that year.

"He got 53 barrels that year, got active in the church and, to the surprise of many people, became a deacon and was getting 90 barrels of honey a year," said the minister who came here 31 years ago to be pastor of the First Baptist Church of Hialeah.

So Jordan decided to match whatever he made from the bees and give it all to home, state and foreign missions through the Riverside Baptist Church, where he and his wife are members and he does some of the ministerial visitation chores.

He built one hive with four "supers" (drawer-like sections where the bees build their honeycombs) in which 30,000 bees nest, and one with three supers where another 25,000 wax old in a few weeks. It takes a lot out of them to produce 668 pounds of honey two years ago, 771 pounds last year, and 500 pounds so far this year.

Translated into cash, that has meant about \$600 a year for missions, reports Jordan, whose figures are as accurate as they can be made by a man who graduated from the Byrnes Business College in Athens, Ga., as a banking bookkeeper before he felt called to the ministry. He then studied at Mercer University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and began preaching in Clearmont, Fla., in 1924.

Since 1937, he has started six churches--two on the shores of Lake Okeechobee and four in Miami. Those here are the Sunset Heights, North Hialeah First, West Haven and South Miami Heights Baptist Churches.

He figures his business training helped a lot in the construction of 12 church buildings. "It required a lot of money, and I borrowed thousands of dollars without any trouble," he said. "I guess it's because I've got a way of being friendly, and people like me."

Jordan likes people, too. He has started several in the bee business--many of them young people in programs of his Kiwanis Club. And he has given honey to people from New York to California and many stops in between. He always takes small jars of honey to the shut-ins when he visits.

Raising bees for the Lord has its fringe benefits believes Jordan, who has a son who is a pastor in Lexington, Ky., a daughter who is a teacher, and another daughter who is in the motel business.

"The fortunate thing about bee stings," he said, "is that they don't hurt permanently, but they help you in the long run.

"They've kept me from having arthritis," declares the slender minister who stands ram-rod straight in a pulpit and preaches at least once a month.

He explained that many doctors give shots of bee venom to ease the effects of arthritis.

So when Jordan sums up his honey-producing endeavor for the Lord, all he can say is, "How sweet it is!"



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Texas Baptists Discuss
Charismatics; Seat Messengers

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)--The charismatic or neo-pentecostal movement, which has stirred conflict in many denominations, has created new controversy in the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Expected controversy failed to appear at early sessions of the convention's 90th annual meeting here. The question of seating elected "messengers" from churches with charismatic ministries surfaced briefly, but even then the reference was oblique rather than direct. No attempt was made to deny seating of messengers.

However, at the final session, the matter came up in two separate resolutions. One was a direct challenge. The other did not specifically mention charismatics, and probably is much broader than the neo-pentecostal movement.

On the direct challenge, messengers resoundingly defeated a request by J. J. Wolf, pastor of Pinemont Baptist Church, Houston, that the administration of the 2.2-million member body poll its 4,400 churches and missions "to find out their acceptance or rejection of neo-pentecostal doctrine and practice."

Wolf was author of a critical resolution which was passed Oct. 19 by the Union (Houston) Baptist Association. It said the charismatic movement is "of the Devil" and "unscriptural."

He told messengers he is a Baptist and said the basic Baptist fellowship is "based upon faith and practice," and said he is concerned about exchange of members with charismatic churches. There "are parameters of what constitutes Baptist faith and practice," he said.

The motion drew opposition from several Baptists, including Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, who said the move would bring Texas Baptists dangerously close to creedalism.

Another, Buford Harrell of First Baptist Church, Lamarque, said the Baptist General Convention of Texas "is not a tribunal of doctrinal integrity."

The other motion, however, was carried. It does not specifically mention charismatics nor "liberals" but calls on James G. Harris of Fort Worth, newly elected president of the convention, to "appoint a committee to study the historical and doctrinal position as to what constitutes a 'regular, missionary Baptist church'." The phraseology is used in the Texas convention's constitution.

Many observers believe the motion is a reference to churches with charismatic ministries, but others note there are also "liberal" churches in the convention.

The motion, by Jimmy Hefner, pastor of Braeburn Glen Baptist Church, Dallas, carried after Smith asked for a secret ballot. Two efforts--a standing vote and a show of hands--failed to reveal the feeling of messengers who appeared evenly divided.

Smith told messengers the convention voiced its feelings in 1969 on the matter, but said Harris, pastor of University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, will appoint a committee.

Except for the final session--and one earlier reference--controversy did not rear its head. More than 2,500 messengers showed reluctance to fight about anything, and the few debates were gentle and peaceful.

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In addition to the fuss over the charismatics, other fights over gun control and church-state separation failed to materialize in early sessions.

Messengers did defeat, on second reading, a proposed constitutional amendment approved last year in Amarillo, which would have given associations of Baptist churches a stronger voice in the selection of members of the convention's executive board.

The question of the method used in nominating members to the executive board arose during the final business session.

A motion by Paul Kenley, pastor of Lakeview Church, Meadow, asked that a committee be appointed by Harris to study the present method of naming members to the board.

It asked the committee "be separate and apart from the administrative committee" and be charged with bringing to next year's annual meeting in San Antonio "specific guidelines for the (nominating) committee to use in seeking out those qualified Texas Baptists, whether well known or obscure, for service on the board."

Messengers overwhelmingly defeated a proposal that churches must hold membership in an association before they could be allowed to seat messengers. Many thought the proposal was aimed at charismatic churches, but J. L. Lasater of Milby Road Baptist Church, Arlington, who made the proposal, denied that it was.

In other action the convention:

--Passed a record \$23 million budget without a dissenting vote, with 34.5 percent of that amount going to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget.

--Changed the title of the convention's chief executive, James Landes, from executive secretary to executive director.

--Set the stage for multiple ministries--ranging from child care facilities, evangelism, stewardship, church training programs and missions to homes for the aged, hospitals and institutions of higher education.

--Elected a new slate of officers, headed by Harris. Grant Teaff, coach of the Baylor University football team, was elected to one of two vice presidential posts.

--Passed on second reading a constitutional amendment which will revise the structure of the Texas Baptist Human Welfare and Christian Education Commission to serve as coordinating boards to strengthen coordination of denomination-owned hospitals, child care facilities, colleges and homes for the aged.

Next year's meeting will be in San Antonio, Oct. 19-21.

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Bicentennial Feature

Six Baptists Arrested
For Conducting Worship

Baptist Press
10/31/75

URBANNA, Va., August 11, 1771--(BP)--Four Baptist ministers and two laymen were arrested yesterday and one of the laymen was beaten for conducting an unauthorized Baptist worship service in Middlesex County.

The ministers arrested and now being held in Middlesex County jail awaiting trial are John Waller, Robert Ware, James Greenwood and William Webber. The laymen, Thomas Waford and Richard Faulkner, were released.

While William Webber was preaching from the text, "Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show you my faith by my works," an officer rushed up, drew back a club, and was about to knock the minister down when someone caught his arm from behind. The raid was conducted by two sheriffs, a parson of the state church, and a posse.

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The Baptist meeting was being held in the home of James Mackan. Earlier Robert Ware and others had petitioned the Middlesex County court to recognize Mackan's home as a place of worship, but the petition was denied.

After searching the prisoners saddlebags for treasonable papers and their pockets for firearms, the posse took them to the justice of the peace who had issued the warrant for their arrest.

Discovering that the ministers had no license from the state church and no authority to preach "but from above," the magistrate ordered the prisoners to give bond and security not to preach again in the county.

When the Baptists said they could not obey the order in good conscience, they were ordered held in close jail and "not to be allowed to walk in the air" until court day, 15 days later.

Although Waford and Faulkner were released, Waford was beaten severely with a whip and warned to get out of the county or face a prison sentence.

The prisoners were locked up in the flea-infested Middlesex County jail. After borrowing a candle from the jailor, they sang hymns, prayed for their friends and enemies, thanked God that they were in prison and not in hell, and lay down in their dank cells to try to sleep.

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'Horatio Alger' Story
Launches Scholarship

Baptist Press
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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Three years ago he was "going broke", but George Shinn saw 16 students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here receive \$1,000 scholarship awards from a foundation he established in 1973.

Shinn, a Raleigh, N. C. businessman and Southeastern trustee, set up the scholarship program in 1974 as a "gift out of love for God who has blessed my life and in gratitude to Christ my Lord."

In 1972 all his businesses were failing and he was "going broke," he said during the awards presentation ceremony. After looking at his list of creditors, he said, he "called on God for help." Shinn said he changed his whole outlook and attitude, and things began to turn around; his auditors began to report profits instead of losses in his consulting, leasing, personnel and business colleges enterprises.

In mid-October, he was given the Horatio Alger Award in New York City for his rags to riches career.

Shinn's formula for success--good health, good attitude and Jesus Christ--led to the endowed scholarships, he said. Recipients are selected on the basis of commitment to the Christian ministry, character, academic excellence and need. By encouraging and supporting those preparing for the ministry, Shinn feels he is helping to spread the Christian gospel.

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