

Try Growing Food Instead Of Tobacco, Baptists Tell Farmers

By SHARON OVERTON
The News and Observer

Softening a stand taken in a statement supporting tobacco farmers, a group of North Carolina Baptists say farmers should experiment with growing alternative crops that could ease world hunger.

The General Board of the N. C. Baptist State Convention voted Wednesday to appoint a special committee to study incentives for farmers to experiment with alternative cash crops.

While the action didn't pinpoint state tobacco growers, "it's dealing with the tobacco issue without taking a stand on (telling farmers) not to grow tobacco," said William H. Boatwright, the convention's director of communications.

Also during the triannual meeting of the 110-member General Board, Roy J. Smith, the convention's general secretary-treasurer, told members that a committee was studying possible tax law violations in the board's funding of the Christian Action League, a conservative educational and advocacy group. A Charlotte attorney looking into the issue said in an interview that he had uncovered no violations.

The investigation is a result of the sale of the convention's mailing list last year to the re-election campaign of Sen. Jesse A. Helms, R-N.C., by the Rev. Coy C. Privette, the league's executive director.

The board, which sets policy for Baptists between yearly convention meetings, also voted to encourage Campbell University to open the state's second school of pharmacy.

On the alternative crops issue, Boatwright said the approach endorsed Wednesday was "somewhat softer" than a statement issued in Ju-

ly by the board's executive committee in support of leaf growers.

The committee issued the statement, which acknowledged health risks associated with the crop, in response to a resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention against tobacco growing, cigarette smoking and federal tobacco subsidies.

But at its annual meeting in November, the state convention tabled a motion that would have expressed appreciation for tobacco farmers and acknowledged their freedom to earn a livelihood from the industry of their choice.

The board directed Smith to appoint a committee to study the alternative crop issue as a way to bring "North Carolina farmers into a better light," said the Rev. Horace Hamm of Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church, who suggested the new approach. "In the United States, farmers are leaving their farms at a rate of two per day," said Hamm, who is not a member of the board. "They need to hear something from us."

The Rev. Charles L. McMillan, director of missions for the Raleigh Baptist Association, said farmers should consider growing crops such as alfalfa, a high-yield cash crop that could relieve world hunger by providing livestock feed.

"There are crops which can be raised to supplement if not eventually take the place of tobacco," he said.

On the question of possible tax law violations involved in the group's funding of the Christian Action League, Smith said it was "a very sensitive area....(that) does pose some serious ramifications for us as a convention."

Although both non-profit groups have a tax-exempt status, the league cannot offer tax deductions for people

who contribute to it because it seeks "to influence public policy and legislation," said the Rev. Thomas M. Freeman of Dunn, league president. Donations to churches and church auxiliaries are tax-deductible.

The state convention funds the league about \$25,000 annually from its mission offerings. Boatwright said.

"If you give it to us and we give it to them" does that constitute a violation of the law?" he asked. "That's what we have to study."

Freeman said in a telephone interview that the convention's funding of the league did not violate the law. Charlotte lawyer William E. Poe, the convention's second vice president and head of the committee studying the issue, agreed that he could find nothing legally wrong in the convention's relationship with the league.

Poe said Smith who didn't inform the board Wednesday of the preliminary findings, was seeking a second opinion.

Smith said in an interview that there was "not enough information even to have a preliminary idea" if the relationship where within legal bounds. He said he expected to have a final report for the board at its May meeting.

In further action, the board unanimously approved a motion to encourage Campbell University, a Baptist-affiliated school in Buies Creek, in its pursuit of a pharmacy school.

The proposal, announced Monday at a meeting of the convention's Council on Christian Higher Education, has met with resistance from the dean of the state's only pharmacy school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel-Hill.

Jobs

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November, the ESC reported 6,610 workers.

Out-going ESC chairman Glenn Jernigan blamed an expected decline in agricultural employment for the rise in unemployment.

Madison's neighboring counties all reported increased unemployment in December. Buncombe County unemployment increased slightly to 6.9 percent, while Yancey County also reported a small increase to 10.8 percent. Haywood County joblessness rose 3.1 percent during the month and stood at 14.5 percent as 1984 came to an end. Across the border in Tennessee, Cocke County reported that state's highest unemployment rate, 28.2 percent.

The U.S. Dept. of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics began computing North Carolina unemployment in January, a service provided to the nation's ten most populous states. According to the federal agency's figures, unemployment in January in North Carolina improved to 6.8 percent.

The federal agency employs a different method of calculating joblessness than the old method employed by the ESC. In December, the ESC calculated statewide joblessness at 7.2 percent.

Nationally, the Labor Dept. reported unemployment at 7.4 percent in January, an increase of 2 percent over December. The Labor Dept. reported that 106.4 million Americans were working in January and that 8.5 million workers were without jobs. Both the employment and unemployed figures represent all-time records.

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SEEDS FROM THE SOWER

By Michael A. Guldo, Metter, Georgia

A teacher asked his class to write what they would do if they had a million dollars.

Every student wrote something, except Willie. He handed in a blank sheet. "You've written nothing!" exclaimed the teacher. "Why?"

"That's what I'd do if I had a million dollars—nothing!" he answered.

The Lord has given you two hands, one to get with and the other to give with. He always gives you everything you need, so that you will have sufficient both for yourself and for giving

to others. You are not holds made for hoarding, but seas for sharing. If you fail in this divine duty and delight you have missed the true meaning of Christianity.

Quality, not quantity, is the thing that counts in giving. The Lord is more interested in the spirit of the giver than He is in the size of the gift.

What you give shows how much you love the Lord and man. What you keep shows how much you love yourself. How much do you love the Lord?

Church Events

Marshall Presbyterian To Show Film

The Marshall Presbyterian Church of Marshall will present a film, 'In Search of Historic Jesus' on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Retreat Planned For Cancer Victims

A retreat for current and former cancer patients and their families will be held on Sunday, Feb. 10 at the Asheville Ob-Gyn Association on Victoria Rd. in Asheville. Topics of discussion will include "Myths and Misconceptions of Cancer" and diet and exercise. For more information on the retreat, call 252-4106.

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ACCEPT Plans Workshop For Parents

Parents of handicapped children face many frustrations. Along with the stresses of having a child with special needs, the attempt to find appropriate services to meet those needs can be both difficult and confusing.

Problems most often encountered by parents are: knowing who to ask, lack of a needed service, waiting lists for programs, too few choices, no in-home supports, difficulty understanding regulations and eligibility criteria, and hard to understand laws.

On Thursday evening, February 7, there will be a meeting for parents of handicapped children and interested professionals from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Marshall Community Center (adjacent to the day care center on Long Branch Road) to discuss available resources and strategies for obtaining appropriate services for handicapped children, adults, parents and family members.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens, the Madison County Support Group for Families and Friends of the Handicapped and by ACCEPT (The Advocacy Center for Children's Education and Parent Training), a statewide group based in Raleigh.

"This is an opportunity for parents and family members of children with special needs to learn about resources available for their children as well as the family and to learn how to work together with the system to obtain new services," said Roxann Rotundo, the mother of a mentally retarded child and current president of the Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens.

Roxann, a member of the ACCEPT Board of Directors, has been instrumental in forming the Madison County Parent Support group and urges parents and family members in Madison County to become a part of the group. "Parents can benefit greatly just by meeting together to discuss common feelings and to plan together to meet the challenge of the system in obtaining needed services," she said.

Al Slinger, a consultant with ACCEPT and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be a guest speaker at the February 7 meeting. Slinger is an attorney and the parent of a handicapped child. He has been involved in advocacy for handicapped children and adults for over 20 years.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Corinthians	Psalms	Jeremiah	Luke	Galatians	Mark	Psalms
1:26-31	119:41-48	1:4-8	4:16-19	5:4-8	9:33-37	16:1-11

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