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New honors program targets
tomorrow's church leaders

By Cameron Crabtree

Baptist Press
3/19/96

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has developed an intensive academic honors program with four other seminaries across the country, in a new concept in advanced leadership training.

The Advanced Leadership Training Semester brings together students from each school to serve in local churches, study under a united national faculty, learn from lay professionals and experience mentorship in personal spiritual growth.

"This national effort was born out of a desire to integrate vision, ministry skills, spiritual formation and personal discipline into the lives of tomorrow's church leaders," said Golden Gate Seminary President William Crews. "To our knowledge there has never been a more balanced, comprehensive leadership training format made available to North American seminarians."

Each school sends a select number of students to a six-week summer training session and a 12-week fall semester at the Leadership Training Center in Blackwell, Texas.

In addition to Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., participating schools are Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of World Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, Louisville, Ky.; Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hampton, Mass.; and Denver Theological Seminary in Denver.

Deans and professors from all five schools comprise the program's academic faculty. In addition, a practitioner faculty has been selected from every phase of church ministry and secular vocation, including business, science, industry, medicine, the arts, journalism, law and athletics.

"This life-changing opportunity will bring some of the nation's finest students together for mutual encouragement, training and supervised ministry," Crews said. "This new concept is designed to prepare tomorrow's church leaders for effective ministry." Students will test what they are learning each weekend through evangelism and ministry practicums, he added.

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"We are looking for students who have demonstrated leadership gifts and students who sense God has put a hunger in their hearts for some unusual experiences with which to catalyze their vision for future ministry effectiveness," said Rodrick Durst, vice president for academic affairs at Golden Gate. "During this experience, student leaders will be guided to interact with God, with their own character needs, with each other, and to interact on a rotating weekly basis with world-class Christian leaders invited from a strategic diversity of involvements, both academic and applied, sacred and secular."

The program has 10 learning goals:

- to clarify the task of the minister in equipping the laity to reach the world for Christ.
- to develop a theology of servant leadership within the context of the church's mission.
- to understand principles of developing vision for a church or ministry.
- to learn methods for envisioning, enlisting and equipping a leadership team in the church.
- to mobilize the church for ministry in the community.
- to enhance skills for managing transitional resistance and conflict.
- to form a network of friendships to foster leadership effectiveness.
- to realize from the laity's perspective what is essential for mobilizing the laity for community ministry.
- to form a personal mission statement and set of personal integrity commitments.
- to lead a person to faith in Jesus Christ.

Durst pointed to Proverbs 27:17 ("As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.") and Matthew 10:24 ("A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.") as part of the scriptural underpinnings for the program.

"The best way to develop spiritually qualified leaders for tomorrow is to create a learning environment in which the brightest future leaders are taught by the foremost available leaders today," Durst said.

In describing the program's strength, he used a scientific metaphor: "Effective leadership requires massive expenditures of energy. Massive energy becomes available when critical mass is reached. Critical mass occurs when sufficient fuel is brought to sufficient heat. This new venture in Christian leadership development will attempt to reach critical mass and to release massive energy of lay evangelism and ministry."

For more information about the honors program, contact Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Office of Academic Affairs, 201 Seminary Drive, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

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Terminated ministers' plight
impetus for Antioch Affection

By Brian Smith

Baptist Press
3/19/96

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--When a pastor or church staff member gets in trouble or faces conflict -- through his or her own doing or not -- where can he or she turn? Often the solution is termination or resignation, even if the minister feels called to remain at that place of service.

Offering an alternative, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees approved implementation of "The Antioch Affection" during their March 11-13 meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. The minister restoration plan was proposed by trustee Bob Anderson, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

"Surveys tell us of those who graduated from seminary, one-half are out of the ministry in 10 years," Anderson told the board. "That is a shocking discovery."

The program involves "refuge churches," in which a minister or staff member facing termination is brought on as an associate pastor or other staff member.

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"A refuge church is what we have been for 22 years at Parkview -- taking these ministers in, putting them on our staff, working with them," Anderson said. "Our people have grown to love them."

The "offended church," as Anderson called the congregation forcing the minister to resign, would agree to pay the minister's or staff member's salary for six months while he attends the program at Southwestern.

"We've not been turned down by any church" once the value of the program has been described to the church, Anderson said.

Parkview has brought more than 250 church staff members in for restoration -- about half of whom are pastors, he said.

"We've played Barnabas and Paul with them, helping them to come back to good mental, spiritual and physical health," Anderson said, noting 107 of the pastors are back in service.

But he emphasized the refuge churches are not replacements for local association assistance programs. "If (the ministers) can't work it out working with the DOM or others, then we bring them to a refuge church."

One of their primary assignments at the refuge church would be to take a "paper class" from a prospect list and build a Sunday school class using Flake's Formula, an effective Baptist Sunday School Board plan for accomplishing church growth through Sunday school.

"We're asking a refuge church to take 10 ministers," Anderson said. "We're going to teach them how to go out and enroll enough Sunday school members to average 30 in each Sunday school class. We know they can do that through training."

Jack D. Terry Jr., Southwestern's vice president for institutional advancement and former dean of the school of religious education, noted, on average, each member of a Sunday school class gives about \$20 a week to the church.

When each Sunday school class reaches 30 members, "that's \$6,000 a week times 52 -- \$3,100,000 -- to help supplement the program," Anderson said.

The minister or staff member also will take courses through Southwestern and the seminary's center for continuing education in such areas as conflict management, personal communication skills and husband/wife relationship issues. Housing for the minister and his family would be provided at Southwestern.

While the minister's salary would be paid by the offended church, additional funding for the program will be accomplished through "cardiology crusades" and the refuge church.

"We are asking the (refuge) church to put a line item in their budget to help that minister as long as he's there at the refuge church," Anderson said.

The one-night cardiology crusades will serve not only as fund-raising events, but also as instruments to publicize the program, Terry noted. Preliminary planning for 10 crusades in cities throughout the Southern Baptist Convention has been done, he added.

One of the goals for the cardiology crusades is to enlist "embracers" who will pledge \$600 a year to help fund the program.

Other crusade goals include raising \$50,000 for apartments in which participating ministers and their families would live and securing at least four refuge churches in that area. Anderson hopes individual churches will sponsor the cost of an apartment.

"We've been testing the waters on this," Anderson noted, "and we've not been turned down by any church. They said, 'Give us five years -- 60 months -- and we can pay for an apartment.'"

The first cardiology crusade is scheduled for Sept. 30 at Castle Hills Baptist Church in San Antonio.

"Over 1,000 preachers a week across the country from all denominations are leaving the ministry," said George Harris, pastor of the Castle Hills congregation. "We are in the redemptive business, but too often we don't think about redeeming the pastor."

Not every minister leaves the church because they absconded with funds or ran off with the secretary, he stressed. "There are a lot of other pressures out there that nobody told me about when I was 18 years old and entering the ministry."

Roy Davis, an associate pastor at Parkview Baptist Church, is the 253rd such associate the congregation has hosted.

"I came to a church ... behind a bad staff problem where the pastor was asked to leave. When I got there the remaining staff members weren't ready for someone to take the place of their beloved pastor."

Eventually the personnel committee asked Davis to leave the church, despite overwhelming support from the congregation. But through mediation by Anderson, the church agreed to adopt the program through Parkview Baptist Church.

"Until now there has been no plan to resolve these differences in a way that is beneficial to both the minister and the congregation," Davis told the board. "People are hesitant to step in because of the sanctity of autonomy that has been a tradition of Southern Baptist life. It is imperative, however, that someone does step in."

He said the Antioch Affection is the perfect solution.

"The offended church wins, the staff member wins, the refuge church wins. The Antioch Affection is a decent, orderly and godly way to resolve the problems that bring about forced termination. It is a win/win proposition for everyone."

Everything about the program has been "tried and proven," Anderson said.

"We've already received calls from state conventions, and we received a call from the Foreign Mission Board saying they would send someone once a month to the mission field," Anderson said.

Other denominations, including the Assemblies of God and the Presbyterians, have expressed interest in the program, Anderson said. "Promise Keepers are waiting to see what Southwestern does on this program -- they want to help and will put money behind it," he added.

Trustee Paul Balducci, an Alabama businessman and former pastor, said the program "is probably the finest thing we have done and hopefully will do at Southwestern."

Ministers are in the restoration business, he said. "But then a minister makes a mistake and often they don't even attempt to restore him. This is restoration for the individual and restoration for the church. A guy doesn't always get restored to the position, but he gets restored to life."

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**Baptists urge Baltimore youth
'to think about your future'**

By Ron Chaney

Baptist Press
3/19/96

COCKEYSVILLE, Md. (BP)--Pop culture bombards today's youth with all kinds of messages. Television commercials link alcohol and sports. Movies glorify sex and violence with no consequences. And magazine covers label today's youth "Generation X," the non-generation, the unknown generation.

In this confusing climate, how are youth supposed to make the right choices for their lives? Maryland/Delaware Baptists are trying to help, through "Wait on Love," a program to encourage Baltimore County students to choose sexual abstinence.

During the months of January and February, Wait on Love was featured in 13 Baltimore County schools. About 4,000 students attended the assemblies where Jeffrey Dean, a singer and songwriter from Nashville, Tenn., and his band performed music and talked with students about their futures, relationships and sexuality.

During two assemblies at Cockeysville Middle School Feb. 15, Dean asked a crowd of eighth-graders, "How many of you have heard of Generation X?" Many students nodded and raised hands.

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"That's us," Dean said. "That's what we are." He explained that every generation is labeled, except that an "X" means the unknown. "I believe that you are worth a whole lot more than just some 'X.'"

Addressing the students about the future and how their decisions today will affect them down the road, Dean said, "I believe that you have great potential ... to become what you desire in your life."

However, there are a lot of competing influences on today's youth, Dean said, citing, for example, the millions spent by advertisers to influence the minds of youth.

Referring to television, Dean said, "Many shows try to make love and sex the same thing. ... 'I love somebody, so sex is OK,' or 'We're having sex so we are in love.'"

Dean encouraged the students to look beyond these messages, to their futures. "Twenty years from now, you'll look back on your life and what will you see? What are you going to see in your relationships? Some will see sexual experience in all of those. That may not seem important now, but what about 20 years from now?"

"If you're making that decision to be involved sexually, how are you going to view that? What will you say to your children when they come to you and ask what you did as a teenager? What would you tell them?"

Some youth already have made decisions that have changed their lives, Dean said. "You possibly know somebody who had to drop a baby off before coming to school. You may know someone who had to turn down an opportunity because of a mistake they made."

Many times, youth make the wrong decisions simply because they're trying to impress their friends, he said. "If you get pregnant, get someone pregnant, get drunk and run over someone and go to jail, are your friends going to be there? Probably not."

Addressing the issue of safe sex and condom use, Dean pulled out a condom and said, "This is the contraceptive of choice for young people."

But he cautioned youth that condoms have a failure rate. "Sometimes it's not going to do what it's supposed to do."

He said the failure rate can be anywhere from 2 to 30 percent of the time. Even if a condom is used, he said, "You're taking a risk because you don't know who has what."

"My challenge is this ... be wise. Stop to think about your future," Dean said. "Only you can make that decision. Whatever you do, make sure you're doing it because you want to and not because someone is pressuring you."

The response to the Wait on Love program has been positive, according to Peggy Kissinger, who directs the program through the family ministries department of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

"Every school was tremendous," she said. "Teachers couldn't say enough good about the program."

Kissinger called this year's efforts "a seed-planting year." Originally the program was to begin last fall, but the schools asked for more time to gather information.

She encouraged Christian parents to go to bat for the program in their children's schools.

"The most successful school was because of a Christian parent," Kissinger said.

"She went to the school and asked to have the program. That day the band went into the classrooms and stayed all day.

"If Christian parents could take up this cause, this would be one major way to continue the program."

Radio listener drove
to church for altar call By Joyce Sweeney Martin

OWENSBORO, Ky. (BP)--The walk to the church altar may look long to the average person in a pew, but a Kentucky man recently made one of the longest journeys imaginable.

Evangelist George Phillips preached an introductory message on the Old Testament Book of Amos at Walnut Memorial Baptist Church's morning worship service in Owensboro, Ky. He and pastor Odell Beauchamp headed to the foyer to greet worshipers as the congregation began the service's benediction song.

Then a young man walked through the front door.

"We both could tell he was deeply burdened," Beauchamp said.

Thinking he needed gas money or groceries or some other kind of physical help, Beauchamp offered to help.

But the young man asked to speak to Phillips. The two preachers quickly led him to the altar as the congregation was finishing singing.

Later that week, Beauchamp learned the whole story when he talked with the young man's wife, Jerri.

"Come to find out, David and Jerri had been active in another church but had not attended for several months because of friction in that church," Beauchamp recounted. During those months, they listened to Walnut Memorial's Sunday morning service, which is broadcast live on a local radio station.

On that particular Sunday, the two tuned in to hear the message, "Are You Listening?" by Phillips, a United Methodist evangelist. Phillips talked about how many times people hear God speak but don't heed the message.

Suddenly, David got up and left the house, and Jerri had no idea where he went. "The Lord led him to drive to our church and get things right, not only with his soul, but in his life," Beauchamp said.

Stories like that of David and Jerri are not unusual at Walnut Memorial Baptist Church, Beauchamp said. "We never know what God is going to do next."

That's quite a change for the church -- formerly named Walnut Street Baptist -- which had dwindled to 70 in Sunday worship in 1992. That March, a fire destroyed their downtown Owensboro sanctuary, forcing the congregation to make some difficult decisions.

Beauchamp came as pastor in June 1992, then led 28 members of the church in the 13-week "Experiencing God" discipleship study.

After much prayer, Walnut Street members voted to relocate and to adopt a new name -- changes that helped renew the church and propel it toward its current average of more than 400 in Sunday worship.

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Fire department chaplain still
fired up for ministry at age 87 By Russell N. Dilday

Baptist Press
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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Ten minutes into Ray Branscum's Bible study on tithing, all six of his pupils rushed out of class.

Undaunted, he patiently closed his Bible and waited for them to return. It happens often when you are chaplain for the Little Rock Fire Department.

It was not the subject of tithing that drove the firefighters from their weekly study at the Little Rock National Airport Fire Station, but a report of smoke and power loss in the airport's baggage area. Within seconds, three massive green fire trucks raced to answer the call.

Thirty minutes later, after discovering no danger at the terminal, each firefighter returned to his seat and Branscum, dressed in the navy uniform of the department, resumed the lesson. "This is typical and you have to be flexible," he explained.

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Branscum, 87, has served since 1989 as the LRFD's first chaplain. The position started after fire chief Rubin Webb saw "something missing" in the department.

"I looked at the operational structure and benefits given to the men. I think it is incumbent on the ... chief to provide members of this department with good salaries, working environment and benefits," Webb said. "But I sensed something missing. It dawned on me that some of the other departments that I knew about had a chaplain."

Webb said his conception of a chaplain's duties included leading "an annual prayer breakfast and someone to visit with the men occasionally." With that idea, he began searching for a chaplain.

"One day I'm sitting here and Brother Ray walks through the door and says, 'I understand you're interested in a chaplain's program.'"

Branscum had heard of the need and responded. Serving in a position the chief originally envisioned as "occasional," Branscum transformed it to pastoral, setting up regular Bible studies, making hospital and fire station visits and providing counseling.

"He's gone a lot further and has put in a lot more time than I had originally perceived," Webb acknowledged. "He moved on in and set up the Bible studies every Sunday. How he can go out and recruit volunteers to go to 20 fire stations every Sunday is an accomplishment in itself."

One of Webb's concerns, though, was establishing a chaplaincy in a multi-denominational agency. "We have just about every type of religious denomination I know of," he said. "I didn't know how we could make a chaplaincy program work and encompass all of the different religions without causing dissension."

He noted, however, most of the firefighters attend Bible studies, regardless of denomination. "It's a nondenominational thing and it's gone over real well."

A January summary of the LRFD's chaplaincy program revealed since its inception the ministry has recorded 110 consultations with family members, 240 counseling sessions, 317 hospital visitations, 1,725 station visitations, more than 5,000 worship services, five weddings, 28 funerals, 15 professions of faith and 90 personal rededications.

The LRFD has 389 employees spread out among 20 stations. Branscum said in his circuit of visiting the stations, "I drive 198 miles. I try to make every station twice a month. Often I get a call from some man saying, 'If you're out this way, come by.' So I go more than that."

Yet the need for a chaplain is reflected in more than statistics.

Firefighters face many job-related stresses such as job performance, injuries, time away from family -- the typical shift is 24 hours on and 48 hours off -- and the risk of death each time the firefighters answer a call.

"It's a joy to have him come in," said Airport Station driver Mike Spann. "A lot of times you come in and there's a lot of stuff going on and at times you kinda get down and somehow or another he picks out exactly what you need that day. He takes your attitude from way down here and it'll swing way up here. I appreciate him coming down and sharing the Word."

Said LRFD training chief Marcus White, "At night (a civilian) can lay down in bed and go to sleep with no worry. At a fire station, you go to bed anticipating the alarm to go off." White said one of the stresses he has encountered as a firefighter "is dealing with the injuries and deaths of small children. I can handle the rescue work fairly well, but when it comes to kids"

Even more challenging, White added, "When it comes down to having to face the injuries of your own people, that's the most stressful thing I have been through."

Marion Reynolds, director of the chaplaincy program for the Arkansas Baptist missions department, said job stress for firefighters often translates into family problems. "The divorce rate is high for firemen. I don't know of any profession or occupation that has a higher rate."

Branscum noted 72 percent of the Little Rock firefighters have been married two to four times.

A part of Branscum's response to the stresses firefighters face is counseling with firefighters and their families, often in emergency situations.

"He's counseled with all of my people. He's married some of them. He's provided funeral services," Webb noted. "We have an Employees Assistance Program where, if they start having problems financially or family problems, they can go and get counseling. Brother Ray does more in one day than that will do in a month.

"If I need him at two o'clock in the morning, I call him and by the time I can drive from my house to his, he's ready to go," Webb said.

Since Branscum began his chaplaincy, "he has not lost any (firefighters) in the line of duty, but he goes to the hospital when they get hurt and that's pretty frequent," Webb said.

The LRFD chaplaincy program is financially supported by the Pulaski Baptist Association, the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. "If it hadn't been for the HMB, the association and convention, we might have the program but it wouldn't be what it is today," Branscum noted.

Webb agreed. "We couldn't expect him to do what he's doing without their help. We could have a chaplaincy program, but it would just be a formality -- a dedication once a year or something like that."

The result of the chaplaincy ministry, the chief emphasized, is "I can see an attitude change in some of our people. I think our chaplaincy program is probably superior to any of the fire departments in the country, at least the ones I know anything about.

"A lot of that is how Brother Ray can handle himself with the men," he continued. "The men all love Brother Ray to death and he's a good morale builder for the department."

Branscum is in his 66th year of ministry. His long-term ministry and reputation serve him well. White affirmed Branscum "ties good knots. He married my wife and me a little over 45 years ago (one of 1,138 marriages Branscum has performed) and it's still there."

Acknowledging his ministry as a chaplain "is different," Branscum added, "It took me a long time to adjust to it. I'd been used to preparing sermons and I miss that and preaching on Sunday. I still preach, though."

Referring to his age, he said, "I'll be 88 in May and I don't think it's a hindrance. ... I thought maybe a younger man would do better. But I have a good relationship with the men and God's been good."

Firefighter Harry Noble, who attends Branscum's Airport Station Bible study, pointed out "with any minister, there's always something new that comes out of the Scriptures. With the experience he's had, he's able to always take the Word and make it relevant, to make it relate to everyday living. Brother Ray puts that in an understandable context."

Emphasizing Branscum's age "is a help," Noble said, "He has wisdom. The experiences he's seen are probably four times what I have seen in my life. He shares a bunch of his experiences with us and gives us a new perspective."

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God guides him in pulpit
& under stopped-up sinks

By Barb Smith

Baptist Press
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BOZEMAN, Mont. (BP)--Doug Schnell loves "the pastoring part" of his life -- and "the plumbing part."

Behind the pulpit in suit and tie or on his back under a sink in T-shirt and jeans, Schnell is at ease. "I just feel like God wants me doing both right now," he says.

It's two callings that make sense to him. "You're helping people in both ways," he laughs. "Or try to."

But neither the pastorate -- nor plumbing -- was what the 34-year-old Schnell had planned for himself.

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In fact, when he graduated from Bozeman (Mont.) Senior High School in 1976, he didn't have a definite career in mind. He'd worked at Pete's Husky, Royal Honda and Quality Roofing. His parents had just bought F.L. Dye Plumbing.

That same year, Schnell got married in their backyard and moved to Oklahoma with his new wife, Gretchen.

It was a move that would change his life.

When he and Gretchen had to wait a month to get into an apartment, they stayed with relatives. Raised Catholic, Schnell found himself going to the relatives' Southern Baptist church on Sundays.

"I really enjoyed it and started paying attention and listening," he says. "I'd gone to church every Sunday and not knowing what I was doing, I guess." He'd never felt God had any plans for him, never felt any kind of a call.

But on those Sundays in Oklahoma, "I heard the gospel," he says. "That's when I first realized the Lord had an interest in me. I accepted Jesus as the Lord and my Savior. I think Gretchen was as surprised as I was."

A few years later after they'd returned to Bozeman, God called upon him again. "I basically told God I would do anything but be a pastor," Schnell smiles.

But during a revival one spring at Kirkwood Baptist Church, it became clear that leading a church was exactly what God had in mind for him.

"I'll never forget that Saturday night that I went forward at the revival and told them that I felt God was calling me to be a pastor, wherever that led."

Not that Schnell was ready to answer the call. "I really fought that My attitude was that religion was personal. It was my business. It wasn't something I wanted to talk about."

But that wasn't the only problem. "I couldn't stand in front of my own friends in high school speech class and give a speech." How could he get up in front of a whole congregation?

It took eight months for God to change Schnell's mind.

"It was a struggle. I was miserable until I did. It was the biggest relief when I surrendered."

Today he has no trouble expressing himself behind the pulpit. "God gave me the talent," he says. "It's not something I've always had."

Schnell's first pastorate was at Madison Valley Baptist Church in Ennis. He was ordained to preach after one full year there. A year and a half later, he decided it must be time to go to Bible college, enrolled at Oklahoma Baptist University and moved back to Oklahoma with his wife and their two daughters, Amanda, now 12, and Annie, 9.

But he never made it to class. He'd just gotten to Oklahoma when his father became ill and Schnell was called back to Bozeman to help with the family plumbing business.

As to Bible college, Schnell says the doors seem closed. "I'm not trying to open them anymore. I just say, "OK God, I'll do whatever you want me to.'" What that has been is serving as interim pastor at Kirkwood Baptist Church. He served for a year as interim pastor in 1991, then three years as associate pastor with Mike Johnson.

When pastor Johnson left, Schnell became interim pastor again.

"He's been empowered by God," says deacon Don Bartram of Schnell. "Doug's faith has grown an awful lot these last four months. I'm impressed with him."

It takes a strong man to handle two jobs the way Schnell has, Bartram says. "He's been taking care of the leadership of the church as well as F.L. Dye. He's very much a pastor."

"When I'm in the pulpit, I surprise myself," says Schnell. "God just gives me things."

Sermons he thought would go one way, go another. Things come to him that he says God is giving him to say. "Especially lately, God has really been part of my ministries. I think he has some important things to say to us."

While Schnell learned his pastoral priorities from the Bible, he learned plumbing from master plumber Gill Clark.

"I feel like I've learned from the best," Schnell says. "He's taught me little things that are so important to know. I feel like God was in that too."

"He came into the business not knowing anything about plumbing," Clark affirms. "He learned."

Schnell has always been bivocational, something most pastors aren't. Back when he was in Ennis, he also drove a bus taking workers back and forth to the talc mine.

"It gives me the opportunity to be out and meet more people," he says of his plumbing.

"I'm like everyone else," he says. "I go out and work like everyone else. I know what's going on. I think that makes my ministry more effective."

He says he once heard a minister say he didn't understand why his congregation complained of having no time. Schnell laughs, "I could tell you a few reasons. I'm tired when I get home." He puts in 50 to 55 hours a week on the plumbing end, getting up early or working late at night on his sermons.

"One of the things I feel God is wanting me to do is listen to people and not be so judgmental," Schnell says. "A lot of people are going through hard times."

The future? "God's will," he says with a smile. "I feel like I am called of God to do it," Schnell says of his pastoral ministry. "That is definitely something I am not going to quit."

He's just waiting to see what God has planned for him next.

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Reprinted by permission. Smith is a writer with the Bozeman (Mont.) Chronicle.

Cartoonist finds outlet
for his Christian values

By Julie Nall

Baptist Press
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JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Ministers preach from the pulpit. Some laymen knock on the doors of their neighbors. But Jim Dyke witnesses in an ink-and-paper world, sharing his Christian faith through the messages of newspaper cartoons.

Dyke, art director for the Jefferson City, Mo., News Tribune, uses graphics to grab a reader's attention in news stories, special section covers and advertising projects. His cartoons are a side item he uses periodically to express his opinions on various topics.

Dyke grew up in Union Hill Baptist Church, Holts Summit, Mo., the son of John and Joyce Dyke, and accepted Christ as his Savior at the church's Vacation Bible School when he was 10 years old. Now at age 28, Dyke is ordained in the deacon ministry. A graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, he formerly was an intern on the Missouri Department of Conservation's publication, the Missouri Conservationist, and also was employed by a silk screening company as a designer.

He didn't grow up yearning to be a cartoonist. But an interest in drawing led him to the notion of submitting his cartoons -- sometimes comical and sometimes serious -- to his supervisor. News Tribune managing editor Richard McGonegal liked the idea and decided to run Dyke's cartoons in the newspaper. They also appear once a week in the Callaway Courier in Holts Summit.

For Dyke, the cartoons are a natural outlet for expressing his relationship with Jesus Christ. "For any Christian, whatever they do is a vehicle to share their faith," he explained. "Not everyone can be in the 'official' ministry. Somebody has to be out there doing other jobs."

Dyke addresses current issues because they are easy to work with, he said. He can make a quick point with a single picture without having to explain the issue because readers already know the background. He scans current issues to choose a subject that is interesting both to him and the paper's readers. He spends time brainstorming and sketching to perfect the point he wants to convey. But producing a riveting illustration can be a challenge.

McGonegal commented, "For a cartoon to be successful it has to work the way a photograph works -- tell a story with a single image. You've got to convey a message in a straightforward way, and I think Jim does that quite well."

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Dyke also utilizes national holidays to send a Christian message. "Around the Fourth of July, Flag Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas, I guess I'm lucky because I can share my faith easily," he acknowledged. "Some papers wouldn't allow the Christian perspective. The News Tribune has never asked me to do something I didn't agree with. This is pretty much a family newspaper and traditional morals and values are appreciated."

In fact, Dyke has received numerous notes, cards and phone calls from readers approving of a newspaper that will openly publish reflections of Christian values. He said he has not received any negative feedback.

While he has been successful in his endeavor, Dyke doesn't see himself as a professional cartoonist -- yet. Syndication may be down the road, but "right now it's still practice." He continues to improve, though, seeking guidance and critiques from professionals such as Steve Kelley of the San Diego Union so he can better relate the convictions behind his cartoons.

When his cartoons near completion, Dyke said he feels a real sense of relief. Believing he has produced something good boosts his confidence in his work. But his focus is on doing even better, as he remembers the unique platform he stands on to share Christian values with an array of readers each week.

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Dwyte Winningham honored
by Baptist business officers

Baptist Press
3/19/96

DALLAS (BP)--A. Dwyte Winningham, senior vice president for administration at Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, has won the Taylor Daniel Award of Merit from the Southern Baptist Business Officers Conference.

Winningham received the award in Dallas March 18 during the annual meeting of the conference that attracts business officers from Baptist agencies and churches throughout the nation.

The award has been presented annually since it was established in 1989. The winner is selected by a committee that receives nominations and closely guards the name of the recipient until the evening of an awards banquet sponsored by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. SBC President Jim Henry was speaker for the banquet.

Winningham left a private practice as a certified public accountant in 1985 to join the administration of the Tennessee Baptist Convention agency. He since has added the professional citation of Certified Financial Planner to his qualifications.

Thomas E. Miller Jr., senior vice president at the Annuity Board, read a tribute to Winningham, recounting a long list of accomplishments during his 11-year service with the children's homes. He praised Winningham's example as husband and father, his service in church and community and his creative professional financial management for the children's homes.

The award was presented by Bill Silkman, general chairman of SBBOC for 1995-96. It included a framed citation, a statuette of an eagle on an engraved base and a cash grant, all made possible by an endowment established for the purpose in 1989 by the family of the late L. Taylor Daniel. Daniel was a senior vice president of the Annuity Board who was one of the founders of the SBBOC.

Winningham became the third Tennessean to win the award and the second in as many years. The 1995 award went to Geneva P. Angle, director of financial services for the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

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