



**FEATURES**  
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76-62

**Navy Squadron VT-26  
Gives Time to STitCH**

By Craig Bird

BEEVILLE, Tex. (BP)--When the men and women of VT-26 joined the Navy, it's doubtful that any of them except Petty Officer Second Class Joel Hawk thought of South Texas Children's Home (STitCH). Hawk, an aviation structural mechanic (hydraulics) (AMH2), grew up in the Baptist children's home.

He and other members of the Navy's second largest training squadron, stationed at Chase Field, a Naval air station, are seeing a lot of STitCH these days since the unit of 500 personnel decided to help the Texas Baptist childcare agency, home for more than 200 children.

The Navy men and women volunteered to take on, sight unseen, any task that needs doing, so long as they have the expertise to handle it. That promise has already meant hundreds of work hours sandblasting the home's mammoth swimming pool and installing smoke-sensitive fire alarms in the childcare cottages.

Coming projects include repainting the swimming pool and stripping buckled tile off the chapel basement floor and laying new tile, plus other possible projects.

There are more pleasant things for the Navy volunteers to do than sandblast until midnight two nights running or spending hot South Texas afternoons rewiring stuffy attics. But there are still more volunteers than jobs when the children's home work list is drawn up.

For Hawk, it's a way to say "Thank you. I realize now that I had a good deal. I didn't like everything about growing up there, but for the most part, the home made my life easier."

For Yeoman Second Class Lyndale D. Campbell, a Baptist, the project also has special meaning:

"Having an adopted daughter of my own, knowing the burden and hardship of family for the children at South Texas Children's Home, I feel it's my Christian and moral obligation to help in any way I can."

But Baptists aren't the only ones working for the home. Catholics, Jews and others, religious and non-religious; blacks and whites; officers and enlisted have all worked side-by-side for STitCH's children.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Bicentennial Feature  
Husband Shoots Minister  
For Baptizing Wife

Baptist Press  
4/8/76

NORFLEET's FERRY, Va., June, 1777 (BP)--Baptist minister John Tanner was critically wounded when an irate husband shot the clergyman with a pistol for baptizing the man's wife.

As Tanner stepped off the ferry with another minister, the enraged husband came from hiding and fired at close range a large horseman's pistol, loaded with buckshot.

A physician said Tanner had been struck by seventeen of the shot. Most of the load hit Tanner in the thigh, and at least one piece passed through his leg.

Tanner's assailant was a leading persecutor of the church in this section. When he learned that his wife had asked for baptism into the Baptist church he reportedly threatened to shoot the minister who performed the ordinance.

Tanner said that he would not press charges.

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## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 8, 1976

Congress Gets Resolution  
On Release of Georgi Vins

76-63

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist minister in Congress introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives seeking to bring pressure on the Soviet Union to release another Baptist minister, who is in jail in Russia because of his religious activities.

U. S. Rep. John H. Buchanan (R.-Ala.) and 24 co-sponsors of a House Concurrent Resolution are asking Congress to say "that the Soviet Union should immediately release Georgi Vins from imprisonment and allow him and all other Christians and other religious believers within its borders to worship God freely according to their own conscience."

In a "dear colleague" letter to members of the House of Representatives, Buchanan said: "Repression of 'prisoners of conscience' by the Soviet Union continues today, despite the guarantees of that country's own constitution and the provisions of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it ratified.

"Vins' 'crime' is that he would not submit the group he heads (the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians-Baptists or CCECB) to the outrageous restrictions imposed by the Soviet state," Buchanan further explained to his colleagues.

When Vins tried to avoid arrest, the congressman continued, "he was accused and subsequently convicted of vagrancy (not holding a job and hiding from the police), using religion for crime against the rights of citizens (living on the means of others), and violating church-state separation laws."

If approved by the House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring, the Buchanan resolution would place the weight of congressional opinion on the side of Vins, secretary of the CCECB, the dissident Baptist movement the Soviet government has called "illegal."

It is significant that the resolution is signed by the maximum number of co-sponsors, and by an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, including majority leader Thomas P. O'Neil (D.-Mass.) and minority leader John J. Rhodes (R.-Ariz.).

Earlier, Congressman Buchanan made a speech in the House of Representatives in which he reviewed the Vins experience in Russia. He said that "appeals have been pouring into the west in recent months from Soviet evangelical Christians, seeking relief from oppression by authorities in their country."

In his speech to the House, Buchanan said, "Unless some action is taken on his behalf, Pastor Vins will surely die in a hard labor camp in Siberia."

The effort projected in Congress in favor of Vins is one of a number of efforts to effect relief for persecuted religionists in Russia.

The All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB), with which the Vins group broke in 1965, has appeared before the Soviet government on behalf of the dissident group. The Baptist World Alliance has been active in quiet efforts to obtain relief for Vins and other persecuted groups in Russia. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and other religious organizations have likewise entered into the move to get Vins and others released from imprisonment.

Extensive reporting has been done on the situation in such media as the Christian Century, Christianity Today, the New York Times, Religious News Service (RNS), the Baptist Press (BP) news service, books about Vins, and the Keston News Service of the Centre for the Study of Religion and Communism at Keston College, Keston, Kent, England.

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An independent organization called "Christian Prisoners' Release International," with offices in California and in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, has set May 8 as a day for a series of "marches for the persecuted church." These plans call for the presentation of petitions signed by a half million persons to Russian embassies throughout the world to demand the release of Pastor Georgi Vins.

In spite of the protests, the Russian government claims that there is religious freedom in the Soviet Union and that those who are suffering are doing so because of their violation of the laws of the nation, rather than as a result of religious persecution.

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Southern Baptist Schools  
Show 5-Year Enrollment Rise

Baptist Press  
4/8/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--Seventy-one Southern Baptist-related educational institutions across the nation have shown a 33.06 percent increase in regular enrollment of full time equivalent (FTE) students between the 1969-70 school year (91,147 students) and the 1975-76 school year (121,282), according to a report.

The report, released by Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), also shows that total enrollment at the schools, including all students enrolled in academic work, increased significantly. It rose from 110,143 in 1969-70 to 141,554 in 1975-76, a 28.52 percent increase.

Another part of the statistical analysis reveals that vocational Christian workers enrolled on Baptist campuses have shown an overall 45.30 percent increase during the same period.

Enrollment rose in three categories--senior and junior colleges, seminaries, and Bible schools--but dropped in a fourth--academies. Seven Southern Baptist-related academies declined 8.34 percent in FTE enrollment (from 3,128 in 1969-70 to 2,867 in 1975-76) and went down 5.27 percent in total enrollment (from 3,128 to 2,963).

"However, this year," Fisher noted, "the academies are beginning to show an enrollment increase."

In the largest category, which includes 53 senior and junior colleges, regular FTE enrollment jumped 33.02 percent, from 81,566 to 108,499, and total enrollment rose 28.40 percent, from 94,167 to 120,909.

Southern Baptist theological seminaries showed the largest percentage increase in regular FTE enrollment, rising 55.16 percent, from 5,665 students in 1969-70 to 8,790 students in 1975-76.

In total enrollment, including students in academic work which would not normally lead toward a degree, the seminaries jumped 37.45 percent, from 12,041 to 16,550.

The seminary figures include the SBC's six theological seminaries and American Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) Nashville, which draws support from Southern Baptists. ABTS also enrolled 90 FTEs in 1969-70 and 181 in 1975-76. It enrolled 1,028 total students in 1969-70 and 831 in 1975-76. The decrease in total reflects decrease in extension study, not in on-campus enrollment at ABTS, which doubled.

Four Bible schools experienced a 42.89 percent FTE increase, rising from 788 to 1,126. Total enrollment went up from 807 to 1,132 for a 40.27 percent increase.

Fisher said the Education Commission's statistical analysis of the enrollments reveals "remarkable results which run contrary to national trends toward declining enrollments."

"One of the most significant increases revealed by the analysis," Fisher said, "has been the increase in the number of vocational Christian workers enrolled on campuses of Baptist senior and junior colleges.

"Between the 1969-70 and 1975-76 school years," he said, "the number of vocational Christian workers on the college campuses have increased 55.42 percent, from 7,584 to 11,787."

Overall totals in that category in all 71 schools went up from 14,540 to 21,127--a 45.30 percent increase.

"These figures are highly significant in the light of Southern Baptist need for trained church leadership," said William G. Tanner, chairman of the Education Commission and president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

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"Many major denominations are experiencing an increase, rather than a decrease, in the number of young people who are choosing one of the vocational ministries," Tanner commented.

Tanner attributed the increase in vocational workers to several things. "It is due, at least in part, to the emphasis on vocational Christian workers which the Education Commission has promoted for the past four years in the annual observance of Southern Baptist Seminary, College and School Day and through the Education Commission's annual admissions workshop."

He also cited "a new commitment by the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools to assume more responsibility for recruiting and training church leadership."

Fisher said another important factor has been the cooperation of the SBC's Sunday School Board through its department of vocational guidance, publications, and summer assembly programs.

Enrollments, Southern Baptist Schools					
<u>Year</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Regular Enrollment</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease</u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>	<u>Increase or Decrease</u>
1969-70	Senior and Junior Colleges	81,566		94,167	
1975-76		108,499	+33.02%	120,909	+28.40%
1969-70	Seminaries	5,665		12,041	
1975-76		8,790	+55.16	16,550	+37.45%
1969-70	Bible Schools	788		807	
1975-76		1,126	+42.89%	1,132	+40.27%
1969-70	Academies	3,128		3,128	
1975-76		2,867	-8.34%	2,963	-5.27%
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TOTALS					
1969-70		91,147		110,143	
1975-76		121,282	+33.06%	141,554	+28.52

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Baptist Minister Featured  
In Prime Time TV Special

Baptist Press  
4/8/76

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--"Nagasaki--One Man's Return," a chronicle of Baptist pastor and ex-Marine Buckner Fanning's nostalgic return to Nagasaki to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the dropping of the Atomic Bomb there, will be aired on syndicated network television April 20, 9p.m., central time.

Fanning, now pastor of San Antonio's First Baptist Church, was in Nagasaki with the U. S. Marine Corps for a year following the atomic blast and gave aid to the injured and starving people. He was invited back to Nagasaki in 1975 as guest of the Japanese city's mayor and the Nagasaki Baptist Church.

The result of that trip with 35 members of his congregation is an hour long television special that documents the minister's experiences on returning to Nagasaki. It will be seen in about 38 states, according to a spokesman for Miller Productions, Inc., Austin-based firm which co-produced the special with Fanning.

The Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945, and three days later was dropped on Nagasaki. Fanning arrived in Nagasaki for duty 15 days after that.

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