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SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

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Building Family Foundations
Focus of Bill Pinson's Life

By Mark Smith

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--He thinks, acts, communicates and administers in terms of family and he promotes the concept of family wherever he goes and in whatever he does.

He is one of the biggest proponents of family life that Southern Baptists have and he believes a healthy family unit is the foundation of effective ministry.

Bill Pinson is definitely a family man.

"Apart from my personal relationship with God," says the president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, "my relationship as husband to my wife and father to my two daughters is the most important thing in my life."

"I feel that whatever we are able to do in helping others grows out of the strength of our families," he says. "If a person's home life is drawing him down, he will have difficulty moving ahead positively with ministry, church work or life in general."

Pinson is convinced that "our families must be our mission," and he believes that nothing can be done to strengthen them until the foundations upon which they are built are firmly placed. He and his wife of 27 years, Bobbie, work hard together to keep family foundations strong. Prayer, devotions, Bible study, worship and ministry are essential.

For the Pinsons the family is not only their mission, but missions is a family affair. The move from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, to California was in response to a call to missions. The entire family participated in the process of finding and following God's will.

Meredith, the eldest daughter, then 14, met with the seminary trustees and took part in the discussion. The younger, Allison, publicly dedicated her life to missions soon after the move west.

"That's the way it ought to be," Pinson says. "Missions and family go together."

Also vital to their family life is the time they talk, play, and share together.

"Bobbie and I get our calendars and have an annual family planning meeting with Allison and Meredith," he relates. "We carefully plan the times we will spend together and we don't change them without checking with the others first."

"If I am called regarding a speaking engagement, meeting, or some activity which conflicts with a time we already have set to spend with each other, then we hold a family council, pray, and discuss whether or not I should go. More often than not the girls will encourage me to go, and by participating they feel a part of whatever ministry is involved."

The Pinsons are also closely involved with a number of persons in many places. They consider these close friends all over the world as "extended family." They spend a lot of time keeping in touch with and praying for these "family" members. Many come to visit in their home on the seminary campus.

"Whenever I am traveling, speaking and attending meetings," the former Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor says, "I make a concerted effort to contact friends and meet new people."

"Bobbie has a real conviction that as long as there is a child at home she will not travel with me very much," he says. "So she often gets up early when phone rates are cheaper and calls as many friends as possible. In addition to that she is always writing letters and notes of encouragement to someone."

Since becoming Golden Gate president in 1977, Pinson has written two books on the family, "Families with Purpose," published by Broadman, and "The Biblical View of the Family," by Convention Press. In addition, his "Word Topical Bible," published this year, contains large amounts of biblical material on the family. Currently he is writing a book on preaching to meet family needs.

In his writings, Pinson projects the premise that God reveals through the Bible the things that are of most importance to Him.

"God talks much about our sinfulness, His love and grace, and plan of salvation," he says. "He also talks a great deal about His purpose for family life. God must consider family important and so should we."

"The family is an endangered species in today's world," the educator states, "not only for the secular-minded but also for the Christian."

For that reason he has initiated a bi-annual family enrichment conference at the seminary, instituted new courses on family life and ministry, begun a counseling center for faculty, staff, and student families, added programs for student spouses, upgraded the seminary's pre-school center, expanded after-school activities for seminary children, and encouraged family life programs and retreats.

Pinson notes that the home ought to be a center for ministry and not just a place to live. The president's home on campus is in constant demand as a haven for Bible studies and counseling, as well as for parties, receptions and dinners. Unsaved persons are invited for meals and visits as a means of sharing Christ.

"I thank God for his good gift of family and thank him for my family," Pinson testifies. "I pray our family can somehow be a means God uses to bless and change lives. And I pray for God's help in our family because we are far short of what we ought to be."

"A family is a frail entity," he adds, "and each of us needs all the help available from God and others."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Golden Gate Seminary.

U.S. Position Will Affect
Missionaries In Argentina

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BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (BP)--The United States' response to British forces moves on the Falkland Islands, known in Argentina as Malvinas, will definitely affect the work of 60 Southern Baptist missionaries in Argentina, according to missionary J. Robert Burtis.

Reached by telephone April 27 in Buenos Aires, Burtis, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist Missionaries in Argentina, said missionaries will stay unless a "national movement against North Americans" develops.

Threats of reprisals against British citizens living in Argentina had not been extended to North Americans, Burtis said, adding he knew of no incidents of violence or harassment aimed at Southern Baptists up to that time. He said he believes "the tension will build" if the U.S. takes a pro-British stand in the crisis.

Should a violent anti-American atmosphere develop, Southern Baptist missionaries might leave for Miami, Fla., or for Uruguay and Paraguay, Burtis said. He requested prayer that "we will be able to stand by in this time of crisis and pressure and have a ministry to the Argentine people." He also requested prayer for the Argentine Baptists and other Christians.

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MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary have taken steps to relieve the student housing shortage with the purchase of a 32-unit apartment complex.

The townhouse-style two-bedroom units are located on three and one-half acres some two miles from the Strawberry Point campus.

According to William M. Pinson Jr., seminary president, the new units will be phased into student residences as needed for the fall term.

On campus for their annual meeting April 19-21, the trustees also adopted a record budget of \$2,987,110 for the 1982-83 academic year which included salary increases for faculty and staff.

Charles Carter was elected chairman, replacing E. Glen Paden, of Fresno, Calif.

William Shannon, of Medford, Ore., was elected vice chairman, and Barbara Floyd, of Dallas, was elected secretary.

Oscar S. Brooks Sr., professor of religion at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., was elected professor of New Testament.

C. Brownlow Hastings, retired assistant director of the department of interfaith witness for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was appointed to direct the Northwest Center in Portland, Ore.

J. P. Allen and Baker James Cauthen were reappointed visiting profesors for the 1982-83 academic year. Allen will be visiting professor of preaching and worship, Cauthen will be distinguished professor of world missions.

Retired faculty member Fred L. Fisher was reappointed part-time director of the Southern California Center in Garden Grove, but has asked trustees to begin seeking a full-time director for the center.

In other actions, Trustees approved the creation of the Golden Gate Seminary Foundation, which would make it possible for the seminary to hold trust deeds and to accept gifts to be held in trust. According to William Shannon, chairman of the finance committee, the Foundation will work closely with the California Baptist Foundation and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Trustees also approved the creation of a housing and development corporation which will purchase and manage off-campus properties.

Both actions must be presented to the SBC Executive Committee for approval

The Trustees adopted a plan to raise some \$170,000 to match a grant from the San Francisco Foundation, awarded funds to aid in furnishing the Seminary Library if the Seminary could match their gift by January 1983. Each trustee will try to enlist at least ten other persons to give toward the matching fund. The Trustees also will encourage major donors to support the project.

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Brotherhood Trustees OK
Plans For Men's Panel

Baptist Press
4/27/82

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved plans to involve more men in Brotherhood work, supported a study of Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador programs, and gave the go ahead for construction of a national conference center during the commission's semi-annual meeting in Nashville April 22-24.

In an effort to involve men not currently active in Brotherhood programs, the commission approved formation of a Fellowship of Baptist Men and set up a committee of laymen to suggest more ways laymen can become involved in missions through Brotherhood programs.

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The Fellowship will be strictly advisory and will operate as part of the Brotherhood organization and within guidelines approved by the trustees. The guidelines call for the fellowship to promote witnessing and mission involvement among Southern Baptist men, to help churches involve more men in witnessing in missions, to work with Southern Baptist agencies and state organizations in involving more men in witnessing and missions, and to encourage greater financial support in the witnessing and missions by men through the Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist channels.

A committee of 15 laymen to be named later by trustees will meet twice a year with Brotherhood Commission staff, trustees, and state Brotherhood leaders to implement the Fellowship of Baptist Men proposals and to identify ways more men can become involved in missions through Brotherhood programs.

Trustees gave support to a study of Baptist men and Royal Ambassador programs which state Brotherhood leaders suggested in a meeting prior to the trustees meeting.

Eight state Brotherhood leaders and eight commission staff members will evaluate the Brotherhood programs in an effort to project needs and structures for Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors in the near future and beyond 1985.

State Brotherhood leaders named to the panel are Cliff Satterwhite, South Carolina; Paul McCullough, Oklahoma; Kenny Rains, Tennessee; Cal Jones, Louisiana; Bob Dixon, Texas; Lloyd Jackson, Virginia; David Langford, North Carolina; Ron Martin, Ohio. Commission staffers named are Norman Godfrey, Larry Yoder, Jimmy Gresham, Rusty Griffin, Karl Bozeman, Douglas Beggs, Bill Bangham, Tim Seanor.

Construction will begin in May on the Glendon McCullough Conference Center. Space at the Commission's building in Memphis will be remodelled to accommodate national Brotherhood training seminars, Brotherhood Commission meetings, and other conferences.

The \$300,000 project calls for a large conference room, several smaller conference rooms, a media center, kitchen and serving area and parking space.

Funding for the conference center will come from \$160,000 Cooperative Program capital needs money, \$28,000 earnings on the capital needs money, and \$111,000 from Commission funds.

In other action the trustees approved a \$2.3 million budget for 1982-83. Programs services, which houses Baptist Men and Royal Ambassador programs, will receive \$8,553,307; support services is slated for \$554,125; administrative services will get \$469,217, and business services will receive \$295,992. Another \$88,758 is earmarked for salary and benefit increases.

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Southeastern Seminary Takes
Hard Look At Nuclear Menace

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
4/27/82

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Students and faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary heard speaker after speaker warn of the imminent danger of nuclear war at an ethics conference during Ground Zero Week.

One speaker, activist pastor W. W. Finlator of Raleigh, N.C., summarized the feelings of participants when he exclaimed during a chapel sermon, "No more war, war no more."

Finlator, a self-described pacifist and outspoken advocate of numerous social crusades during his long tenure as pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, said he favors unilateral disarmament by the United States and declared that Christians are discovering that "Jesus was indeed a radical pacifist."

The 65-year-old pastor, who retires later this year, also decried the church's justification of war through the centuries, which he said began with church fathers who "almost always blessed war." He cited "just" wars, wars of proportionality, limited war and wars "with spiritual purposes" as examples of conflicts sanctioned by the church.

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The prospect of nuclear war, however, makes all such excuses collapse, Finlator declared. He warned against dropping the bomb "in the name of Christ" and the attitude of "Kill A Commie For Christ." The slogan "Better Dead Than Red" is unacceptable, he added, saying that those national leaders who embrace such attitudes "are not saying it for me or for my children or grandchildren."

Another conference speaker, Harry N. Hollis Jr., associate executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, said what distinguishes the prospect of nuclear war from all other social problems is that in a nuclear exchange "we will have no second chance."

Referring repeatedly to the "mania of the nuclear arms race," Hollis appealed for a view of the gospel which brings both individual and international peace into a context of growing hopelessness.

"We do not become God's children by peacemaking," he said. "We are peacemakers because we are God's children." Motivation for Christians to seek a reversal in the arms race flows out of a relationship with Christ, he added.

Despite the fact that "There are those in our midst who have used up all their hope," Hollis said Christians "have energy to keep on" seeking peace.

Richard Hester, Southeastern Seminary professor of pastoral care and psychology of religion, declared that the nation's nuclear policy is based on a theology that "fuels the logic of madness of the arms race."

Elements of that theology, he added, include the desire "to prove we are in God's favor," determination "to purge ourselves of the evil that permeates our society by projecting all evil outward onto the enemy," and a need "to insure and to demonstrate our immortality as a people."

Noting that "most of us are silent and passive co-conspirators" in the race for nuclear superiority, Hester declared, "Our salvation lies in our becoming aware of our great peril and accepting the utter impotence of money and technology to deliver us."

Conference Chairperson Nancy Unterzuber, a Southeastern student, said the meeting's purpose was to educate the seminary community about the mounting danger of nuclear conflict by providing information, resources and suggestions for influencing national policy makers. She said that while speakers and other conference leaders did not necessarily reflect the views of the seminary, the "open expression of opinions . . . is intended to stimulate free discussion and reflection."

Leaders from within and without Southern Baptist life held small group sessions focusing on historical and biblical perspectives on peacemaking, the theology of peacemaking, peacemaking in the local church, the arms race and the Third World, medical consequences of nuclear war and suggestions for influencing Congress and other decision-makers.

Other conference highlights included an anti-war play featuring Southeastern students and a closing worship service led by W. Randall Lolley, seminary president.

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Southern Baptists Win
Eight Top RPRC Awards

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4/27/82

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Southern Baptists won eight awards in the Religious Public Relations Council honors competition, including two grand prizes.

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board won five awards and Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press, the denomination's news service, won three.

The RPRC is a professional organization of public relations professionals from the nation's religious denominations, including Protestant, Catholic and Jewish.

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Altogether, 55 awards were made during the DeRos /Hinkhouse Competition in the media areas of print, broadcast, writing, public relations campaign, cable and audio visual. The Disciples of Christ (Christian) won 12 awards, Roman Catholics 10 and Southern Baptists eight.

The Sunday School Board won the grand prize for an extensive entry by the board's office of communication which highlighted the organization's 90th anniversary. Judges cited the effort for "great use of print advertising" and lauded it as an excellent job of identifying audiences and developing "very visually pleasing and very well designed materials."

Martin won two first place awards as well as the grand prize in the writing category.

The grand prize was awarded for a series of stories on events leading up to and following the 1981 annual meeting of the denomination. Judges cited the "straightforwardness and frankness" of the series.

The series won a first prize in news story/series. Martin also won top prize in feature series for his coverage of Miami which appeared in the 1982 Home Mission Board publication, "Challenge of the Cities."

The Sunday School Board office of communications won first prizes for folders and national public relations campaigns. Cited were Lloyd Householder, director, Robert Ethridge and David Haywood.

Don Fearheiley of the board won a first prize for his editorial, "Of Kites and God."

W. Howard Bramlette won second place in national magazines for the July 1981 issue of The Student, a publication of National Student Ministries of the BSSB.

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Humor An Effective Tool
In Therapy For Disturbed

Baptist Pr ss
4/27/82

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Humor is a valuable therapeutic tool with disturbed patients because it reduces anxiety, says a professor of behavioral science.

Henlee Barnette, clinical professor in the department of psychiatry and behavioral science at University of Louisville School of Medicine, told 235 participants in a seminar on suicide, that they can use humor to establish rapport with a patient.

He often introduces himself as a theological consultant and asks the patient, "Do you know what a theological consultant is? That's someone who makes the obvious obscure."

Suicide is the second leading cause of death, behind accidents, among college-age persons; fifth leading cause of death in 15 to 50-year-olds. Three times as many men kill themselves as women, but three times as many women attempt suicide.

There are 21,000 suicides reported in the United States each year and 500,000 attempts, according to Joseph Crupie, a psychiatrist at Memphis Baptist Hospital, sponsor of the seminar.

Crupie said the number of "covert" suicides may reach 60,000 annually. They include carelessness in potentially lethal jobs, alcohol and tobacco consumption, non-compliance following medical treatment, accidents and gluttony.

Barnette, a leading Southern Baptist ethicist for more than 20 years, said humor can be used as a diagnostic tool, but should not be used to win the patient's affection or affirmation. Wrong use of humor may block the patient's thoughts and he may become confused.

"Assure your patients it's not a sin to laugh," said Barnette, who previously taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "I don't believe we know much about God if we have never heard him laugh."

Crupie advised the audience about some widely held misconceptions of suicide.

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Contrary to popular belief, some persons who talk about committing suicide actually do it, Crupie said. And, though the brutal act appears to occur without warning, he said the suicidal person often is giving signals long before he acts.

Crupie said it is not only the psychotic who commits suicide. A perfectly normal person, who simply may be illogical at the time, could do it as well.

"People who commit suicide are people who are suffering, people in stress, people in crisis, who don't have the coping mechanism to see themselves through," he said.

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Texas Baptist CLC
Raps Reagan Proposal

Baptist Pr ss
4/27/82

DALLAS, Texas (BP)--The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission adopted a statement opposing President Reagan's proposal to allow tax credits for private/religious school tuition.

"Such tax credits represent an effort by the Reagan administration to permit parents to take a credit on their income tax for each child they have in a private school," said the statement adopted at the commission's quarterly meeting.

The social concerns agency of the 2.2-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas said Baptists historically have recognized the value of public and private schools in the United States and have supported the rights of parents to choose the form of their children's education.

"But under the principle of separation of church and state, we oppose any plan which would allow tax benefits for the purpose of paying for sectarian instruction of students," the commission said.

The statement calls on religious groups and individuals who view the choice of a private religious education as important for their children, to be willing to pay for it and not call on the general public for assistance.

"We oppose assistance, whether through direct government tax relief or support, grants-in-aid, or tuition tax credits which result in assistance to private/religious schools," the 15-member commission said.

The statement also claimed the tax credit measure "is divisive and would result in the proliferation of church-related schools, setting up two separate but unequal school systems" which would tend toward development of "class" and religious divisiveness which leaders of the American educational system have sought to avoid.

"Such legislation represents a threat to the already embattled American public educational system by providing an economic incentive for families to remove their children from public schools and limiting the amounts of total funds available for public education and other national needs by committing up to \$4.5 billion a year in tax credits to the special interest/religious groups benefitting from this legislation," the statement added.

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Green Acres Church
Adopts Whole Nation

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4/27/82

TYLER, Texas (BP)--In an audacious move, a single Texas Baptist church plans to evangelize the entire nation of Belize.

Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler has set its sights on the 150,000 citizens of Belize, (formerly British Honduras) a nation just south of Mexico.

One-third of the people live in Belize City which looks across a blue Caribbean bay to Honduras where Texas Baptists set up their mobile disaster relief unit following the

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devastation and floods of Hurricane Fifi in 1974. Texas Baptist volunteers fed and ministered to thousands of disaster victims for several weeks, and there are now Baptist churches in Honduras which began as a result.

Green Acres, which invited Texas Baptist Men to join their effort, plans to build a training center to equip national pastors, build 20 church buildings and distribute more than 25,000 copies of the Scriptures in five years.

Green Acres began as a mission church 25 years ago and is now a Texas Baptist leader in baptisms, Sunday School growth and missions support. Church membership is 4,300 and gifts reached \$2 million last year.

The church built an extensive plant at home but maintained vision beyond itself. Four years ago its goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions was \$20,000. Then it learned of the need for \$20,000 to build a church building in the small border town of Diaz Ordaz, Mexico. Within three weeks, members had given \$40,000.

"You can build at home and do mission work abroad," says pastor Paul W. Powell. "When volunteers come back from doing missions, they are alive as never before. Their spirit and excitement always passes on to somebody else."

Powell estimates that churches in rural Belize will cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 each. Buildings in Belize City will be about twice as much. "It's a faith commitment, and we've got to have leadership and materials," he says. "But I believe our people will do it."

Retired building contractor Joe Barentine committed himself to five years in Belize to direct construction of the training center and 20 church buildings. Texas Baptist Men volunteers will help provide construction labor.

After learning of Green Acres' plans, Southern Baptist missionaries Otis and Martha Brady of Belize City are working with the project.

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EDITOR'S NOTE to those who mail BP photos: All-Church Press no longer is in business. Remove their name if they are still on your photo mailing list.

Thanks,
Baptist Press