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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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October 21, 1982

82-149

**Baptist Hospital Site
Of Mafia-Styled Killing**By Craig Bird 

BARRANQUILLA, Columbia (BP)—A patient being treated for gunshot wounds was murdered in his bed at Baptist Hospital in what police think is the result of a feud among elements of organized crime.

"About 9 p.m. Oct. 23 there were some shots fired outside the hospital and when police went to investigate the diversion, three men entered the hospital, went to patient's second-floor room and shot him 11 times," said Jerrell Ballard, a Southern Baptist medical missionary.

The victim's sister and another visitor were in the room but were not harmed by the gunmen. In the ensuing confusion the three men escaped, Ballard said.

Less than 48 hours later, three men riding in a car near the hospital were killed by gunmen who pulled alongside them in a jeep. Police think the two incidents are related and also feel the Oct. 23 shooting was a "finishing off" of the earlier attempt that put the man in the hospital.

Ballard, who has been in Columbia for 10 years, thinks the incident will have an effect on Baptist Hospital but he doesn't think Baptist mission work will suffer.

"The initial reaction seems to be 'what kind of people are you harboring in that hospital' and I'm sure people who are planning non-emergency surgery will look somewhere else for awhile," Ballard admitted. "But our doors are open to anyone who needs care and, fortunately, the local papers have pointed out the victim was a 'bad man' who was involved in criminal activities. There have been several incidents of violence lately but no innocent people have been involved and police think the local mafia is quarreling internally."

This is the second time in two years a patient at Baptist Hospital has been the target of violence. In November 1980, a hand grenade was thrown into the second floor room, injuring a patient who was under police guard for his involvement in a family killing.

Ironically, the same hospital bed was involved in both incidents. "The bed rail still had scars from the scrapnel from the hand grenade and now it has bullet holes in it," Ballard said. "We use our equipment as long as we can down here but I guess we'll have to quit using this one now."

Ballard requested continued prayer support from Southern Baptists as the missionaries continue their work. In addition to work with Columbians, Ballard and his wife head up work with the English-speaking population of the country.

"There are about 150 American families here, mostly with Exxon which is involved in a coal-mining operation, and many of them are frightened," Ballard explained. "One of the Exxon engineers told me, 'You missionaries have to have a lot of backbone to stay here and keep working—I've only been here two weeks and I'm scared to death.'"

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There are five Southern Baptist missionaries and one SBC journeyman assigned to Baptist Hospital: Ballard, Victor D. Norman, Robert L. Edwards, George H. Kollmar and Jeni Hester are permanent missionaries (Hester is a nurse, the others doctors); Vonda Cravens is a journeyman nurse.

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Southwestern Trustees Approve
Final Steps Of Hispanic Merger

By Norman Jameson

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Baptist Press
10/21/82

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary approved the final steps of merger with the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary in San Antonio as they held their annual fall meeting.

Trustees also added two degrees to the curriculum, approved an Institute of Applied Ethics; named three endowed chairs; agreed to help Houston Baptist University build a classroom building for Southwestern's off-campus center, changed the nomenclature of the master of church music degree and heard the president's annual report.

During the trustee meeting, the seminary dedicated the A. Webb Roberts Library, named for a Dallas businessman and philanthropist. The \$6.6 million, 100,000 square-foot facility is the largest theological library in the nation.

A budget of \$750,099 for the Hispanic seminary was adopted. The school will become a component of Southwestern if the merger is approved on second reading at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in November.

Also approved were Hispanic Seminary's curriculum and adjunct status at Southwestern for its faculty. Daniel J. Rivera was elected president of Hispanic Seminary as part of Southwestern's administrative staff.

The new degree plans include master of arts degrees in missiology and marriage and family counseling. The master of church music degree will be renamed the master of music in church music degree to align terminology more closely with other graduate institutions.

Trustees approved the founding agreement for the A. Webb Roberts Institute of Applied Ethics. Roberts made the seminary beneficiary of a \$1 million trust to be used for endowing the institute.

Seminary officers will work with Roberts to complete details and when the agreement is completed Roberts will add an additional \$1 million to the endowment. The seminary has agreed to add a third \$1 million.

Trustees also approved the inclusion of a chair of applied ethics, to be filled later, as part of the institute.

Jeroline A. Baker, professor of childhood education, will occupy the newly named Bessie M. Fleming Chair of Childhood Education, the first named professorship in the school of religious education.

Roy J. Fish, professor of evangelism, will occupy the new L.R. Scarborough chair of evangelism (Chair of Fire) for the 1982-83 academic year.

Southwestern, with 125 students at its off-campus center at Houston Baptist University, has agreed to help HBU build a classroom facility to house the center and provide additional space at the university. Southwestern's commitment to a maximum \$300,000 will be funded as part of the Vision '85 campaign to raise \$25 million by 1985 for capital needs and endowment.

John Earl Seelig, vice president for public affairs and chief fund-raising officer, reported \$16 million has been raised at the halfway point of the campaign.

James E. Coggin, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, was elected to a second one-year term as trustee chairman. Robert J. Potts, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga., was elected vice chairman and John McNaughton, layman from Fort Worth, secretary.

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Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. announced a gift from Evelyn Lineberry of Midland, Texas, has enabled the seminary to purchase land on the campus' west side, on both sides of Gambrell Street.

Dilday presented his annual report to the trustees which reflected an increase of \$10.7 million in assets; endowment increase of \$5.7 million to \$27,371,155, record cumulative enrollment of 4,605 and expansion of facilities including the library, new bookstore and maintenance buildings and expansion of program.

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—(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hinson Warns Students,
Calls For Peace Efforts

By Michael Tutterow

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Baptist Press
10/21/82

NEW YORK (BP)—Those who think that by escalating nuclear weapons "we'll scare the pants off those who would do the irrational and absurd" are dead wrong, Glenn Hinson, church history professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, told participants at the New York Baptist Student Convention.

"But fear may lead us to the ultimate irrationality that will lead to the destruction of the human race," Hinson added.

Hinson's three presentations on "Piety and Responsibility" drew opposition from several students, including Baptist cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Hinson, saying he does not consider himself a pacifist in areas of conventional military defense, added: "But I am a nuclear pacifist." He explained that he believes the destruction of the human race is contrary to biblical teachings on the sanctity of life.

Hinson explained war results from anxiety regarding desires for food, shelter and clothing "that over-reach themselves."

"We become captives of culture," said Hinson, adding that cultural values determine personal needs rather than God. He cited a need "to open our hearts and allow (God's) love to come in. Love can help cope with artificial, contrived needs which can easily overwhelm."

Hinson claimed a second cause of war is fear, which "is related to littleness of faith. Perhaps the thing behind our fear is we have not discovered the one thing needful— God."

Prayer, said Hinson, is "the remedy for fear and anxiety and is in response to divine love. Divine love casts out fear," he said. Hinson added that through the power of love enemies become human beings instead of impersonal adversaries. "We are to pray for those who despitefully use you," Hinson said, "but I don't think we do that."

The Louisville professor, who is teaching this semester at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C., challenged students to promote peacemaking "by knowing the God of peace and the peace of God."

He encouraged students to be informed and seek information from the SBC Christian Life Commission and Deerpark Baptist Church, Louisville, publishers of "Baptist Peacemaker."

He also urged students to form peacemaking groups and told West Point cadets, "I envision students petitioning the faculty for a course on peacemaking at the academy."

He cautioned students not to make peacemaking a single issue. "It is ultimately related to justice. We are a part of the problem when we are involved in overconsumption of the world's goods," he said, noting Americans represent only six percent of the world's population while consuming more than 50 percent of the world's resources.

"There's a subtle feeling that our deep inner cravings will be met if we just get a little more," said Hinson. "What happens when we get a little more is we only whet our appetites for a little more and the craving remains."

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Hinson called for a rediscovery of "the real sufficiency" but lamented recent shortages in natural resources had sparked a revival of American nationalism which leaned toward "gearing up to take what we want."

God may be challenging Christians "to return to a philosophy of contentment, of enough," said Hinson.

Asked if peacemaking is a political issue that should be left outside church interests, Hinson replied: "All political issues are spiritual. Peacemaking is a spiritual issue and if there is to be peacemaking, there must be some wise political decisions."

But God will not make the decisions, he told students. Peace will result from the efforts of "horizontal persons who are able to look beyond the horizons of the age in which they live. It does not mean God will make the choices for you. God has given you freedom and asked you to be responsible."

He urged students "to be world citizens, working at reconstruction of a system which brings great suffering to people here and in the whole earth."

"Unless we bring something to all nations that will bring security, we will fail," warned Hinson. "We have to pursue those things which will make our government pursue justice."

"But we will never do that until we ourselves grab hold of security—the peace of God."

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Brazil Baptists Celebrate
Century Of Work, Growth

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Baptist Press
10/21/82

SALVADOR, Brazil (BP)—In the city where it all started, Brazilian Baptists celebrated 100 years of work.

The Oct. 8-15 week of festivities—also the 64th meeting of the Brazilian Baptist Convention—included evangelistic services in an 80,000 seat soccer stadium, parades, marches, a record number of registered messengers and long looks to the past and future.

A century ago on Oct. 15, 1882, Southern Baptists' first missionaries to Brazil, William and Anne Bagby, organized Brazil's first indigenous Baptist church in Salvador with five members. Today that church is still going strong and more than 3,100 other Baptist congregations meet nationwide. Brazilian Baptists number some 550,000.

A strong sense of continuity prevailed as outgoing convention president, Joao Soren, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rio de Janeiro, presided at convention sessions. Soren's father, an early convert of the Bagbys, was the convention's first president. Two of the Bagby's children also were present: Albert Bagby, 79, of Alabama, and Helen Bagby Harrison, 82, of Texas, both retired missionaries.

A record 6,020 messengers registered for the convention and an average of 10,000 to 15,000 people attended sessions at the Fonte Nova Soccer Stadium and an adjacent gymnasium. The national Woman's Missionary Union convention, held Oct. 9 in Salvador, drew 2,200.

Messengers elected pastor and evangelist Nilson Fanini as convention president and reviewed goals set a decade ago to be completed before the Baptist centennial.

Baptists fell short of their goal of one million church members and 6,600 churches by 1982, but membership has increased five percent annually in recent years. High inflation and weak Brazilian currency have hampered home and foreign mission programs. Brazilian Baptist mission boards, however, now support some 350 home missionaries and 70 foreign missionaries in 13 countries, including the United States.

Baptist seminaries and theological institutes surpassed their goal of 3,000 students in 1978. Despite bad economic conditions, numerous state and national denominational agencies and boards have reached or soon will attain self-support.

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Proposed plans for the remainder of the 1980's call for passing the 6,000-churches mark, starting 12,000 mission congregations and involving at least one percent of Brazil's population (now 128 million) in church membership.

More than 3,700 Texan volunteers participated in a four-year Mission to Brazil evangelistic campaign. The Texas-Brazil partnership, which winds up in October, has resulted in some 90,000 Brazilians committing their lives to Christ.

In a letter read at the convention, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks said that after sending 890 missionaries and \$106 million to Brazil over the last century, Southern Baptists are "thrilled to see increasing leadership from Brazilian Baptists both at home and in world missions."

Missionary David Mein delivered the convention sermon, challenging Brazilian Baptists to "remove from our vocabulary the expressions 'Third World' and 'underdeveloped country' and march forward with the theme, 'We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.' We have the human potential if we are faithful. We have the resources, but we need dedication."

Currently 330 Southern Baptist missionaries work in Brazil, the largest number in any single country. Many now work under Brazilian Baptist leaders.

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Former Air Traffic Controller
Now Directs From Church Pulpit

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Baptist Press
10/21/82

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Bill Summers knows what it's like to be "fired by the President and hired by the King."

Summers, 41, was among the nation's air traffic controllers who lost their jobs in August 1981. The ensuing period of anxiety and frustration could have mounted tragically for him and his family. Instead, Summers found new meaning in his life.

Being fired after 13 years with the Federal Aviation Administration brought him face-to-face with a decision he had put off for years.

"The Lord let me know I had run out of excuses," Summers explained. "I told the Lord, 'I'm going to do whatever you want.'"

Summers decided what the Lord wanted him to do was preach. So he enrolled for ministry training at Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Since his admission to Boyce he has accepted the pastorate of Lockport (Ky.) Baptist Church.

In mid-September, Summers experienced "the happiest day" of his life when he was ordained to the gospel ministry at his home church in Mt. Washington, Ky.

The ordination charge was delivered by David Q. Byrd, director of Boyce Bible School. The title: "Fired by the President, Hired by the King."

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CORRECTION: In BP mailed 10/18/82, in "Draper Wants Parity Of Views On Faculties" please correct the tenth graf, second sentence to read "...denominational leadership did not fully understand the restlessness of the troops on both..." instead of "...the relentlessness of..."

Thanks,
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