

Baylor University aided FBI in Waco firestorm

by Scott Thompson

Several sources both inside and outside the Federal Bureau of Investigation have confirmed that a special FBI unit relied upon the Baylor University Religion Department to help profile David Koresh and the Branch Davidians prior to the assault by federal agents on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas on April 19, in which 86 men, women, and children were incinerated. Baylor University, which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, is in reality controlled by the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction of Freemasonry, of which the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, together with many other top FBI officials, was a 33rd Degree Grand Cross member.

The founder and every president of Baylor University has been a high-ranking Mason, while the campus hosts the building of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Baylor University was featured on the cover of the February 1993 issue of *The Scottish Rite Journal* as a prime example of the compatibility between the Scottish Rite and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), arguing against those SBC leaders who claim Freemasonry is an incompatible, satanic religion.

Assistant FBI Director of Criminal Investigations Larry Potts, who was in charge of the 51-day FBI siege of the Branch Davidian compound from FBI headquarters, told his Virginia hometown newspaper *Leesburg Today*: "I . . . relied heavily on members of the Bureau's Investigative Support Unit made up of agents who travel the world establishing behavior profiles. . . . Agents met with religious professors at Baylor University to discuss sections of the Bible which were most often the subjects of Koresh's preachings." San Antonio Special Agent-in-Charge Jeff Jamar, who ran the field command center near the Davidian compound, told the House Judiciary Committee hearings on the role of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) in Waco that "the whole Baylor University Religion Department was at our disposal."

Koresh compared to Hitler

Abner V. McCall, who is president emeritus of Baylor University and a 33rd Degree Grand Cross, wrote the article featured in the February *Scottish Rite Journal*. In an interview with a journalist, McCall admitted knowing of the FBI's use of the Baylor University Religion Department, adding that many members had had contact with the Branch Davidians

to develop their profile when they visited the campus over the years.

According to McCall, the Branch Davidians were a harmless splitoff from the Seventh Day Adventists, who came to Waco in 1933. But, McCall said that this all began to change when Vernon Howell, who took the name David Koresh, "gradually wormed his way into the position of leader." McCall said that Koresh "was convinced he was divine. He was a paranoid and a believer that a hostile world would attack the Branch Davidians." McCall accused Koresh of being a murderer and a child abuser.

But for McCall, none of this is the real crime of David Koresh. Rather, it was that Koresh, like a growing number of millenarians, was anti-masonic. He compared Koresh's anti-masonic stand to that being taken by Dr. James Holly of Beaumont, Texas, who has been leading the campaign to have Freemasonry declared incompatible with the Southern Baptist Convention. "Both think of Masonry as witchcraft and satanism," McCall said. He compared the two to Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, who, he said, had been the leading anti-Masons of the 20th century.

Profiling the Branch Davidians

According to Dr. Bill Pitts of the Baylor University Religion Department, there were several department members who had met with the Branch Davidians during their visits to the campus to discuss the history of their sect and religion. Pitts said that this was particularly true of the chairman of the Religion Department, Glen Hilburn.

Although a member of the Baylor University administration characterized Pitts as having had the closest ties with the Branch Davidians, Pitts denies it. He does admit that he drew up a historical profile of the Davidians, stating that they were a "mild-mannered, millenarian" splitoff that sought to purify the Seventh Day Adventists. They even served as medics in World War II, after obtaining conscientious objector status.

But, like McCall, Pitts has an intense hatred for the changes wrought by Koresh after he became the leader of the Branch Davidians. Pitts retailed all the slanders from those Davidian "defectors," including one from Australia who had been brainwashed by the Cult Awareness Network (CAN). According to Pitts, Koresh was a violence-prone child abuser. He said that Koresh thought of himself as Christ, and Koresh purposely sought martyrdom.

This line peddled by Pitts in some 100 media interviews, according to the Baylor administration, is precisely that same line which CAN fed to the ATF, that resulted in the bloody Feb. 28 shootout between Davidians and ATF agents. It is apparent from the statements of McCall and Pitts, that Baylor University spread slanders similar to those peddled by CAN to the FBI. And, if McCall's statements are representative, the reason for this particular strain of vilification was their belief that David Koresh opposed the same Scottish Rite Masons who control Baylor University.