

September 27, 1996

96-171

WASHINGTON--Senate fails to override veto of abortion ban.
 NORTH CAROLINA--Spiritual impact readily evident in post-Fran Baptist relief work.
 TEXAS--Church fires like 'heart attack' to black community, pastor says.
 TEXAS--RTVC president encourages use of technology to proclaim gospel.
 TENNESSEE--Teens get 2nd chance to offer parents advice via magazine.
 KENTUCKY--Lawsuit slows stadium plans by college, community, Bengals.
 TEXAS--Six Flags chaplain aiming to reproduce his ministry.
 TEXAS--Gillhams' 'The Life' series to be aired by FamilyNet, ACTS.
 GEORGIA--50 years: Truett Cathy credits Bible for Chick-fil-A success.

Senate fails to override veto of abortion ban

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
9/27/96

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate failed Sept. 26 to override President Clinton's veto of a bill banning a grisly abortion procedure, causing evangelical Christian leaders to lament the condition of the country.

While supporters of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act made some gains from the Senate's earlier vote, they fell short of the two-thirds majority required. The vote was 57-41. Originally, the Senate approved the bill 54-44.

The showdown in the Senate occurred a week after the House of Representatives achieved a two-thirds vote, 285-137, in its override attempt.

The procedure banned by the bill involves the delivery of an intact baby feet first until only the head is left in the birth canal. The doctor pierces the base of the baby's skull with surgical scissors, then inserts a catheter into the opening and suctions out the brain. The collapse of the skull enables easier removal of the dead child. The bill allows the use of the method only when the life of the mother is endangered. The method is used in the second half of pregnancy, often by the 26th week.

Evangelical leaders who had gathered at the Capitol in an effort to gain late support for the override expressed grief at the result.

"We reached a defining moment in our nation's life this afternoon, and the American government failed," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "The American Senate failed to do the decent, right, moral, civilized thing and stop the slaughter of unborn children."

This procedure "must stop," Land said. "I continue to believe that the American people are better than this and that they will insist that their government reconsider and do the decent, moral, civilized thing. Otherwise, we can only conclude that America is no longer a civilized nation but a pagan one."

Others expressed even stronger opinions about the state of the country.

"This is a watershed," said James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family. "When a nation can sanction (partial-birth abortion) for the convenience of the mother, that's a terrible thing, and God will not hold us blameless. I really fear his judgment. Why would he not be angry at us today?"

Appearing at a pre-vote news conference which included Dobson, Land and others, Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson said a failure to override means "this nation will be sanctioning infanticide. And a nation which sanctions infanticide is no better morally than China, no better morally than Nazi Germany was during the 1930s."

--more--

The president vetoed the bill in April, citing a need for an exception when the mother's health is endangered. For the veto ceremony, he gathered five women who said they had undergone the procedure for health reasons and/or because their children would not have survived. Bill supporters, however, said the president's health exception would gut the ban, because the Supreme Court in 1973 defined health for abortion purposes to include "all factors -- physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age -- relevant to the well-being of the patient."

Newspaper reports only days before the House override vote damaged contentions by the ban's opponents that the procedure is done almost exclusively for health reasons and there are only about 500 a year in this country.

In one, a Sept. 15 article in *The Record*, a New Jersey daily paper, reported a clinic in Englewood, N.J., performs at least 1,500 partial-birth abortions a year. Only a "minuscule amount" are done for medical reasons and most are elective, doctors at the clinic said.

Such reports may have helped sway a few pro-choice senators to switch their votes. Voting for the override after opposing the bill the first time were Sen. Patrick Leahy, D.-Vt.; Sen. Sam Nunn, D.-Ga., and Sen. Arlen Specter, R.-Pa. Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D.-N.Y., did not vote the first time but supported the override. Sen. Ben Campbell, R.-Colo., who was hospitalized, sent a letter saying he would have voted for the override though he opposed the bill the first time.

Majority Leader Trent Lott, R.-Miss., switched his vote from a "yes" to a "no" in order to take advantage of a Senate rule which then would allow him the option of calling the bill up for another vote before adjournment.

The chief sponsor of the bill, Rep. Charles Canady, R.-Fla., said he would reintroduce the measure at the beginning of the next Congress.

"The fact remains that President Clinton is the one person who could have stopped partial-birth abortions once and for all," Canady said in a prepared statement after the Senate vote. "It's too bad he didn't."

Baptist Press contacted the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League for a statement, but it was not received before deadline.

Clinton's veto spurred opposition from some physicians and some religious leaders.

More than 300 physicians, primarily obstetricians, united to oppose the procedure and declare it is never medically necessary and could be dangerous for women. In August, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop told the *American Medical News* he believed the president "was misled by his medical advisers on what is fact and what is fiction in reference to late-term abortions. Because in no way can I twist my mind to see that the late-term abortion as described ... is a medical necessity for the mother."

Evangelist Billy Graham, who has refrained from criticizing Clinton, told the president he was wrong. Then-Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry and 10 former presidents called for Clinton, a Southern Baptist, to repent of his action. SBC messengers adopted a resolution condemning the veto and calling for an override.

The country's Roman Catholic cardinals and the head of the church's bishops said they would work for an override. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls called Clinton's action a "shameful veto."

After Clinton's veto, a group of mainline Protestant and Jewish leaders -- including officials of the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ -- expressed their support for his action in a letter.

--30--

**Spiritual impact readily evident
in post-Fran Baptist relief work**

By Kelli Williams

**Baptist Press
9/27/96**

WILMINGTON, N.C. (BP)--Among more than 500,000 meals served by Southern Baptist disaster relief units after Hurricane Fran's landfall, the North Carolina Baptist Men unit alone prepared more than 185,000 meals, working at Winter Park Baptist Church in Wilmington, N.C.

Baptist cleanup and repair crews cleared trees and storm debris from hundreds of homes, businesses and city streets in Wilmington and elsewhere along the southeastern North Carolina coast.

--more--

Impressive numbers, perhaps, but statistics can't tell the real story. Only the people who were there can do that. And many are saying post-Fran ministry showed them the gospel of Jesus Christ is the real story.

"I woke up Saturday morning after the hurricane and the North Carolina Baptist Men had just arrived at our church -- only 36 hours after the storm hit us. I didn't have any electricity so there was no reason to stay home and every reason to help them," said Mary Ellen Benton, a Winter Park member who volunteered for more than a week at the Baptist Men feeding unit, which worked in cooperation with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, National Guard and other relief organizations.

Benton said she saw the gospel come alive for hundreds of people united by a common tragedy. Many were homeless, most had extensive wind and water damage and all knew their community would never be the same -- not just because of Hurricane Fran, but moreover because of what they found in each other.

"The Baptist Men's work was a powerful witness," said Michael Tutterow, Winter Park's pastor who helped coordinate the teams arriving from all over North Carolina as well as Florida, Georgia, Virginia and other states. "Scripture is filled with images of Jesus caring for hungry, hurting people. I think that kind of compassion communicates to people that the gospel is real stuff."

So real, in fact, that on Sunday, Sept. 22, nearly 200 people attended Winter Park's new "seeker-sensitive" service called "The Open Door." Although the worship's starting date had been planned since early spring, only the Lord knew how open the Wilmington community would be to the service's message.

Winter Park member Doris Coats, a retired RN and feeding unit volunteer, spent her days serving food and issuing invitations to the service. "We just wanted to share a little sunshine and a little of God's love. Many of the volunteers also had property damage, but they were still doing their part to help somebody else," Coats recounted.

"It made an impression on the people, because when I went to the first Open Door service, I saw a lot of people there who had come through the feeding lines."

"This is church happening," said Claude Allison, who logged more than 100 hours at the Winter Park feeding unit, which served 1,200 to 1,500 people a day on site in addition to preparing meals for the Red Cross to distribute around the area. "This is what God wants us to do -- show his love to others."

As volunteers spread the Word of God through love and action, the Baptist Men spread it literally. Hundreds of Bibles and tracts supplied through the North Carolina state missions offering, as were all the Baptist Men's efforts, were distributed through the feeding units to hurricane victims who received them gratefully.

"People were so vulnerable. They were at a loss," said Mary Margaret Brooks, church and community missions director at the Wilmington Baptist Association. "It was a good time not just for feeding them physically, but spiritually as well."

Ronald Poythress, pastor of Carolina Beach Baptist Church, found himself on the receiving end of that effort. Hurricane Fran's driving rains had filled his church's basement fellowship hall, and as the water climbed higher it backed up the sewer lines leading into the hall, causing them to flow into, rather than out of, the building. But in less than seven hours, a team of Baptist Men from Brunswick County, N.C., had cleaned and sanitized the church.

"Our members had to secure their own homes after the storm, so the church would have had to wait, but these men filled in the gap," said Poythress, who moved to coastal North Carolina less than a year ago and is experiencing his first hurricane season. "They gave of their time, energy, resources and skills to support us and save our church. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude."

Story after story of tragedy and despair turned into hope surfaced as the Lord worked through the Baptist disaster relief teams. Brooks told of a young couple and their 13-month-old child who were homeless because of the storm. A tree had completely destroyed their mobile home, the young wife was pregnant and nearly due and they had no place to go.

So they came to Winter Park looking for help. Brooks called dozens of area hotels but all were either too badly damaged or full of construction workers and utility repair people from other areas. Finally, another volunteer located a room where the couple stayed until they received assistance from the Red Cross. Brooks said they'll be back soon to meet with her.

--more--

"This was an opportunity for us to show God's love to strangers, just like the Bible says. And it's not over yet," she said. "Winter Park only closed their feeding unit on Sept. 22. We're still restoring homes, but there are so many needs out there. We're going to be in process for a long time."

That's fine with Betty Nance and her husband, Carl. As volunteers with Baptist Men, Betty and Carl, members of Derita Baptist Church near Charlotte, N.C., have made three trips to the coastal areas to assist with the feeding and cleanup. "Our involvement with Baptist disaster relief began in 1992 when Hurricane Andrew struck south Florida," said Betty Nance. "I didn't know why, but I felt called to help. I'd never done anything like this before, but the Lord said plainly, 'Go.' So we did."

Before they began serving with the Hurricane Fran effort, the Nances also worked with victims of Hurricane Bertha, which hit the same area in mid-July.

"People ask me, 'Why do you do this?'" she said. "We have to sleep on the floor with no power and water dripping from ceiling cracks all around us. We work 18- to 22-hour days in the heat, humidity, mosquitoes and flies. We saw destruction at every turn. But we also saw the Lord work in incredible ways. That's our reward."

One example Nance remembered was when a team of Baptist Men left the base unit to clear debris and trees from the home of an 82-year-old woman. They didn't know until they arrived that she was deaf. Unable to communicate with her, they returned to the feeding unit only to discover while they were gone, a young man from Albany, Ga., had arrived to volunteer, and he knew sign language. "That's one of those times when you ask yourself, 'Why did he just come that morning? Why did he go there and not somewhere else?'" Nance said. "It's because God knows ahead of time what we have to do so he prepares ahead of time what we need."

And those who are normally resistant to the gospel message find themselves listening. A close friend of Mary Ellen Benton had invited her college-age niece and a friend, both from Japan, for a visit to Wilmington. They arrived one day before Hurricane Fran struck. But just like Winter Park's seeker service, which had been planned months earlier, God would use their trip to demonstrate his greater purposes.

"Those two young women came and helped me serve on the food line," Benton said. "They're not Christians, and it was a real eye-opener for them about Christian ministries. They were so impressed, probably because they'd never seen Christians do anything besides go to church. I think it planted a seed in their hearts."

Age didn't make a difference either when God chose to use a person to reach others during the relief efforts. Benton remembered a 12-year-old boy named Jonathan who wanted desperately to help at the feeding unit but was told he was too young. "He seemed so unhappy," Benton said, "so I suggested he be our public relations person. Then he brightened up and went outside. I thought he was out greeting people at the door, but later someone came in and said, 'Jonathan's out in the street, stopping traffic and telling people dinner is served at 5 p.m.!'"

What amazed Brooks most about the entire Baptist relief effort was the contrast it made to earlier ones. Her husband, Lamar, was Winter Park's pastor when Hurricane Diana hit the southeastern North Carolina coast in the late 1980s. "The only disaster response we received from Baptists was a truck filled with water and canned food from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest (N.C.). A few students came, but as far as organized Baptist relief efforts, that was it. What has developed has been phenomenal. Compare what happened to us then with serving 185,000 meals out of Winter Park's parking lot this time. We have a lot to be grateful to God and to the Southern Baptists for."

--30--

Williams is a freelance writer in Wake Forest, N.C.

**Church fires like 'heart attack'
to black community, pastor says**

By Ken Camp

**Baptist Press
9/27/96**

PLANO, Texas (BP)--For African Americans, church arson is like a heart attack -- an assault on the heart of their community, a black pastor said after seeing a neighboring church burn.

"The church has always been at the heart of the African American community," said Houston McClendon, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Greenville, Texas. "When I woke up to see a church burning, my first thought was, 'We just had a heart attack.'"

--more--

McClendon took part in a panel discussion on "Crisis and Community," Sept. 25 at the Spring Creek campus of Collin County Community College, Plano, Texas. Other Greenville participants included a black representative from the city council, a local newspaper reporter, an African American businessman and the city's fire chief. The forum, sponsored by the college's interdisciplinary honors program, was made possible by an "Enhancing America's Communities" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

On June 9-10, Greenville's New Light House of Prayer was engulfed by flames and the Church of the Living God was damaged by arson. The two church fires were followed by more than 40 fires of suspicious origin during the summer, mostly within an older, largely African American area of the northeast Texas town.

The fires drew journalists from around the country -- and as far away as Great Britain and Austria -- to Greenville. And when the media spotlight turned on the city, two rival Ku Klux Klan groups and representatives of the New Black Panther Party also arrived.

But eventually the TV crews turned off their cameras, the KKK and New Black Panthers left town and the fires stopped. Forum participants questioned whether the "long hot summer" left the town more united or more racially polarized, with some white residents eager to return to "business as usual" and many African Americans restless for change.

Panelists all praised a multiracial worship service at Greenville's high school football stadium that drew about 3,500 residents. Dewey Fitzpatrick, a black businessman from Greenville, termed the event "an outpouring of love ... that was more indicative of the way people really felt" than the racist image of the city that was sometimes projected in national news reports.

"Yes, we came together. Christians tend to do that," said Hattie Tennison of Greenville's city council. "But as a Christian myself, I know we still have to deal with the old nature."

A key point of contention was whether public pressure and media attention prompted authorities to seek an easy solution. Police arrested Mark Anthony Young, a mentally retarded black man who initially confessed to burning the churches and one other building but later recanted. Tennison made an appeal for donations to a defense fund that African Americans in Hunt County had set up for Young.

Other forum participants emphasized the generous donations exceeding \$350,000 already given to help rebuild the burned churches. The Texas Baptist Men Retiree Builders, directed by Wilton Davis of Dallas, are coordinating the volunteer reconstruction effort. The builders are slated to begin work in mid-October.

McClendon noted a number of local pastors were "trying to bring the churches together and bring about racial harmony within the churches."

For the first time, the town's historically Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance has several white pastors as members. And at the invitation of Mel Ray, Southern Baptist chaplain and director of pastoral care at Presbyterian Hospital of Greenville, McClendon led an educational seminar for white pastors, teaching them how to relate to African Americans.

McClendon also noted that in October, his church is spearheading an interdenominational evangelistic outreach effort in predominantly black north Greenville. Representatives from Ridgecrest Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Greenville, already had committed to participate.

--30--

**RTVC president encourages use
of technology to proclaim gospel**

By C.C. Risenhoover

**Baptist Press
9/27/96**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission said the Christian church needs to develop a flexible attitude toward technology and maintain its inflexible attitude toward theology.

"We must have a freeze-frame theology and a fast-forward methodology," said Jack Johnson, who delivered the keynote address at the Inspiration '96 Conference in Arlington, Texas, Sept. 19.

The conference, which promotes the use of technology in worship, attracted nearly 1,000 people who actively work in media for their churches.

--more--

"We must develop a dichotomy that allows us to be on the cutting edge of technology and still maintain our strong commitment to the eternal authority of the Scripture," Johnson said. "We must not allow our closed system of biblical revelation to trickle over into technology. We must not allow our obsession with obsolescence to get in the way of our commitment to the Great Commission. We must make technology a servant to the churches."

In order to make technology a servant to the church, the RTVC president said, "We must first understand and utilize the profound technology changes that are taking place. Past successes can be our worst enemy. Some are so captivated with the past methodology that they can't think of replacing it with new tools for the next decades.

"Fear creates a defensiveness that is the enemy of passionate, creative work."

Citing a second means of making technology a servant of the church, Johnson said, "Just as our ancestors learned to use tools like hammers and crowbars, it's time to understand that no matter how complex the specific technology may be, it is a tool that must be mastered.

"These tools are available to pastors and their people. There is little excuse for a pastor entering the pulpit today to be poorly prepared to preach the good news. There are numerous computer programs available that provide exciting time-saving tools for the pastor."

Johnson said he uses a CD-ROM program called 'Logos' each time he prepares a sermon. Describing its "enormous resources," Johnson said, "It has nine different Bible versions including Hebrew, Greek and the Septuagint. I can look at biblical customs, maps, commentaries, dictionaries and even listen to hymns as I study. I can copy Scripture or comments from the commentaries into my word processor. I can locate and parse Greek words. It saves a vast amount of time in research and composition. When I complete my sermon, it is then stored in my computer to be used in whole or in part in other sermons."

While the growth of CD-ROMs has been dramatic, Johnson said they will begin to fade due to advances in broadband networks and alternative storage technologies.

"Since RAM is 1,000 faster than CD-ROM," he said, "CD-ROM software developers will become adept in mainlining parts of their programs into the computer's memory. That makes the next logical step some kind of synthesized system of CD-ROM linked to the immediacy of an on-line service."

Missions Media and Campus Crusade for Christ were innovators in the use of video illustrations, Johnson said, noting visual illustrations enhance a communicator's ability to communicate.

"Instead of simply trying to paint a picture or illustration with words, the communicator or sender provides the audience with a visual image that enforces the spoken word," he said. "If the visual illustration is interactive, the audience will retain even more of what a speaker says."

Johnson said Missions Media, Campus Crusade and Rise International, Inc., a Fort Worth, Texas, -based company specializing in leading-edge digital technologies, partnered to do a visual illustration pilot. The format selected for the pilot was compact disc-interactive (CD-i), which is television-based and better suited for image magnification projections.

"They used 30- to 90-second videos that would illustrate a point being made in a sermon," he said. "These were placed on a disc and distributed to several churches. They solicited feedback on the effectiveness and user friendliness of the product. The overwhelming response was that both pastors and congregations liked the visual illustrations, whether on videotape or CD.

"One's imagination is the only limitation in the use of visual illustrations. Whether a pastor wants to have a conversation with Paul or use on-the-street interviews, this technology offers unlimited opportunity in proclaiming the gospel."

About television, Johnson said programming is the ignition key of the future.

"The emphasis will be intellectual property," he said. "That means the intelligence to create and skills to produce programs that will demand an audience whatever the delivery system."

Johnson said radio, used by more Americans than any other medium, will race into the future being led by digital radio broadcasting systems.

"Digital broadcasting can re-invent the radio to provide totally new services to consumers," he said.

Regarding the Internet, Johnson said it has tremendous potential for kingdom building.

"These new tools bring new rules that determine how we function effectively," he said. "Christian broadcasters must adjust if we wish to claim the future for Christ and his church."

Teens get 2nd chance to offer parents advice via magazine

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--For the second November in a row, teenagers are getting to offer their moms and dads some handy advice through the pages of a Southern Baptist magazine for parents of adolescents.

And because young people "have a lot to say," Living with Teenagers editor Ellen Oldacre plans to make the adolescent-coordinated issue an annual event.

"Christian young people are taking bold stands for Christ and are being used by God as the catalyst for revival and change," Oldacre said in explaining why she plans to devote the pages of future November issues to teenage writers and editors.

Allison Lepper, a high school junior from Crestwood, Ky., and daughter of Connie and John Lepper, family ministry director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, served as this year's editor for the special issue.

Stories in the magazine, which carried a theme of "The Game of Life," were written by 18 teens (three groups of siblings) between the ages of 13 and 18, representing 10 states, according to Oldacre, who said eight of the writers are Southern Baptist.

"Many parents don't appreciate the teens who live in their houses," Oldacre said. "But a teen who forgets to pick up his clothes or clean his room or argues about his curfew is not a bad teen.

"Those kinds of situations are normal struggles with active teens trying to understand the responsibility that comes with independence. But these kids writing for this issue aren't on drugs. They don't drink or smoke. They rarely miss a church activity and actually read their Bible most days. We want parents to appreciate their teens as gifts from God."

Oldacre said she hopes the articles will challenge parents to become accountable as role models for theirs and other teenagers. She hopes they will also contribute to teen-parent conversation.

"This issue might spark communication between parents and teens at home and certainly in an organized church or school setting," she said. "Some parents have trouble hearing their own teen, but they might hear from a teenager who is supposedly 'good enough' to write an article in a Christian magazine for parents."

In her guest editorial, Lepper said the teens who worked on the Christian magazine for parents devoted their time to "help you become a better parent."

"To achieve this," Lepper continued, "they were willing to work countless hours to prepare material that will, if you will allow it, help you see what your teen is going through and how you can help them.

"I am confident that God has put us here for a purpose. The teens that you will hear from in this issue, along with many others, will accomplish amazing things for the kingdom of God," she wrote. "We would not be where we are today, and we would not be the people that we are without the love of God and the love of our parents."

Oldacre said she chose Lepper to serve as the 1996 editor because she wrote for last year's issue with "obvious talent and insight." Lepper, who plans to pursue a journalism degree in college, "is definitely skilled at working with words and people," Oldacre said. "I have no doubt God will continue to match her gifts with her desire to serve him."

Some of the articles in the magazine include: Tracking Media Influences," "Trust," "Target: Missions," "Overcoming Life's Hurdles" and "Fighting Fear."

In addition to Lepper, teens whose articles appear in the magazine are Jennifer and Nick Fiedler of Hoover, Ala.; Nathan and Yolanda Bouziden, Edmond, Okla.; Angela and Christy Simon, Belleville, Ill.; Stephanie Wodtke, Nicole Trujillo and Kyle Swanson, Loveland, Colo.; Clarissa Walters, Phoenix; Julie Egner and Anna Simpson, Mason, Ohio; Krisi May, Maumelle, Ark.; Aaron Fletcher, Antioch, Tenn.; Jennifer Kuentz, Arlington, Texas; Darien Kaiser, Mission Viejo, Calif.; and Jim Christensen, El Toro, Calif.

Living with Teenagers is produced by the Sunday School Board's discipleship and family magazine department.

--30--

EDITORS' NOTE: Please see individual stories by teenagers posted in the SBCNet News Room. The files will be listed under the teens' names.

**Lawsuit slows stadium plans
by college, community, Bengals**

By David Winfrey

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--A local resident has filed a lawsuit challenging the construction of a new \$3 million community football stadium by Georgetown (Ky.) College and three local governments -- a facility which also would be used by the Cincinnati Bengals professional football team.

The suit, filed by Charles Adams, contends the arrangement violates the Kentucky Constitution's separation of church and state clause.

"I have nothing against the college," said Adams, 59, a fourth-generation Scott County resident. "I just feel like they got a little too ambitious with taxpayers' dollars in this situation."

The project, announced Aug. 20, calls for cooperative funding by Scott County schools, Scott County government, the city of Georgetown and Baptist-affiliated Georgetown College. The four groups formed a corporation to oversee the project.

The stadium is slated to be used by the college, the local high school and the Cincinnati Bengals professional football team for their pre-season training camp.

Leaders of the stadium corporation issued a statement that they expected the court to affirm the project.

"We welcome this legal test as an opportunity to prove the constitutionality of our collaboration," read the statement by William Crouch, president of Georgetown College, and others.

Georgetown College issued another statement that Bengals' management was aware of the lawsuit and still supporting the partnership.

"The college's arrangement with the Bengals entails a number of factors," the statement read. "We hope that the joint stadium effort will move forward as planned. The lawsuit only jeopardizes the ability of the four partners to jointly build a stadium."

Adams questioned the school district's priorities. "The tail is trying to wag the dog in this situation," he said. "I wouldn't jump in and do this if I didn't think this was very important for myself, and for my community and for my children."

He added nearly 100 percent of his callers support the lawsuit, but noted, "Maybe the college's (calls) are running 100 percent the other way."

Leaders of the stadium corporation have agreed not to spend public money until the matter is resolved in court, said Leigh Anne Hiatt, spokesperson for the college.

A court date has not been set, but Adams said depositions were scheduled to be taken in September.

In announcing the project in August, Crouch said, "The college has needed to replace its outdated stadium facilities for a long time, and Scott County High School needs a site for a football field."

In addition, the college will build a residence hall with meeting rooms and cafeteria next to the stadium. The hall, which will house 140 people, will be used by the Bengals during camp.

Georgetown Mayor Warren Powers said funding for the \$3 million stadium will be divided as follows: \$1.25 million from Georgetown College, \$750,000 from the Scott County Board of Education, \$500,000 from the city of Georgetown and \$500,000 from Scott County.

"It'll be great for us," Powers said. "I'm glad the county and the city government got together to help the young people out."

The deal with the Bengals is a seven-year contract, said Emily Williams, spokesperson for the college's sports information department.

The complex will be on Lemons Mill Road, one-half mile from Georgetown College's main campus. In addition to football, the facility also would be used for concerts, summer camps and community events.

--30--

**Six Flags chaplain aiming
to reproduce his ministry**

By Matthew Brady

**Baptist Press
9/27/96**

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP)--James Armstrong, hair bristling in a crew cut and biceps bulging, looks like a lifeguard or a coach.

His real job is a little of both, and more. The 26-year-old seminary student is the chaplain at Six Flags Over Texas.

--more--

The job title brings up more questions than answers.

"So what do you do, pray for people when they get on the rides?" is a common question Armstrong fields from church youth groups.

Armstrong does a lot of praying, but mostly for the people who make the rides go round, the grounds sparkle and the food sizzle.

The 20,000 visitors who flow through Six Flags each day see the Arlington, Texas, park as a place of fun and relaxation. But for the 2,500 seasonal employees, more than half of them teenagers, it can be a demanding environment, physically and emotionally.

For many of the young workers, Six Flags becomes their world. The park offers free passes for employees and their friends, and it organizes a volleyball league each year.

"They come here, they work, they play, they eat," Armstrong said. "This becomes a subculture unto itself. Because it is a subculture, people can get lost out here."

Six Flags officials said they hope Armstrong will help keep the subculture healthy and happy.

"We have a lot of teenagers out here, and a lot of peer pressure," said Dan Linehan, human resources manager at the park. "He's here to help, and to help people get help if they need it."

Armstrong, who attends Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, is in his second year as chaplain. His salary is paid by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and he reports to Barry Creamer, pastor of Woodland West Baptist Church in Arlington.

Six Flags trains Armstrong and gives him access to all areas of the park, on the condition that he not evangelize the employees or promote one faith over another.

Armstrong is the third chaplain in the six-year history of the program, the only one of its kind sponsored by Texas Baptists.

The park welcomes Armstrong's presence because of the potential benefit to workers.

"You can't have too many tools to help your employees these days," Linehan said. "It's just one more tool that we have to help people get through."

Before taking the job, Armstrong said he puzzled over the restrictions on proselytizing.

"I'm a minister, but I can't tell people about Christ? So what do I do?" Armstrong remembers asking himself.

The answer has come as Armstrong has walked the park and worked side by side with employees, helping them resolve arguments with boyfriends, girlfriends and supervisors. By building relationships, he said he believes he gives people a positive view of religion.

"They get a different glimpse of what the church is and what it's about," he said. "Down the road, when a crisis comes, I'm going to be the first person they call."

The job has strengthened his belief that God draws people even in the absence of preaching and proselytizing.

"Many times, if people are interested in spiritual things, they'll bring it up. I don't have to bring it up," he said.

Armstrong's baby face belies his seven years' experience as a police officer in the Air Force and Air Force Reserves. He served in Operation Desert Storm and in Operation Just Cause in Central America and brings a similar sense of mission to his ministry.

He doesn't carry a Bible, but rather a cellular phone that keeps him in touch with the needs of his diverse congregation. If an employee is in the hospital, Armstrong is notified. He is also apprised of births, deaths and financial needs. He has conducted a wedding at the park, and he said he has contemplated doing a baptism.

Linehan said the park has considered making Armstrong an employee. Although the financial security appeals to him, Armstrong said it would cut off one of his most fertile fields of ministry: the homes of employees and ex-employees.

Now, he has the freedom to give employees rides, visit with their parents or help them get aid from local charities.

Tara Selman, 23, is one of the people whom Armstrong has been able to walk with through tough times.

On a recent afternoon, Selman bounced up to Armstrong with a smile on her face.

She works at Chubby's, a hamburger stand in the park.

"It's the best job I've had," she said.

In the middle of a divorce, and with two children and no car, she often finds herself needing a ride or an emotional boost after a long day.

Armstrong's wife, Wendy, provides the rides, and he offers words of encouragement.

"He goes out of his way," Selman said. "He does whatever he possibly can."

Texas Baptists pay Armstrong \$5,000 for what is supposed to be a part-time ministry. But he works at the park full time. This summer, he established a separate ministry, GraceWorks Inc., to help raise money and to promote similar ministries in other amusement parks nationwide.

Occasional jobs as an actor supplement his budget. Armstrong has portrayed a law-enforcement official on several episodes of "Walker, Texas Ranger," as well as on several re-enactments for investigative stories by local TV station KXAS. Although they are not speaking parts, they help pay the bills and give him a chance to rub shoulders with people such as actor Chuck Norris.

"I tried to get him to let me do his wedding," Armstrong said.

They have a lot to talk about when they get together, he said. Both had the same job in the military.

His acting career got started in 1987 when he worked for McDonald's, and they featured him in a national commercial. Now, Armstrong has an agent at Spotlight Talent in Fort Worth.

"It's been a pretty fun life so far," he said, but adding he wants to focus on his ministry.

Born in Massachusetts, Armstrong moved around frequently because of his father's Army career.

He graduated from high school in El Paso, Texas, and earned his bachelor's degree from East Texas Baptist University. He currently is working on a master of divinity degree at the seminary.

Armstrong said he believes his Six Flags ministry is special.

"There's one thing I can give them as a chaplain that the park can't provide, and that's love," he said.

The thought of preaching from a pulpit or serving on a traditional church staff after graduation does not appeal to him.

"They are not reaching out to people who would never come to church," he said. "I'm out where the people are."

--30--

Copyright, 1996, Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Reprinted by permission.

**Gillhams' 'The Life' series
to be aired by FamilyNet, ACTS**

By C.C. Risenhoover

**Baptist Press
9/27/96**

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--"The Life," a video series by Bill and Anabel Gillham's video series, will be featured on the Family Enrichment Series (FES) in October.

FES, produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, is telecast by FamilyNet on Fridays at 10 p.m. Eastern and by ACTS on Sundays at 11 p.m. Eastern. FamilyNet is the RTVC's broadcast television service. ACTS, carried on the Odyssey channel, is its cable television service.

Gillham is president of Lifetime Guarantee Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, and with his wife hosts a nationally syndicated radio program called "Lifetime Guarantee." He is a former professor of psychology at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and she is a former public school teacher. The couple has four sons.

Gillham is author of the book "Lifetime Guarantee," and with his wife co-authored "He Said, She Said." She is author of "The Confident Woman" and "A Stillness in the Storm."

Mars Hill Productions of Stafford, Texas, which has been producing award-winning evangelistic dramas and documentaries since 1978, partnered with Lifetime Guarantee Ministries to produce "The Life" video series. The series is based on Galatians 2:20, which reads: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered himself up for me."

About the content of the Gillhams' video series, Fred Carpenter, co-founder of Mars Hill, said, "I have walked hundreds of people through their materials. Time and again I have seen God use these truths to transform lives, heal broken marriages and set people free from years of bondage and addiction."

--more--

Kay Arthur, founder of Precept Ministries, said, "We need to check out every teaching we hear in light of the whole counsel of God. And when you get into the whole counsel of God, you're going to see ... what Bill and Anabel (Gillham) are teaching."

"The Life" video series is based on Gillham's book, "Lifetime Guarantee." The series includes an eight-minute 30-second introduction, 11 sessions of 30 to 40 minutes each and a study guide. The series was filmed in a home group setting with the idea that it would be used by Bible study groups and in Sunday school curriculums.

For FES the series has been adapted to four 60-minute programs.

--30--

**50 years: Truett Cathy credits
Bible for Chick-fil-A success**

By Marcia Bost

**Baptist Press
9/27/96**

JONESBORO, Ga. (BP)--In his 50 years of feeding people, Truett Cathy has found no conflict between biblical principles and business practices. "They go hand in hand. The scripture tells how to operate a business," he commented.

Beginning with the Dwarf Grill which he had built with scrap and surplus material in 1946 in Hapeville, Ga., Cathy used those principles to expand to 691 Chick-fil-A units open in shopping malls, college campuses, and freestanding Dwarf Houses. Recent additions include units at Hartsfield Airport and in Canada and South Africa.

"As far as we can determine, I'm the only person living who's been operating a restaurant in the same place for 50 years," Cathy said. Part of the anniversary celebrations included the opening of Truett's Grill in Morrow, Ga., which features '40s decor including stainless steel, glass bricks, an old motorcycle, and old automobiles in the parking lot. Another special event included the issuing of a commemorative bottle by the Coca-Cola Company.

"God called me into the restaurant business as surely as he called other people in their professions," Cathy commented. "To me, it's a ministry." People are often seeking more than food, he said. He also pointed out Jesus Christ often taught his disciples around the dining table.

Well known for closing his restaurants on Sundays, Cathy made that decision 50 years ago when he was keeping the grill open 24 hours a day. "The Lord has blessed us because of our stand. People respect that stand even though some don't even go to church," he said. Because company policy is consistent, leases specify that even those units in malls, the airport and grocery stores are allowed to stay closed.

Closing on Sunday gives the company an added edge, Cathy pointed out. "We're able to attract the caliber of employee who appreciates Sunday off," he said.

A member of First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Cathy has taught 13-year-old boys in Sunday school for 40 years. When he tells them about observing the Lord's Day, he asks them, "How would you feel if my restaurants were open and the cash register jingling on Sunday and I tried to teach you?" He adds, "One implied that I would be a hypocrite."

Despite his success, Cathy sees material things as secondary.

"The important things are your relationship with Jesus Christ and your relationships with family members, loved ones, and friends," he said. "I've found joy sharing God's blessings and being a channel to others, particularly to young people."

With a foster home opening soon in Henry County, Cathy will support 10 such homes for youngsters with difficult circumstances. One is located in Brazil where his daughter and son-in-law, Trudy and John White, served with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for more than 10 years. He counts the 80 foster children among his grandchildren.

"They all call me 'Grandpa,'" he said with a smile. "I tell them that those who call me 'Grandpa' get more than those that don't." He really has 12 natural grandchildren with two more adopted ones, "who might as well be."

Chick-fil-A also maintains a partnership with Berry College (Georgia) and provides half scholarships for 90 students through the WinShape program. (The college provides the other half of the scholarship.) More than 1,500 boys and girls have participated in a two-week summer camp by the same name, held at the college during the last 10 years.

--more--

Every young person who works two years for Chick-fil-A also receives a \$1,000 scholarship. More than 11,000 scholarships have been awarded to young people attending 1,200 universities nationwide. A sculpture was dedicated last year in Atlanta commemorating the \$10 million awarded by the company.

Cathy also feels an obligation to the more than 30,000 young people who have worked at Chick-fil-A "to see that they are properly motivated and trained to be successful." Their job with the company is often their first, he pointed out.

Success is one of his favorite topics. "In my opinion, we glorify God in our successes not in our failures," he commented. "I'm persuaded that it's true that God intends all of us to be successful."

His 1989 book, *It's Easier to Succeed than to Fail*, outlined his business principles and told the story of Chick-fil-A. He expects his second book, not yet published, to be more successful: it will be titled *How to Make a Living Without Working*. Sixty to 80 percent of workers don't enjoy what they're doing, he pointed out.

That's not a problem Cathy has. Once he's in the car and headed to work, he can hardly wait to arrive, even if he knows that problems are waiting for him.

"There's always a solution to the problem, you just have to find the right one," he said. "As my pastor, Dr. Charles Carter, says, the problem is only temporary. It's how you handle the problem that makes the difference." And there's hardly a day without a problem, he noted.

At 75, Cathy has officially shifted into "second gear." "There's still a lot I want to accomplish," he said. He no longer attends all the openings of every new unit, having delegated that to sons Dan and Bubba. "They've had a major role all along," he said, "and my daughter likewise." Now that John is on staff with the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., Trudy still works one day a week at the Chick-fil-A there.

Cathy doesn't know what he would have done differently. "We do learn by our mistakes, and we made some mistakes," he remembered.

The company has grown beyond his highest expectations and "exceeded any goals I might have set for myself." Chick-fil-A has an aggressive plan to add 50 units a year, he said. "We've grown until we can comfortably do that."

The company is now the third largest chicken restaurant chain in the nation and the largest privately owned chain. Cathy doesn't expect the company will go public.

--30--

Marcia Bost writes for the Georgia Baptist Index.

HOUSE MAIL

F I R S T C L A S S	(BP)	BAPTIST PRESS 901 Commerce #750 Nashville, TN 37234
	Southern Baptist Library and Archives	