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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 9, 1989

89-118

Report: religiously oriented  
investment scams increasing

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)--More than 15,000 Americans have lost almost \$500 million during the past five years as a result of religiously oriented investment scams, according to a report released Aug. 7.

"Preying on the Faithful: The False Prophets of the Investment World," based on a survey of state securities agency enforcement cases, was released by the North American Securities Administrators Association and the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

The report points to "an alarming increase in the number of investment schemes peddled to religious people." It cites a variety of religiously oriented schemes, including "self-proclaimed 'born again' financial planners, con artists claiming to be endorsed by local and national church officials and givers of 'divinely inspired' investments advice" about coins, precious metals, real estate, stocks, and oil and gas wells.

"Religiously oriented scams are one of today's hottest tickets for investment swindlers," said John C. Baldwin, the association's president and director of the Utah Division of Securities. "The problem here is not religion but the growing number of swindlers who cynically exploit religious faith in order to fleece unsuspecting members of the flock."

The report includes a list of reasons for the rise in religiously oriented investment schemes:

-- Many of the scams are based on dire predictions of imminent financial and social chaos.

-- The tight-knit structure of many religious groups is a perfect environment for an investment swindler.

-- Specialized media outlets, including religious magazines and radio stations, make targeting members of religious groups easy.

-- The schemes frequently involve investments that are claimed to have some connection to a church or religious institution.

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-- Perpetrators of such scams often equate faith in their schemes with religious faith.

"Con artists are concerned with matters of ethics and religious beliefs only insofar as they can be used to run a scam," said James H. McIlhenny, Council of Better Business Bureaus president. "They will go to any length, including the exploitation of churches and deeply held religious beliefs, if they think it will work. They will take their 30 pieces of silver any way they can get them."

The report also lists tips for avoiding such scams:

-- Be wary of investments that seem closely tied to a particular religious belief. "It makes little sense that an investment opportunity would be available only to members of a specific church or faith," the report says.

-- Be cautious if the promoter of an investment opportunity tries to capitalize on connections or a leadership position within a religious group.

-- Be on guard if a new church member springs up with a "surefire" investment scheme. "Some con artists will waste little or no time in worming their way into a religious circle," the report warns. "Find out who you are dealing with and what their background, if any, is within the church."

-- Look closely at investments promoted by fellow church members. "Keep in mind that one of the con artist's most persuasive hooks will be the testimony of your friends and fellow believers," the report advises.

-- Ignore claims that religiously based investments are unregulated. According to the report, "Virtually all investment opportunities, including church bonds, come under the scope of state and federal securities or commodities laws."

-- Check out any promoter and his investment opportunity. "Don't suspend your doubt about an investment just because the promoter has made some claims about church connections," the report says. "All promoters and investors should be checked out thoroughly before money changes hands."

-- Don't give a break to a swindler who hides behind religion. "Once discovered, investments swindlers promoting schemes to church members sometimes plea for Christian forgiveness," the report concludes. "Others will warn of the danger to the church or the greater faith if the scam is exposed. Don't listen to these self-serving appeals."

"If you suspect that you have been approached or taken by a con artist, report them to your state securities agency. Don't be taken advantage of for a second time by being talked into letting an investment crook off the hook. He or she will just take the opportunity to move on to greener pastures -- and new victims."

Hong Kong missionaries vote  
strategic evangelism plan

By Kathie Chute

HONG KONG (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong have adopted a strategy that takes mission work beyond 1997, the year China regains control of Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Baptist Mission organization voted 33-5 in July to channel the majority of its personnel and financial resources into starting churches. In the past, the missionaries focused on Christian publishing, education, social ministry and medical institutions.

The new strategy includes a "base staffing plan" that places essential personnel positions into four categories: mission administrators; institutional workers; "church and home" missionaries, primarily homemakers; and workers related to church planting. Missionaries in the latter category can work in field evangelism, social services, youth and student ministries, discipleship training, music or religious education.

According to the plan, all missionaries assigned to Hong Kong should fill one of the base staffing plan positions once the strategy is in place. However, a statement included with the strategy promises that no missionary will be forced to choose between changing assignments or resigning.

The new strategy also calls for any missionary associated with an English-language church -- unless the missionary is pastor -- to be involved in a Chinese-language church by the end of 1989. Additionally, the principal church involvement of all Hong Kong missionaries should be in a new church, under five years old, by 1991.

The new Hong Kong strategy is part of a move among the five Southern Baptist mission organizations in eastern Asia to focus on evangelism and church planting. Missionaries in Macao, Japan and Taiwan already are implementing their new plans. Missionaries in South Korea are conducting a self-study and will decide on a new strategy next year.

The reason for the change in Hong Kong strategy is twofold, said mission Administrator Larry Ingram.

The first is that "the institutions are reasonably mature, and most don't depend on our help," Ingram said. "The second reason is the (Southern Baptist) Foreign Mission Board's new (church-planting) emphasis. In a sense, we were required to come up with a new strategy."

However, Hong Kong missionaries are "still institution-oriented," Ingram pointed out. Many of them "feel that's how they can be best used."

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The new base staffing plan provides for only eight of the mission's 45-plus key personnel to continue work in four institutions: Hong Kong's Baptist Press, which provides religious curriculum to Chinese around the world; Hong Kong Baptist College; Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary; and the Baptist Communications Center, which produces audio-visual materials for the region.

In the past, missionaries were assigned to Hong Kong primarily to work in institutional ministries. Even though the mission organization asked for field evangelists, those requests were not filled until a few years ago, Ingram said. The first missionaries appointed as evangelists arrived in Hong Kong in 1981.

Since that time, several missionaries have filled non-institutional assignments. As a result, Ingram said, the mission's complexion has changed, and that has spurred a need to change the way the mission does its work.

"The majority (of Hong Kong missionaries) realized there has not been a lot of growth in getting people to church," Ingram added. He noted that 20 years ago, only 10 percent of Hong Kong's people were Christian; only half of those were Protestant. Over the years, those figures have not changed.

Missionaries will continue to support and encourage other Baptist institutions in Hong Kong defined as "contact" institutions because of their contact ministries with unbelievers, even though they may not contribute directly to church starts. Contact institutions include the mission's medical work, Baptist schools and social services.

Also, a strategy group continually will evaluate the mission's work in light of its goals. The mission administrator and two part-time ministry coordinators will form a coordinating group to oversee plans developed by the strategy group. In October, the mission will elect the ministry coordinators and a committee to revise policies to match the new strategy.

The new plan faced opposition from some missionaries. Ingram said the opposition came in two forms: those who think the new strategy goes too far and those who think it does not go far enough. However, most missionaries agree the strategy is a step in the right direction.

"We need to go much further," said Larry Harris, a missionary appointed as a church planter. "The tragedy is we just don't have that much time."

The mission should target "geographical areas instead of people groups" for evangelization, Harris said, explaining that Hong Kong living is very compact with large concentrations of people.

Much of Hong Kong consists of housing estates, which are subsidized government housing developments. Each estate has five or six buildings, and each building rises 35 stories with 800 apartments and about 3,200 people.

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"These are the people that cannot leave Hong Kong in 1997," Harris said. "If we're serious about reaching people before 1997, we've got to look at these areas where there is no evangelical Christian group."

Missionary Dick Lusk said the strategy "ignores the international nature of Hong Kong" because it focuses on work in either English or Chinese. No other language group is included in the strategy, said Lusk, the pastor of English-speaking Kowloon Baptist Church. Large communities representing many Asian cultures live in Hong Kong.

"No one can question the need for evangelization and new work," Lusk added. But he raised another concern with the Hong Kong strategy. Noting the Foreign Mission Board's past emphasis on an individual's sense of call to a particular work, Lusk said the missionary's call "is not even being discussed" in implementing the new strategy.

Still, most missionaries acknowledge the approach of 1997 "creates a sense of urgency" in the new strategy, Ingram explained. "We need to reach as many people as we can. If we do that, the new churches will come."

Missionaries don't know if they will be allowed to remain in Hong Kong after 1997, so they chose to adopt plans that "could go on for 50 years or more," said Nancy Addison, chairman of the committee that helped write the new strategy.

In 1997, Great Britain's lease on Hong Kong will expire and sovereignty over the territory will revert to China.

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New Baptist academy  
in Budapest on schedule

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press  
9/9/89

BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP)--The new International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest, expected to open on schedule next July, is taking shape.

Faculty members are being enlisted, a building on the campus of the Hungarian Baptist seminary is being renovated and excitement is high, reported Southern Baptist representative Errol Simmons, the academy's associate director.

The preparations may seem rather routine to outsiders, but the academy is in Eastern European country, Baptists there noted.

The new school will provide biblical and theological studies for lay pastors and other Baptist leaders from Central and Eastern Europe. Instruction will include practical topics, such as sermon preparation and delivery, teaching methods, discipleship training, missions and evangelism, music, and youth ministry. English courses will be offered year-round.

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Simmons, of Franklinton, La., and his wife, Mary, of Laurel, Miss., moved to Budapest in January to work with the new school after serving in Spain 14 years. He is assisting academy director Laszlo Gerzenyi, a former pastor who teaches at the Hungarian Baptist seminary.

Simmons taught at the Spanish Baptist seminary and directed its extension department and a correspondence program that had more than 5,000 students. He also was a pastor in Spain. Mrs. Simmons taught organ and piano at the Spanish seminary.

"Our work with the Hungarian Baptists is going very well," Simmons said. "We have been warmly received. They have invited me to preach and to attend many of their baptism services and other functions."

The Simmonses reportedly are the first foreign religious workers to receive official visas from Hungary. With the new openness sweeping through Hungarian political life, they have received "excellent cooperation" from the government, Simmons said.

The academy was even mentioned by Matayas Szuros, president of Hungary's national assembly, in a speech before the European Baptist Federation Congress, held in Budapest in July. The school, said Szuros, is a sign of cooperation between Hungarian Baptists and the European federation.

The government has made some helpful provisions for books and materials to be used in setting up the school, Simmons said.

One of the academy's major goals is to develop a Bible-teaching curriculum for Eastern Europe, using writers from the region who will tailor materials for their own cultures.

The academy is expected to attract Baptists from Eastern European countries currently unable to attend classes in their own countries or in the West because of travel limitations or currency restrictions. Students may include some Eastern European Baptists who have been unable to visit the West for decades, Simmons said.

The academy is being sponsored by Southern Baptists in partnership with the European Baptist Federation and Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, with which the school is affiliated.

The school "has already captured the imagination and hopes of European Baptists, both east and west," said Keith Parker, director of Southern Baptist work in Europe. "When we presented the plan at first, there were many questions, but in light of the urgent need and great potential to meet that need through (the academy), it caught on quickly."

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Parker said the "phenomenal attendance" at the European Baptist Federation Congress in Budapest is "symptomatic of the radical changes in Eastern Europe today. The great majority of Baptists in Europe are in the East, and most pastors are lay pastors. Before it has opened its doors, many Eastern Europeans already claim (the academy) as their international training place."

School officials have set a maximum enrollment of 40 students for each of four two-week sessions next summer, Simmons said, and they will limit enrollment of Hungarian Baptists to make classes available to others.

Workers are renovating a five-story building for partial use by the academy on the campus of the Hungarian Baptist seminary in Budapest, which will share facilities with the new school. Work is approaching completion, and the school should be ready for partial occupancy by September, Simmons said. Several Southern Baptist volunteer construction teams have worked on the seminary building.

Amid their other duties, the Simmonses have been studying the 44-letter, 14-vowel Hungarian language. It is proving to be the most difficult of the six languages he has studied, Simmons said, because it is unrelated to any other language.

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Creswell is overseas correspondent for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

New European Baptist leader  
wants to be bridge builder

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press  
9/9/89

BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP)--Building bridges among European Baptists will be a top priority for Karl-Heinz Walter, a German Baptist pastor and the newly elected general secretary for the European Baptist Federation.

Walter, 56, has been pastor of Bremerhaven (West Germany) Baptist Church since 1978. He succeeds Knud Wumpelmann of Denmark, EBF leader for the past nine years.

Walter was elected by the federation's council just before the 10th EBF Congress, held in Budapest July 26-30. The federation is a fellowship of 27 Baptist unions in 22 European countries and Israel, representing a total membership of 1.1 million people.

The federation has working relationships with Southern Baptists through missionaries and other ties. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board turned over ownership of Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to the federation in May.

Because of the variety among Baptists in Europe, Walter said, "I think one of the important things for the EBF is to build bridges, to help us to understand each other and even care for each other."

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European Baptists also must share their experiences of living and ministering amid Europe's fast-changing conditions, he said, noting, "We have common problems."

Finding how to establish strong Baptist churches in large cities, for example, is a question faced by East and West German Baptists alike, as well as Baptists throughout Europe. German Baptists in both nations also are asking questions about how to deal with new religions, Walter said.

Baptists who gain expertise in particular areas of ministry must share it with others, he stressed. Soviet Baptists are just beginning to be able to do social ministry, for example.

"This is a challenge to help and give some input for those countries who are further along in this area or who have more experience," he said. In another area, Walter said, he had always assumed ministry to Muslims was "almost impossible." But he was thrilled to discover Baptist churches in France which have succeeded in such ministry.

Europe is expecting major changes as it moves towards being much more united in 1992 with the coming of the continent-wide European Economic Community. "It may be necessary (for the EBF) to have some relationship to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, similar to what the Baptist World Alliance has with the United Nations," Walter said.

Evangelism must remain a top priority for European Baptists, he affirmed: "The situation in Western Europe is always said to be difficult for evangelism. This is true. I come out of a city where the churches have no life, and people don't go to church. But nevertheless, we have found people are open to the gospel, and so I think we have a number of very interesting models of evangelistic approaches appropriate to the people in Europe.

"If we want to give people a meaningful life, we must really live and teach our relationship to the risen Christ."

Non-Christians suffer from loneliness and feelings of being helpless, he said, noting, "We have to bring them a new assurance that those who belong to Christ, he will take care of."

Walter expects to remain at his church through November, then to move the EBF office from Copenhagen, Denmark, to a city in West Germany, probably Hamburg.

A native of West Germany, Walter is a graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary at Hamburg and also studied social psychology at the University of Hamburg.

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He directed the youth department of the Baptist Union of West Germany. He also served on youth committees of the EBF and the Baptist World Alliance and planned youth congresses in Zurich, Brighton, England, and Hamburg, as well as a BWA youth conference in Portland, Ore.

Fluent in English, Walter has visited the United States several times and knows numerous Southern Baptists. He has studied the work of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

But he emphasized that European Baptists do not have time for the "theological struggles" which have rocked Southern Baptists in recent years. "Our time has too many problems for this," he said.

A slogan adopted by young people at the Oregon conference, Walter said, is directing his thinking: "I count; Christ cares."

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Creswell is overseas correspondent for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

To other Gaza woes,  
add more paper work

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press  
9/9/89

GAZA (BP)--Southern Baptist workers in Gaza are being required to obtain new work permits valid for only six months instead of a year.

Three of the new permits have been received, and workers hope to obtain the others soon, said Southern Baptist representative Dona Fitzgerald. The permits are required for continued presence in Gaza.

Ten Southern Baptist career workers and three volunteers serve in Gaza, most in connection with a nursing school in Gaza City.

New guidelines were adopted by the government following the June 22 kidnapping of Christopher George, an American who directed the work of a humanitarian agency, Save the Children Federation, in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. He was released unharmed the next day.

At the time of the kidnapping, two Southern Baptist families left Gaza for several days and other workers remained indoors amid fears that other Americans in Gaza might become kidnapping targets. So far, no other kidnappings have occurred.

In Gaza, strikes that halt most commerce and motor vehicle traffic continue to be called each week. An 8 p.m. curfew remains in effect, Fitzgerald said. Stores continue to open only for a few hours in the morning. But fewer major demonstrations have occurred in recent weeks, she said.

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During one such demonstration earlier this year, Southern Baptist representative Shawn Hodges of Hickory, N.C., and her 7-year-old son, Daniel, were caught in a crossfire when demonstrators threw a firebomb at Israeli soldiers, who then opened fire. The two escaped unharmed.

Other workers have narrowly missed bombs and thrown stones.

Despite the ongoing problems, new Southern Baptist workers are scheduled to arrive in September to work at the School of Allied Health Sciences, Fitzgerald said. They are Stacey Patterson of Humble, Texas, a nurse, and David and Deborah Peterson of Friendswood, Texas, and Dallas, respectively. Peterson will teach science at the school.

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Baptist theologians challenged  
to apply evangelism methods

Baptist Press  
9/9/89

By Tim Fields & Johnnie Johnson Scofield

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (BP)--Baptist theologians from 30 countries meeting in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, were told that theology and evangelism go hand in hand and were challenged to learn how to "speak the gospel in folksy language" so it will get the attention of people in today's world.

The 127 theologians representing Baptists from around the world explored the theme "The Gospel in its Wholeness" during the third Baptist International Conference on Theological Education July 30-Aug. 1. The conference was sponsored by the academic and theological education section of the Baptist World Alliance.

Joerg Swoboda, professor of theology at Baptist Seminary in Hamburg, Germany, encouraged the theological educators to learn how to transmit theology and spiritual information in everyday language.

"God presents us with the riches of his love," Soboda said, "but Jesus said 'I am the bread of life.'" Using that model, he told the theologians they should emphasize the relationship between Christian principles and a person's living relationship with Christ.

The German theologian also presented ways to encourage and help people make a start with Jesus and asked them to think seriously and carefully about how Christian pastors and evangelists give an invitation to follow Jesus.

Swoboda underscored the need to present Christian positions clearly and to justify those positions because "in today's world, more than one's own testimony is needed."

Paul S. Fiddes, principal of Regent's Park College of Oxford University in Oxford England, set the tone for the conference by emphasizing that wholeness centers in God. Because God is one and gives harmony to the whole universe, individuals are unified and society is unified, he said.

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"We are acutely aware today that exploitation of one part of the natural world leads to a crisis elsewhere, because our whole environment is interlinked in a living ecosystem," Fiddes said.

"In familiar phrases, there is 'one world,' 'a global village,' and we are voyaging on the small 'space-ship earth.' Cutting down the rain forests in South America leads to an over-heating of the atmosphere that will end in floods elsewhere. Pollution of the sea gets into a food chain that has consequences far beyond the original spillage. Extinction of one species upsets a balance that affects others."

Finding the wholeness of life is no easy task, Fiddes warned: "While rightly stressing the social and political areas of salvation, there might be a danger of neglecting the spiritual dimension.

"What is required is a willingness to work together with the God who desires wholeness, and who is humble enough to invite humankind to join him in his creative project."

"A basic thrust of the meeting was the awareness that theology and application of the gospel in wholeness, which is an evangelistic theme, go hand in hand," said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission and planning chairman and presiding officer of the conference.

"One goal of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas between theologians and theological educators from all parts of the world. We certainly accomplished that goal, because the theologians, mostly men and a few women, represented educational institutions in Europe, Latin America, Asia, Australia, Canada and the United States.

"Participants at the meeting felt the exchange of ideas was a most significant contribution of the conference and requested additional opportunities for exchanges between theologians from Baptist educational institutions throughout the world.

"We met in a Lutheran church because of convenience, but it became symbolic of the fact that when Christians find themselves in a secular society dominated by communism, they must cooperate if they are to be effective in sharing the gospel," he said.

One of the highlights of the conference was when a woman representative from Lebanon taught the group a chorus in Arabic titled "Peace at All Times," Walker said. During the conference, the woman received word from her husband to delay returning home because of intense fighting and shelling in her war-torn country.

Nearly 2,000 made decisions  
at church training conferences

NASHVILLE (BP)--A total of 1,914 public decisions for Christ were made during four Southern Baptist Sunday School Board church training department conferences this summer, where nearly 1,400 young people placed their names on the Youth Prayer Corps roster.

The conferences were held at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers.

Total attendance at the four weeks, two Summer Youth Celebrations and two Church Training Leadership Conferences, was 8,078, according to statistics compiled by the board's church training department, which changes its name to the discipleship training department Oct. 1.

The total decisions at all four conferences included 291 professions of faith, 1,378 rededications, 62 pledging to enter church vocations and 183 other decisions.

Meanwhile, by placing their names on the Youth Prayer Corps roster, 1,395 young people attending one of the four conferences signed pledge cards to pray at least 10 minutes each day.

At the Glorieta Summer Youth Celebration conference, 86 youth made professions of faith; 334, rededications; 23, church vocations; and 29 other. Attendance at the conference was 1,580, and 315 young people signed up to join the prayer corps.

At the Ridgecrest Summer Youth conference, where 2,523 attended, 133 professions of faith were made; 734, rededications; and 106 other. New youth prayer corps volunteers numbered 658.

During Church Training Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest, where attendance was 1,930, 68 made professions of faith; 277 rededicated their lives; 25 pledged to enter some type of church vocation; and 37 made other types of decisions. In addition, 370 young people signed up to pray 10 minutes each day with other Youth Prayer Corps volunteers.

During the Glorieta church training conference, 52 entered their names as prayer volunteers; four made professions of faith; 33, rededicated their lives; 14 decided to enter a church vocation; and 11 other decisions were made. Attendance at the conference was 961.

Hal Wingo meets the  
people challenge

By Jim Burton

NEW YORK (BP)--People magazine is one of the most widely circulated publications in the United States.

And People has one person whom many personally believe brings a special dimension to the magazine by his presence.

The difference people at People see in this person is what he believes.

"I'm talked of as the chaplain of the magazine," said Hal Wingo.

He is assistant managing editor for news, and the presence Wingo brings to People is distinctly Southern Baptist.

"We are all the product of what we are exposed to," said Wingo. "Because of the exposure I did have (to Southern Baptists), it was something that became very important to me."

Wingo is a 1957 graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and the son of a Southern Baptist pastor. His sister, Nancie Wingo, is a Southern Baptist missionary in Gaza. A son-in-law, Robert Dilday, is associate editor of the Virginia Baptist newspaper and son of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell Dilday.

After working 19 years in Manhattan, the native Texan can say wholeheartedly, "I love New York."

"It is the center of so much that happens," said Wingo of New York's influence in politics, business and communications.

Wingo joined Time-Life Inc., the parent company of People magazine, in 1963. He was a staff correspondent and later a senior editor for Life. From 1967 to 1970, Wingo was based in Hong Kong and covered the Vietnam war.

After returning to the United States, Wingo was part of a magazine development team that created People, which celebrates its 15th birthday this year.

"We invented the notion of personality journalism," said Wingo of a writing style that looks through the subject's eyes.

And the eyes through which People looks sometimes represent a bizarre, disjointed and changing social standard that Wingo admits doesn't always make him comfortable.

"On the whole I think the magazine is fair," he said.

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Yet, Wingo is confident that People is where he belongs in the marketplace. "All my life I tried to feel like I was doing with my life what God wanted me to do," he explained.

The challenge New York City represents to Southern Baptist ministry is one that Wingo has lived with for most of his adult life.

Besides being perceived as a regional denomination, Southern Baptists' belief in the authority of the Bible is not commonly shared in the international city.

"People don't accept the Bible as authority," said Wingo. "I think they have to see that it means something to me."

Confrontational evangelism won't work in New York City, he added, noting, "I think the way the gospel gets through to people here is on a one-on-one approach with a lot of questions."

Wingo's life revolves around his family, work and church. With his wife, Paula, Wingo is active in Greenwich Baptist Church near their home in southern Connecticut.

"He is a great asset to this church," said Pastor John Durham. "He is the moderator, deacon and a prime mover. You can count on Wingo to be there no matter what. He is the sort of fellow that a pastor dreams of having as a church member."

The city of Greenwich is very self-satisfied in terms of success, said Wingo. While ministry must center around a local church, that local church must have something to offer to the community, both in programs and image.

And Wingo enhances the church's image, Durham said: "Whenever he is called, as he frequently is, to be interviewed on the local radio or television, he always puts a plug in for the church.

"I'm sure most people can't imagine a fellow that travels in the kind of circles in which he travels, leads this sort of glamorous journalistic executive life, that he could be as committed a Christian. But he puts his church and the things connected to it first."

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