



Photo by Tracy Staton

Bench Warmer

Kyle Wilson, a freshman business major, studies for his Management 211 class on the bleachers at

the Drill Field Tuesday afternoon. Wilson said he was trying to catch up in his reading.

Pastor: CS churches unhurt by PTL's ministry scandal

By Stacey Babin
Reporter

Sex, blackmail, scandal — no, it's not college football in Texas. It's television evangelist Jim Bakker who has caused a major stir in TV ministry across the country.

Bakker resigned as president of the \$172 million PTL (Praise the Lord) organization after saying he had been blackmailed because of a sexual encounter with a church secretary seven years ago.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell, who has taken over Bakker's ministry, calls the ordeal an "unholy war."

But local reaction seems to be fairly sympathetic toward Bakker.

Dr. Malcolm Bane, pastor of the First Baptist Church of College Station, doesn't agree with evangelists' theology, but says the situation does point out that only God is good.

"All of us are sinners," Bane says.

"Preachers — we're sinners just like everybody else. People must put their faith in the mercy of God, not in a man."

He adds that the scandal could be detrimental to those who avidly watch and follow the TV ministry.

Bane believes this incident will not affect local congregations, but says it's too early to tell if it will have any long-range effects on others.

"PTL folks probably feel like — since Bakker admitted to this — he did the Christian thing, and they are forgiving him," he says.

Bane says that people, including evangelists such as Oral Roberts, would be better off if no comments were made against one another.

"People who are not Christians look at the fighting and start thinking all religion is bad," he says.

Society should not sit in the place of judges and condemn others, Bane says.

Reaction on campus is similar to Bane's.

Sophomore Chris Awalt, a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ, hopes other Christians stand behind these evangelists, although he doesn't believe in the evangelist theology.

"I just hope, putting all the evangelists' personal ambitions aside, that (the scandal) doesn't hurt their message," he says. "People have to put the message above the men."

Awalt also says it's a shame the situation had to happen in a religious organization and he feels people should keep things in perspective.

"Look at the Iran-Contra affair," he says. "People are not ready to abolish the presidency. I don't think this should ruin Christianity's reputation," he says.

Awalt also says the press has only aggravated the problem.

Hospitalized children find way to keep up schoolwork Illnesses don't stop youngsters from studying

HOUSTON (AP) — A heart monitor and intravenous equipment are silent schoolmates inside the isolation unit that is Carmen LePere's classroom.

Gowned and masked, LePere has arrived for a few minutes of study time at the bedside of a critically ill pupil.

"I think of myself as being one of the normalizing aspects of hospitalization," LePere said of her job as a hospital teacher. "When you come into a child's room with the schoolbooks and pencils and crayons that they are familiar with, it is very reassuring."

For 15 years LePere has been a teacher in the Houston Independent School District's Hospital Program, designed to keep children who are in the hospital from falling behind in their schoolwork.

LePere and 33 other teachers in 15 area hospitals work with school counselors, arranging to borrow the same textbooks, curriculum, and in many instances, projected lesson plans being used by the child's classroom teacher.

For a child to be eligible, his doctor must verify that the nature of the illness will keep the child out of school for at least four consecutive weeks. That time must be spent in the hospital or at home recuperating.

Because of the rapidly changing physical condition of some of the

"When you come into a child's room with the schoolbooks, and pencils and crayons that they are familiar with, it is very reassuring."

— Carmen LePere, hospital teacher

children, LePere said she must tailor the class periods to the child's capabilities on a day-to-day basis.

Headed by Francis Jackson, director of HISD's community services department, the program serves

about 200 students at any given time during the school year.

The program is geared to serve children confined to any hospital within the boundaries of HISD, no matter what the child's home district. HISD also has a reciprocal agreement with other districts.

"At one time or another we have had students from every state and foreign counties," Jackson said.

If a child is confined in a hospital within the district where no teacher is assigned, a homebound teacher will be assigned to the child, Jackson said.

The homebound program includes children with long-term physical illnesses who may never be in a regular classroom, as well as children who have a one-time illness or injury and will be going back to school within a period of weeks.

The hospital-bound and homebound programs serve about 1,700 students per year. Although they are geared for a nine-month school year, special arrangements are made for students who are in year-round programs.

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