

State and Local

Ministry helps small group of poor

Church provides aid for foreigners

By James Florez
Reporter

The Emmanuel Baptist Church in Bryan was once one of Bryan's most prominent churches, boasting a congregation of more than 200 people. Now, with its membership at a meager 35, many people in the community wonder if the church still exists.

Emmanuel Baptist, established in 1951, is not the typical Southern Baptist church that its red-bricked, tall-steeped exterior might suggest. It now caters to a congregation comprised mainly of Laotians, Mexicans and Cubans.

After a charismatic movement decimated the membership of his church, the church fell on hard times, says the Rev. Clyde Wilton, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist for the past 20 years.

"We welcomed all," Wilton says. "The charismatics came in throwing their hands up, saying 'hallelujah' and talking in tongues, and ran most of our stable members off."

After the charismatics' movement failed and they left, Wilton says the church's roll stood at about 15.

"Nobody wanted to be involved with a church that was a failure," he says. "We went down to nothing. There were times when only one or two showed up for services."

"A lot of people were saying, 'Look, you have a great opportunity to rebuild, but please don't involve me in it. I want to go where the action is already coming off.'"

Although the uncertainty of the church's future was frightening, Wilton says he used the opportunity to move the church's operation more into keeping with New Testament teachings, such as taking care of the poor.

"I visited several churches in the community," he says, "and I always asked myself, 'Where are the poor people? Who is taking care of their needs?'"

"Most people would commend the work we do. They say it is noble and kind to do this. But as for being active, one-on-one church members with these people — they are not interested."

— The Rev. James Marrow, assistant pastor

"We're not a prestigious church — we have a bunch of poor people here. If you are looking for prestige, you'll be disappointed here. For that reason, just about all of the Anglo-whites have gone."

The Rev. James Marrow, a Texas A&M graduate student who serves as assistant pastor, says that because of the church's ministry to the poor, its membership hasn't grown much.

"Most people would commend the work we do," Marrow says. "They say it is noble and kind to do this. But as for being active, one-on-one church members with these people — they are not interested."

Wilton says a high number of for-

eigners in the congregation has also hindered the church's growth.

"When American, English-speaking people come here and see all these foreigners, they want to go where their people are," he says.

Marrow adds, "The Mien, Cubans and Mexicans feel the same pressure. After a while, they feel the need to be with their own people and move on. Our membership is very transient."

Wilton says Emmanuel Baptist began to sponsor refugees shortly before the fall of South Vietnam, when the church sponsored a family of 13 Vietnamese. Since then, the church has sponsored families and individuals from Laos, Cambodia and Cuba.

Kao Meng Saetern, spokesman and translator for the Mien members of the congregation, says his family fled Laos nine years ago to escape communism.

"The communists, when they came, they were friendly — almost like Christian people," Saetern says. "Later, they changed their rules and made us work on farms. When the

communists took over, we became discouraged."

Wilton says the church provides free housing and financial support for the refugees until they are able to find work. He says after 21 days, the residents of the church's housing units are asked to help with their share of the utility costs. A garden also is planted each year to help cut food costs.

Marrow says the church's housing project is open to any individual in need, but warns that there are strict rules for those who live there.

"We have an agreement of discipline," Marrow says. "If they live here, they must attend church services."

"We are not a housing project. We provide for material needs to show our love for these people. We do this work so that they might hear the preaching of God's word and become believers."

Wilton's and Marrow's sermons are translated into Mien and Spanish by translators in a small room at the back of the church. Members can hear the translation through headphones connected to the seats in the church's sanctuary.

Although a proposed move by many of the Mien members of the congregation threatens to cut the church's enrollment even further, Wilton and Marrow are optimistic about the church's future.

Sex-for-leniency case against felony judge begins in Fort Worth

FORT WORTH (AP) — Tarrant County's senior felony judge goes on trial today in a sex-for-leniency case involving his love affair with a former prostitute.

State District Judge Tom Cave will be wearing civilian clothes rather than judicial robes as attorneys question potential witnesses who range from judges to junkies, prosecutors to prostitutes.

Cave, 57, faces felony charges of forcing female probationers to have sex with him in exchange for leniency in court. Attorney Ronald W. Aultman and bail bondsman Joe Dorsey Adams are charged with helping arrange the sexual liaisons.

In one instance, Cave is accused of engaging in sex with a probationer 90 minutes before ruling on her case.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin this morning, and officials say the case could last for weeks.

Jurors likely will hear accusations of sexual misconduct, police corruption and abuse of public trust. Although Cave and his co-defendants are the only ones charged with violating civil rights, Fort Worth police have come under fire, too.

Defense lawyers are expected to try to shift attention from the defendants to what they say was a runaway police investigation that ended up itself being probed by the U.S. Justice Department after a Fort Worth lawyer complained.

An FBI report on that matter still is being reviewed by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, a spokesman said Friday.

"This type of prosecution makes every judge in the state of Texas a potential target," Cave said last week. "These people have got their victims mixed up."

Police officials have refused comment since Cave's indictment Nov. 14. Police Capt. Jerry Blaisdell, who headed the initial investigation of Cave, said he and others were under strict orders by the Justice Department and the grand jury not to discuss the case.

The Cave investigation began almost two years ago as the judge's 34-year marriage was crumbling and as his love affair with Rachel Tallent, a 33-year-old former prostitute, was budding.

Tallent, to whom Cave was engaged until last year, was convicted twice of prostitution in 1981 and was on probation for cocaine possession when Cave met her. Prosecutors say she had sex with Cave in a hotel room in March 1984 and 90 minutes later appeared before him in court, where he refused to revoke her probation.

The jury is expected to hear accusations that Cave had sex with at least six women whose criminal cases were pending in Tarrant County courts. Six women have been subpoenaed as witnesses. One is coming from state prison; all have criminal records.

Cave, Aultman and Adams are charged with one federal felony count each of conspiracy to violate the women's civil rights. Cave also is charged with four misdemeanor civil rights counts and three counts of felony mail fraud.

Adams and Aultman also are charged with one misdemeanor civil rights violation and three counts each of mail fraud.

If convicted on all counts, Cave could be sentenced to a maximum of 29 years in prison, Adams 26 and Aultman 36. Each could be fined \$1 million.

Cave and Aultman could be disbarred if convicted. The judge could be removed from office.

Defense lawyers say some of the testimony presented to the grand jury was perjured, and they accuse police of using unscrupulous tactics — including electronic listening devices — to secure information about Cave.

"We're convinced that the government has literally manufactured a federal case out of this by twisting the words of witnesses, and we're hoping that other witnesses will feel free to come forward with the truth for the jury," Cave said.

Gun goes undetected; guard taken off duty

GRAPEVINE (AP) — A security guard at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport has been taken off duty for retraining after a woman claimed she carried a pistol through airport security barriers undetected, an airline official says.

Henry Conley, district director for Delta Air Lines, said that the airport's security company, Stanley Smith Security Inc., took the person who was on duty Saturday off duty to be reviewed and retrained "as a precautionary measure."

Freda Freeman of Terrell said she deliberately left a derringer pistol inside her purse as it went through an airport X-ray machine at Delta's Terminal 4-E to see what would happen.

Frank Freeman, her husband, told the *Dallas Morning News* the incident makes him "pretty damn nervous."

Mrs. Freeman said she remembered she was carrying the gun as she escorted her mother to the security gate Saturday morning while her husband parked their car.

The woman said she didn't want to leave her mother, who has Alzheimer's disease, so she decided to keep the gun in her purse.

After she walked through the gate, Mrs. Freeman told her husband about the incident.

Freeman said he notified a Delta supervisor who assured him he would notify the proper people.

Conley said removing the person from duty is standard procedure for the security company.

Airport officials never saw the woman's gun, Conley said. He said Freeman refused to give his name when he reported the incident and that Mrs. Freeman never talked to officials. The Freemans left the airport after Mrs. Freeman's mother got on her flight.

There was no videotape on the security system that could be reviewed to see if the gun actually passed through it, Conley said. The weapon should have shown up on the security system's viewing screen.

"Normally, it would be picked up if it were a gun," Conley said.

"I've got a terrible secret. If they only knew what I go through to stay thin."

When the extreme fear of being overweight becomes obsessive, it leads to unusual and harmful eating practices.

Anorexia and Bulimia are eating disorders which are becoming more prevalent. **Anorexia**, the excessive pursuit of thinness, can result in malnutrition, low blood pressure, loss of hair, irrational thinking and even death. **Bulimia**, compulsive eating binges followed by the purging of food, can lead to severe dental problems, kidney failure or cardiac arrest.

Warning Signals may vary, but often include:

- The secret fear of becoming fat
- Feeling out of control around food
- Binging on huge quantities of food and then purging, by vomiting, laxatives, or diuretics
- Feeling irritable, depressed and self-conscious
- Extreme dieting and exercise

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