

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Group: Clergy concealed abuse

Advocates target Baptist ministry

BY ROSE FRENCH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

The victims' advocates who dogged the Roman Catholic Church over sex abuse by its clergy have now turned their attention to the Southern Baptists, accusing America's largest Protestant denomination of also failing to root out molesters.

The Chicago-based Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests has started a campaign to call attention to alleged sex abuse committed by Southern Baptist ministers and concealed by churches.

The group presented a letter Monday to Southern Baptist Convention executive committee members in Nashville, asking the group to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on sex abuse and to create an independent review board to investigate molestation reports.

Church leaders concede there have been some incidents of abuse in Southern Baptist congregations, but say their hands are tied when it comes to investigating complaints across the denomination.

Unlike the Catholic Church, with its rigid hierarchy, Baptist churches are independent. They make their own decisions about hiring ministers and conducting investigations, Baptist leaders say. "They don't want to see this problem," said Christa Brown, a member from Austin, Texas, who says she was sexually abused as a child by a Southern Baptist minister. "That's tragic because they're imitating the same mistakes made by Catholic bishops."

In the past six months the group has received reports of about 40 cases of sexual abuse by Southern Baptist ministers, with some of the incidents dating back many years, Brown said. Leaders say abuse is typically unreported because being molested is such a painful experience that victims often wait years before stepping forward.

Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page said the denomination plans to teach its churches how to conduct background checks, and to require letters of recommendation for job candidates.

But he said the Southern Baptist Convention, which has 16.3 million members, does not have the legal authority to create an independent board to investigate abuse complaints.

"As much as possible within our structure, we're going to assist churches," Page said. "We're deeply concerned about this. We believe children are the most precious gifts from God."

Southern Baptists passed a resolution in 2002 urging its churches to discipline ministers guilty of sexual abuse and to cooperate with authorities in their prosecution.



AP PHOTO
Debbie Vasquez holds a photograph of herself at age 14 at her workplace in Irvington, Texas, on Tuesday. Vasquez says she was raped by a minister when she was 15.

But Brown said that's not enough. She says the Southern Baptists need an independent review board precisely because there's no clear chain of command among Baptist churches. The convention also does not keep a list of ministers who have been accused of abuse. Advocates say this means molesters could move from church to church.

"I believe kids are not safe in Southern Baptist churches," said Brown, who runs a Web site called the Voice to Stop Baptist Predators.

One member of the group, Debbie Vasquez, said she was raped by a Southern Baptist minister in Texas when she was 15 years old.

Now 48, Vasquez filed a lawsuit last year against the pastor, the Rev. Dale Amyx and his current church, Bolivar Baptist in Sanger, Texas, about 45 miles north of Dallas. She claims the church knew, or should have known, about Amyx's past.

Vasquez says she was raped when Amyx was a minister at the now-defunct Calvary Baptist Church in Lewisville, another town north of Dallas.

When she became pregnant with Amyx's child at age 18, church leaders forced her to go before the congregation and ask forgiveness as an unwed mother. But the congregation was never told it was Amyx's baby. The lawsuit claims Calvary Baptist helped Amyx get another job at a church in Arizona.

Amyx acknowledged in court documents that he had a sexual relationship with Vasquez and was the father of her child. Texas court records also show that Amyx was convicted in 1967 for giving beer to a minor.

NOBLESVILLE

Helen P. Brown

Helen P. Brown, 92, died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007. She was a resident of Noblesville and a former resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include her children, Marion L. and William F. Brown and Norma L. French; three sisters, Ivanelle and Katherine McCarty and Evelyn Hazel; a brother, Theodore Groseclose; three grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William Grover and Sylvia Mabel (Baker) Groseclose; her husband, Denzel Brown; and a daughter, Mary Alice Brown.

A service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Bluff Creek Cemetery.

INDIANAPOLIS

Ransom A. Hall

Ransom A. Hall, 78, died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007, at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

He was born Sept. 10, 1928, in Shady Grove, Ky. His parents were Sim and Maggie (Wesley) Hall. He was raised by his maternal grandparents, Ephraim and Sarah Wesley of Kingbee, Ky. He attended Kingbee School.

He married Dora (Wesley) Hall on May 28, 1947, in Somerset, Ky. They were married 59 years. Other survivors include three children, Carolyn K. (Wayne) Stinson of New Whiteland, Darrell Hall of Greenwood and Michael Hall of Shelbyville; a sister, Dolly Magee of Indianapolis; a half brother, Chester Hall of Lafayette; a half sister, Anna Burton of Remington; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Maggie Elizabeth Hall; and 11 brothers and sisters, Ernest, Everett, Perry, Kelly, Killus, Claudie, Nancy, Goldia, Siota, Tressie and Nellie.

He had been a boiler fireman for Chrysler Corp. for 33 years, retiring in 1986.

He was a member of the Kentucky Colonels, National Campers and Hikers Association, Hoosier Retirees, Golden Agers and Coffee Campers.

Ransom and his wife, Dora, were foster parents to 22 children. He enjoyed woodworking, camping, traveling, working in his garden and spending time with his dog, Maggie.

Franklin
Joshua Stephen Jarrett, 31
Greenwood
Marilynn I. Palmer, 80
ALberta L. Scott, 83
Nineveh
Ralph V. Simpson, 65
Indianapolis
Ransom A. Hall, 78
Elsewhere
Helen P. Brown, 92

The Rev. Don Quinn will conduct a service at 1:30 p.m. Friday at Jessen Funeral Home, 729 U.S. 31 North in Whiteland. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

FRANKLIN

Joshua Stephen Jarrett

Joshua Stephen Jarrett, 31, died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at his residence in Franklin.

Survivors include his parents, Stephen and Joann Jarrett; his fiancée, Rebecca Bennett; three daughters, Kimberly Nicole, Maycee Abigail and Sophia Priscilla Jarrett; a son, Joshua David Jarrett; and a brother, Jacob Matthew Jarrett.

A prayer service was conducted Monday at Church of the Nativity in Indianapolis. Little & Sons Funeral Home, Stop 11 Chapel handled arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to his children in care of Joann Jarrett to Little & Sons Funeral Home, 4901 E. Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis, IN 46237.

GREENWOOD

Marilynn I. Palmer

Marilynn I. Palmer, 80, died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007. She was a resident of Greenwood.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Ina Lee.

Survivors include two sons, Duane and Robert Palmer; and a sister, Elaine (Bob) Kimball.

A memorial service will be conducted at 6 p.m. Friday at G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. Friends may call from 3 p.m. until service time Friday at the funeral home.

GREENWOOD

Alberta L. Scott

Alberta L. Scott, 83, died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007. She was a

resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include five sons, Donald, Bill, Richard, David and Forrest W. Scott Jr.; a daughter, Cheryl Kellermeyer; three brothers, Donald, Bob and Ernie Barnes; two sisters, Edna Snoddy and Barbara Herrington; 15 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Ruth (Caylor) Barnes; her husband, Forrest W. Scott Sr.; and a daughter, Judith K. Yeager.

A service will be conducted at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service and Crematory, Greenwood Chapel, 481 W. Main St. in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 9135 N. Meridian St., Suite B4, Indianapolis, IN 46260.

Information: www.wilsonstpierre.com

NINEVEH

Ralph V. Simpson

Ralph V. Simpson, 65, Nineveh, passed away Monday, Feb. 19, 2007, after a brief illness.

He was born June 18, 1941, near Plainfield to Ralph Simpson and Eula (Hubbard) Simpson. He married Judy Wright on Jan. 9, 2002, in Las Vegas.

Ralph was vice president of operations at Milestone Construction, retiring in 2002. He had worked in the paving and construction industry since 1965. He also owned Ralph Simpson Inc.

Ralph's hobbies included travel, gambling, fishing, golfing and parading with his Mini-Mystics family. During his high school years at Decatur Central, he was known as "Bear" on the football team.

Preceding him in death were his parents; and a brother, Arthur "Jack" Simpson.

Ralph is survived by a sister, Phyllis Clark and her husband Bill; two daughters, Melissa Radde and her husband Benny of Sterling City, Texas, and Angela Hammons of Louisville, Ky.; a son, Ralph Simpson Jr. of Austin,

Texas; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and several cousins.

Ralph was a very giving individual and belonged to numerous organizations including Moose Lodge 398 of Columbus; Valley of Indianapolis Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite; Knights of the Sea; Johnson County Shrine Club; Johnson County Mini-Mystics; Grand Lodge of the State of Indiana-Nineveh No. 317; Murat Shrine; Murat Motor Corps; Murat Yacht Club; Kachina Klub; Sons of the American Legion Squad 0205; Elks USA 1818 of Franklin; and the Royal Order of Jesters.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at Carlisle & Son Funeral Chapel, 39 E. High St. in Mooresville, with a Masonic ceremony from 7 to 8 p.m. There will be a service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home with calling an hour prior. Burial will follow immediately at White Lick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607; or Murat Transportation Fund, 510 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

Families who want to include more information or include a photograph can purchase a custom obituary. Additional information may include memberships, employment, education and additional survivors.

The custom obituaries on this page have been paid for.

The Daily Journal takes obituary information from funeral homes. All obituaries must be verified with funeral homes before publication.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

Franklin Community School Corporation Kindergarten Registration 2007-2008

Will be held March 8, 2007

at

Creekside	6-8pm
Needham	5-7pm
Northwood	6-8pm
Union	6-8pm
Webb	5-7pm

Please bring:

1. Your child's immunization records
2. Your child's birth certificate
3. Proof of residency (utility bill, copy of lease, etc.)

Please contact your school if you have not received a packet or FCSC at 738-5800 to determine school.



Full Menu
• Breakfast
• Lunch
• Dinner

Steaks,
Ribs,
Chicken,
Sandwiches

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Hours: Mon-Sun 6am-10pm
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