



of Elliott's Virginia Beach property located 20 feet from the home of an African-American neighbor.

The Virginia court cited a 1992 U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down a Minnesota law that banned cross burning carried out "on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender."

But in this case, the high court ruled that the intimidation and terror instilled by a cross-burning act outweighed any speech value the act may have because, according to O'Connor, First Amendment rights "are not absolute."

However, a plurality of the justices found constitutional problems with a 1968 amendment to Virginia's law that said the act of cross burning itself was sufficient to prove intent to intimidate. O'Connor said some cross-burning ceremonies should be protected as free speech -- including the one in which Black participated.

Justice Clarence Thomas, the court's only African-American member, issued a passionately worded dissent to part of O'Connor's opinion, saying "the majority errs in imputing an expressive component to the activity in question." Calling the Klan a "terrorist organization," Thomas said that because cross burning in American history "has almost always meant lawlessness and understandably instills in its victims well-grounded fear of physical violence," the act itself could not be a constitutionally acceptable way of expressing ideas.

Virginia's ban was entirely constitutional because it "prohibits only conduct, not expression," Thomas said. "And, just as one cannot burn down someone's house to make a political point and then seek refuge in the First Amendment, those who hate cannot terrorize and intimidate to make their point."

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Anthony Kennedy and David Souter issued an opinion dissenting from the entire ruling, saying the law was too restrictive of free-speech rights.

With their ruling, the justices returned the case to the Virginia Supreme Court for further proceedings consistent with their decision.

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Hemphill resigns  
at Southwestern

By Mark Wingfield

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) —Ken Hemphill announced today his resignation as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Hemphill, who has led the seminary nine years, will become national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth, a new initiative of the Southern Baptist Convention. Hemphill will complete the current academic term before moving to Nashville, Tenn., where he will be jointly employed by the SBC Executive Committee and Lifeway Christian Resources.

Hemphill announced the change to a packed chapel audience of students, faculty, staff and trustees. Trustees are expected to appoint a presidential search committee this afternoon.

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GBC effort to influence Shorter trustees  
revealed in e-mail exchange

By John Pierce

ROME, Ga. (ABP) -- While Shorter College and the Georgia Baptist Convention battle in court over ownership of the school, a recently subpoenaed e-mail exchange reveals an effort to influence the school's board of trustees that convention leaders have previously denied.

In a Feb. 8, 2002, e-mail message to GBC Executive Director Robert White, retired pastor Nelson Price of Marietta, Ga., then a newly elected Shorter trustee, thanked White for allowing him to meet with members of the convention's administrative committee to discuss the college.

Though he had not yet attended trustee orientation or his first meeting with the board, Price requested additional information from White in order "to influence the trustees."

"If some persons with a knowledge of the Shorter board of trustees can do a bit of analysis of the trustees we might find that we can be in a position much quicker [than] it initially appeared to influence the trustees," Price wrote. "We could be in a posture of influence within two years."

Price added it would be helpful to him to "know who might be likely friends." He also told White that an analysis of the current board notes "when strong advocates of independence rotate off" it would be important to plan strategy for influencing the board with conservative viewpoints.

In response, White assured Price "we will certainly do the study as you suggested" and "will proceed to work on that immediately."

Shorter trustees voted last year to become a self-perpetuating board after claiming that undue influence by fundamentalist Georgia Baptist leaders was putting their independence, and therefore their accreditation, at risk.

White has strongly denied any attempts by GBC leadership to interfere with the work of Shorter's trustees.

"The [GBC] has strictly adhered to the practice of electing good and qualified trustees and then allowing them to serve on the board of trustees without any interference or pressure from the convention," said White in a letter distributed to Georgia Baptist pastors last year and published in the state convention's newspaper, The Christian Index.

Shorter attorneys recently received the e-mail exchange between Price and White -- apparently contradicting White's earlier assertion -- as part of subpoenaed documents.

As of April 4, the judge hearing the case has not ruled on a motion by GBC attorneys for a restraining order. It would forbid the college from seating trustees elected by the board rather than those elected by the Georgia Baptist Convention in November.

Shorter President Ed Schrader said he hopes the school will receive a ruling in its favor soon so "Shorter can get on with its business as a Baptist college." He added that he is hopeful the college and the convention can settle their disagreements over withheld funds out of court.

White's office told the newspaper Baptists Today that he did not want to comment on the subpoenaed e-mail.

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CBF receives anonymous  
\$5 million gift for missions

By Lance Wallace

ATLANTA (ABP) -- The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has received a \$5 million anonymous contribution for support of its global missionary program as well as other ministries.

The gift will be distributed among the following CBF ministries: \$4.2 million will go to global missions; \$500,000 will go to an endowment for CBF's new retirement and insurance program; \$250,000 will go to support church starts; and \$50,000 will underwrite a new, shared database system for the group's resource center in Atlanta.

"It is with deep gratitude and thanksgiving to God that we accept this gift," said CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal. "Contributions from churches and individuals continue to be our principal form of support, and as we seek to involve more people in our partnerships, we view this gift as an endorsement of our direction and an encouragement to do more for the kingdom of God."

CBF's global missions team has grown from 18 in 1992 to more than 130 today. CBF field personnel are living and ministering among unevangelized people groups, comprising nearly one fourth of the world's population. Field personnel also live and minister among marginalized people groups -- those with a history of significant poverty or oppression.

"This gift will make a world of difference," said CBF Global Missions Co-Coordinator Gary Baldrige. "During these tougher economic times, these funds will help CBF continue to send new personnel to strategic points around the globe, as well as to provide funding for projects of all our field personnel. This will help bridge the gap in revenues until the economy picks up again."

It costs approximately \$130,000 per year to support a career missionary family. CBF's short-term Global Service Corps missionaries raise a portion of their support themselves.

Some of the field personnel who will benefit from this gift will take part in a commissioning service during the CBF General Assembly June 26-28 at the Charlotte Convention Center, in Charlotte, N.C.

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Author recounts pilgrimage  
from addiction to healing

By Trennis Henderson

SHELBYVILLE, Ky. (ABP) -- Thirty years ago, Ann Kiemel Anderson was a best-selling Christian author and speaker whose first book boldly declared, "I'm out to change my world."

Today, after tragedies ranging from multiple miscarriages to drug addition, Anderson says she's learned that Jesus is the source of true change.

Anderson was the featured speaker at a recent banquet hosted by First Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Ky. Her latest book, "Seduced by Success: No Longer Addicted to Pills, Performance and Praise," details the story of her recovery from addictive behavior.

Noting that many people looked at her early adult life and "thought I had just everything," Anderson said, "It appeared that I really was a very together person."

But "along the journey, I got lost," she confessed. "It's a powerful

thing to me tonight to know that Jesus doesn't put his hand on perfect people.... I ask your forgiveness for getting so lost."

Mixing testimony and songs, Anderson recounted her journey from bold Christian witness and publishing notoriety to despair, addiction and self-loathing.

While she was "passionate about Jesus and wanted everybody to know him," Anderson said she also "was passionate that you love me."

Citing her experience as a marathon runner who qualified three times for the prestigious Boston Marathon, Anderson told the crowd, "If you're not enough before best-selling books and standing ovations and marathons, you will never be enough with them. Externals will not make you whole."

Deciding in her mid-30s that marriage was the next step toward success and fulfillment, she said she determined that Will Anderson was God's choice for her. But conflict soon popped up in their marriage.

Explaining that one of her husband's traits was to fix problems he encountered, Anderson said, "When Will married me, I became his next problem to fix." Acknowledging her own "gaping, gaping insecurity," she added, "When he set out to fix me, it made the hole in me bigger and bigger."

Repeated miscarriages eventually led the Andersons to adopt four sons. Yet "babies and a handsome man and all my success never made me enough," she said.

"I was an addict of performance and praise just waiting to be an addict of pills," she added. After being given morphine to relieve the pain of a kidney infection, she soon became hooked on pain pills.

"I confess to you that there were major contradictions in my life," Anderson said. While being honest in what she shared in her books and speaking engagements, "my lie was in what I didn't tell you."

With a growing addiction problem and declining health, Anderson suffered a pair of comas while separated from her husband.

"When I awakened from my second life-threatening coma, God finally had my attention," she recalled. Entering a secular drug treatment center, she said the experience was "the hardest, most nightmarish journey of my life."

Describing the severity of the treatment and confrontational group therapy sessions, Anderson added, "It took all of it to break through the thick, thick layers around my heart. For God to crack through down to the core of my soul, it took the toughest and the worst."

Realizing it would take more than personal willpower and brains to gain physical, emotional and spiritual healing, she declared, "I wanted God and I wanted freedom more than anything else in my life.... There was only one thing that delivered me, and that was the blood of Jesus."

As she pursued healing from her addiction, Anderson said God also was getting her husband's attention.

After they reunited, "Will and I pledged to each other and to God that we were going to be the family God wanted us to be and we were going to love each other the way God wanted us to."

A few years later, Anderson's husband was diagnosed with cancer. He died two years ago.

Despite their earlier marital struggles, "I know what transformation is because Jesus did it for me and I saw God do it for Will," she shared.

"It was so precious."

Reflecting on her spiritual pilgrimage, Anderson said, "I was lost, I was confused and Jesus pulled me together. Jesus did for me what I could not do for myself.

"I want you to know that life will never again be about me," Anderson told the women. "When Jesus healed me, I never wanted any attention again.

"I don't go around worrying about whether people like me," she added. "Only God defines me."

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