

City at odds over homeless

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A Christian youth group and the city of Lexington are in a dispute over the church's desire to feed the poor and homeless at a downtown park on Sunday afternoons.

Youth ministers from Hill-n-Dale Christian Church, mainly college students, have been bringing food to Phoenix Park every week for more than two years. Church members say it's their Christian duty and their legal right to serve the poor.

Aaron Allen, a Transylvania student and Hill-n-Dale homeless ministry volunteer, said some in Lexington are uncomfortable not with the program, but who it serves.

"They'd rather sweep it under the rug and put it in a part of the city where the white upper-class suburbia can kind of ignore" homelessness, he said.

Lexington's parks and recreation department wants a Christian youth group to stop

Deputy director Bill Carman told the church this week that the charitable workers could be violating city park and health codes.

But, Carman said, he can do little if the church operates in the park without a proper city permit.

"If people just choose to ignore the law, what do you do? Arrest the church?" he asked.

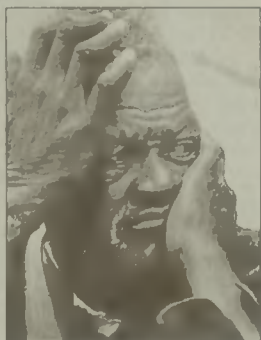
Mayor's spokesman Bruce Edwards said the church might be legally entitled to serve food in a public park.

Phoenix Park is a one-acre spot where the homeless often congregate and is next to the Lexington Public Library and Park Plaza Apartments. Park Plaza residents and library workers have complained about the hungry throngs.

Park officials worry about the lack of restroom facilities and they say litter is a problem when homeless people eat in the park. The church estimates that 75 to 100 people eat lunch at the park each Sunday. Carman puts the number at 200.

Hill-n-Dale volunteers say they pick up the trash after every meal and haul it back to their own church's trash bin.

Library executive director Kathleen Imhoff has complained to the city. Imhoff said meal recipients bring their food into the library and leave litter inside the building.



PHOTO/THE STOCK MARKET

Storm victims thankful for chance

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern transplants uprooted by Hurricane Katrina are settling in at new homes in Washington state, still struggling to rebuild their lives but thankful for the opportunity to do so.

Nicole Turner, 35, was spending her first Thanksgiving out of Louisiana in an apartment in Yakima. She and her fiance, Edwin Brunfield, 47, fled New Orleans seven days after the hurricane slammed into the city.

The couple, along with Turner's uncle and a friend,

were forced to leave their belongings behind to make room for other people on a helicopter taking them to the airport. Then they rode a bus to Baton Rouge, La., where they met a man named

Robert Fontana. Fontana organized the Yakima Valley Citizens for Hurricane Relief, and helped Turner and Brunfield make the move across country last

Please see KATRINA/5B

Sloan dies at 62

Continued from page 7B

Richard Arrington Jr., who teaches an African-American Experience course part time at Miles, said Sloan's shoes will be hard to fill.

"It's a great loss," said Arrington, who also is a Miles alumnus. "He's done a truly outstanding job leading the college."

Sloan is survived by his wife, Emma Lillian Lee of Albany, Ga.; three daughters; and his sister, said Lee.

United for Christ at Haven of Rest

Continued from page 8B

together in a place of life rather than at a cemetery to remember their loved ones.

The event begins at 3 p.m. December 18

United for Christ Inspira-

tional Mass Choir will be in concert at 5 p.m. The concert will be held at the Haven of Rest Baptist Church, located at 2435 Tboomey Ave.

• University Park Baptist Church presents "Christmas:

It's All About Love," a dramatic presentation at The Park South 13733 Lancaster Highway, Pineville.

Show times are 3:30 and 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Readers' challenge

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"I Know Whom I Have Believed And I Am Not Ashamed Of My Lord"
Part III Of V
J.M. Little, Teacher

My friends, I don't care how long you've been a member of the church. If you cannot go back to that time you stood in eternity as a lost sinner, YOU ARE NOT SAVED! Oh, may my Lord carry that truth home to your hearts now. You can preach, teach, evangelize and do missionary work all you want to. But if you have never been resurrected from the dead to see and know your LOST condition, YOU ARE NOT SAVED! And all your preaching, teaching and evangelizing will be all the more kindling wood to burn you in hell. Won't it be a sad day for you when you come to die and see that you missed Christ altogether? I realize that no sinner would ever get saved if he could help it. That was another truth my late pastor used to hammer on. I also realize you cannot know your lost condition apart from the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. (Jn. 16:7-11) My friends, pray for the discover of your souls. I told them at my wife's funeral on November 10, 2003: "If you miss Holy Spirit Conviction, you'll go to hell without warning." So many there mocked at the truth they heard. You'll not laugh at these truths when you come to press a dying pillow. You may be like that young fool up at the barbershop: "What if I don't have a dying pillow?!" What a fool! Avian flu, a car crash or a heart attack could be your dying pillow. The instrument of that young man's death is already prepared. Oh, my soul sinks within me when I hear such foolishness coming out of the heart of such a young man. Why? I know but for the grace it would be I. The God of all grace laid hold of my heart as a young man. These young men I deal with care nothing about Christ. What made me to differ? Only the distinguishing grace of God! But for the grace of my Lord I would be going on just like they are. I see them all the time and weep in my heart. Here is a young man, loving the world. He does not read his Bible. Most don't even have a Bible. He revels in the things of this world: sex, drugs, liquor and all that. His language is so profane and vulgar that I don't even want to be in his presence. I look at him and cry in my heart: Lord, it would be I but for your grace. He cares not that he has an eternal soul.

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