A. Are you referring to the one for boys?
Q. Or girls, anywhere.
A. Mr. Bernstein, we had a gentleman with us that said he had a burden for boys, and we had several little girls that had brothers.
Q. What was the gentleman's name?
A. Charlie Peavey; and Charlie Peavey said he would be willing to help with the boys in a separate facility. So we had rented property south of where we are now, and it is an old farm, had an old farmhouse, and, of course, back then in those years the rigid stipulations of all the rules and regulations, well, they weren't as rigid as they are now. But anyway, we started taking those little girls' brothers, and I think we have had about 8 or 10, maybe 15 at that old farmhouse, and that began the ministries outside of where we are right now at the New Bethany Baptist Church.
Q. And what did you call that ministry there?
A. New Bethany Home for Boys.
Q. Okay. And roughly when was that? Are we still in the early '70s?
A. I think so.
Q. Now, how long was the New Bethany Home for Boys there at the farmhouse south of your current
that is the reason we told her we were going use it
for a children's home, and that was why she was
willing for us to have it. She knew that probably
they would never sell it to anybody else.

So we paid that out at $150 a month. We paid it
out, and we burned the note, because as I started to
say, may I say that the old building was an old
flat-top building, and we were embarrassed because we
roofed it and re-roofed it, and on a flat-top
building, as you know, you look in the storefronts
where it will leak regardless of what you do to it.
So we had to put cans here and cans over there, and
during the time that they came to license us, they
could come in and see those cans and water falling in
them. It was embarrassing. It is not doing that
today.

Q. Now, the church was formed in '71 or '72?
A. Somewhere.

Q. Early '70s?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And at that point there was the New Bethany
Home for Girls in Arcadia?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And now, when was the next ministry that you
opened?
location?

A. How long were they there?

Q. Yes.

A. Probably a year, year and a half.

Q. Okay. And what happened after that?

A. Seems to me like that the property in Long Street came available, and there again, it was offered. We didn't solicit it. It was an old school, and the people wanted a caretaker that would like to replenish or remodel the old facility, and we did a lot of work. But it was so run down that we couldn't, we just couldn't keep up with it.

Q. And that is where the New Bethany Home for boys moved, was the place at Long Street?

A. I believe I am right on that.

Q. And who was on the staff there in Long Street? Was Charlie Peavey still associated with you?

A. I think Charlie was kind of on debitation trying to raise support in and out. Bubba Key was a gentleman that helped raise support; he and his wife worked there. And then, of course, we had another pastor from over at Brownsville, Texas. I can't remember his name; he worked there. And then we had Mr. and Mrs. Rapier came in. And remember, Mr. Bernstein, all of these people that say they have
a burden for boys or girls, they can only hack that kind of work for about a year, two years at the most. The reason is because of the strenuous operation. You folks, you all do your job and go home. We do ours 24 hours a day, 365 days a year staying on the scene.

So, they really didn't have anyplace to go. The workers didn't have anyplace to go, nothing they wanted to do other than stay there and help, but they get burned out. We had plenty to be burned out.

Q. You said that Mr. -- how does he pronounce his name?
A. Rapier.
Q. Rapier?
A. Yes.
Q. Came, and his wife?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Okay.
A. And two boys.
Q. And then how long did New Bethany Home for Boys stay there in Long Street?
A. I can't recall, but not long. It didn't seem like it was long, and then seems to me like, Mr. Bernstein, that the property in South Carolina after that came available. And then we had a lot of trouble getting rid of the Long Street, because we had
agreed to use it, and we felt like that we just
couldn't keep it up and do what they wanted us to do
in remodeling.

Q. While the property was there in Long Street,
was there any controversy?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. And what was that?
A. Mr. Rapier was held, I believe, in contempt
of court. It wasn't for child abuse that I can
remember. I don't know all the circumstances. I do
remember it was along about the time Mr. Roloff was
killed in that plane crash. The news came to the
radio that he was killed in a plane crash, so I was in
Mr. Henry Walker's office at that time because of the
situation at Long Street, and I had nothing to do with
it; I wasn't involved in it, but he spent a few days
in jail in Mansfield. We went to court, and then I
got an attorney to help get him released. We went to
the appellate court in Baton Rouge, and I don't
remember the time frame on that. I don't remember too
much about it. We had a lawyer to work on it, a
lawyer from Baton Rouge to work. He got the man out
of jail. And then, of course, he left us, and I don't
know where he is at today.

Q. Okay. And let's see. At the time -- but
that was a mission of New Bethany Baptist Church?
   A. Yes, sir. We considered that -- that was
   our outreach, yes, sir.

Q. And so if the publicity around his arrest
   and court appearance refers to you as the director of
   the New Bethany --
   A. Yes, sir, it sure did, and I am sorry about
   that.

Q. So if newspaper articles about that time
   refer to you as the director of the New Bethany Home
   for Boys, is that accurate?
   A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. So you were responsible for it?
   A. Well, in a sense.

Q. This was the continuation of the mission
   that had been at the farmhouse south of Arcadia there,
   south of where you are?
   A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the boys that had been there at that
   farmhouse south of you in Arcadia were moved to Long
   Street?
   A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And you all took more boys there at
   Long Street?
   A. Yes, sir.
Q. Okay. And how often would you visit the facility there in Long Street?
A. As often as I could.
Q. And also at this time I believe you were saying that the property in South Carolina became available?
A. Yes, sir, some -- I don't remember --

MR. HARPER: Mr. Bernstein, let's take a break, please.
MR. BERNSTEIN: Sure.
(A brief recess was held)

BY MR. BERNSTEIN:
Q. Reverend Ford, when we left off, I think I was starting to ask you about Walterboro, South Carolina. I think you told me that you learned there was some property available up there, something available up there?
A. Yes, sir. We heard through a pastor there was some property available.
Q. What property was this?
A. It was the old Calvary School and Church.
Q. And so you opened a home for boys up there?
A. We really began to pray about it, and eventually opened it for boys.
Q. And roughly when did you open that home for
1. boys?
   A. Probably the latter part of the 70's.
   Q. And the boys that were at Long Street, were they moved to the home in South Carolina?
   A. Maybe two or three.
   Q. What happened to the rest?
   A. Went home.
   Q. And you opened the home in South Carolina?
   A. Yes, sir.
   Q. Okay. And how long did you have a home for boys in South Carolina?
   A. I can't remember exactly.
   Q. Was it several years?
   A. It wouldn't be several years; maybe three years.
   Q. And that home that -- you closed that home, or that home was closed?
   A. Yes, sir. It is not operating now.
   Q. Okay. And why was that home closed?
   A. Because of the licensing issue.
   Q. And was there some controversy with regard to the home in South Carolina?
   A. Yes, sir.
   Q. Okay. And in fact, did the state agency in South Carolina have to force its way into the facility
at some point in order to enforce a court order?

A.  Wasn't force. They came, and I wasn't there. I don't know what all happened.

Q.  What did you hear about what happened?

A.  I hear that my men were charged with false imprisonment, and of course, I wasn't there in defense. We found later that all the other schools has timeout rooms or lockups.

Q.  As a result of that and the licensing issue, the home was closed?

A.  Yes, sir. I believe that was the stemming of it.

Q.  And you mentioned a timeout or lockup room. What are you referring to by that?

A.  All the public schools and all the schools of South Carolina has what they call a timeout room for young people that go out of control. And of course, the one that we were referring to that was out of control, he just come out of lockup from Columbia.

Q.  And was that -- was there a small room at the New Bethany Home for Boys in Walterboro, South Carolina, that was used for confinement?

A.  Only for that one boy, and that was because he went completely out of control waiting for his parents to come. That was the only time it was ever
And that room, let's see, did not have a light in it, did it?
A. Yes. It had a light in it.
Q. It had a light in it?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did it have a bed in it?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did it have drinking water available?
A. No, sir, because the guy that looked after him sat just outside the door at all times, and he wasn't kept at night.
Q. Was there a toilet in that room?
A. No, sir, but the toilet was right across from the room.
Q. But whoever was confined in that room would have to secure the cooperation and permission of their watcher to leave that room to go to the toilet, wouldn't they?
A. Yes, sir. But he wasn't kept in there long.
Q. Did the New Bethany Home for Boys in South Carolina have any guidelines or policy with regard to corporal discipline?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And did they have any guidelines or policies
with regard to -- well, hold on. I am going to show you a document I have labeled as Defendant's Exhibit 1 and ask you if you recognize that, first off.

(The witness reviews the document)

Q. Have you ever seen that before?

A. I don't know nothing about this, Mr. Bernstein.

Q. Okay. Does that at the top say, "policy on physical restraint"?

A. That is what it says here.

Q. And does it in the first paragraph say, "This is an outline of our policy concerning physical restraint at New Bethany Home for Boys"?

MR. HODGE: I object to the form of the question. The document speaks for itself.

MR. BERNSTEIN: I am just trying to ascertain if -- he says he hasn't seen it before, and it says at the top New Bethany Home for Boys.

MR. HODGE: The document says what it says, and the witness says he doesn't recognize the document.

(Exhibit No. 1 was marked)

BY MR. BERNSTEIN:

Q. I am going to hand you another document that I have labeled as Defendant's Exhibit 2, and there are
some marginal marks on this, and for purposes of that, I would just ask that you ignore that and just, with regard to the typewritten information, have you ever seen that before?

(The witness reviews the document)

Q. And my question is: Have you ever seen that before?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay. And you do not recognize that as a document from New Bethany Baptist Church or any of the New Bethany ministries?

A. No, sir.

Q. Thank you.

(Exhibit No. 2 was marked)

Q. I am going to hand you a document that I am labeling as Defendant's Exhibit 3 and ask you if you have seen that before today.

(The witness reviews the document)

A. That is the old one we sent out, Mr. Bernstein.

Q. "Old one"; old what?

A. The old application.

Q. The old application?

A. Yes, sir. That has been redone.

Q. And that was used by the New Bethany Home
for Girls in Arcadia?

A. For the boys.

Q. New Bethany Home for Boys?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did the New Bethany Home for Girls ever use that?

A. I think he had the one yesterday that was for the girls.

Q. That is the one the New Bethany Home for Boys used?

A. I believe it was.

Q. Is that the one used when the New Bethany Home for Boys was in Bienville Parish or at Long Street or in South Carolina?

A. I believe Long Street, the best I can remember.

Q. Okay. Could it have been the one used in South Carolina?

A. Could have been.

Q. Could it be also the one used when the New Bethany Home for Boys was located at the current location in Arcadia?

A. I don't think we had one at that time.

(Exhibit No. 3 was marked)

Q. I show you another exhibit I am going to
label as Defendant's Exhibit 4 and ask you if you have ever seen that before.

(The witness reviews the document)

A. I can't recall seeing that.

Q. Does that look like a form that the New Bethany Home for Boys may have used at some time?

A. I can't say that it was.

Q. Okay. Does that -- when you say you can't say it was, does that mean that it might be?

A. I didn't approve it.

Q. Somebody else may have done that?

A. Somebody else may have approved it.

(Exhibit No. 4 was marked)

Q. With regard to the New Bethany Home for Boys, who was, I guess the term I would use is "chain of command"; in other words, as I understood at that time you were the pastor of New Bethany Baptist Church, and the New Bethany Home for Boys was a ministry of the church; is that correct?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. And who did you have -- at the time that you located New Bethany Home for Boys in South Carolina, who was under you in terms of running the school, the home?

A. Mr. Olin King.
Q. And how did Mr. King come to be a staff member for New Bethany Home for Boys?

A. My wife answered that yesterday; she was right. He came from a church in Missouri that was highly recommended by the pastor that worked with the youth there.

Q. And the information that you had about Mr. King would have been what he told you and what you learned by talking to his pastor and a friend of Mr. King's that was also a pastor?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. And that was the extent of the information you obtained about Mr. King before he started supervising boys at the New Bethany Home?

A. Yes, sir. I knew that he was a linesman, worked with the power and light, and we never just -- we never give them a position unless we are around them for quite some time and see their actions and how they work.

Q. And how do you go about being around them for some time?

A. They have to spend some time with us. I don't know how long in this particular case, but he was with us a long time. He was a man of character.

Q. In other words, he was a staff member at the
New Bethany Home in Arcadia before he went to South Carolina?

A. Well, we called it kind of training. It was kind of a training base for him.

Q. And the training is done where?

A. In Arcadia.

Q. So Mr. King would have done his training at the New Bethany Home in Arcadia?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And at that point, prior to your opening the New Bethany Home for Boys in South Carolina, the only mission that you had in Arcadia was the home for girls; is that right?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. And so his training was being on the staff at the New Bethany Home for Girls?

A. Well, under supervision. I don't think he was in a supervisory position, but I think he worked there. When we say "worked there", we have got a lot to do.

Q. And then you put him over the home for boys when you opened it in South Carolina?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Did you train anybody else that then was a staff member in South Carolina?
A. Yes, sir. Brother David Aribitele was our school supervisor at that particular time, and Brother David went to South Carolina to take over the boys' school.

Q. And how do you spell his last name?

Q. And how did he come to be the school supervisor at New Bethany?
A. Also from a church where a pastor had highly recommended him.

Q. Okay. Did you do what I would guess they call a background investigation on him?
A. Only through the pastor. The pastor recommended him, and he had been with him a long time, and he highly recommended him. Then he took his ACE training.

Q. And that is the Accelerated Christian Education training?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And that is the paces that are for the teachers of that program?
A. Yes, sir. My wife explained that.

Q. Is there a special ACE curriculum for supervisors, or is it the same as the curriculum for the monitors and --
A. It is used the same way, but there are
different paces.

Q. So there are paces for adults that are
interested in teaching the ACE program?
A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And that is what he took; that was
his training?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what his educational background
was?
A. I know he was a youth director at that time,
but his wife went to Baptist Christian College here in
Shreveport and got her teaching degree or whatever for
secondary education.

Q. And how about him?
A. He didn't, but I understand that he already
had some kind of degree, but I can't remember.

Q. Okay. And how long was he the supervisor of
the school -- and he would have been the supervisor of
the school at the home for girls in Arcadia?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And how long was he there as school
supervisor for the girls' home in Arcadia?
A. Subject to correction, probably three or
four years.
Q. Okay. And then you --
A. He was transferred.
Q. He was transferred to South Carolina?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Okay. And how long was he in South Carolina?
A. Until the problem erupted.
Q. Until the problem arose?
A. Yes.
Q. Anybody else that you trained at Arcadia that was on the staff in South Carolina?
A. Not that I can remember, subject to correction. My son-in-law and daughter worked in the school in South Carolina. They weren't there during the problem.
Q. Okay. In other words, they had left there before the problem?
A. Yes. I think it was before the problem arose.
Q. Where did they go when they left?
A. They come back home, back with us.
Q. Back to Arcadia?
A. Yes.
Q. And which son-in-law and daughter was that?
A. That is Theila and Wade Sutton.
Q. And then I think one of your other daughters had married one of Olin King's sons?
A. That is my baby.

Q. Okay. And which daughter was that?
A. That is Penny.

Q. Okay. And what is Penny's husband's name?
A. Douglas.

Q. Okay. Did Douglas and Penny have any role on the staff at the New Bethany Home in South Carolina?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did they live up there?
A. No, sir.

Q. There was another staff member in South Carolina named King, wasn't there?
A. Two Kings; no relation.

Q. No relation. And the second man's name was --
A. I can't remember.

Q. Okay.
A. Robert. I believe it was Robert.

Q. Was he trained by you?
A. No.

Q. Okay. How did he come to work for the New Bethany Home?
A. Through the Kings, the other Kings.

Q. Somebody that they knew?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. What did you know about Robert King before he became a staff member at New Bethany Home?

A. I just used Mr. Olin King's discretion in him putting him on staff. I never did really know.

Q. And Mr. Olin King and Mr. Robert King were both charged with false imprisonment in South Carolina, or were charged with a criminal offense in South Carolina, weren't they?

A. I don't think Olin had anything to do with it; I think it was Robert, and that is hearsay. I don't know.

Q. What do you know about that, the hearsay?

A. That both were charged; the documents show they were.

Q. How did you hear that they had been charged?

A. I was called from South Carolina.

Q. And what did you do when you learned that?

A. I brought it before the church, and we went to South Carolina, met with the lawyers.

Q. Okay. And isn't it also correct that at some point the authorities in South Carolina in conducting an investigation of allegations of either...
abuse or neglect of children had to force their way into the property up there?

A. That wasn't what I was told; I don't know.

Q. What were you told about that?

A. I was told that they came out to investigate because two boys ran away; reported we had the little boy locked up, and when they come, they sure enough had the boy locked up with the boy sitting outside, the monitor. That is when it all started.

Q. So there was -- the boy that was locked up was being guarded, I guess, for lack of a better word, by another youth?

A. He was looked after.

Q. Looked after?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. The youth on the outside had the ability to control whether the youth on the inside could leave that room?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. The youth on the inside couldn't walk --

A. It wasn't locked. He was able to come and go, but he just was -- they requested him stay there until his parents got there.

Q. In other words, the boy that was in the confinement room could have turned the doorknob and
I walked out?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. At that time I think there was some discussion of whether or not there had been pieces of plastic pipe used with regards to paddling?

A. I don't know anything about that.

Q. Did you hear that at any point?

A. No, sir.

Q. There was also a discussion at the time that boys were roped together while they worked on the farm field. Did you know anything about that?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever hear about that?

A. No, sir.

Q. Were you ever present during any of the court proceedings in South Carolina?

A. On the last.

Q. The last one?

A. Yes.

Q. And would you get periodic reports from Olin King as to what was going on during this controversy?

A. Our attorneys.

Q. The attorneys would?

A. Yes.

Q. And who were your attorneys?
A. Christian Law Association, Cleveland, Ohio.

Q. Do you remember the names of any of the attorneys that were involved in representing you at that time?

A. Dr. Dave Gibbs, Dan Lumas; some others, but I forgot.

Q. How was the decision made to close the home in South Carolina?

MR. HODGE: I object to the form of the question. I don't understand it. How was the decision made, or why?

BY MR. BERNSTEIN:

Q. Why was the decision made to close the home in South Carolina?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Do you remember that decision being made?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay. But it was closed?

A. It was closed.

Q. It was closed shortly after the problem occurred up there?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And it was closed shortly after all the court proceedings up there around licensing?

A. I can't remember.
Q. The boys that were at the home in South Carolina, what happened to them?
A. Went home.
Q. Okay. Did you bring any of them back to Louisiana?
A. No, sir.
Q. How long was it before you opened the New Bethany Home for Boys in Arcadia?
A. Probably shortly after that. I can't remember the time frame.
Q. Who made the decision to close the home in South Carolina?
A. I think the authorities. I can't remember. The lawyers would know that.
Q. And then shortly after that you opened the Home for Boys in Arcadia?
A. Sometime after that.
Q. Okay. And that is where it has been located since?
A. Ever since.
Q. Now, yesterday your wife mentioned that you had a facility in Alabama.
A. It never did operate.
Q. Where did you try to open a place in Alabama?
A. Opelika Community.

Q. And what kind of ministry were you going to have in Opelika, Alabama?

A. We were going to put boys there.

Q. Was this after you had the home for boys in South Carolina?

A. Along about the same time.

Q. About the same time as the problem?

A. No, probably before.

Q. Okay.

A. Again, that property became available and the church offered it to us, and we just felt like after doing a lot of work to it it would be a good place to put boys.

Q. And which church was that?

A. Berean Baptist Church. I believe that is the name of the church, subject to correction, Opelika.

Q. And why didn't you open a mission there?

A. Because the judge marched against us.

Q. And how did that keep you from opening a mission in Opelika, Alabama?

A. Well, after he did that, I met with the judge with my lawyers, and they just simply said that the community don't want you here, and so we never did
open it.

Q. Did they tell you why the community didn't want you there?

A. They were afraid of the types of boys we were dealing with.

Q. And as I appreciate it, the missions that you undertake, you undertake because there is a calling from God?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And your meeting with the secular judge in Opelika, Alabama, convinced you to not open a mission there?

A. We met also with the community, and the community says, we are living too close; we are afraid of the children; we don't want you here. And so we met the judge, and that was his final decision. There was no hard feelings. We walked away from it and sold the property.

Q. So as I appreciate it, the homes that you have opened would be, first start off, New Bethany Home for Girls in Arcadia, and then started a boys home at the farmhouse south of there, which then was moved to Long Street. And then that was closed following the controversy in DeSoto Parish, and then you opened the home in Walterboro, South Carolina,
which was closed following the controversy up there over Olin King's arrest and the licensing issue and the investigation of child abuse charges in South Carolina. And also you have attempted to open a home in Opelika, Alabama, and did not because of community opposition. And then you opened a home for boys in Arcadia at the same site that you have the home for girls?

A. True.

Q. Okay. Was Olin King an ordained minister?

A. No, sir.

Q. Were any of the people on the staff in South Carolina ordained ministers?

A. Yes, sir. I think David Aribitele was ordained; and Mr. Hodge, the pastor of the church there, was ordained.

Q. And that Mr. Hodge was on the staff?

A. No, sir. He only pastored the church.

Q. In Walterboro, South Carolina?

A. Right.

Q. What church ordained David Aribitele?

A. His home church. I can't remember what it was.

Q. Was he ordained before you became associated with him?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you ever heard of the Rebecca Home for Girls?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And when did you first hear of the Rebecca Home for Girls?

A. Probably 1948, '49.

Q. Okay. And that is one of Reverend Roloff's ministries from Corpus Christi?

A. It is the girls' ministry.

Q. What?

A. It is the girls' ministry there.

Q. In Corpus Christi?

A. Yes.

Q. That was founded by Reverend Roloff?

A. As far as I know.

Q. Okay. And do you know if any of the girls -- well, you heard my questions to your wife yesterday about, the girls that were in the Rebecca Home were moved to Kansas City from Texas. Did you know that that happened?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did you learn about that?

A. They called me and asked me if I had a facility available, and I told them at that particular
time that we had a building that wasn't finished, completed, and so that was the last I heard of it. They didn't move there then.

Q. And so they moved from Corpus Christi to Kansas City, Missouri?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Do you know why they moved from Corpus Christi to Kansas City, Missouri?

A. I have no idea.

Q. Who was it that called you about that?

A. Wiley Cameron.

Q. What was his role with the Rebecca Home for Girls?

A. He replaced Brother Lester Roloff after Brother Roloff was killed.

Q. This would have been after Brother Roloff was killed in '72?

A. Somewhere along there.

Q. Okay. So this would have been after that then?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And when did you next have any dealings with the Rebecca Home for Girls?

A. After they left Missouri.

Q. Do you know why they left Missouri?