# Next issue is about justice

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The Disciples' Advocate

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## Yellow ribbon ceremony at Wilshire Christian Church

**Bill Backstrom reporting from Los Angeles** — Wilshire is the "mother" church of the Pacific Southwest Region. Chapman University had its beginning at Wilshire. Thus it is a land mark not only in beauty, but in service.

As with many churches across the country, the Wilshire building expenses were beyond the ability of the English-speaking congregation. Presently there is an English-speaking congregation — whose members are within walking distance of the church building, as well as commuters — a Korean congregation and a preschool "Buddy and Me."

Funds had been set aside for the maintenance of the building, but were spent for other things. When I first arrived as interim minister, I thought we might be able meet the needs of the building. However, it became apparent the building costs were beyond the congregation's ability.

*Rev. Backstrom talks with church member while others attach their yellow ribbons to the 'for sale' sign at Wilshire.*

Thus the decision was made to sell the building. We had known this for a time, but the impact did not occur until the large "for sale" signs were put up.

The Yellow Ribbon ceremony was somewhat spontaneous. I and some others did not feel we could ignore or discount the ministry of Wilshire Christian Church both past, present and future. Thus, we decided at the end of the first worship service after the "for sale" signs went up that we would decorate them and the shrubbery and outside of the building with "yellow ribbons" as a statement of vision and hope!

A man placed his membership during the Yellow Ribbon ceremony. We sang "Amazing Grace" welcoming him into our fellowship.

While the sale of the building is depressing, we were not going to let that be the final emotion. There is a great deal of thanksgiving for the ministry of Wilshire and that ministry will continue!!

The future is yet to be determined. The feeling now is that it will take some time to sell the building. It is large, located, as many of our congregations are, on a downtown corner with no parking. On Sunday

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