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May 2, 1974

Church Half-way House Goes
The 'Second Mile' for Boys

By Larry Jerden

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (BP)--Sheridan Hills Baptist Church here began caring about boys oth rs had stopped caring about and, as a result, has helped hundreds of boys in trouble to make better lives.

For boys in trouble in their early teens, the corrections process often means being taken away from home, perhaps even from their home town and schools.

Because a lad may have broken the law, he may end up in an institution wher his only contact is with other youths in trouble and with the institution's personnel.

The main wrong with this way of doing things, says Steve Johnson, director of Sheridan Hous h re, is that the boy is removed from the problems that initially caused the troubl , thereby making it difficult to cope with them.

Sheridan House, which began in 1968 as a ministry of Sheridan Hills Church, is an independent, private half-way house for boys, ages 13-16, who are on court probation.

Through the years, the staff of Sheridan House and its 15-member board have sought to overcome the disadvantages of the usual reform system, to add a Christian "plus" that Johnson says isn't possible in a state institution.

"The advantages of our house are that the boys are kept in a local area (all are from Broward County, Fla.)

They are kept in public schools, establish contact with local churches and are not removed from the problem," said Johnson.

The house, a converted mission church that failed to "take root," can handle up to 15 boys, though there are usually about a dozen.

Manned by Johnson, live-in houseparents and volunteers, the house seeks to give the parol d boys an environment in which they can adjust to a society which, for various reasons, they failed to relate to normally from their homes.

Some reasons for their behaviour become clear when Johnson described the youths' situations:

"First of all," he began, "all are delinquent, dependent, and on court probation."

"We had one 13-year-old with a gunshot wound from a robbery attempt; we have a number of car thieves; all but two have had drug involvement; only one is not from a broken home; about 90 per cent come from homes where alcohol is a problem; two have fathers in prison; one is here for assault with a deadly weapon and his father is serving time for murder".

A strong emphasis of the Sheridan House ministry is the counseling program, including group and individual counseling sessions. A schedule of conferences with ach boy involving teachers, parents, and others involved in his situation is part of the program.

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Conferences with parents are especially important, Johnson said, because it is when the boy returns home that he probably meets head-on his worst personal crises.

Other parts of the adjustment process at Sheridan House include chores in the garden, around the house, and with the cows and horses.

There are both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, as well as encouragement for the boys to stay involved in school and summer recreation programs.

Volunteer teachers and college students help with the tutoring program, and language skills are improved using a donated language master machine.

"Most of the boys have a fifth-year reading level or less," Johnson pointed out.

Johnson is proud of his tutor volunteers and says they are typical of local support.

"It's amazing what resources are available in the community if you just make your needs known," he said.

"Local supermarkets have given canned goods. We have students from a university criminology class help with our group counseling. Couples from Sheridan Hills volunteer every other weekend as substitute houseparents so Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis, our regular houseparents, can have some time off."

Sheridan House began, Johnson remembered, when the church was looking for possible community ministries.

"They asked Judge Frank A. Orlando what kind of needs he knew of that a church could help," he said, "and he told them he needed help with boys 14 to 16 years old."

"I need an alternative to probation, lock-up, or the state training school," the judge declared.

The house budget last year was $50,000,but dollars could hardly be a measure of the program's worth.

The greatest measure of the ministry is the change in the lives of boys. There have been more than 100 boys who have spent some time at the house.

Most were not interested at the time in school or church. At least one graduate has gone on to college, another is in a Bible school preparing for the ministry. Others have gone on to lead productive lives in employment.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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May 2, 1974

Seminary Professor Calls
For Nixon's Impeachment

By Baptist Press

A Southern Baptist seminary professor in Wake Forest, N. C., has called for the impeachment of President Nixon in an address at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, but a U.S. senator told Baptist students in Deland, Fla., that he doubts the impeachment issue will ever face the Senate.

"On this day, as confession is made, judgment is also acknowledged," Thomas A. Bland, professor of Christian ethics and sociology at Southeastern Seminary, said during the April 30 observance there of the National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

"Some have called for the resignation of President Nixon. I do not agree. Instead, I call for his impeachment. If, through the constitutionally established procedures, he should be found innocent of 'high crimes and misdemeanors' which are the grounds for conviction, he could then proceed to serve the remainder of his term with a greater measure of public confidence in his leadership.

"This must be a day of confession of our national sin," Bland said. "We have been guilty of the arrogance of power. . .In domestic affairs the arrogance of power has been expressed in lying, burglarizing, influence buying and selling, plea bargaining, payoffs and coverups which, in my opinion, have earned the present administration in Washington the designation as the most corrupt administration in our national history.

"Government by secrecy, deceit, manipulation and criminality have too frequently been the rule, rather than the exception, in the present executive branch," Bland said.

"The arrogance of power has been accompanied in statements and actions by some near the summit of American political life who have given operational affirmations to the dictum that the end justifies the means.

"For the sake of the integrity of our system of government, and in the name of God, who has built into the structure of the universe the moral demands for justice, the impeachment proceedings should move forward now," the seminary professor said.

U.S. Senator Ernest Hollings (D.-S.C.) told an audience at Stetson University, a Baptist school in Deland, Fla., that he doubts if the impeachment issue, which he compared to radical surgery, would ever face the Senate.

"This is not an area when members of the Senate play politics, or could play politics if they wanted to," Senator Hollings said at Stetson's model U.S. Senate.

"However, an impeachment is a political process. The important fact to remember is that the decision is not whether the president is guilty or innocent, but whether he should be removed from office," Senator Hollings said. "The difference is important since a guilty verdict by the Senate and a subsequent removal would not constitute double jeopardy. He could still be tried for any crimes alleged."

Asked about the timetable for an impeachment process, Senator Hollings said everyone would move quickly. "No one will be caught off base trying to draw it out. The president is the one drawing it out. I can tell you that right now. We would have gotten through it long ago.

"He keeps drawing it out, drawing it out, drawing it out. Some say get off his back. He should get off his own back ," Senator Hollings declared.

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During a question period, the senator was asked if the outcome of the John Mitchell-Maurice Stans trial would give some clue to the truthfulness of former White House counsel, John Dean. Mitchell and Stans, former cabinet members, were acquitted despite Dean's testimony.

"You've gotten a clue already. . .McGruder is in jail. In fact, there are now 14 gone and 17 to go before this is over," Hollings answered.

"From a purely political standpoint, the worse thing that could happen to the Democratic Party is for the President to say, 'I'm going to Key Biscayne with BeBe (Rebozo). . .I quit.' We'd have real trouble unseating Gerald Ford in '76."

Bland, turning to individual involvement, added, "We must confess, too, that we as citizens have enjoyed private affluence, while manifesting public apathy. Our moral and spiritual sensitivity has been dulled by the sensate culture in which we live. The moral outrage we ought to express is altogether lacking in too many of us.

"Repentance can occur only after sin is acknowledged. Wrongdoing and judgment follow one another as surely as night follows day," Bland said, citing biblical references.

"Repentance must be real. It cannot be accomplished by resolutions in the Congress. It must be a rending of the hearts of the citizens, not of the garments of society. It must be an act of genuine humility before God, an act from which no person in church or state, however powerful he may be, is exempted.

"There is renewal in the way of confession, judgment and repentance," Bland concluded. "My fellow Americans, let us hear and heed the Word of the Lord: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull that it cannot hear." (Isaiah 59:1)(BP)

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Southern Seminary Adds
Ph.D.; Names New Professors

5/2/74

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here have approved the offering of the doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in action highlighting the board's annual meeting.

In other action, the trustees elected two new professors, promoted three and granted tenure to another, and established a new category for faculty members serving beyond normal retirement age.

Board members examined damage inflicted on the campus by the April 3 tornado, now estimated at about $1 million, and expressed appreciation to the students, faculty and staff for their participation in relief efforts both on campus and in the surrounding community.

The faculty has studied the possibility of implementing a Ph.D. since 1970. It had not been done earlier in order to provide for smooth introduction of the doctor of ministry (D.Min.) degree last year. The Ph.D. program will be focused upon preparing students for teaching careers, whereas the D.Min. program is directed toward the students planning to work in the "practicing ministry" of the local church or denominational agencies.

The Ph.D. will replace the existing Th.D., which has been offered by the seminary since 1942, but it will not be the first time the Ph.D. has been awarded by Southern Seminary. Prior to 1942, the Ph.D. was the standard doctoral degree granted by Southern Seminary for some 11 years.

The trustee ruling also allows any Southern Seminary graduate who holds the Th.D. degree to exchange it for the new Ph.D. degree upon application to the seminary.

Two new faculty members were added by the trustees' action. Alan Culpepper, son of missions professor Hugo Culpepper, was formally elected as assistant professor of New Testament interpretation, a position he has held under appointment since February. He has completed the Ph.D. degree from Duke University.

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G. Wade Rowatt Jr. was elected assistant professor of psychology of religion, after serving during the current academic year as instructor in the department. A native of Illinois, Rowatt is in the final stages of his doctoral studies at the seminary.

The board granted tenure to assistant professor of New Testament interpretation John B. Polhill, who joined the faculty in 1969. Associate professors of church music, Philip Landgrave and Jay W. Wilkey, and associate professor of New Testament interpretation, Harold S. Songer, were promoted to full professors.

A new position of "senior professor" was created by the trustees to permit professors to continue teaching at the seminary beyond the normal retirement age of 65. At the seminary's initiative, individual faculty members annually may be asked to remain as senior professors to teach, but with more limited committee and administrative duties.

The first to be extended invitations under the new provision are Eric C. Rust, professor of Christian philosophy, and Charles A. McGlon, professor of speech. Each will assume appointment as senior professor in August, 1975.

Re-elected as officers of the board were Douglas Aldrich of North Carolina, chairman; Richard Stephenson of Virginia, first vice-chairman; S. M. Batson of Louisiana, second vice-chairman; and James S. Tate of Louisville, secretary.

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Golden Gate Trustees 5/2/74
Approve Record Budget

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--For the first time in the school's 30-year history, the trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here adopted a budget in excess of $1 million.

The board of trustees approved the $1,032,643 budget for 1974-75 at their annual meeting on the Strawberry Point campus. They also elected new faculty, promoted present faculty, recognized retiring trustees and staff members and took a big step toward underwriting the seminary's chair of evangelism.

New plans were also approved for a certificate of theology program for students without college degrees.

Harold K. Graves, seminary president, in his 22nd annual report to the trustees, pointed out the continued growth of the school,including the completion of the first year of work at the Los Angeles Center with 43 students enrolled, called for a stronger program of supervised field education and requested more adequate compensation for seminary faculty.

He also reported on capital projects extending to 1978, which include the building of a new student village with 16 one-bedroom units, renovation of faculty office space and major repair projects to electric cables and seminary roads.

Incomplete returns from pledges during the meeting by individual trustees to the chair of evangelism amounted to $42,000. Additional pledges from the trustees and development council are expected to bring the total amount to $100,000.

The major increase in the total budget reflected a general increase of six per cent in faculty and staff salaries. The 1973-74 budget was $962,745.

New faculty additions were authorized in the fields of church music and evangelism and a director of admissions was approved. Max Lyall, professor of music at Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn., was elected assistant professor of church music. He will join the faculty in the fall. Other personnel announcements will be made at the next meeting of the trustees in Dallas, Tex., June 12.

Faculty promotions went to Miss Geil Davis, associate professor of religious education, promoted to professor of religious education; John P. Johnson, assistant professor of church music, to associate professor of church music with tenure, and F. Daniel Boling Jr., assistant professor of religious education, to associate professor of religious education.

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The new program of theological studies designed for the student without a college degree will be a joint project with the Seminary Extension Department of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A student who completes the equivalent of one year of seminary work through the Seminary Extension Department can receive the certificate of theology degree after one year of resident work on the Golden Gate campus. This design is in response to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's concern to provide theological education for non-degree students.

New officers elected for the year are H. J. Flanders Jr., Waco, Tex., president; E. Glen Paden, Sacramento, Calif., vice president; Charles A. Lassiter, Okemos, Mich., secretary; and Jack Pollard, Fort Smith, Ark., assistant secretary.

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U.S. Baptists Still Plan June 1 as Day of Prayer 5/2/74

WASHINGTON (BP)--Observance of April 30 as a national day of prayer will not affect the North American Baptist Fellowship's designation of June 1 for "thanksgiving, penitence and prayer."

Newspapers estimated that thousands of churches throughout the United States observed the April 30 date proposed in a Senate resolution introduced by Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon.

"One emphasis does not displace the other," said Sloan S. Hodges, chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF). "In fact," he said, "the Bible says we ought always to pray."

The June 1 date was chosen by the NABF, a committee of the Baptist World Alliance, because it is the 200th anniversary of a prayer meeting held by members of the Virginia House of Burgesses, a significant event in the prelude to American independence.

Carl W. Tiller, secretary of the NABF, observed that some "have raised questions about the idea of a day of prayer following so closely upon the highly publicized April 30 observance." He went on to say:

"Although churches in many places observed a day of prayer on April 30, thinking it was to be a national observance, they were misled about the government's role. Congress never passed a resolution on the April 30 date; the Senate did, but it was pigeonholed by the House of Representatives.

"On the other hand, some of our people hold fast to the view that religious observances are properly decided by religious bodies, not by the government. Whether or not our churches held an observance on April 30, we hope that they will join in this religiously motivated call for prayer on June 1."

Seven major Baptist bodies in the United States are included in the U.S. section of the NABF which issued the June 1 call to prayer. They are American Baptist Churches in the USA, General Association of General Baptists, National Baptist Convention of America, North American Baptist General Conference, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Seventh Day Baptist General Conference and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The seven U.S. bodies comprise about 18 million of 29 million Baptists in the United States. Hodges said he hoped that all Baptists in the nation, whether or not they are in NABF, will join in the day of prayer.

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