

Heritage House Awaiting Girls

One of the most ambitious programs ever undertaken by an Elizabeth City organization is ready to begin working with troubled girls, aged 12-16, from this 10 county area.

Heritage House, a special project of the Elizabeth City Woman's Club, located at 501 West Ehringhaus St., has been renovated and conforms to all health and safety requirements needed before girls could be assigned.

Far-reaching community support has made it possible for the two-story frame home to be renovated in only three to four months. Donations of time, labor, furniture and cash to be used for furnishing the home have come from the community.

But the house still remains empty except for the teaching parents, Steve and Frances Roberts and their two-year-old daughter, Heather.

If no girls are channeled through the program in the very near future funds will run out May 11, Roberts said. Refunding plans are contingent upon getting girls into Heritage House.

Not a single girl from Region R, which includes Perquimans County, who conformed to the age requirements was channeled through Heritage House during the month of January. All mental health clinics, social service agencies and schools have been contacted and are on the lookout for possible occupants.

Last year a survey was taken by the Junior Woman's Club to verify the need for such a facility in this area. Statistics gathered from the Social Service Departments in this 10 county area last year showed 60 girls 9 to 16 years of age who could have used a home like Heritage House.

These figures reflected only those who passed through the Social Service Department. Indications are that many more troubled girls exist. Only 27 of the original 60 girls had not been through juvenile courts. They were, however, considered pre-delinquent.

For Region R there was an 80 per cent increase in juveniles being processed through the courts in the years between 1965 and 1969. One girl has been through the admission procedures for Heritage House but just prior to her moving in her social worker disapproved citing as a reason, "she should not be the first."

Someone has to be first. The facilities are finished, the teaching-parents trained and waiting.

Heritage House was not built to be a reformatory, there are no bars on the windows, no uniforms, no old matron shouting orders. The Roberts are a young couple anxious to work with girls and help them learn social and self help skills which they have not been able to acquire at home.

Girls who are being

sentenced through the juvenile courts should welcome the choice of a family atmosphere versus a youth reformatory.

At Heritage House all privileges are earned. For example a typical school day is much the same routine which the girls would follow at home. "The youths arise at about 6:30 a.m., shower, dress and clean their bedrooms and bathrooms. Following breakfast some of the girls are assigned clean-up duties in the kitchen while others review homework before leaving for public school.

Unless the girl is engaged in some school or community activity she is expected to return home within half an hour after school. The girls usually have a snack after school before beginning their homework. Once they complete their homework they are free to do as they please until bedtime at 10 p.m., depending on the privileges they have earned and depending on who is responsible for helping with the evening meal."

Privileges are earned through accumulation of points. Different privileges require varying amounts of points. Behavior and work assignments are given point values, for example: doing dishes, 500 to 1,000 points per meal; neat room, 500 points per day; homework, 500 per day; neat and clean appearance, 500 points; etc.

Privileges require accumulation of points: watching television, 3,000 points; allowance, 3,000 points; permission to leave Heritage House, 6,000.

School attendance is of great importance, Mrs. Roberts stressed. In similar programs grades were raised on the average of one letter grade per student.

The system is set up to allow girls to spend weekends at home, after their behavior has proven them capable of coping with at home situations, and the Roberts have conferred with guardians.

Hopefully this will lead to establishment of a meaningful relationship with the parents or guardian.

The Roberts stress that they want to maintain a family atmosphere. "We see Heritage House as an alternative to institutional commitment and also a place where parents can temporarily place their daughters during a difficult period, where they can make use of a professionally trained staff to help with teen-age problems."

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AWAITING GIRLS — Mr. and Mrs. Steve Roberts and daughter Heather are waiting for girls who need a home. If anyone in Perquimans County knows of a young girl who may need to be placed, they are asked to contact their social services department.

The girls receive behavioral management, tutorial and group therapy as well as recreational opportunities, cultural and vocational training.

The Roberts have remained busy speaking to local groups on the goals for Heritage House and putting finishing "at home touches" on the house. They are both graduates of East Carolina University. Steve in psychology and Frances in sociology.

They are stressing the fact that the facilities are open to girls who are troubled and perhaps need some time away from their families to straighten their thinking. Facilities are also open to adjudicated and pre-delinquent youths.

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By MARION SWINDELL

...and there is nothing new under the sun." The above quote is a tragic statement, yet many people seem to be constantly making it.

If a person is living in such monotony that everything that happens is old and "routine," then their life must be most miserable.

If we were living in the period of history of a thousand years ago, this statement would have had some meaning.

Man's greatest achievement of a thousand years ago was the wheel, and his greatest achievement 500 years later was still the wheel. But, within the last twenty years there have been thousands of new and useful inventions. And every single one of them has been greater than the wheel.

A person today has at his beckoning more new and exciting things to see and experience than he can possibly perform.

Someone said: "Digest every day break it apart in tiny bits enjoy every moment."

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Sunday's Church Lesson

POWER TO GROWTH
(Acts 2:1-4; 16-17; 36-42)

Dr. F. E. Marsh has reminded us that an inert substance or a living body may become so surcharged and transformed with another force foreign to itself, that when we touch it we feel only the foreign force which fills it. Galvanize a pail of water, and then put your hand into it. You touch the water, but you feel only the electricity which prevades it. Take a bar of iron and put it into the fire. Soon the fire enters it, and takes possession of every atom of which it is composed. If you touch it while red-hot you will scarcely feel the iron, but you will certainly feel the fire. So it is with a man when he is filled with God. Come near to him and touch him, and as you touch the man you feel God.

The coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and every day since, was to fill man with God.

Fullness of Power,

Acts 2:1-4

The day of Pentecost comes fifty days after the Passover and climaxed the week of week (Leviticus 23:15ff). It marked the close of the harvest, and it also commemorated the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai.

Pentecost was one of the three great Jewish festivals to which every Jew within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to attend. The other two were the Passover, in the middle of April, and the Feast of

Tabernacles. The name Pentecost means "The Fiftieth".

Pentecost was one of the most popular festivals of the Jewish year and so Jerusalem would be thronged with Pilgrims from every quarter of the earth. As this day represented the ingathering of the harvest, so it became the day of ingathering of souls into the Church of Jesus Christ.

We read in verse one that the believers "were all of one accord in one place." This is an excellent formula for the manifestation of spiritual power in any day. In the verses that follow, emphasis is on the fact that there was an unmistakable intervention of God. There was "an echoing sound as of a mighty wind borne violently," Dr. A. T. Robertson says, "Rushing along like the whirl of a tornado." The sound filled the whole house.

This is not the first coming of the Holy Spirit into the world. It is His first working with a people of God who had experienced the death, rising, and ascension of God's Son. Upon every believer there rested the fire-like appearance of a tongue of fire. What was this all about? These symbolized the presence of God with His People. Where God's Presence is there is zeal, like, power, and purity. "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit made them able to speak in

languages other than their own. This ability to speak in foreign languages was a temporary endowment to meet a specific need. This is not a requirement for assurance that one is Spirit-filled. The fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control."

The Fulfillment of Prophecy,

Acts 2:16-17

In these verses Peter defends the believers against the charge of being drunk with new wine. Peter, now under the control of the Holy Spirit, sees this as the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. This would link Jesus of Nazareth with the Old Testament prophecy of the Messiah.

"In the last days" referred to the days in which the apostles lived. The "last days" would witness the outpouring of God's Spirit upon all flesh. Sons and daughters would prophecy. This is, they would speak forth God's Good News. Young men would see visions and old men would dream dreams. God's presence in power would be available to all, young and old, servants and hand-maids. God's grace and mercy would not be withheld from any who would turn to Him in faith. **The Freeness of Promise,**

Acts 2:36-42

Peter was addressing a Jewish crowd. The house of Israel must know the facts. They had crucified Jesus of Nazareth but God had

declared Him to be both Lord and Christ. The Holy Spirit stirred and pierced their hearts. They turned to Peter for advice. What were they to do? Peter's answer is the much-needed answer to a God-forgetting world today. "Repent." "Change your attitude and action toward God." They have lived in rebellion against God. Now there must come an openness to God. A willingness to obey God. Baptism must follow repentance. This would be their first open confession of their faith in Christ. It would further proclaim their own death to the sin way of life and their intention to walk in a newness of life.

In verse thirty-nine Peter declared that the promise of the Holy Spirit is to all whom God calls. God's will is that none should perish. All are invited. Only those who respond will be saved. Verses forty-one and forty-two tell what resulted in the acceptance of the message. They continued. They rejoiced. They worshipped. They praised. They loved. They shared. What more does one need?

BIBLE QUESTION FOR THIS WEEK:
How long did the resurrection take place before the ascension of Jesus?

ANSWER:
According to Acts 1:3, Jesus appeared to his disciples for 40 days before He ascended.

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