

White House insider turns from politics to God

By SHIRLEE IDEN

"Try God" his gold lapel pin reads. Charles Colson has. And for him it has made all the difference.

Sometime between the revelation of his involvement in the Watergate affair as special counsel to President Richard Nixon and his subsequent trial and imprisonment in a federal prison, Charles Colson accepted Jesus Christ and he now says it changed his life.

"The great search for people today is to find a relationship with God and I have found it," he said in a recent interview. "Everything else pales beside it."

Colson, who likes to be called "Chuck," has worn many hats in his 40-odd years. He's been a prosperous attorney, a politician, special counsel to the president, an accused felon, a prisoner and is now deeply involved in a movement to bring the word of God to men and women serving time in federal prisons.

"I work full-time with the Prison Fellowship doing work in 30 prisons training inmates," he explained. "We also work with them when they get out."

"At this time we are placing an ordained minister in a Memphis prison full-time. This man will live with the inmates."

COLSON predicts a "revolution" in the prisons if his Prison Fellowship Program ever takes hold.

"There are 300,000 inmates in American prisons, but four out of five of the crimes committed are perpetrated by ex-cons," he said. "So you're getting right to the heart of the problem when you work in a one-to-one relationship with these prisoners. It may be the way to solve the crime problem in this country."

Colson himself served seven months in a federal prison as a result of the "dirty tricks" he was involved in for almost four years during the Nixon administration.

"I'm the only person in the United States ever to be imprisoned on a



CHARLES COLSON

charge of disseminating derogatory information to the news media about an accused person awaiting trial," he said. "It was all about Daniel Ellsberg when he was being tried for taking the Pentagon Papers."

Colson admits he was guilty but says that Bobby Kennedy did much the same thing to James Hoffa.

"I agree this should be a crime," he said.

That his former boss did not follow him to prison, Colson holds no rancor.

"I was glad about the Nixon pardon," he said. "I think he suffered enough and there was nothing to be gained by jailing a sitting president."



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"IT TERMS of Howard Hunt and his long jail sentence, well, the criminal justice system is not fair and Watergate is just one example of the unfairness."

Colson calls himself the "sole survivor" of the Nixon inner circle in Washington. He centers his activities there but most other "Watergate conspirators" have moved elsewhere. However, he still maintains ties with his former colleagues.

"I see them all," he said. "I visit with John Dean. We have to heal the wounds of Watergate after all. I see Mr. Nixon frequently and have kept a friendship with him."

"I saw Nixon in December and was amazed at the great spirits he was in. He told me Pat had recovered her health completely except for her left arm."

Colson believes that in the long run, the American people may benefit from Watergate "but in the short run, we haven't."

"As long as Nixon is being made a scapegoat, we are making a mistake which misses the fact that there was a lot of wrong doing going on and there were many people doing it."

"Watergate will be a delusion if people believe everything will be fine now. Human nature doesn't change, and all men are sinners. Until Carter came to Washington, there was no change in the moral climate and Congressmen have been up to their old shenanigans."

"In the long run, Watergate will be

a blessing if it shatters the false idols of people putting all their faith in government."

COLSON SEES evidence all over the country of a new search for old values, a new spiritual regeneration. "Carter caught the theme of what's happening in his inaugural," he said. "People are looking for the message of Christ."

He said this is confirmed by results of a recent Gallup Poll and by the response he gets when he speaks about Christ all over the country.

"We've come from 'God is Dead' in 1967 to 'Born Again' in 1977 if you look at covers of Time Magazine," he said.

"Born Again" is the title of the book Colson wrote last year about his life and experiences and how he went from being a "social Christian" to accepting Jesus Christ and letting God regenerate him.

The book was the fifth best seller in the country for non-fiction in hard-back last year and has just been issued in paper.

"It's not common for a basically spiritual book to be accepted that highly," he said. "It's a very directly Christian book."

He admits that as many people buy it to read about Charles Colson the Watergate trickster as Charles Colson speaker for the spiritual life.

Colson said his income from the book and lectures is largely donated to the Prison Fellowship.

"For the last two years, I lived off the earnings I accumulated as a lawyer in previous years, now the book helps."

Colson said he has turned down two good jobs in private industry in order to continue his religious work.

Looking back, the articulate, well-dressed former Washington politician has few regrets.

"I'm glad it all happened if it brought me to Christ," he said. "My life has been blessed and I'd rather be doing what I'm doing today than what I did before."

"I enjoyed being in a position where I made things happen but I was never part of the glamour life and I didn't like it. I went to one embassy party in four years."

Colson thinks history will not be as hard on Richard Nixon as his contemporaries have been.

"We did some things I'm proud of," he said. "Nixon made it possible for peace in the world when he recognized China and split the Communist world."

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Crafts for sale

Co-owners of "My Hobby Ceramics," Gail Thompson, at left, and Sue Kalfas, are but two of 50 local handcrafters who will display and sell their works at the Farmington Jaycettes upcoming spring arts and crafts sale. The event is set for March 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Farmington High School. There is no admission charge. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Schoolcraft offers series on careers for women

Schoolcraft College Women's Resource Center will offer a six-part open forum series during March and April on careers.

The forums are scheduled in the Liberal Arts Building at 8 p.m. and are open to students and the public without charge. No registration is necessary.

"Mind, Time and Passion—Keys to Success" will begin the series on Wednesday, March 30 in Room 425. Floyd Wichtman, director of training for Realty World, will discuss how a person's energy and talent can be focused; how achievement strategies can work and how to be prepared to take advantage of opportunities.

The remaining sessions are de-

signed to provide basic information on a variety of career areas and will meet in Room 200. Panelists will discuss the educational requirements, job functions and satisfactions and job ladder opportunities for employment in entry level through professional categories.

On Tuesday, April 5, "Women in Law and Politics" will be presented by Jean King, an attorney from Ann Arbor, and Mary Brown of the Michigan House of Representatives.

"Women in Engineering" will be presented on Wednesday, April 13, by an engineering professor, a University of Michigan student and a practicing engineer from the Society of Women Engineers.

"Secretaries: General Office to Executive" will be discussed on Thursday, April 14. Panel members include: Margaret Danol, executive secretary, Ford Export Corporation; Maybelle Ston, secretary to the dean of applied sciences, and Sandra Fibrek, counselor, both of Schoolcraft College.

On Thursday, April 21, Jean Budd will moderate a panel from the American Society of Women Accountants on the subject of "Careers in Accounting." A short film will also be shown.

The final program in the series, "Opportunities in Real Estate," will be conducted by a panel of real estate women led by Jean Langfar of Realty World on Thursday, April 28.

Mothers without mates discuss their plight

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

The afternoon session of Oakland Community College's International Women's Day centered around the plight of the mother who raises her children alone.

Sadie Davis, a single parent and an OCC sociology teacher, led a discussion among women who are trying to take care of the kids and lead a life of their own.

Ms. Davis practices what she preaches. She juggles her time so she can teach, work in the community, change the diapers and still lead a social life of her own.

The discussion stemmed from the movie "Chris and Bernie." The film depicted the problems, frustrations and fantasies of two mothers left to raise their children alone. It showed their despair, their close calls with nervous breakdowns and their overall hope for what they wanted for themselves and for their children.

THE GROUP talked about the compact family, the extended family and communal living; trying to settle down, yet reaching out for a social life; breaking out, and guilt. They talked about the stigma of divorce that's still with us, and reaching out for therapy. They talked about going back to school and working their way off ADC rolls.

They agreed on several things, among them that the first year is the hardest, and that mother is pretty much on her own to find her own way.

Trying to find a direction, searching for identity and the grasp for some kind of autonomy, coupled with guilt, seemed to consume a good deal of time for most in the discussion group. But there was an undercurrent of warning for the newcomer to this circle not to even try therapy "until you're settled down." And then, members of the group advised, take your time and do some heavy shopping for a therapist.

ONE OF THE big stumbling blocks for the mother new to this kind of lifestyle was the thought that parenthood must be limited only to the biological mother. Yet, sometimes other substitute figures might be the best of two worlds for the child.

Ms. Davis, a one-time ADC caseworker, said she sometimes saw almost a possessiveness the mother felt about her child which made it difficult for her to share her child with others. And this was coupled with a tendency to become so immersed with the child that most of what they were doing was centered around the child, leaving no time for themselves.

On dating, one woman in the group felt so guilty about it, she saw a psychologist on the subject. Most of the women, at one time or another, said they had felt something was wrong with them because they were di-



SADIE DAVIS

vorced. Or there was some kind of penalty that must be paid because they were.

DIVORCE, MS. Davis said, was the chief reason, in Oakland County, for mothers on ADC. "It is not illegitimacy, which most people believe, but that is one of the things we have to live with."

Another stigma for the divorced mother, Ms. Davis said, comes through institutions. She said she had several occasions to be called to school for a small son, and whatever

problem he ever encountered it was generally sluffed off with the excuse that he didn't have a father living at home.

"I finally got a stock answer for that one," she said. "I told them to go find me a husband."

Recommended reading for the group was "Creative Divorce" by Mel Kantzler, which counters the myth of failure.

Summing up, Ms. Davis said, "Your biggest needs are friends you can depend on and people you can trust."

NHHS Class of 72 called to reunion

The 1972 class of North Farmington High School is now planning its five-year reunion, to be held July 22.

Persons who have not been contacted are asked to call Laura Strom, at 964-1234.