



# Finding Christ After Scandal

**"Dirty tricks" Charles Colson prays and fasts**

*By Vera Glaser*

Washington

An odd assortment of VIPs who until recently were not on political speaking terms are quietly joining hands in "brotherly love."

Their bond was formed through the Fellowship Foundation, a non-sectarian religious movement operating virtually underground throughout the world.

Now Watergate is drawing attention to its work.

On Monday mornings former presidential aide and so-called "dirty tricks" man Charles W. Colson turns up at the foundation's fellowship house here to pray and sometimes to fast.

Colson recently said he has "found Christ." (He faces trial in June for alleged Watergate sins.)

Praying with him regularly is Senator Harold Hughes, a former truck driver and reformed alcoholic. The Iowa Democrat plans to devote himself to religious work when he retires from the Senate at the end of the year.



**Mel Laird's unusual friendship**

Several wealthy backers currently are negotiating to buy him a \$3.5 million, 20-acre headquarters here.

Also in the breakfast prayer group are Representative Albert H. Quie, a Minnesota Republican, and former Representative Graham Purcell, a Texas Democrat.

Prayer breakfasts were a worldwide movement even before Watergate, but Dr. Richard C. Halverson, a Presbyterian minister who prays with — and for — some of the town's best-known politicians, thinks the scandal may have been a catalyst for the movement.

He compares Watergate to "a huge X-ray. It has revealed the fundamental problem of human nature, man's belief in himself, rather than God."

Halverson is close to Senator Mark Hatfield (Rep-Ore.), a devout Baptist. Under Hatfield's resolution, the Senate last week spent two hours observing a national day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer."



**Hatfield's day of national humiliation, prayer and fasting**





### Religious retirement for Hughes

Halverson helped in Colson's conversion, after meeting him through Tom Phillips, president of the Raytheon Corp. Phillips also introduced Colson to the books of C.S. Lewis, whose work, "Mere Christianity," describes personal pride as "the greatest sin." Colson is said to have been greatly influenced by it.

"Hughes and Colson are really brothers now," Halverson said. "It is just beautiful. I don't think they have changed their political stances. Hughes is a real liberal and Colson a real conservative, but they love each other and their families love each other. They are really together."

Two others whose friendship Halverson sees as unusual are Hatfield and Melvin Laird, former defense secretary and presidential counselor.

"You couldn't get anybody more opposed on Vietnam and defense," Halverson said.

Halverson, tall and portly with graying, slicked-back hair and a genial manner, once had theatrical ambitions. Now he heads the Fourth Presbyterian Church, near fashionable Kenwood Country Club in the Maryland suburbs.

"We don't want the Fellowship Foundation to have any visibility at all," he

said. The foundation is a Chicago-based corporation, with its president, attorney James Bell, based in Washington.

The fellowship movement, formerly known as International Christian Leadership, works in inner cities, prisons and churches.

It encourages the prayer breakfasts that now are held regularly in the White House, Pentagon, Senate and House, by governors of 40 states and mayors of 1000 cities, as well as in about 50 foreign countries.

Halverson says, "The day of the big religious institution is over. I think it's a good thing."