

CALVARY ACADEMY:
A PLACE FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS
TO GROW IN CHRIST
SENIOR CHURCH HISTORY
PROFESSOR KORTHALS

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CHURCH HISTORY PAPER OUTLINE
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Calvary Academy is the first effort within the WELS to serve our straying lambs in a reform school type setting. Calvary was not founded to be a dumping ground for the minor “trouble makers” of the prep schools or area Lutheran high schools. Calvary is a special institution where children who have had excessive problems with their sinful natures, families, and authorities are placed to help them return to the fold of God’s kingdom. Organized by only a handful of faithful servants of God, this facility seeks to fill a void that is being overlooked in our circles. The need to have a place for children in crisis to go where they can grow in Christ.

The first ideas for this institution started to surface in 1993 with discussions between Bob Wasser and Cindy Sampe. Their two families are big into the foster parent program. To avoid burn out, they would trade off the more difficult children to get a short respite. This got them to talking about a place where they could turn to supply this need. They only had either secular institutions or ‘evangelical’ places as options at that time and were not satisfied by either one.

They came to the conclusion that they should start throwing out feelers about starting a facility like this within the WELS that would maintain our Biblical faithfulness when dealing with such children in need of help. They were talking at the Sampe house about this with Pastor Paul Sharrer at Easter five years ago. Pastor Sharrer was excited to put the idea into motion. A month later they had their first organizational meeting along with Pastor Paul Sharrer, Pastor Robert Voss (Ixonina, Wisconsin), Mr. Larry Marquart, and Pastor Jim Aderman.

They developed the idea a little more and after three months they decided to call a steering committee. It was decided that they would call the steering committee through

the congregation in Libertyville, Illinois in order to avoid taxes while they could solicit the initial funding needed to get the idea off the ground. The steering committee worked up a taped presentation for the following WELS convention.

The response from the pastors was less than encouraging. They received many well wishers, but the majority didn't think it would fly and they did not see a justifiable need for it. This prompted the Steering Committee to turn out individual mailings.

They sent out 760 copies of their first newsletter. Their intention was to solicit funds and create awareness. They did not receive a dime from these first mailings. However, Bob Wasser did make the comment that the response he did get was in the form of "massive letters of support and encouragement"¹ the likes of which he had not experienced before. Even though it looked as if the mailing was a failure, it was a source of tremendous motivation for the founders to keep on pushing to bring their idea to reality.

Bob Wasser set up the communication center in his own home and opened an 800-number as a constituency connection and a crisis and counseling hot line. With this avenue he has had the opportunity to counsel 77 families. He and his wife, who would work up to 40 hours a week in her spare time as well, kept sending out the mailings and keeping up with the progress of the project. Mr. Wasser also gave a presentation to the Western Wisconsin District Pastoral Conference in October of 1994. Again, they met with a lot of well wishers, but both Pastor Mieschke and Pastor Gurgel didn't think it would fly. Since he met with little encouragement with this approach, Mr. Wasser resumed the individual mailings to personal constituents and WELS women's groups in order to advertise and gain support.

The first big break came in 1994, when land in Walworth County was available on which to build the facility. From September to December of 1994, work centered on the acquisition of this property, which came at a cost of \$160,000. Mr. Wasser contributed \$2,000 of his own money toward the down payment, which was \$30,000, and other fees finally brought the total need to about \$40,000. The steering committee also sent off 7,000 mailings asking Calvary's supporters for donations for the rest of the down payment. When all the support came back, Calvary had received donations in excess of \$44,000.

There was some zoning problems, but nothing that special permits wouldn't fix. These special zoning permits needed to be obtained by the Common Council. In order even to be heard by the Common Council for consideration of such permits, the neighbors had to be notified of the reason for the permits. This prompted Mr. Wasser to personally distribute the fliers about the proposed school on this sight to the surrounding 6-block radius. All this was done in his personal time.

God answered all their hard work and prayers with a simple "no". On December 19, 1994, Mr. Wasser met with 200 angry neighbors outraged at the thought of such a facility in their neighborhood. This resulted in a shut out vote against the zoning permits and the subsequent purchase of the land since they didn't have the permits to build the facility. In order to avoid scandal, a follow up letter was promptly sent out to the supporters to inform them of the set back and to ask that they keep on praying on the school's behalf².

¹ Interview with Robert Wasser, April 16, 1998.

² Mr. Wasser informed me that there were many eyes watching the organization and allocation of funds for this project. The letter was sent as proof of the honest intent of the Academy's organizers.

It didn't take long for God to open another door for the school, though. In March of 1995, Calvary put down a down payment on a new "used" facility. Zion Lutheran School in South Milwaukee was moving to a new school the congregation was building. Again, this prompted a need for special zoning variances and a conditional use permit that would allow for the dorming of the students on campus. The zoning matters were not a problem per se. Because of generous grants from a private trust fund, Calvary was able to install an alarm system, full kitchen, and shower rooms for the students. Renovations totaled to about \$300,000.

Problems arose because of the unfamiliarity of the neighborhood with the proposed program of Calvary. The local sentiment was so strong that it was the subject of a media glut. The proposed school made the all the local papers, TV news, radio news, and the like. Unfortunately, the final details of the program had not yet been ironed out, especially in respect to the number of students participating and what type of program would be followed at the school. Calvary was leaning toward the boarding school type of Academy from the beginning. However, there was also an option of starting the Academy with only a day school program that could have potentially had as many as 150 students. You can let your imagination run with the potential for problems the neighbors could see with that option. With the boarding school option, the numbers were estimated at 30-70 students.³ Because of the lack of communication and potential for large numbers of special students, the locals were not very excited about the proposed new school. The neighbors were not too keen on having this many "kids in crisis" running around in their neighborhood.

Since the preference of the school was the dormitory type academy, a conditional use permit was needed to house the students at the school. The application for a conditional use permit met with fierce resistance when the request was offered to the South Milwaukee Common Council. A negative newsletter was distributed, anonymously, door-to-door against the proposed Academy. The title of this newsletter was, "Juvenile Delinquency, Drug Problems, Truancy" followed by the headline, "If these words alarm or scare you please read on."⁴ The author of this scare tactic must have had just enough information about the school to be both ignorant of the program and it's goals and dangerous to it's future. The very title reflected knowledge of the official Calvary Academy Student Profile from Calvary's Policy Book⁵. Even though Calvary was attempting to give the neighborhood insight and introduction to the program, this problem led the Common Council to delay processing of the application for the conditional use permit by a vote of 5-3.⁶ This action was done despite the desire to have the Academy up and running by Christmas of that year.

The final result of this issue came in February of 1997 when the Planning Commission denied the permit by a vote of 4-1.⁷ This proved to be God's blessing in disguise. This opened the door to purchase a duplex about a mile from the school.

³In 1998, it was decided to shoot for a maximum enrollment of 30-35 students at a given facility. This number would best ensure the safe and efficient application of the program. More than this would be too difficult to manage because of the nature of the students and the program.

⁴Quote from the *South Milwaukee Voice Graphic*, issue no. 12, page 5, March 23, 1995.

⁵The complete student profile says basically that Calvary students range in age from 6 to 18 years old who are struggling with life and are wrestling with emotional disturbances and failing to serve Jesus. It also states that the students may be experimenting with one or more of the following: Drugs and Alcohol Abuse, Truancy, Delinquency, Sexual Promiscuity, Gang Association, Humanistic Thinking, and the Occult.

⁶Page 7 of the *South Milwaukee Voice Graphic*, issue no. 12, 3-23-95. This happened even before the processing of the application which needed to be acquired in the following manner (also from this issue of the paper). Approval for that permit cannot be given until the Planning Commission has evaluated the application, there is a public hearing on the issue and the Common Council votes on whether or not to allow the conditional use.

⁷*South Milwaukee Voice Graphic* issue No. 9, 2-27-97, page 1.

Renovations were made to the duplex from February to May. The duplex was available for student occupancy in August. Some of the students had been staying in host homes with members of Zion prior to the availability of the boarding home.

The boarding home offered several advantages. The first was a means of getting out of the school. After spending 13 hours in a relatively small and cramped environment, the students found it refreshing to get a change of scenery. Another is that it centrally located the majority of the student body. This arrangement offered better supervision and a more complete student participation in the program. It also avoided the possible problems of having the students stay at host homes like theft, coming into contact with strangers, getting host families involved with gang issues and the like. It also settled the question of where to put the students inside the school at night. After settling in and getting into the program, it is more than evident that there would have been very little room for dorming students and the conditions would have been cramped at best. Considering the nature of the students, this solved problems of the kids “getting in each others’ faces” too much.

Another blessing that turned up was that the boarding home was not required to have a special R2 zoning for special needs either (handicap accessibility and the like). This saved the school hundreds of thousands of dollars in possible costs because of the work that would have been necessary to make everything accessible to handicap students.

South Milwaukee housing and apartment zoning ordinances allow for up to 4 unrelated people to live at any given house or apartment at the same time. This type of zoning for such living is also protected under the First Amendment. The question was considered, “What if we need to put more than 3 students in the dorm at one time?” The

Academy's lawyer pointed out that since everyone is guaranteed the right to housing under the First Amendment so more than four unrelated people could live in the same apartment at the same time. Any future housing questions will be settled with the acquisition and modification of a 6-flat condominium that the school is seeking to secure for this purpose⁸. However, along with the new place springs the needs for a full time dorm supervisor and some sort of bus or mass transit system to get the students back and forth from the school. The administration and board of the Academy are already dealing with these concerns.

By the grace of God, the constant striving by the administration and the staff at Calvary is proving to be most fruitful. God used past failures to cause the school to look to other avenues to best serve Calvary's mission and the results ended up being equal or even better ways to accomplish that mission. This was the case with the planning as well as with the school.

The school opened January 20, 1997. There was already one student who was respiting at the home of the school's social worker since the prior Thanksgiving waiting for the school to open. The enrollment increased to 7 after Calvary opened, increased to as many as 12 and now is at 10. At this time, the students range in age from 12 to 18 and from grades 6 to 12. Seven of the students attend classes at Calvary and three attend Shoreland Lutheran High School. Because of the diversity in the students' ages, the curriculum is scheduled to fit both junior high and high school classes in throughout the day. The students have chapel, art, and choir together. All their other classes are divided into small classes or individually. Arrangements have also been made with Milwaukee

⁸Bob Wasser said that a 6-flat has been secured in Cudahy, Wisconsin, but not purchased pending Board approval. A Siebert grant recently received by the school will allow the Academy to put a down payment

Area Technical College, which makes it possible for students to earn high school credits via the internet. This will especially assist those students whom for various reasons have “lost” credits previously.⁹

Calvary called Mr. Karl Blauert to serve as Principal. Volunteers from various Lutheran Elementary Schools and Area Lutheran High Schools taught classes the first semester that the school was open. This last fall, Calvary called Mr. Paul Marquart as the only other full-time teacher. Amy Brinkman (teaches keyboard), Kathy Proeber (art)¹⁰, and myself (Literature/Grammar and Religion) round out the teachers for this year. Bob Wasser expressed the desire of the Academy to make the Senior Assistant a regular part of their program.

The school days run about the same as a regular school. After arriving at 8:00 AM, the students get an hour for breakfast, personal preparation time, and devotion. The school day runs from 9:00 AM until 3:15 PM. It goes like most Lutheran Elementary Schools with morning classes, lunch hour (which offers an excellent hot lunch program because of the cooks on staff), and a recess thrown in before the last few afternoon classes.

The majority of the students have been diagnosed as ADD or ADHD. For this reason, most of the students are on individual learning programs. However, the students’ possible learning difficulties have not been a terribly huge factor in their overall performances in my classes. The students at the Academy are not stupid by any means. Most of the students have average to above average gifts. When the students first arrive,

on the property and, God willing, will close on the property in May of 1998.

⁹Comments made by Mr. Blauert in the Holiday 1997 Newsletter.

¹⁰Mrs. Proeber is an art teacher at Shoreland Lutheran High School. She comes in on Monday nights to teach art from 6-8 PM.

they just choose not to use those gifts for whatever reason, such as: poor attitude, showing off for the other students at Calvary,¹¹ or living up to the expectations they perceive that others have of them (very little to none). Some have been high and truant so long they don't remember what school was like and have lost the ability to do as well as they used to because of the drugs and absence.

The school year runs longer than a regular school year. It began on August 25, 1997. It concludes on June 12, 1998. There are very few breaks for holidays with exception coming at Christmas, after school gets out, and right before school starts up again when the students are off for 10 days¹². The overall school year totals 191 days plus 25 during the 1998 summer program¹³. The summer program is also very exciting. Some of the Area Lutheran High School teachers volunteer to teach 2-3 week summer courses at their respective Area Lutheran High Schools. These classes are the more hands-on classes such as metalworking, woodworking and the like. It offers the kids new schools, new teachers and classes in which they don't have to sit in a desk. The response last year was very positive from both teachers and students. It also serves as a way the students can earn partial credits they might need for advancement or even graduation.

The school program is also unique in that is intimately united with the student's behavioral program. The students will receive credit for academic courses taken only if they successfully complete all their schoolwork as well as the Calvary program at large.

¹¹It's neat to see how much the students try to maintain their street prowess in the school. They have got to show the others (staff and students) that Calvary's program will not break them so they try to remain as belligerent as possible for as long as possible.

¹²The student doesn't necessarily go home during this time. Students who are newer don't get home passes until they advance to a higher level in the program. Other students have unsettled issues that make it unsafe to send them back into those situations.

¹³Karl Blauert, 1997 Holiday Newsletter.

If a student does not comply with the program and is removed, the credits for any school completed may be lost as well. The Policy book states,

“However, the Academy does not award credits on the basis of time in class, but only for work completed and competency achieved. Therefore, the Sponsors understand and agree that the Academy cannot ensure, nor be liable for, how quickly a Student will receive credits, if any at all, or whether the Student will receive credits in any certain subjects.¹⁴

This serves as somewhat of a deterrent and curb for students who fail to comply with the program.

The program is designed to restore the lost relationship of these lambs with their Good Shepherd through the means of grace. The mission statement is as follows,

“Calvary Academy is a boarding school which exists to provide in-crisis WELS/ELS children and others (ages 6-18) with residential schooling and therapy which is centered on and guided by Jesus Christ through His Word.”¹⁵

The program is based on a six level system of progression modeled after other crisis intervention programs like Boys Town. In order for a student to advance to the next level in the program, he or she needs to successfully accomplish the requirements established for each level, respectively. The review period for advancement change is every three months.

Calvary has designed a Christian character building system to enable the students to achieve progression in the program.¹⁶ The most important tool for the success of the program is the faithful adherence to a daily routine. Often the students ask, “Why do we have to do this?” or, “Why do we have to do this again today?” The simple answer that usually gets a sigh of disgust is, “It is part of the routine.” The following is the rationale of the necessity of daily routine at Calvary.

¹⁴ Policy Book, page 2 under ‘Enrollment Agreement’.

¹⁵ As printed in the Calvary Academy Policy Book

¹⁶ See Appendix.

Many of the children we work with have a high need for structure and stability in their lives. This has been a source of difficulty for them and their families. It is important that our schedule provides structure and routine. It is from this structure and routine that we can teach God pleasing morals, values and Christian living skills by using the student guidelines and God's Holy Word.¹⁷

This allows the student very little free time to think of how much they miss 'the good old days' when they could stay out all night and party with their "friends". It also focuses and re-focuses the students on their problems that need to be resolved and not allowing them to run from or simply ignore them anymore.

Despite the best efforts to keep these kids focused, some still do not take advantage of the chance to change that they are given. There have been multiple runs from Calvary, several dismissals from the program as well as the necessity to continuously encourage the students who are here to keep working and not give up on themselves. The kids wear the W.W.J.D.? bracelets to remind themselves what would Jesus do in this situation. This works at times to give them a quick reminder what they are at the school to do.

This need is the reflection of a basic weakness of the students here. The failure to see God as their perfect source of strength and comfort; subsequently, they do not look to God for the solutions to their problems either. Although Calvary has a WELS social worker on staff to deal with the psychological and emotional problems, this is more of a spiritual problem that needs pastoral counseling. Having a pastor on staff had always been part of the proposed program of Calvary, but the Lord wanted them to wait until He found the right man.

After calling four others, the Holy Spirit led Pastor Richard Hennig to accept the call to serve at the Academy. He was called in July of 1997 and was here in October of

¹⁷ Appendix under Calvary Academy Daily Routine.

1997. He was serving in Florida. I asked him what he had been doing to qualify him for youth work and institutional ministries at Calvary. He said, “Not a thing. The primary emphasis of my call is in the areas of administration and people management. I have additional training through Michigan State University in Health Care Administration”¹⁸

I asked the question of both Pastor Hennig and Mr. Wasser, “How important was it for Calvary to call a pastor to serve as shepherd, not only spiritually speaking but also synodically speaking?” I received interesting answers from both.

Pastor Hennig responded by saying that it was important first of all to monitor the Law/Gospel approach of the program. He said that he is redoing an exegesis of Galatians. He feels that Paul lays a beautiful foundation for dealing with kids of this nature. He cited Paul’s use of law to redirect, accuse, and convict them of their sin before God and gospel to comfort, heal and build them up to deal with life. The need is imperative, in his mind, to use the Gospel’s glue to rebuild the broken pieces of these kids’ lives.¹⁹

He responded to the second half of the question by stating that since the Academy is a para-synodical structure, “the pastoral office would serve as a natural tie to the synod by virtue of the pastor’s membership in the synod. This would also include participation in the circuit, conference, and district structures that would tie our work together with the rest of the synod.”²⁰

Mr. Wasser approached it from another angle. In response to the first question, he remarked how “2/3 of all problems with kids don’t go through the pastor”. He then went through all the students and reported what kind of pastoral intervention and counseling

¹⁸ Quote from interview with Pastor Hennig. April 1998.

¹⁹ Interview quotes.

each of the students had in order to get into the Academy²¹. He noted that only a couple of the 11 students had any significant pastoral involvement in dealing with the kids' problems. For some, it wasn't until the request came from the family that the pastor was even aware that there was a problem with the child. He feels that some pastors fail to see the need at home, have poor connections with the family, or poor working relationships with the family. His opinion rises not only from his experience with the students here but also what he has seen as a foster parent. He sees the pastoral office at Calvary not only for pastoral care on campus but also as a means to urge the home pastor to become involved with their member, to encourage correspondence, and to keep up the pastoral care when the child returns home. He also would like the home pastor to come up with a plan for the child to keep him or her involved and close to the flock when the student is finished with the Calvary program.

Mr. Wasser's response to the second half of the question was somewhat cynical. He has been presenting the concept of Calvary Academy to the Synod for over five years. His first response was a pat on the back with a lot of sarcastic chuckles of luck. As the concept materialized, the response became more to the effect that, "It's a good idea, it will be good for the synod, but we are not going to put any money into it. The WELS already has enough para-synodical agencies and we don't want to put money into another one. Besides, we have WLCFS to handle those kinds of things." I surmised from the interview that Mr. Wasser seems to like going toe to toe with synodical administration in matters of bean counting verses helping troubled people.

²⁰ Interview quote.

²¹ Students are required to have his or her pastor write a letter that recommends them for treatment at Calvary.

He feels that there is somewhat of a Pharisaical attitude among some WELS pastors. President Gurgel only commend him for his actions and effort associated with Calvary and said that the synod was sapped financially to offer any financial help to another para-synodical agency. Mr. Wasser responded to the effect that it is good and beneficial to reach down in matters of evangelism and not only shoot for the middle class who can be self supporting in a few years.

Mr. Wasser also thinks that because this Pharisaical attitude exists, some pastors underestimate the ability of laymen to run programs in the congregation. He vented a bit on how he thinks that women are neglected in the WELS too. Mr. Wasser, for these reasons and the reasons in the prior paragraph, prefers to work through individual women and the women's groups of a congregation and not through the local pastors or circuits. He says that he can appeal to women's motherly instincts in presenting Calvary and its mission to help children in crisis. He says that women are more willing to help than most of the pastors with whom he has talked.

Mr. Wasser admitted that there are more than a few pastors that do not like him, personally, and that they did not see a realistic need to 'waste' money on a school like Calvary. He responded by saying he was sorry they felt that way and if they ever did realize a need for a school like Calvary because one of their kids was falling away, to give the school a call. Despite some strong feelings and words expressed at times about the school, he also admitted that he didn't lose any sleep over it.

The school has come along so well and the Lord has blessed its success in ways that the founders never thought possible. Once the school was up and running, the task of fine tuning the program became quite a high priority. Pastor Hennig mentioned that the

school is operating with the two best tools available for this kind of work, the Law and the Gospel. He also labels the dedicated workers, freedom from state mandates and court orders as strengths of the Academy. His short-term sights are aimed at preparing the staff and preparing the program for student population of 30. He would also like to see more follow through and daily application of the program done consistently. He thinks that memos are not effective because people are not reading them and communication is lacking in areas.

Mr. Wasser has some of the same ideas. He wants the staff properly trained and maintained so that the program can be followed efficiently and consistently. His concern at the present time was the middle management positions. These positions are very important in the dorm life of the students. They act like house parents to the students. They also are the dorm staff supervisors in charge of making sure that all the dorm staff employees are doing what they are supposed to be doing. He feels that if strong, loving individuals hold these positions, the program will do very well. His only concern (Pastor Hennig shared this opinion as well) was whether or not suitable people would be available within our WELS circles²².

Some of their long-range plans were similar too but others flowed into their respective areas of expertise. Pastor Hennig would like to develop some type of after care plan to follow up on the students. He was hinting at the possibility of the Academy developing it in conjunction with the local pastor. Since such a big part of the follow up would have to be done by the home pastor, communication between the school and the home church is key. He sees programs and facilities like Calvary satelliting across the

synod. He envisions facilities in Flint/Saginaw/Bay City, Michigan area, Atlanta, Dallas, St. Paul, and Los Angeles or Phoenix. With all these facilities, transfers of children with local connections could be moved where they had none. The flexibility for specified areas of treatment at a given location is optional.

He sees this facility with the potential of becoming the national home base of operations and training. He sees the possibility of branching into a day program. This program would be less acute with the student being released home every evening. This program would focus on the Junior High aged students from 7th to 9th grades. He envisions an advisory program to assist LES programs as well as for pastors who are following through with an after care plan.

Mr. Wasser got into the financial aspects of whether training should be done here or at the other facilities. On the one hand, do we bring the staff from the other states to come here for their training or do we send out a training faculty to educate at the various facilities? Who will have the power to allocate funds? Can it only come from the Board? If a question of propriety arises, who will be responsible to oversee the Board? He feels that it is imperative that any Board is given the power to make on the spot decisions. Then the question is asked whether there will be individual &/or independent pastoral and administrative or overview offices or whether there will be one centralized for all of the separate facilities? He sees the need to separate the office of the administrator with student involvement as the student population increases. He feels that it will be too much work when the student population is at 30.

²² Since it is policy that employees be WELS, both thought that some sort of evangelism effort could be made in this respect. The position could be granted to someone not WELS under the understanding that the person takes a BIC of some sort and WELS doctrine must be practiced.

Mr. Wasser would also like to see some sort of financial endowment fund set up for the future of Calvary. As of now, Calvary receives no fixed financial support. He looks to facilities like Bethesda, which has funds in reserve to keep running for 5 years if all their gifts stopped. He says they are shooting for 10-15 years. He wants to try to get it up to a year or two if he can.

I asked for any additional comments that I did not cover in my questions that they thought would be helpful for a historical paper on the Academy.

Pastor Hennig responded sharply with a personal assessment of where Calvary sits as opposed where he feels it ought to sit within the synodical interest,

I think that Calvary is both unique as to its program and as respects its existence amidst the para-synodical structure. We have ventured into the area of abortion prevention, child adoptions, child education, adult counseling, hearing and visually impaired, prison ministry and care for the aged. The problem of youth in crisis has only recently addressed particularly due to the increased number of young people exiting the church post confirmation. The back door losses indicate the spiritual crisis, which impacts the church. It is also reflected in the myriad of crisis cases received by the Academy.

He informed me that the Academy receives about 15-20 crisis calls a week with people asking, "What do I do with my kid?"

Mr. Wasser concluded by reminded me of something I knew, but something that he has the joy of experiencing every day. He is in charge of the financial end of running Calvary. The school receives no synod subsidy for operations. It doesn't receive grants from major business corporations (except one that wishes to remain anonymous) looking

for a cause to write off as a charitable contribution. The funds that Calvary uses to support its \$600,000/ year budget are individual gifts. He says that every once in a while he receives a check for \$100 or more, but the majority of the money that comes in is from well wishers offering \$10 or less at a time because that is all they can afford. What they cannot give in money, they more than compensate for with prayers to God on behalf of the Academy. These are the kinds of things that he reads everyday. This is the kind of motivation God gives to him to keep gladly plugging away at the task that God has given to him.

The results are seen in the students who successfully complete the program and are returned to their families equipped with the power of the Spirit instilled at the Academy. A note from one of these students was included in the Holiday, 1997 Newsletter that I would like to include here.

‘Before I came to Calvary Academy I was heavy into drugs, both selling and using. I ran free and could have cared less about my family. I was making big money and getting high every night. My education meant nothing to me and Holy Spirit was far from my heart. I was badly involved with the law and a probation officer was assigned to me. These things did not matter to me because all I cared about was drugs, girls, and having fun, no matter what the cost.

Now all this was before my mother and father heard about Calvary Academy. I was placed in Calvary, and in the beginning I very much disliked it. When I first arrived, there were no other children here because Calvary had not yet officially opened, but my parents knew they had to put me somewhere quickly before I was in over my head. It was some long, hard months for me before I began changing, but when I began reading the Bible and finally finding Christ in my life, I realized how bad I had been and how my family must have felt. Calvary made me realize where my life was heading, and not just this life but also the next. This school has turned my life around. I’ve put my life in God’s hands and you know what? I know it’s all for the better.’

“Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me” (Psalm 63:7&8)

The results speak for themselves. The power of the Spirit once again shows itself superior to the power and influence the devil, world, and the flesh try to have on us at times, especially during the early teenage years. That’s what makes Calvary so

necessary. The need is there. Satan is ready to fight for these young people in our church, and he has proved it by taking so many away from us.

Are we ready to fight to get them back?

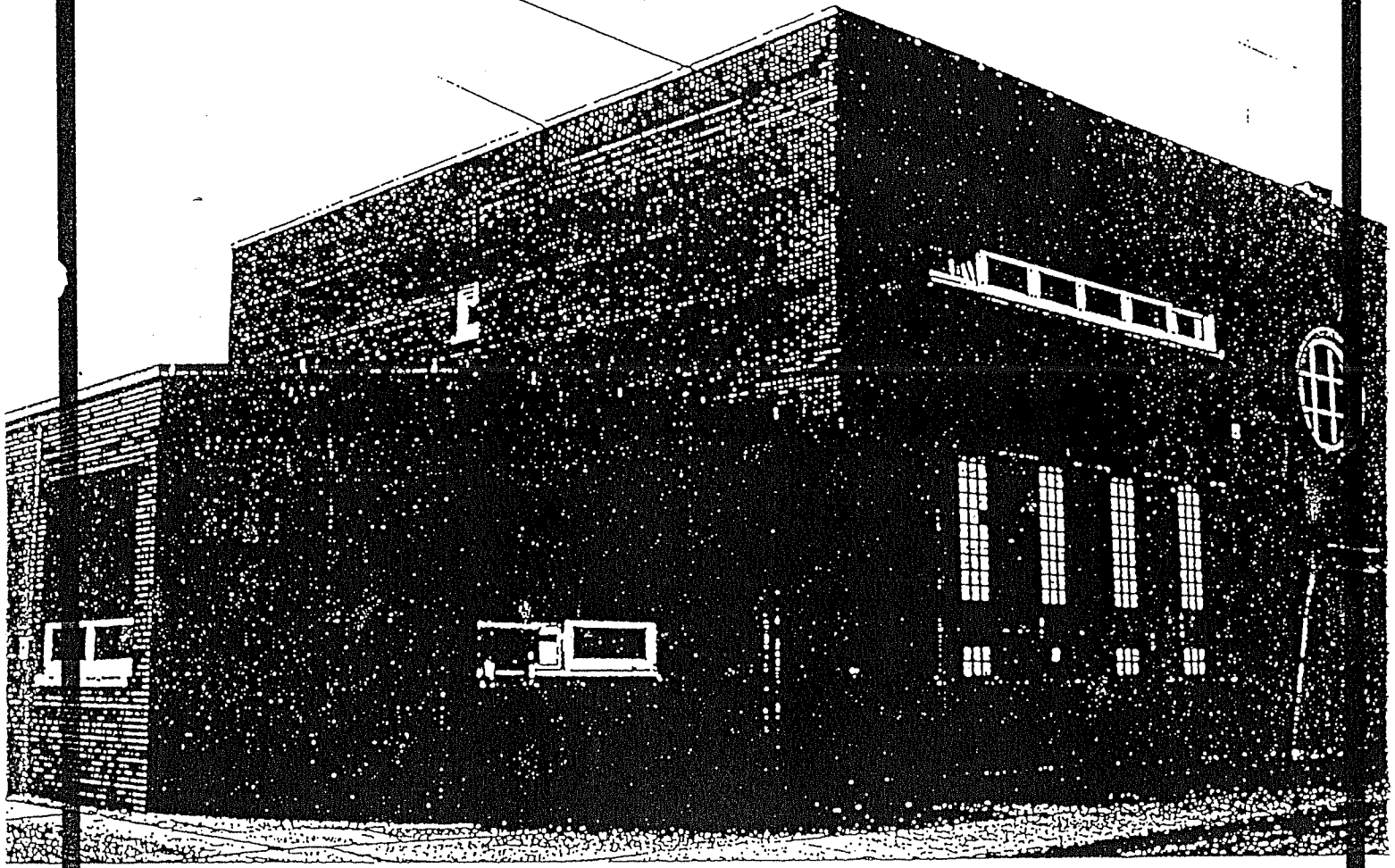
Can we afford to be apathetic toward the direction our youth turn if it seems like it might take some time to put the puzzle back together. Unlike a lot of programs in the synod, Calvary wouldn't be considered a proactive facility. Sadly, it will be the last chance these kids will be able to take time out and think about solving their problems. Some of them won't even bother, others will graduate, go home and let their light shine before men so that all may see the glory of the Almighty in their lives and share all the good things that God has done in them and for them.

May God continue to bless the mission and ministry of Calvary Academy so that we may turn these kids in crisis back to children of Christ.

BIBLIOGRPAHY

1. Hennig, Pastor Richard. Oral Interview, April 9th, 1998.
2. *South Milwaukee Voice Graphic*. March 23, 1995.
3. *South Milwaukee Voice Graphic*. January 23, 1997.
4. *South Milwaukee Voice Graphic*. January 30, 1997.
5. *South Milwaukee Voice Graphic*. February 27, 1997.
6. Wasser, Robert. Oral Interview. April 16th, 1998.

App. 1



Calvary Academy will be a Christ-centered home
and school to help "Children/Youth in Crisis"
(Boys and girls in great danger of losing Jesus and their families)

App 2

Calvary Academy Entrance Requirements

1. The child must have a physical which results in the child being in general good health, and be able to participate in the gym or sporting activities. Your doctor must fill out the "physical" form contained in our packet.
2. The child will need to have a blood test for AIDS, or any other communicable diseases. Drug and alcohol test will also be required.
3. The parent must supply Calvary Academy with a picture of your son or daughter at the time of enrollment. No smaller than a 5x7 print also 1 wallet size.
4. The parents are to sign our school records consent form for the release of your child's school transcripts to be sent to Calvary Academy.
5. The parents must supply to Calvary Academy all immunization records for their child that may be relevant to the student's enrollment.
6. The parents must submit a letter regarding themselves to include, background, education, marital status, employment, church membership, etc.
7. The parent must submit a letter regarding their son or daughter from another relative, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, or a very close friend.
8. The parent will be required to obtain from their Pastor, a letter that their son or daughter be sent to Calvary Academy.
9. The parents must submit all psychological reports they have on their son or daughter to Calvary Academy and a copy of their birth certificate.
10. Financial arrangements must be worked out prior to enrollment. Calvary Academy may request last year's copy of your "income tax return" or copies of your pay stubs.
11. All out of state students are required to have psychological testing done prior to enrollment at the Academy. All other students are required to complete psychological testing before the completion of level one.

Calvary Academy's Character Training

Our Lord has given the responsibility of education and training of our children to the parents. Our Lord specifically commands that parents educate and train their children, bringing them up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Great care must be taken in delegating this important responsibility. Calvary Academy will work with the parents in the education and spiritual training and discipline of their children. The Academy will gain its authority from the parents and will provide a Christ-centered discipline and education program to complement what the parents have done at home.

Every subject area, every teaching method, every attitude, every action of Calvary's staff is a means of training character. Character training is taking place throughout the day, no matter what else is being taught. Calvary Academy's staff and its teachers will maintain an orderly, structured classroom and dorm area and will expect the children to work hard and to learn content with their motivation coming from the message of Christ crucified. He has atoned for the sins of the world. God so loved us, he declared us not guilty in Christ. This message alone motivates and builds character.

Goals To Be Accomplished:

- * *respect authority*
- * *pay attention*
- * *obey willingly and immediately*
- * *apply themselves to the task at hand*
- * *learn rules and apply them*
- * *do their best*
- * *learn to love hard work*
- * *understand how things work together*
- * *finish the job*
- * *do right because it's right to do right*
- * *work hard to get the right answer*
- * *know that there is a right answer*
- * *choose things that are excellent*
- * *love their Saviour with all their heart*

and develop habits of:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| * <i>orderliness</i> | * <i>industry</i> | * <i>discipline</i> |
| * <i>carefulness</i> | * <i>perseverance</i> | * <i>endurance</i> |
| * <i>alertness</i> | * <i>self-control</i> | * <i>helpfulness</i> |
| * <i>obedience</i> | * <i>fairness</i> | * <i>reasonableness</i> |
| * <i>persistence</i> | * <i>thoroughness</i> | * <i>neatness</i> |
| * <i>honesty</i> | * <i>confidence</i> | * <i>patience</i> |
| * <i>accomplishment</i> | * <i>responsibility</i> | * <i>judgment</i> |
| * <i>cooperation</i> | * <i>decisiveness</i> | * <i>loyalty</i> |
| * <i>faithfulness</i> | * <i>effort</i> | * <i>respect for authority</i> |
| * <i>accuracy</i> | * <i>steadfastness</i> | * <i>honor</i> |
| * <i>worship</i> | * <i>Bible reading</i> | * <i>putting their trust in the Lord</i> |

Calvary Academy's success depends on the role and attitude of the parents and child. Scripture has much to say about the responsibilities of the parents and children. The greater attention parents and children give to the Holy Word of God, the greater success they can

App 3

Calvary Academy

Student Profile

"Our daughter went AWOL from school, spent months in juvenile detention, 1 1/2 years in foster treatment home, nearly had her dad thrown in jail (on false abuse charges), later had a baby out of wedlock, got married and never did finish high school. But we still love her! By the way, she asked if you were local, she would be a volunteer." From a wife of a called worker

Calvary Academy students range in age from 6 to 18 years old and come from WELS/ELS homes and, as space permits, from families who agree to allow their children to receive instruction according to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran faith.

The children who come to Calvary Academy are struggling with life, wrestling with emotional disturbance and failing to serve Jesus. Their parents will have exhausted their resources for help. The children may be experimenting with one or more of the following:

Drugs and Alcohol Abuse: *Too often today drugs and alcohol are part of a child's life. Therefore, the child must be separated from his/her source while Christian counseling and a drug and alcohol free environment work together to help him to regain self-control.*

Truancy: *Many times children cannot seem to resist peer pressure that leads them into truancy thus starting a vicious cycle resulting in academic failure and other destructive behaviors.*

Delinquency: *Calvary Academy will address the behaviors that lead to shoplifting and other minor brushes with the law.*

Sexual Promiscuity: *A 1993 Newsweek poll states that 70% of the public high school seniors in the United States are sexually active. Calvary Academy will reinforce that premarital sex and sexual promiscuity are contrary to God's law and help each to understand God's plan for sexual purity.*

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:1

GANG ASSOCIATION: *Struggling adolescents often seek a "family" outside their homes and find that gangs provide them with protection, position and friends. Gang pressures make it almost impossible for a child to leave membership on his/her own. Calvary Academy will provide a respite site offering God's unconditional love.*

HUMANISTIC THINKING: *Each of us does not and can not live only for himself. Rather each child must be brought to the realization that God has a purpose for him and that "All things work for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose." (ROM. 8:28)*

THE OCCULT *Some children experiment with "outside" powers through ouija boards, seances, calling on "spirits," etc... Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Calvary Academy will teach that our Resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ, has full power over all principalities, visible and invisible. We need not seek any other.*

Let us never forget the miracle that happened at Calvary. It was a heavenly plan, the place where our Lord gave his life for the sins of the world. For the rebellious it gives the sure promise of God's unconditional love and forgiveness through his Son Jesus Christ, sharing the news that their sins are washed away by the blood of the Lamb, that was shed for them on Calvary.

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you...Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Hebrews 13:7,17

CALVARY ACADEMY

1-800-510-3989

Mailing Address: 2200 9th Ave. South Milwaukee WI 53172

I would like to help Calvary Academy with my tax deductible gift of \$ _____

- Please send me more information on Calvary.
- Tell more about becoming part of the Founders' 500
- I want to be part of the Founder' 500

Name _____

Address: _____

Founders' 500
Could the Lord use you as an Academy Founder? Pray about joining this group of 500 individuals who will launch this ministry through their financial backing. Founders will contribute at least \$1000 over the next three years. Calvary will gratefully acknowledge the Founders help with an annual dinner meeting and update on this ministry and a permanent acknowledgment of our Founders at the Academy.

CALVARY ACADEMY

DAILY ROUTINE

"A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher... Matthew 10: 24,25a.

Many of the children we work with have a high need for structure and stability in their lives. This has been a source of difficulty for them and their families. It is important that our schedule provides structure and routine. It is from this structure and routine that we can teach God pleasing morals, values and Christian living skills by using the student guidelines and God's Holy Word.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness..." II Timothy 3: 16

- It is extremely important that staff keep the students on schedule.
- Males and females must be separated at all times.
- Students must be with staff at all times.
- Males must use back staircase at all times. Females must use front staircase at all times.
- Males are not allowed in the female dorm. Females are not allowed in the male dorm.
- All students must use the locker rooms for any change of clothing. There will be no changing of clothes in the dorm room. Male and female staff reserve the right to enter all dorm rooms at anytime. Proper dress is required.

CALVARY ACADEMY**CHRISTIAN CHARACTER BUILDING SYSTEM**

Calvary Academy students take part in active Christian character building which incorporates the use of the following point/privilege behavioral plan. Students work to build character skills that are reinforced with point earnings or loss. Students will learn a wide variety of skills that are encompassed in the following key areas:

1. Improving their personal relationship with God through His Grace

Proverbs 3:5,6 "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

2. Using Christ-like verbal and non-verbal communication skills

Psalm 19:14 "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

3. Accepting direction/instruction from adults with respect

Proverbs 13:13 "He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded."

4. Cooperating with Calvary rules

2 John 6 "This is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love."

5. Completing Calvary work/school responsibilities

Titus 3:14 "Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives."

6. Demonstrating positive personal care habits

1 Cor. 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price."

7. Serving one another in kindness

Matt. 7:12 "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

8. Demonstrating positive Academic skills

Col. 3:17 "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

8a. Bringing completed assignments and all materials to class

8b. Displaying high quality workmanship on assignments

8c. Behaving in a positive manner

(See the attached pages for explanations of what types of skills the students demonstrate in each of these key areas in order to earn points)

Apple

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 - 8:30	Laundry Personal Prep	Laundry Personal Prep	Laundry Personal Prep	Laundry Personal Prep	Laundry Personal Prep
8:30 - 8:45	Meds Breakfast	Meds Breakfast	Meds Breakfast	Meds Breakfast	Meds Breakfast
8:45 - 9:00	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion	Devotion
9:00 - Noon	School	School	School	School	School
Noon - 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 - 1:00	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
1:00 - 3:15	School	School/ Devotion	School	School/ Devotion	School
3:15 - 3:45 3:45 - 4:15	Points StudyHall/Dorm	Points Computer/ Study Hall	Points Recess/Dorm	Points Computer/ Study Hall	Points Computer
4:15 - 5:00	Study Hall/ Dorm	Computer/ Study Hall	Boy's Guidance Group	Study Hall/ Computer	Computer
5:00 - 5:30	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
5:30 - 6:00	Chores	Chores	Chores	Chores	Chores
6:00 - 7:00	Art	YMCA	Study Hall/ Computer	YMCA	Bowling/YMCA
7:00 - 7:45	Art	YMCA	Study Hall/ Computer	YMCA	Bowling/YMCA
7:45 - 8:30	Shower	Shower	Shower	Shower	Shower
8:30 - 8:45 8:45 - 9:15	Snacks/Meds Points Dorm	Snacks/Meds Points Dorm	Snacks/Meds Points Dorm	Snacks/Meds Points Dorm	Snacks/Meds Points Dorm
9:15 - 9:35	Devotion in Dorm	Devotion in Dorm	Devotion in Dorm	Devotion in Dorm	Devotion in Dorm
9:35pm	Departure SE Door	Departure SE Door	Departure SE Door	Departure SE Door	Departure SE Door