

Luby Fields, A Friend To All Who Needed Help

By **CHARLES HARDY**
Observer Staff Writer

The Rev. Luby Fields, a Baptist minister and former juvenile court counselor who "wanted every boy to be a man and a man with the right principles," died Tuesday at Charlotte Memorial Hospital after a long illness. He lived at 1521 Pincrest Dr.

Fields, 62, was a native of Pender County who grew up near Goldsboro. He graduated from Wake Forest Baptist College in 1937 and attended the Louisville Baptist Theological Seminary.

Fields moved to Charlotte in 1955, after pastoring several churches in Piedmont towns, including Gastonia. He worked as a court counselor in Charlotte here for about 20 years and was an inspiration to Boys Town of North Carolina, which opened six years ago in Huntersville.

Friends and family say he was a friend to the "troubled," who would leave his home at any time day or night to help would-be suicides, fighting families and the desolate.

"Luby was one of the leaders in the community in his own quiet way," said Robert L. Woodall, who was a juvenile court colleague of Fields and is currently director of Boys Town of North Carolina. "I don't say this because of his great civic accomplishment but because of the tremendous influence he had on the lives of so many people who would not have ordinarily benefited by the usual kind of civic activities. He served a lot of little people."

Fields was a former pastor of Wallace Lane and West Mecklenburg Baptist churches. He also founded Northdale Baptist Church on Statesville Road in the mid-'60s.

Fields was behind the story of Eddie, a story that gave inspiration to juvenile court colleague Fred Kennedy, who later founded Boys Town of North Carolina.

Eddie was a youngster who never knew where home would be from one night to the next. He'd broken into a place or two to get food. He'd been suspended from school for taking food out of the luncheon inside his shirt.

At 13, Eddie was tagged a delinquent and was headed for training school. Fields was convinced the youngster needed a home more than anything else and began to look for a home for Eddie.

However, by the time Fields located a home for the youngster, Eddie had been shot to death by another juvenile. Those memories, told to Kennedy by Fields, helped build Boys Town.

"He had time for everybody, the youngsters and others who needed help, and he had time for home," said Mrs. Fields, who shared most of her husband's experiences. "And it was because of his dedication to the right principles of life."

Along with his wife, Ruby, Fields is survived by two sons, William A. Fields of Chattanooga, Tenn., L.W. Fields Jr. of Tampa, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Marie Brock of Goldsboro, Mrs. Christine Gray of Nashville, N.C.; and eight grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. today at First Baptist Church, with burial in Sharon Memorial Park.

Friends may send memorials to Boys Town of North Carolina, P.O. Box 15963, Charlotte, or West Mecklenburg Baptist Church, Old Dowd Road, Charlotte.

Charlotte News
Charlotte Observer
Concord Tribune
Dunn Record
Durham Herald
Durham Sun
Elizabeth City Advance
Fayetteville Observer
Fayetteville Times
Gastonia Gazette
Goldsboro: News-Argus
Greensboro Daily News

JUL 15 1976