



February 9, 1977

Office of the Southern Baptist Convention

FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

22 B
23

Charles A. Trentham--
The President's Pastor

By Janis Johnson

WASHINGTON (BP)--Charles A. Trentham's study is appointed with presidential memorabilia. Harry Truman's church pew is off to one side. George Washington's and Dwight D. Eisenhower's inaugural prayers are framed behind glass. Color portraits of all chief executives cover one wall. And on the coffee table is a copy of Jimmy Carter's autobiography, "Why Not the Best?"

Trentham, senior minister of First Baptist Church at 16th and O Streets N.W. here, has never before been a president's pastor. But his new role as minister to President Jimmy Carter and his family becomes him.

While the thought of being the President's pastor would have scared some clerics, Trentham was ready. He is a person who does his best in a demanding situation, according to associates.

"When all odds are on him," said one acquaintance, "Charlie Trentham can deliver better than anyone."

The softspoken Trentham, a man with white wavy hair, eyes that crinkle at the corners and an easy smile, is a genial Southerner, dapper, gracious and self-assured. He is deliberate but not aggressive.

"He is a very warm person, someone you automatically have a great deal of affection for the first time you meet," said William McBeath, executive director of the American Public Health Association and a First Baptist member for three years.

"He is not someone you stand in awe of but one of the most warm-hearted people you'll find," said Alvin West, a Washington lawyer and a First Baptist member since the early 1940s.

Trentham is outwardly attuned to others' feelings and in turn sensitive about what others think of him.

"As he was leaving church on Sunday, the President said to me, 'I want you to know I already feel close to you,'" Trentham recalled. "I was deeply touched. I was feeling the same way. He put me at ease."

Trentham's forte is widely recognized to be his preaching, a tradition among First Baptist pastors.

"The pulpit is my craft," said Trentham. "I am more comfortable in preaching than in any work of the ministry."

Yet, he said, "It is also very hard for me. I'm slow of speech. I have the mountain pattern of East Tennessee."

Trentham's progressive views come through in his sermons, the locus of his social action. He leads his people primarily through his words and intellect and by lending his prestige to various projects aimed at bettering society. He is not afraid to speak his mind.

In the pulpit, Trentham turns expressive. He rocks forward on his tiptoes, then back on his heels. His voice rises and falls. His hands grip the lectern. He quotes poetry, famous figures and data from a variety of disciplines frequently without referring to a note.

"He believes in the church's need to attend to social issues," according to Floyd Craig, a staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. Trentham was a member of the commission, the SBC's social action arm, for six years and chairman for part of that time.

"There are those who would like to see him engage in social action himself, but it is his style to do it from the pulpit," Craig added.

West remembers in the 1960s when he and Trentham were serving on the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee and racial violence broke out in Birmingham.

"He proposed a resolution deploring the incident and expressing sympathy for the family," said West, now a deacon at First Baptist. "Some committee members took this as a personal accusation against some whites in Birmingham. The resolution didn't pass."

President Kennedy appointed Trentham to an 18-member committee to investigate racial turmoil in Birmingham. "I was a great admirer of Kennedy," the pastor noted.

Charles Trentham was born in Jefferson City in east Tennessee. He earned a doctorate of theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and a doctorate in moral philosophy at the University of Edinburgh.

He has been a pastor in Fort Worth, a professor of religion at Baylor University in Waco, Tex. and a professor of systematic theology at Southwestern Baptist Seminary. For 21 years before coming here in 1974 he was pastor of First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and dean of the School of Religion at the University of Tennessee.

Trentham, an acknowledged scholar, has written four books--"Shepherd of the Stars," which he calls a "theology of outer space;" "Getting on Top of Your Troubles," a counseling book; "Daring Discipleship," which is given to new church members, and a commentary on the Book of Hebrews.

President Carter took a copy of "Daring Discipleship" back to the White House for Amy, 9, to study. She was recently baptized at First Baptist Church.

Trentham and his wife, Nancy, live in Vienna, Va.

The Carters are not the first First Family to worship at the stately First Baptist Church. President Truman frequently walked the six blocks up 16th Street from the White House to attend services there. (Warren G. Harding and Lyndon B. Johnson have also attended services at the church.)

Undoubtedly, however, the First Family's presence will have an impact on the 950-member congregation, a predominantly middle-aged and older group of many leading Baptists in town.

Trentham and his associate pastor, Charles Sanks Jr., are elated at the prospects.

"We are greatly concerned that we use what we believe is our time well, that we do something positive for the nation through this," Trentham said.

-30-

NOTE: Please use the following credit-line:

This article, by Janis Johnson, staff writer for the Washington Post, is used by special permission of the Post for Baptist papers only.

(Baptist editors please note that the permission for use of the article is for one-time use only. This mailing went only to Baptist editors.)

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist papers.



--- FEATURES

produced by Baptist Press

February 9, 1977

77-24

Her Ministry Is Helping
Others Celebrate Life

by John Rutledge

DALLAS (BP)--Fear gripped more than 500,000 Americans last year as they heard the diagnosis from a biopsy report--"cancer."

LaVerne Adams, a chaplain intern at Baylor Medical Center here, is learning to minister to patients and their families faced with that fear. Her first lesson was a hard one. She had to cop with cancer in her own body and the removal of a breast.

"It was a sudden thing," she said. She and her husband were on furlough in 1973 from their mission assignment in Colombia when her family physician discovered a small lump. She was 42 at the time, with three grown daughters. Because of a previous cancer in her family, the doctor suggested a biopsy to determine if cancer cells were present.

"One day I was in for a check up. The next day I had a mastectomy." At first she tried not to think about it at all. But the emotional impact of losing a part of her body and the possibility of death were overwhelming at times.

"God worked through people to support me. My family, my sisters." As she ministers to patients at Baylor, she knows many of their questions before they ask, because she has asked them herself. She rarely tells them of her own experience, however.

"I try to keep the patient as the focal point. They seem to sense that I know what they're going through. Occasionally I'll mention it-- if I feel that the patient needs that hope."

She is one of two female chaplains at the hospital. The other is Mrs. Carolyn Williams, wife of the pastor of Woodcrest Baptist Church in Dallas.

"The reaction is 99 percent positive. Sometimes people will say, 'Oh, a lady chaplain.' I hear that a lot."

Mrs. Adams is completing a year of clinical pastoral education. The program at Baylor is directed by Joe Gross in association with Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Classes and seminars take up most of the morning, and the afternoons are given to visiting 60 patients, 20 of whom have cancer.

Many of the patients are being treated at the new Sammons Cancer Center, a five-story diagnostic and treatment center named for Dallas businessman Charles A. Sammons.

Periodically, she discusses difficult situations with Gross to see if she could have handled them differently, and to examine her own feelings.

"It begins to get to you, and you say 'Hey, I need someone to talk to myself.' It's hard to talk to a patient about death if you don't understand your own feelings about it."

There is no across-the-board rule in ministering to cancer patients, she said. Each is an individual and is facing his or her own problems.

"Often it's a terminal case. Other times they are in for short treatment. Those who come in for tests are all so anxious. 'Is it or isn't it?'"

She first assumed those who had been patients the longest would need more ministry than the others, "but you find they are the ones you feel minister to you."

One elderly woman gave her an example of hope.

"She felt like God had been good to her, that she had lived all these years and had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was ready to die. But she wasn't morbid or fearful. She told me she had gone through a time of fear before, but had worked through it."

"They ask, 'Why is this happening to me? God isn't taking care of me.' I try to listen to them. Eventually I hope to help them strengthen their faith.

-more-

"The main thing is to impart hope where hope is indicated."

One woman, a terminal patient with no family, had to deal with loneliness as well as death.

"She had no reason to get well. We talked about that. I tried to help her realize that there were friends who were meaningful to her, there were people who needed her."

After a period of talking, scripture reading and establishing a relationship with her, "she didn't feel so worthless."

Confronting death brings out different reactions in patients.

"Some refuse to believe the doctors. Sometimes they try to ignore it. They go about with their plans as if nothing was wrong."

"I can't try to change them. I can't shake them and say, 'Look here, you're going to die.' All I can do is try to support them and hope they come to a more realistic view."

Often patients are confused by conflicting advice from the chaplains and their pastor or church staff who visit them. When a chaplain is trying to help a patient come to grips with the fact of death, "a pastor would come by and say everything is going to be all right."

Usually the chaplains concentrate their ministry with those who receive less outside ministry, but sometimes they act in a supplementary role.

"I've had patients talk to me and tell how they really feel, but say, 'This is not something I would tell my pastor.' They can express their anxieties to me."

Because of her family's experience as missionaries in Chile and Colombia, she said she knows how important pastoral support can be and appreciates it. Her husband, Bob, is professor of ethics at Southwestern Seminary and interim pastor of Eastland Baptist Church in Fort Worth. But she also realizes some pastors are inadequate in dealing with death--something they encounter often enough, but do not live with every day.

It is a popular misconception that living and working among the sick and dying can make one calloused, she said. Being face-to-face with death changed Mrs. Adams' life, she said.

"It helped me get my feelings sorted out. The little things I felt were important don't seem important now. They were so little I can't even remember what they were."

"It's just great to be alive, to get up every morning. Life is a gift. It's something to celebrate

-30-

Baptist Record
Is 100 Years Old

Baptist Press
2/9/77

JACKSON, Miss (BP)--The Baptist Record, official journal of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1977.

The paper, edited by Donald T. McGregor, is the fifth largest of 33 state papers of Southern Baptist-affiliated conventions covering 50 states. Eight of the 33 papers are more than 100 years old, including Georgia's Christian Index, the oldest, which is in its 155th year.

The Baptist Record's first editor was J.B. Gambrell, who edited the paper 1877-1896. A remarkable Baptist statesman, Gambrell, who had the distinction of serving as Robert E. Lee's personal scout during the Civil War, also served as a pastor, president of Mercer University, state superintendent of missions in Texas, editor of the Baptist Standard (publication of the Baptist General Convention of Texas), professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and executive secretary for Texas Baptists.

McGregor is the paper's ninth editor. Others have been J.A. Hackett, J.B. Searcy, T.J. Bailey, P.I. Lipsey, A.L. Goodrich, W.C. Fields (now public relations director and assistant to the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee), and Joe T. Odle, who retired last year.

-30-

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor**BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041**DALLAS** Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461**RICHMOND** Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 9, 1977

77-24

Carter Continues Campaign
For High Moral Conduct

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Jimmy Carter continued his efforts toward an open and honest administration that would set high moral standards for government here during his first full scale press conference since assuming the presidency.

He was asked: "Mr. President, have you plugged all the holes, so there won't be another Watergate or an executive branch scandal, or do you intend to do something more to raise the standard of conduct?"

The President replied, "All the country has learned a great lesson from Watergate: to have a maximum amount of openness, to have much stricter standards of conduct required by a public official, those appointed and those elected, to scrutinize very closely the appointment procedures so that if someone does have a concealed conflict of interest financially, it might be revealed.

"I believe we don't have any danger in the recurrence of Watergate . . . I know I will be cautious as President to avoid any legitimate semblance of dishonesty or concealing any information the public has a right to know," he declared.

At another point in the press conference, the President was asked about the proposed pay increases for members of Congress and other governmental officials.

President Carter replied that he and former President Ford agreed to support the recommended pay increase for public officials who have not had a raise in eight years. However, the condition for this pledge was that Ford would join him in support for the strict ethics requirement that was recommended by the Blue Ribbon Study Commission on salaries and ethics.

He also indicated that he had received assurances from the leadership in both the Senate and House "that they would push hard for and pass, if possible, strict ethics legislation."

During the week of the President's press conference, hearings were being held on both the Senate and House sides of Congress to consider proposed legislation for a code of ethics.

Earlier, before he was inaugurated, President Carter announced new and stringent rules of financial conduct for his appointees, after he had applied strict rules to his own interests.

For himself, the President placed most of his financial holdings in a trust, established a charitable foundation to receive the royalties from his autobiographical book, "Why Not the Best?," published by Broadman Press, and leased for four years his farmland and his peanut business.

Policy-making appointees in the Carter administration are required among other things to file public statements of their net worth and sources of income annually and two years after they leave office. In addition, they must divest themselves of investments that could involve a conflict of interest, restrict themselves for two years after leaving office from handling matters in which they were involved in the administration, and refrain for a period of a year after departure from government from making contacts with the agency in which they served.

In other efforts to restore the presidency to an office that serves the people, President Carter has stripped much of the pomposity and kingliness that has developed in the White House in recent administrations. During the inaugural parade he and his wife walked down Pennsylvania Ave. from Capitol Hill to the White House. He wears casual clothes, even a sweater during a nationally televised "Fireside Chat," and he has instructed his cabinet members to strip their offices of much of the pomp and regality that has frequently been accorded them.

At the first press conference, the change was most notable. Instead of being royally announced and marching in as a king, no announcement of his presence was made, and he simply and quietly entered from a side door and plunged directly into the question and answer period.

-30-

FMB Meeting Emphasizes
Involvement of Laymen

Baptist Press
2/9/77

RICHMOND (BP)--By the end of a two-year period ending in December, 1977, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board hopes to have involved some 3,000 volunteer lay personnel in short-term projects overseas, members of the board were told here.

About 1,500 such lay volunteers went overseas last year, and an equal number is expected in 1977, Executive Director Baker J. Cauthen pointed out. The volunteers will work alongside more than 2,700 Southern Baptist missionaries in strengthening Southern Baptist outreach.

The board is moving toward rapid escalation of its involvement of lay volunteers around the world, Cauthen said. He noted that three programs at the Foreign Mission Board which work with lay volunteers--medical missions, evangelism and church development, and the laymen overseas office--are coordinating their efforts in a program which is "achieving something of even greater significance than most of us now realize."

The emphasis on lay volunteers came as the board invited three couples and two former missionary journeymen to spend a year assisting mission work in places stretching from the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso to such distant points as Zambia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

At the same meeting, the board also employed an Alabama surgeon and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Edward Merck, to spend a year as special project workers at the Baptist Mission Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand.

In presenting certificates to Dr. and Mrs. Merck, Cauthen observed that the couple is "wonderfully equipped to go out as Christ's messengers of love to minister both by word and deed."

To take the Thailand assignment, Dr. Merck is leaving his position as director of medical education, vice-chairman of the department of surgery, and chief of general surgery at the Baptist Medical Center, Birmingham.

Like others who fall within the "special project" category, Dr. and Mrs. Merck's employment was processed through the missionary personnel department of the board.

In other action, the board expressed sympathy to the families and fellow workers of seven Roman Catholic missionaries slain Feb. 6 in Rhodesia. Board members also authorized early release of \$166,300 in 1976 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds for 14 urgently needed projects and appropriated \$112,200 from relief funds.

The Foreign Mission Board also voted to give up its 15-month attempt to obtain visas for missionaries to enter the island of Madagascar off the East Coast of Africa and turned instead to open new work in Rwanda, also in East Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Martin, who have been serving temporarily in Nairobi, Kenya, while awaiting a visa to Madagascar, will go to Rwanda, a small but heavily populated country of some three million people located between Zaire and Tanzania.

-more-

Southern Baptists have been invited to the country by the Rwanda Baptist Union and Danish Baptist missionaries now serving there, according to Davis L. Saunders, area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa.

In expressing their concern over the killing of the Roman Catholic missionaries in Rhodesia, board members instructed Saunders to send a cablegram to Southern Baptist missionaries in the country asking them to convey a message of sympathy to other workers of the Roman Catholic organization there.

Cauthen also announced that plans are being made for a fact-finding meeting in Nashville, Feb. 23, on the proposal made at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) last year to accept some 36 churches and chapels in the western provinces of Canada into the SBC.

A Foreign Mission Board committee headed by J. R. White will meet in Nashville with representatives of the Northwest Baptist Convention and the Canadian churches, as well as representatives of the different Southern Baptist agencies which might be affected by such a move. The proposal was forwarded to Foreign Mission Board for study because it related to Baptist work outside the United States.

Volunteers approved for short-term project overseas included former Vietnam Journeymen Linda Jo Pegram of Joppa, Md., and Douglas L. Kellum, Tutwiler, Miss., who were invited to work with Vietnamese refugees in Thailand for a year.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyde Hensley of Burnsville, N. C., are scheduled to go to Lusaka, Zambia, for a year of voluntary service as a builder. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Mines of Mayfield, Ky., were invited to assist in publication work at the Baptist Center Publishing House in Manila, Philippines, for one year.

Mr. and Mrs. Genter L. Stephens of New Orleans will spend a year at the El Paso Publishing House, where Stephens will give technical assistance in the music for a new Baptist hymnal to be published for the Spanish-speaking world. Stephens recently retired as professor at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In addition, the board approved plans for Carlos Paredes of the Baptist General Convention of Texas evangelism staff to spend a six-month sabbatical leave teaching during the 1977 fall semester at the Mexico Baptist Theological Seminary in Mexico City. Paredes is associate director in the evangelism division for Latin American work with the Texas convention. His wife will accompany him to Mexico.

-30-

Foreign Board Allocates
Funds for Water Problems

Baptist Press
2/9/77

RICHMOND (BP)--Water problems in two widely separated parts of the world--one suffering from a scarcity of water and the other from flood damage--received attention as the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board approved release of \$112,200 in relief funds during its February meeting here.

A major share of the funds, \$88,700, will be used for drilling four deep wells in Kenya and Tanzania and for a number of shallow, hand-dug wells in Kenya. The wells will be in areas where erratic rainfall patterns often bring about drought and hunger.

Three deep wells are planned in Malindi, Kenya. A recent evangelistic project among the Giriyama tribespeople in this area resulted in the baptism of more than 1,300 persons,

The fourth deep well will tap an underground stream near the Baptist Seminary at Arusha, Tanzania, to help people of the parched, volcanic area who have no dependable water supply, according to Davis L. Saunders, area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Indonesia has experienced water problems of a different type. In January, the nation's capital, Jakarta, suffered one of the worst floods in its history. The Foreign Mission Board at the February meeting officially approved \$5,000 which had already been released to provide immediate relief in that area.

In addition, the board authorized early release of \$10,000 in funds from the 1976 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions to raise the floor level of two missionary duplexes in Jakarta occupied by Southern Baptist missionaries Mary Sue Meuth and Evelyn Schwartz. Miss Meuth wrote Southeast Asia Secretary William R. Wakefield that water rose more than a foot deep in the duplexes during the flood,

The duplexes, which have been flooded many times before, have ceilings high enough to make it possible to raise the floor above flood level, Wakefield said.

-more-

Other relief appropriations included \$10,000 for work being done by Southern Baptist missionaries John H. and Kathy Dillman among the Masaai Tribe at Narok, Kenya. A total of \$5,000 was allocated to replenish the revolving fund used in relief work in Ghana in West Africa where signs of drought and possible famine are already appearing.

The board voted \$3,000 to cover expenses involved in shipping a planeload of meat during the emergency evacuation of Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, at a time when immediate eruption of the La Soufriere volcano was feared on this Caribbean island. Another \$500 was voted for use in assisting survivors of a motor launch sinking which occurred off Providence Island, near the coast of Colombia shortly before Christmas, claiming more than 50 lives.

-30-

N. C. Baptists Urged
To Aid Energy Crisis

Baptist Press
2/9/77

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--Churches affiliated with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention have been urged to limit voluntarily their night activities and preferably to schedule them during the early evening hours by Cecil A. Ray, general secretary-treasurer.

Ray issued his appeal in response to N. C. Gov. James Hunt's proposals to conserve energy throughout the state.

"Churches must take the lead as good citizens by turning down thermostats and limiting the number of night meetings during these times of energy crisis," Ray said.

Ray also urged churches to use already heated facilities, like members' homes, for meetings whenever possible.

"I am confident the churches will exercise rigid discipline, each one deciding how it will respond to the present crisis," said Ray. "The role of the church during these times should be an accelerated one. Canceling a church meeting at night is not cutting back on ministries. In fact scheduling church activities to fit the energy crisis is in itself a ministry to all citizens."

Ray also called on Baptists to increase their helping ministries to people hurt by the cold weather.

"Churches should respond immediately to specific situations where people are without jobs, heating fuel, or in some cases homeless," he said.

Most meetings sponsored by the Baptist state convention are being adjusted during February. The major exception was the statewide evangelism conference, Feb. 7-9, in Greensboro where sufficient heating oil for the War Memorial Auditorium was available.

Ray also said that personnel of the Baptist Building in Raleigh are responding to the energy crisis with 62 degree thermostats and a four-day work week which began Feb. 7.

Meanwhile, Gardner-Webb College began operating on a four-day week effective Feb. 7 as an energy conservation measure, according to Craven E. Williams, president.

-30-

Former Ark. Executive Board
Woman Member Dies in Tenn.

Baptist Press
2/9/77

NASHVILLE (BP)--Funeral services were held here for Mrs. Mae Canady Jones, 84. She was said to be the first woman named to the executive board of the Arkansas Baptist Convention (1965-67).

A long-time church and civic leader, Mrs. Jones was a native of Dyersburg, Tenn., who moved to Mississippi County, Ark., in 1909. She resided there until moving to Nashville in 1969.

For several years, she was a member of the executive board of Arkansas Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and the board of Jonesboro Baptist College (now defunct). For 20 years she was president of the Mississippi County Baptist Association WMU.

Survivors include a brother, a son, two daughters and four grandchildren. Burial was in Brunswick, Tenn.'s Chapel Hill Cemetery.

-30-