



Role Is Discussed

Talking about the minister's role as a part of the healing team are Chaplain Wesley E. Brett, left, and the Rev. Bill Sharpe. Chaplain Brett, director of administration in the Department of Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, spoke at a day-long

clinic for hospital ministry and chaplaincy. Mr. Sharpe, assistant minister at Front Street United Methodist Church, is chairman of the Chaplaincy Committee of the Federated Ministerial Association of Alamance County. (Times-News Photo).

Chaplaincy Clinic Discussion

Minister's Role Is Cited

By LYNNE HARVEL
Times-News Staff Writer

A long-simmering subject between the ministerial and medical fields came to the surface yesterday—the minister as a part of the healing team.

The occasion was a day-long clinic for hospital ministry and chaplaincy sponsored by the Chaplaincy Committee of the Federated Ministerial Association.

The problem which came to the surface was the relationship between ministers and the medical profession.

Setting the stage for the brief exchange between the medical people and the ministers was Chaplain Wesley E. Brett, director of administration in the Department of Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Chaplain Brett introduced a film made by the American Medical Association, "The One Who Heals." The film showed situations where both a chaplain and the doctor are necessary for the mental and physical well-being of the patient and the patient's family in times of crisis.

With the dramatic film still in mind, Mr. Brett opened the floor for discussion among ministers and representatives of the medical fields.

Doctors who attended the meeting were William Rippey

A.D. Tate, Richard Fewell, J.B. Walker, Robert Watson, Dwight Kernodle, Jefferson Bulla and Paul Abernethy.

Also present representing the hospitals in the county were Miss Pauline Kinney, director of Nursing at Alamance County Hospital, Mrs. Allen Garrison, director of the auxiliary services program at Alamance County Hospital, and Mrs. Pat Alwood, director of the auxiliary

morial Hospital of Alamance County.

Administrative personnel from the hospitals were unable to attend.

"The health team must consider all that is going on with a patient, not just the pain in his stomach or the infection, but be concerned with his total well being," Chaplain Brett said following

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Charlotte News
Charlotte Observer
Concord Tribune
Dunn Record
Durham Herald
Durham Sun
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Goldensboro News-Argus
Greensboro Daily News
Greensboro Record

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the film.

"It has been said that religion is the opiate of the people, but also religion can give great strength and courage to face a recovery," Chaplain Brett said.

"The American Medical Association has recognized that the total man needs help, and they have formed the Department of Ministry and Medicine. Both deal with the same patient—in the hospital or in church. A sick man takes his faith with him when he goes to the hospital," he explained.

Chaplain Brett then threw the meeting open to discussion between the medical personnel and the ministers, hoping to "learn from one another, and understanding each, becoming better prepared to deal with the patient's problems."

Although the feelings were high, having built up for some time, the discussion was slow to get off the ground.

The Rev. Wayne Wegwart, president of the association, was the first to speak.

"As ministers we do not want to be in the way, we want to come to see a patient at the best time. We do not feel as useful during the regular visiting hours when the family and friends are present. We find ourselves in a quandary. We just don't know where to fit in," the minister said.

Getting nearer to the heart of the matter, Mr. Wegwart said that the present system in use at the hospitals — having one minister on call as a chaplain for a month at a time — does not appear to be working.

"In the several years I have served as a chaplain on call, I have had but one call from the hospitals. I think some kind of improvement on our

experiment is in line," he said.

Under the present system, it was explained, chaplains serve on a voluntary basis for a month at a time. They are subject to call day or night at the request of any patient in either hospital.

When a patient is admitted, the ministerial association has asked and been granted by the administrations of both hospitals that two specific questions shall be asked of the patient: "To which church do you belong?" and "Do you wish to see a chaplain?"

Several ministers voiced disapproval of the system, saying no calls for a chaplain are ever received. They suggested the breakdown might be in the admitting process "because the questions are not asked."

Mrs. Alwood, director of auxiliary services at Memorial Hospital of Alamance County, spoke up in defense of the hospital process.

"One problem is that since a hospital operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the same people are not doing the same job all the time. There is a change in personnel and a slight difference in the way of doing things.

"Another problem is apathy. Those patients who are not members of a church are not interested in seeing a chaplain," she said.

Mrs. Alwood said the hospital has received complaints about unwanted visits by ministers who just come even though not requested. She cited one case where the family complained directly to her because of such an unwanted visit to a patient who had a terminal illness.

She said there also are times when a patient is asked if the hospital may notify the pastor of his church, "and

sometimes they object," she said.

Chaplain Brett pointed out that his thrust for an improved chaplaincy program is to avoid such unwanted visits. He said that the minister who comes to visit his parishioners and ends up going from room to room is not what the program should allow.

He said that the hospital administrations and the Chaplaincy Committee, which sponsored the program yesterday, should get together and form a sound policy which will put it on some "organized form so that we are attempting to minister to the complete needs of the patients," he said.

The meeting dwindled as doctors and ministers alike had to leave. There obviously were unanswered questions in the minds of both the medical and ministerial personnel. One minister suggested that a committee be formed of doctors and ministers to talk out the problems which exist.

Both sides seemed to agree there is a definite need for a chaplain, and the services a minister can give to a family and the victim. The remaining question will be "how."

According to the Rev. Bill Sharpe, chairman of the Chaplaincy Committee, further studies will be made and meetings are planned with administrative personnel in the future to explore the possibilities.

About 45 persons attended the morning session of the day-long clinic, and about 60 persons including medical personnel, attended the luncheon meeting.

The morning session was opened by Mr. Sharpe, followed by a talk by Chaplain Brett.

"We are here to try to learn how we can best serve the

interests of patients in the hospital chaplaincy and visitation program," stated Mr. Sharpe.

"One out of eight members of your congregation will enter a hospital this year and you must aid these people in attaining real health again," according to Chaplain Brett.

"The patient enters the hospital in a crisis situation; something unusual is happening in his life. He is not going there to rest. He cannot for many hospitals have waiting lists as large as the number of beds," he stated, and added "there is always a concern in the back of the mind. It is an interruption in the normal routine of the daily life. Here people do a lot of thinking, for they have a lot of time to think. Something is now going on to remind them that they are finite. They have never been able to grasp that fact before."

"Sixty to 80 per cent of the patients going to a doctor are not physically sick but emotionally sick—some psychic. They come because they need the control environment of the hospital. They are preoccupied with these ailments. Their mind focuses on these aches, pains, and their own selves. This creates tension, which creates anxiety, which creates pain. A minister can help interrupt this vicious cycle. There is more serious thinking going on in the hospital per square foot than anywhere else in your community including church, unfortunately, gentlemen," pointed out the young Baptist minister.

Trading With Reds Up

WASHINGTON — U.S. exports to Eastern Europe rose from \$198 million in 1966 to \$345 million in 1970. U.S. imports from this region climbed from \$179 million to \$220 million in the same period.

Family Life Conferences Set At Viewmont Baptist Church

Chaplain Wesley Everett Brett will conduct family life conferences at Viewmont Baptist Church here Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and Sunday evening at 6:30, in the sanctuary, and on Monday and Tuesday evenings, beginning at 7:15 o'clock.

Chaplain Brett is a native of South Portland, Me. He is a graduate of Portland Junior College, and attended Boston University, College of Business Administration. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at Boston University, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree (with languages), from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has had Clinical Training in Pastoral Education at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, Dorothea Dix Hospital, Raleigh, and is now serving as Administrative Assistant in the Department of Pastoral Care at N.C. Baptist Hospital. He served as radio operator in the U. S. Navy, and as Minister of Music at Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Raleigh, and has served as chaplain at John Umstead Hospital, Butner, N. C.

He is a Certified Professional Hospital Chaplain and Accredited Pastoral Counselor of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, he is also an Accredited Chaplain Supervisor and secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina Chaplains' Association. He and his wife, the former Bernice Earline Cooper of Laurens, S. C., have two children, John Wesley and Rebecca Lynn.

The pastor, Rev. Albert A.



CHAPLAIN BRETT

Young, states that the public is invited to take advantage of these special sessions in family life.

Hendersonville Times-News --
Hickory Daily Record
High Point Enterprise
Jacksonville Daily News
Kannapolis Independent
Kinston Free Press
Lenoir News-Topic
Lexington Dispatch
Lumberton Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern Sun-Journal
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