

X Pastor's Portrait

By JOE McLEAN
Times Church Editor

Rev. Charles A. Webster Jr., interim chaplain to Baptist students at North Carolina State University, became active in the student ministry early in his seminary training.

While a student at Southeastern Seminary, he was active in the interseminary movement of the Southeast Region, an organization with chapters in ministerial schools of many denominations.

Rev. Webster served as chairman of the movement in 1958 during his second year at Southeastern. He was also its program chairman, working with seminaries from North Carolina to Florida.

Completing his Southeastern training in 1959, Rev. Webster was appointed director of Baptist student work at Clemson College. He was at Clemson until he received a Danforth campus ministers scholarship for graduate studies at Duke Divinity School.

At Duke, he is studying in the field of Christianity and Culture. His doctoral dissertation is on "Religious Motifs in Far Right Organizations and Movements."

Hopes to Publish

He hopes to expand the dissertation into studies among far left groups and eventually publish his findings. Among the many personalities he has interviewed was the late Malcolm X, a leader in the Black Muslims and later in a competing Black Nationalist group.

Rev. Webster will be at North Carolina State in the modern new Baptist student union until the end of June. On July 1, Rev. Leroy Richardson, Baptist chaplain, will return from studies at the University of California at Berkeley to resume his post.

Rev. Webster has many thoughts on the campus ministry which he plans to make his career. "The work has great variety," he said. "We are dealing with the best minds in the church of the future. We have to challenge them and strengthen their skills so that they will get instruction in religion comparable to what they are receiving in their technical studies."

Difference in Students

He sees a difference between students at technical schools and liberal arts schools. There is more of a reluctance among technical students, at first, to discuss theology and social issues. But once a conversation is begun they are just as ready to talk issues as the liberal arts students."

At Clemson, he found many students who decided as undergraduates to enter the ministry. As many as eight students at Southeastern are graduates of Clemson, he noted.

A native of Wilson, Rev. Webster graduated from Charles L. Coon High School in Wilson in 1952, entering Duke University in the fall. He was active in student government and the Key Club in High School and later helped



REV. CHARLES WEBSTER JR.

to found an extension of the Key Club at Duke, known as Circle K.

His other Duke activities included the presidency of both the Baptist Union and of the Kappa Chi pre-ministerial fraternity.

Rev. Webster spent his summers at Southeastern working as a member of a surveying team around Durham.

To Bowman Gray

In January 1963, he took a leave of absence from his duties at Clemson to enter the School of Pastoral Care at Bowman Gray Hospital in Winston-Salem.

"The pastoral care school is a great asset for the minister in understanding the problems of individuals in his church and in approaching the entire field of mental illness," he commented.

At Clemson, he worked with the South Carolina Council on Human Relations. When he came to North Carolina, he served as a committee member on college services for the American Friends World Service Committee.

Mrs. Webster is the former Margaret Winstead of Wilson. Rev. and Mrs. Wilson are the parents of two sons, Albert, 7, and Art, 4.

New Bern Sun-Journal
Raleigh News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review
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