

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2007

Dr. Charles Hampton, Former FWBBC Registrar, Dies

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Charles Hampton, who served 25 years at Free Will Baptist Bible College (1974-2000), 20 years as registrar, died March 5 at age 68. He retired in 2000 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

President Matt Pinson said, "When Dr. Hampton joined the FWBBC faculty in 1974, he was unique with his Ph.D. in mathematics and his warm heart for the work of God. He chaired the General Education Department before being named registrar.

Pinson continued, "But more important, he was a godly man, a loving husband and father, and a man who chose to invest his life in the mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He had such an impact on so many of our lives. Thank God for his spiritual and educational legacy."

After graduating from FWBBC with a B.S. degree in 1960, Dr. Hampton went on to earn three more degrees—B.S. (Oklahoma Baptist University, 1963), M.N.S. (University of Oklahoma, 1966), and Ph.D. (University of Texas, 1970).

During a "Charles Hampton Day" at FWBBC in September 2000, Dr. Robert Picirilli (longtime friend and professional colleague) said, "With his credentials and love for teaching, Dr. Hampton could have been on the faculty of almost any university in this country or anywhere, making multiples of the money he's made here and earning considerably more prestige. Instead, he has chosen to make higher Christian education his ministry, his service to the Lord and the Church."

Dr. Hampton was one of four sons of the late Rev. Ralph Hampton, Sr., three of whom became Free Will Baptist ministers. His older brother Ralph chairs the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at FWBBC; younger brother Larry is an adjunct faculty

member at FWBBC and an editor at Randall House Publications. The fourth son (James) is deceased.

Charles was converted at age 10 in 1948 and ordained to preach in 1964. He is listed in *American Men and Women of Science* and in *Who's Who in America*. He taught in a number of different settings—Oklahoma public schools, Army Dependent School in Germany, University of Texas, Oklahoma Baptist University, and Hillsdale FWB College.

He was active in the Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers at both the state and national levels while at FWBBC. He also chaired both the Research Commission and the Commission on Professional Activities in what is now the Association for Biblical Higher Education.

In addition, he was a member of the adjunct mathematics faculty at the University of Tennessee branch in Nashville, and its replacement, Tennessee State University. Charles was a recipient of National Science Foundation Grants at the University of Texas and Vanderbilt University, and was an N.D.E.A. Fellow. As a high school student in California, he won the Bank of America Science Award.

In broader denominational work, Dr. Hampton served as moderator of Oklahoma's First Mission Association (1968-70) and chaired the association's Mission Board (1972-74). He was elected president of the Free Will Baptist Music Ministries organization in 1977 and wrote articles for *Contact* stirring interest in the music fellowship. He pastored in Oklahoma and Texas, and served as minister of music in several churches.

Dr. Hampton is survived by his wife Peggy; two sons, Brian Hampton and Joel Hampton; three daughters, Mrs. Shari Windom, Mrs. Jennifer Bowen, and Mrs. Leslie Hester; and 15 grandchildren.