

THE LAST WORD

The DEAN of *Chaplain Ministries*

by Thomas E. Wade, Ph.D.



Charles Massey was a farm boy from Perkins, Georgia who finished high school at the age of fifteen and attended Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity College of Florida) in Temple Terrace, Florida. In 1938 he graduated and later was ordained at the age of nineteen. He continued his education at Mercer University and would later earn advanced degrees from Harvard and Indiana Universities.

A Call to Sacrifice

Charles Massey became Colonel Massey by serving in the United States Army for over 30 years. He provided spiritual guidance and comfort as a military Chaplain to our soldiers through several wars, including World War II. As a member of the U.S. Army Chaplain Board in Washington, D.C., he developed plans, programs and training for chaplains worldwide. He was involved in producing television and public relations training films for the Office of Chief of Chaplains and conducted workshops in communication skills and preaching. His contributions were recognized on three separate occasions by receiving the prestigious Legion of Merit Award for Exceptional Meritorious Service. This is one of the highest military awards given for non-combat duty. During his service he traveled to remote corners of the world, walked the halls of the Pentagon, and preached in the National Cathedral.



A Call to Service

Colonel Massey always held a deep and abiding love for his Alma Mater, Trinity College of Florida. After retiring from the military in 1973, he served as a professor, Dean and Trustee at the College. He hosted many of the College's annual banquets and served as the Master of Ceremonies. He was an interim pastor for over a dozen churches in Central Florida and was selected by Tampa Magazine as one of the ten most influential clergymen in the Tampa Bay area. He influenced the lives of thousands through his preaching and Godly service to humanity.

A Call Home

On November 8, 2008, at the age of 89, Charles went to be with the Lord. At his memorial service I offered the following (borrowed) tribute:

If to be venerated for benevolence,

If to be admired for talents,

If to be esteemed for patriotism,

If to be loved for philanthropy,

Can gratify the human mind,

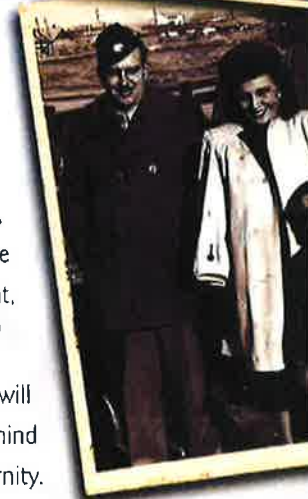
You sir must have the pleasing consolation

To know that you have not lived in vain

— George Washington

In 1996 my wife, Ann, and I initiated the Charles and Emily Massey Scholarship Fund at Trinity College of Florida as a tribute to this outstanding individual and couple. The fund has enabled many worthy students to attend Trinity College of Florida. In our proposal letter for establishing the fund, my wife wrote, "Dr. Massey is a dedicated scholar of the Bible and an eloquent preacher of the Word, as well as, having a pastor's heart to shepherd the flock. Mrs. Massey is the epitome of a pastor's wife, supporting her husband and loving the people in his flock, as well as, being a very intelligent, educated and talented lady in her own right."

Colonel Charles Massey and his wife, Emily, will be sorely missed, but the legacy they leave behind will last beyond our time and into eternity. Together they served, gave, and lived a life that reached out in love.



Thomas E. Wade serves on the Board of Trustees at Trinity College of Florida. He is an award winning Engineering Professor at the University of South and was a longtime friend of Col. & Mrs. Charles Massey.