

Trinity Standard - Jan. 8, 04

Donald Eugene Fowler Jr.

TRINITY - Services for Donald Eugene Fowler Jr., 68, of Trinity were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004, at Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church in Trinity with the Rev. Leroy Brown and Chaplain Bob Campbell officiating.

Burial was in the Houston National Cemetery.

Mr. Fowler died Saturday, Jan. 3, 2003, in Trinity following an illness.

He was born Sept. 16, 1935, in Duluth, Minn. and served for more than 20 years as a chaplain with the U.S. Army and later with hospice programs in Louisiana, Mississippi and Georgia.

During his 20-year military career, Mr. Fowler served as a pastor to soldiers and family members who were serving far from home. From Vietnam to Panama to Texas and points in between, Mr. Fowler served as a hospital chaplain and stood with people during their darkest moments of life.

After retiring from the Army with the rank of lieutenant colonel, Mr. Fowler went to work for his alma mater, William Carey College in Gulfport, Miss. He served as an administrator at the college's Hattiesburg campus and served in the psychology department, teaching classes dealing with death and dying.

Mr. Fowler later served as a counselor for the Greater New Orleans Family Counseling Center before joining the staff of the Slidell Memorial Hospital in Slidell, La., as a hospice and hospital chaplain.

He assisted in the establishment of the Georgia Mountain Hospice located in Jasper, Ga., serving as its head of pastoral care for four years.

In 2000, Mr. Fowler and his wife, Mary, moved to Trinity to enjoy his retirement on Lake Livingston and to be closer to his grandchildren in Houston.

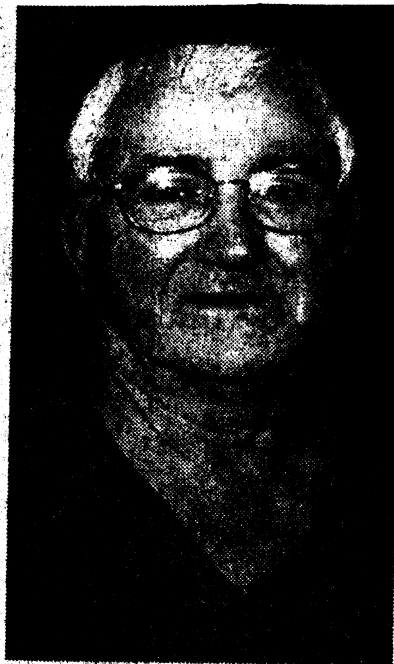
Using his experience as an Army and hospice chaplain, Mr. Fowler published a book in 2002 to help other deal with the issues of death and dying.

In "Lessons from the Shadow of Death," Mr. Fowler presented information and stories designed to help those facing imminent death as well as their families cope with the emotional and practical problems they will face.

While editing the work, Mr. Fowler was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) while put to the test the lessons he learned during his profession life.

"Despite all of the years that I spent working with dying patients, I never truly understood what they were all trying to tell me until I was confronted with the possibility of my own death," he said in a 2002 interview with the *Trinity Standard*.

His personal experience with having to face death caused him to add an additional chapter to his book to pass on his personal understanding



DONALD E. FOWLER JR.

of the dying process.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Gwen Fowler; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Anthony and Amanda Fowler and Michael Fowler; four grandchildren, Crayton, Noelle, Carson and Sarah; three brothers and their spouses, Jack and Barbara Fowler, Gene Fowler and Tom and Larinda Fowler; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Roswell Grissom, Eloise Shaeffer, Evelyn and Morrie Baine and Ramona and Ray Miller; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Waller-Thornton Funeral Home of Trinity directed the arrangements.