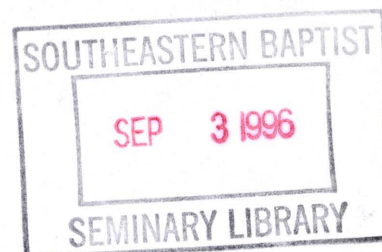


# **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary**

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*From the Baptist Press Newsroom*

## **Southeastern Professor Announces Retirement**

*by Dwayne Hastings*

WAKE FOREST, N.C.(BP)--Bruce P. Powers, professor of Christian education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, announced Nov. 20 he will retire in January.

During his 18 years at the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary, he has taught courses in leadership, educational foundations, church renewal, staff relations, and Christian ministries.

In reflecting on his retirement, Powers said, "I guess I have taught several thousand church leaders who now serve around the world. I have had many good years at Southeastern and at the Baptist Sunday School Board where I was director of the Church Program Training Center."

Southeastern President Paige Patterson said of Powers: "Bruce Powers has not only contributed significantly to the making of Southeastern, but also through several widely circulated books, he has advanced knowledge in both Christian education and church administration."

Powers has written and edited a number of popular textbooks in the area of Christian education. A new textbook, the 1996 Christian Education Handbook, will be released by Broadman and Holman Press in January.

L. Russ Bush, dean of the faculty at Southeastern, said the school will miss Power's expertise in church administration and curriculum design.

"Bruce Powers is a gifted teacher. His influence upon Southeastern will long survive his absence. He has always given his best to students, and thus to the life of churches through them," Bush continued, noting that Powers received the seminary's Award for Faculty Excellence in 1989.

"We will miss Dr. Powers at Southeastern, but we wish for him, and his family, heaven's sweetest mercies in his retirement ministries," Patterson added.

Upon his retirement, Powers said he will continue his writing career, saying he has a contract for book due out in 1997. He also said he will be doing consulting and teaching as he has the opportunity.

Powers, a native of Savannah, Ga., said he always focused on teaching people rather than material, trusting his students were exposed to the best in education, Christian values, and leadership skills. "They have studied what it means to be a minister: love people, teach and

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proclaim Jesus Christ, and be servant leaders in a broken world.”

Receiving his undergraduate degree at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., Powers earned his doctorate of education and master's in religious education degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He began his ministry at age 18, serving churches in Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky prior to moving to Nashville in 1971 to work with the Sunday School Board. He and his wife, the former Jean Clark, of Macon, Ga., have two grown sons.

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