

# Southeastern News

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

P. O. Box 712  
Phone (919) 556-3101

RODNEY V. BYARD  
Assistant to the President  
Home: 536 N. Wingate St.  
556-1485

January 19, 1983

## MINISTRY DEMANDING, YET REWARDING, CAMPBELL SAYS

WAKE FOREST, NC - "Ministers need to remember that preaching is a daring, almost presumptuous act," declared Frank R. Campbell in a Spring Convocation address to students of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The second-term president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, and pastor, First Baptist Church, Statesville, N.C., explained that preaching "is a man claiming to speak for God, but it is also a man speaking to men with the gospel. Just because you have responded to the holy calling of God does not certify you as a saint. We all must continue to grow in Christ in the church, both pastor and people."

Campbell stressed the personal initiative necessary to be an effective pastor following graduation from seminary. "After the initial excitement fades, you will face the frightening reality that you are alone," he said. "No one is going to make you punch a time clock or turn in a weekly sales report. It's your ministry."

"The ministry is an absolutely frustrating, demanding,

-more-



disappointing, unrealistic, impossible calling," Campbell said, adding, "It is also the most rewarding, fulfilling, thrilling, and meaningful way a person can invest his life."

Within the personal area, he pointed out that many ministers neglect their own devotional life and their families. "Choose a ballgame over a church meeting sometime," he said. "God will approve, and you might find to your surprise, so will many of your church members."

Commenting on current conflicts within the Southern Baptist Convention, he said, "There is no Baptist way to which we all must subscribe. While Southern Baptists have been noted for making 'unity within diversity' work, some of our more vocal brothers are calling for the replacing of diversity with sameness and unity with uniformity. I hope that you will refuse to be a part of anyone's program to change the denomination we love.

"You do not sacrifice any biblical or spiritual principles by being cooperative," he said. "Cooperation is the way Southern Baptists work together...That's an exciting experience."

