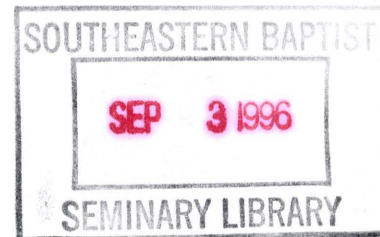


Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Hebrew scholar to join Southeastern faculty

By Lee Weeks

WAKE FOREST, N.C. -- Highly respected among his colleagues for his scholarship and his rapport with students, Mark Rooker will join the faculty at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary this fall as associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

The seminary's board of trustees unanimously elected Rooker to the post during their March meeting.

Rooker, 44, comes to Southeastern from Criswell College, in Dallas, Texas, where he has served as chairman and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew since 1992.

"In my opinion, Dr. Rooker is the brightest young Hebraist who is working in the Southern Baptist Convention today," said Southeastern President Paige Patterson in announcing Rooker's selection.

Rooker, a native of Dallas, is currently completing a commentary on Leviticus for the New American Commentary Series; the volume is expected to be released by Broadman & Holman Publishers in late 1997.

Rooker said he has a deep appreciation for the Hebrew language, having been trained in the language by Jewish scholars at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

A knowledge of Hebrew is key to a minister's full understanding of God's Word, he said.

Rooker received his master of arts and doctorate degrees at Brandeis University where he studied Biblical Hebrew. He earned a master of theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas.

Before going to Criswell College, Rooker served as assistant professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary from 1988 to 1992.

"Mark Rooker is one of the most outstanding of the young Old Testament scholars in the evangelical world," said L. Russ Bush III, academic vice president and dean of the faculty at Southeastern. "His expertise will strengthen our Ph.D. program and his spiritual depth will touch everyone that knows him.

"With a teacher like Dr. Rooker," Bush said, "the academic quality and missionary spirit of our campus will be assured for the next generation."

Rooker and his wife, Carole, have been married 14 years; the couple have three sons. Rooker will officially join the faculty August 1.

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