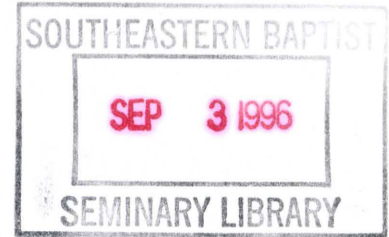


Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

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March 196



God called Southeastern's newest religious ed professor out of law school

By Lee Weeks

WAKE FOREST, N.C. -- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has added to its faculty a Christian educator with a background in the pastoral ministry, counseling, psychology and law.

Greg Lawson, currently assistant professor of religious education and director of counseling at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark., has been named assistant professor of Christian education at Southeastern, according to seminary President Paige Patterson.

"Dr. Lawson is probably as multi-faceted an individual as we've ever had," Patterson said.

Southeastern's Board of Trustees unanimously elected Lawson to the post during their March meeting.

Lawson, 37, a native Tennessean, said he had been attracted to Southeastern long before being contacted by the school, having heard of the way God was working at the seminary.

Lawson said he wants to bring a holistic view of Christian education to Southeastern. "Christian education is basically fulfilling the Great Commission," he said. "Winning (people to Christ), discipling and sending, I see that as the heart of Christian education."

Lawson said he sensed God's call to Christian vocational ministry in 1981 while attending a conference at Ridgecrest during a break from law school.

Before that conference, Lawson said, he had planned to practice law -- but God had other plans. After finishing law school at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., Lawson enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned his master of arts and master of divinity degrees.

L. Russ Bush III, academic vice president and dean of the faculty at Southeastern, said Lawson will be a tremendous asset to the seminary inside and outside the classroom.

"Dr. Lawson is an outstanding leader," Bush said. "He will be a great prayer partner for students. In his personal life he has dedicated himself to students and to the enhancement of their ministries."

Lawson, who also has an earned doctorate in adult education from the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, said he would like to help organize and participate in prayer and Bible study groups on campus.

Prayer, Lawson said, is the heart and soul of a seminary's spiritual vitality. "I want to have a part in raising up a new generation of preachers that want to seek the face of God," he said.

Lawson and his wife, Betty, have been married thirteen years. The couple has two young sons.

Lawson will officially join the seminary faculty August 1.

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APRIL 19, 1996

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