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STUDENTS WILL GET FIRST-HAND VIEW OF WORLD RELIGIONS

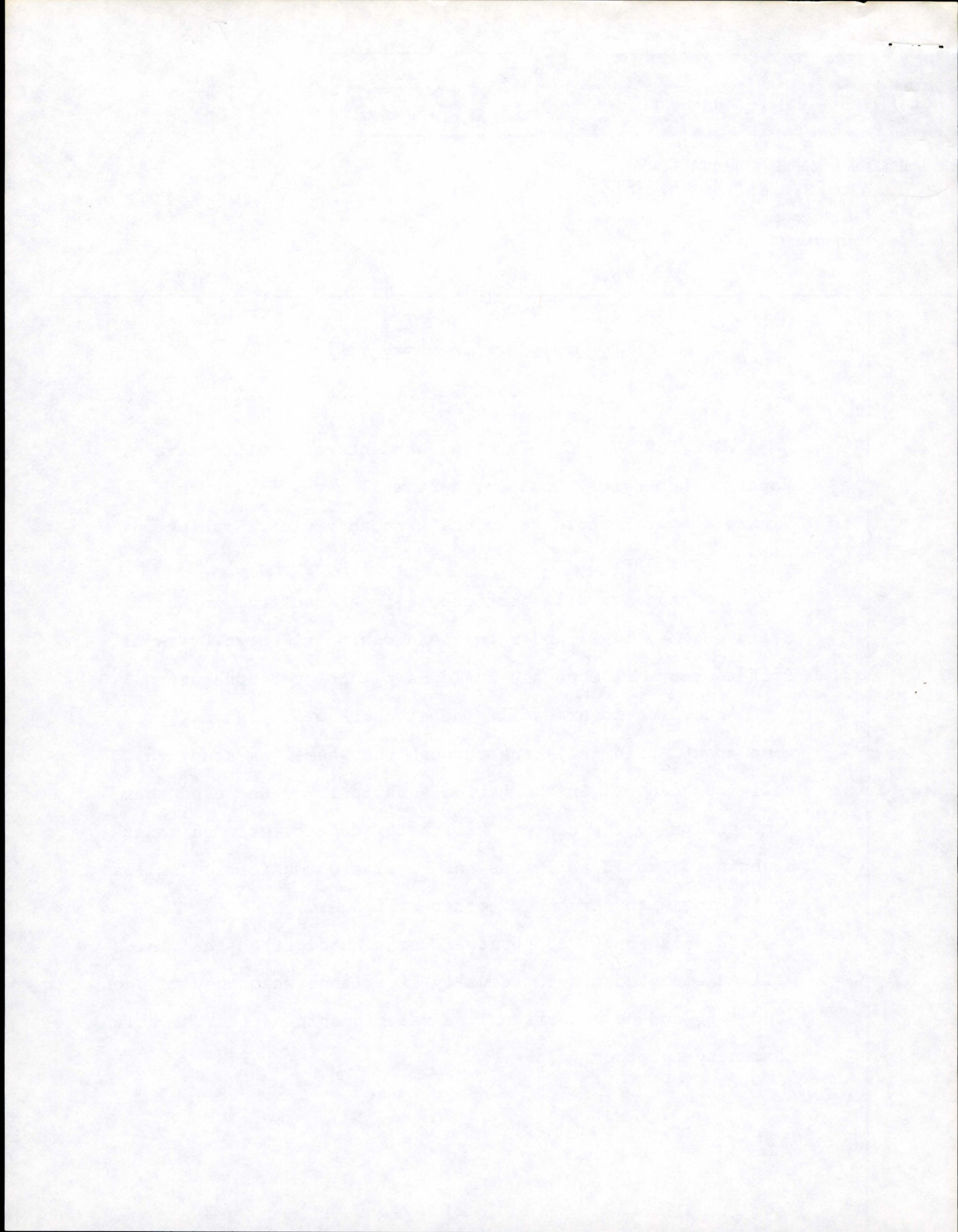
WAKE FOREST, NC - Theology students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here will get a first-hand view of several world religions when they visit Washington, D. C., this spring.

The students will participate in a Practicum in World Religions May 14-21 under the leadership of George Braswell, Professor of Missions and World Religions at Southeastern.

According to Braswell, the students will "learn first hand about world religions through the week-long study in religious centers in the nation's capital." He added that "the visits to the centers will help students gain an understanding of world religions and develop communication skills by talking with persons of other religions."

"We also believe," Braswell continued, "that the visits will enable students to actually experience what they've been studying, and to understand the relationship of the Christian community to other faiths."

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The Practicum will include visits to the Zen Buddhist Center, the Lotus Temple and Gandhi Memorial Center, the Baha'i Center, the Islamic Center, the Washington Masjid (Mosque), and the Buddhist Vihara Society Center.

While visiting each of the centers, leaders of the various religions will lecture and discuss with the students the tenets of their faith and its comparison with the Christian faith. Lecturers scheduled are Norman H. Hoegberg, director of the Zen Buddhist Group; Srimati Kamala of the Gandhi Memorial Center and Golden Lotus Temple; Guitty Ejtimai and Theodius Washington of the Baha'i Center; Mostafa Elbalghiti of the Islamic Center; Imam Khalil Abdel Alim of the Washington Masjid; and Bhikkhu Bodhi of the Buddhist Vihara Society, Inc.

Braswell, former Southern Baptist missionary to Iran, will be joined by Baptist leaders from the Convention's Home Mission Board, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, and the Baptist World Alliance.

