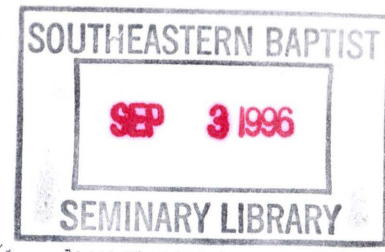


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Evangelistic musician named to Southeastern faculty

WAKE FOREST, N.C.--A church musician with a heart for missions is the latest to be appointed to the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Moran Whitley, who has been teaching adjunctively on the seminary's faculty since earning the master of divinity degree at Southeastern in 1982, was appointed instructor of instrumental music and music education July 11 at the Wake Forest, N.C., seminary.

In announcing his appointment, Southeastern president Paige Patterson complimented Whitley as a "fabulous musician", noting "his devotion to taking Jesus to the world."

An accomplished musician who spends his free time playing with a local dixieland jazz group, Whitley has traveled to Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic to teach church music at the Dominican Baptist Seminary in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during the past seven years.

"Ran Whitley has a heart for missions and evangelism," said L. Russ Bush, Southeastern's vice president for academic affairs. "He is able to use his musical talent to open many doors for Christian witness."

Whitley said music is a powerful means to get the message of the gospel to a lost and dying world: "Music is a medium that communicates in a very powerful way, sometimes on a different plane than the spoken word. It is another important avenue in communicating the truth about the gospel.

"Music is both a teaching tool and a means of proclamation," Whitley continued, emphasizing that church musicians are called to be ministers first. "When people integrate a tune into their heart they naturally carry the verses with them wherever they go."

Bush noted Whitley's awareness of the ministry needs of the local church as a clear benefit to the seminary -- Whitley has served fulltime as associate minister of music and education at Durham Memorial Baptist Church, Durham, N.C., for nearly 15 years -- "Ran's expertise in instrumental and electronic music coupled with his experience on staff will make him a great asset to Southeastern. Students will leave his classes better prepared to lead in worship in a local church setting."

Whitley, who earned the doctor of ministry from Southeastern and his bachelor of music from Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., is married to Nora Gray Whitley. The couple have three children.

A native of Morganton, N.C., Whitley also served as minister of music at North Rocky Mount Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, N.C.

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By Dwayne Hastings

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