



"that God's people may be equipped..."

News

Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

P. O. Box 712—Zip 27587 Phone (919) 556-3101

●
RODNEY V. BYARD
Assistant to the President

Office: Appleby 206 Ext. 270
Home: 216 W. North St. 556-1485

August 8, 1977

At Southeastern Seminary:

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE GEORGE GAGLIARDI

IS "A POET AND A PILGRIM"

WAKE FOREST, N.C.—He was talking to a group of college and seminary students... a young bearded man who wore an old hat and played a guitar. "It seems to me that the arts and the gospel would make a better marriage than the church so far has allowed. I hope to encourage that marriage..." The words and hat belong to George Gagliardi, native of Texas, with memories of a New York childhood, and wanderings from coast to coast writing and singing his music.

Gagliardi sees himself as a poet on a pilgrimage that is "part and parcel of whom I'm becoming to express whatever truth I find through my gifts." That's his role as student artist-in residence at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Combining classroom work in Bible and theology ("so I can have a deeper and broader understanding of the gospel as I compose

music") with personal appearances at conventions and retreats, George is a "matchmaker" between the arts and the gospel. He represents Southeastern in those personal appearances, not only to express the gospel, but to introduce prospective students to the Seminary. Then, too, there are appearances on programs at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers, always resulting in return engagements.

George's poetic gifts are reflected in the 250 songs that he's written, sung, and published. The "pilgrim" part of himself is seen in the fact that after being born in Texas, he lived for several years in Yonkers, N. Y., returning to Texas at the age of 7. High school and episodes at trying out college life took place in Texas, too. But neither Paris Junior College, Wayland Baptist, nor North Texas State could corral this "pilgrim" long enough to confer their degrees. The road lured him away, and for awhile he was lead guitarist with New Hope, a Christian rock group. Then there were the months in Los Angeles, writing, singing and searching for the elusive outlook for his talents.

Eventually, "the pilgrimage led to Nashville, to be where the music is" because "I fully intend to see the day my music is recorded and accepted."

That's George. We can tell you more if you're interested. Better yet, why not let the pilgrim-poet with the old hat come and tell you in person.