

May 21, 1991

Vice President Worrell Resigns

WAKE FOREST, NC--Stating that "Life is too short not to do the will of God," Dr. George E. Worrell resigned as vice president of external affairs for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will be serving as pastor of the Lawndale Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. Worrell has served that church as interim pastor since January 1991.

In a statement May 20 Dr. Lewis A. Drummond, president of Southeastern, said, "It is with real regret that we see Dr. Worrell leave Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. For three years he has developed the external affairs division of the seminary into an efficient, effective, and well-functioning segment of seminary life. His Christian dedication, his commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention, and his personal friendship are deeply appreciated. God will continue to use him profoundly in his new field of ministry. We pray God's blessings on Dr. Worrell and his lovely family."

In a departmental meeting May 20, Worrell told the external affairs division that leaving Southeastern had been an extremely difficult decision for him. Paul Brock, director of communication, said, "I commend you on your excellent leadership, Dr. Worrell, because you have led us by example." John Storey, director of admissions, said, "You are one of the kindest, nicest men I've ever known. We'll certainly miss you."

In another statement Worrell said, "For 21 years I have served in various convention posts. I felt that I was expanding my ministry beyond the local church. It is evident now that God has called me back to my roots. It has been my privilege to serve with Dr. Drummond. The new Center for Great Commission Studies, established under his leadership, will make Southeastern a premier seminary on the East Coast."

Dr. Dennis Blackmon, director of missions for Piedmont Baptist Association, says of Worrell, "He is a man of great ability and tremendous creativity, and he has such a sweet, loving spirit. He's able to love people of every type as brothers and sisters, and his ministry will help not only the church, but the association."

In addition, Blackmon said, "The church has not only maintained its level of membership but has increased it; that's impressive for an interim situation." Lawndale Baptist Church is a part of the Piedmont Baptist Association, which boasts of 50 churches and three missions. Blackmon describes Lawndale as one of the association's strongest churches. Lawndale has approximately 1,200 members, and was 26th among 3,000 churches in North Carolina in Cooperative Program giving in 1990.

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