

March 15, 1991

Southeastern Seminary Celebrates Fortieth Founder's Day

Wake Forest, NC - Alumni, faculty, and students gathered in Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's Binkley Chapel on March 12 to celebrate the institution's fortieth Founder's Day. Seminary president Dr. Lewis Drummond introduced the speaker for the special chapel service, Dr. R.F. Smith, Jr.

Smith is the senior minister of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, an American Baptist fellowship in Huntington, WV. He has pastored five congregations in North Carolina and is a respected Christian speaker, author, and pastor. Smith is the author of the book Looking Homeward.

"I am a founder of this seminary," said Smith, who was in the third class to enter Southeastern. "In those early days, we had seminary in one building. What's now the Appleby building then was known as the religion and music building of Wake Forest College, with whom we shared this campus."

Referring to the crowded conditions at Southeastern during its early years, Smith said, "If you got your briefcase cross-ways during class change, you had to go outside and turn around to change directions."

"We were small," Smith continued, "but we had a large task. I want to praise the past that I knew here and express appreciation to both the living and the dead for what they gave me." Smith went on to praise the accomplishments of Southeastern Seminary presidents Stealey, Binkley, and Lolley.

Smith said that "seminary" means "seedbed." He said that it has taken years of disciplined prayer and Bible research to cultivate the seeds planted while he was at Southeastern. "Here they taught me there is absolutely no substitute for a Christian experience, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ."

