

DR. JOE W. BRUCE  
Area Director, Middle America and Canada

Born: Oct. 3, 1944, in Clarkton, Mo.

Education: Attended Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark.  
Earned the bachelor of arts degree from Union University,  
Jackson, Tenn., and the master of divinity and doctor of  
ministries degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological  
Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Married: Shirley Plumlee, born in Clarendon, Ark.

Children: Garon was born in 1971; Shannon, 1973; and Joanna, 1977.

Pre-missionary experience: Pastor of Valley Creek Baptist Church, Leonard,  
Texas, and pastor of Plum Grove Baptist Church, Markley, Texas.  
Summer missionary under the Southern Baptist Home Mission  
Board.

Previous Foreign Mission Board assignments: Journeyman in Chile, 1966-68.  
Appointed missionary to Central America in 1971. Language  
study in San Jose, Costa Rica. General evangelist in Teguci-  
galpa, Honduras, 1972-80. Associate to area director for Mid-  
dle America and the Caribbean, stationed in Guatemala City,  
Guatemala, 1981-1987. Resigned from missionary service May 31,  
1987, to join the FMB staff as an area director.

Current assignment: Area Director, Middle America and Canada, since June 1,  
1987. He directs the work of more than 300 Southern Baptist  
missionaries in seven Central American countries, Canada and  
the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Texas, from a  
home base in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

He also served as interim Regional Vice President for The  
Americas, Jan. 15, 1993-Dec. 31, 1993.