

December 21, 1992

Southeastern Holds Commencement Ceremony

by Sheri Paris

Wake Forest, NC -- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary held its December Commencement on Saturday, December 19, 1992, at 10:30 a.m. in Binkley Chapel. President Paige Patterson and Vice President L. Russ Bush conferred degrees upon sixty-six graduates: five in the Associate of Divinity program; four in the Masters of Arts program, 54 in the Masters of Divinity program; three in the Doctor of Ministry program.

Dr. Timothy George, dean of the Beeson Divinity School of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, addressed the commencement audience. He exhorted the graduates to "Remember, lest you forget." He asked them to remember their Baptist heritage and their forefathers' commitment "to pass on to the rising generation the rudiments of the Christian faith."

Sherlene Womack, a new Southeastern graduate, enjoyed the ceremony immensely, especially when it came to be her turn to walk across the stage. She recalls that as Dr. Patterson presented her with her degree, he commented on the fact that she was carrying her Bible. He said to her, "It makes my heart feel glad to know you carry the Word of the Lord." Sherlene replied, "Sir, is there anything else to carry?" She then placed her Bible on top of her degree and descended from the stage.

Sherlene expressed the relief shared by many graduates, of finishing all exams and papers. She stated, "I did not have the academic prowess that I hoped for,

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but how much Church History can one take!" She did, however, express love for her alma mater. "I have felt a close association with the Lord here, and I see glorious things happening in the future at Southeastern." She is so positive about the school's future that she plans to return to the campus next semester and enroll in Clinical Pastoral Education at Holly Hill Psychiatric Hospital in Raleigh.

"I feel that I have completed a very important task," Sherlene stated. "I am now prepared to serve in the Kingdom of the Lord to my full capacity."

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