

# THE ENQUIRY

*Serving the Southeastern Community*

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## SEBTS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

by Heather Lawrence and Merle Martin

On July 21 President Paige Patterson announced the appointment of six new members to the Faculty of Southeastern. With the exception of one, all of the new Faculty members are former professors at The Criswell College in Dallas, Texas. All six of the new professors have received a one year presidential appointment.

After serving many years as a professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Scott Tatum has come to Southeastern as Visiting Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministry. "I am happy to be at Southeastern," says Tatum. "Everything I see is good. My hope is that we will be removed from probation by the accrediting agencies. That would make me and I think all Southern Baptists happy."

Working with Dr. Albert Meiburg in the area of Pastoral Care is Dr. Paul Carlisle, appointed by President Patterson as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology. Dr. Carlisle admits that he and his family were praying about several options before coming to Southeastern, but they came to the conclusion that Southeastern "seemed like the platform God would give us for full, effective ministry."

Marriage and family counseling are the areas dear to the heart of Dr. Carlisle, and he believes ministers and their families often have great needs which can be addressed in the seminary setting. "I'm afraid families are sacrificed on the altars of service," he says. His philosophy focuses on the awareness that ministerial students need to have a clear cut understanding of their own ministry and the expectations many churches place on their families. "They need to say the small word 'no'," adds

Carlisle. Carlisle believes his role at Southeastern is to be an equipper of ministers, helping them to face the issues that are out there, basing learning on both personal experience and a solid Biblical model.

Dr. Gerald Cowen is serving as a Professor of Pastoral Theology and is assisting the Formation in Ministry office in the area of placement counseling. Though his academic emphasis has been in New Testament and Greek, Dr. Cowen has served in pastoral roles in several churches, most recently as a mission pastor in a ghetto of Dallas.

Cowen considers his move to Wake Forest an example of God opening a door. "I have been interested in this school for some time" Cowen said. "When the opportunity came, I pursued it as a new venture in the Lord."

When asked as to his philosophy in teaching, Cowen stated that his emphasis is on practical application of what is taught in the classroom. "Our job here is to prepare people to do the ministry they are called to do."

Named as Associate Professor of New Testament is Dr. David Lanier. "I try to help ministers to be successful," says Lanier. He sees himself as an encourager to students and quotes 1 Peter 5:3 as his guiding principle in this endeavor: "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock."

Lanier developed this ministry of encouragement in graduate school. He related a story about his experience tutoring a Cuban minister who was having trouble with the English language. A warm friendship emerged and when the minister tried to pay him for his services, Lanier declined to accept monetary payment. However, Lanier

did enjoy some native Cuban cooking instead! This is an example of the kind of encouragement that Lanier hopes to model for his students.

Dr. Keith Eitel is serving as Professor of Missions and as assistant to Dr. Wayne McDill in the development of the Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies. In addition, Eitel is acting as an advisor to President Patterson on accreditation matters.

Eitel believes that the opportunities to contribute to missions education in this environment is one element God used to bring him to Southeastern. He has already initiated a research project for the Center for Great Commission Studies, using computer equipment provided by a foundation in Dallas.

The new missions professor feels that his greatest challenge will be to fulfill the objectives of the Center for Great Commission Studies. "It is not an impossible task," says Eitel, "but it will entail a lot of work."

Also appointed is Dr. Gary Galeotti, who will be serving as Professor of Old Testament. The Enquiry was unable to reach Dr. Galeotti for comment at press time.

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## EDITORIAL

My granddaddy will celebrate his 105th birthday in November. Those who meet him for the first time are amazed at his wit and intelligence, for though the years have taken their toll on his eyesight and his physical strength, his mind is as sharp as it was 50 years ago.

The father of nine, and grandfather and great-grandfather of many, John Frank Price is a revered patriarch, a respected teacher, and a beloved pastor. To keep his mind fresh he spends time each day creating and solving algebra problems in his head. Mostly, however, he quotes the Scriptures to himself, sometimes preparing sermons, all in the original languages. As a child I can remember no time when he preached with notes and he never looked at the text, for he knew the Scriptures from memory. His family has often expressed the thought that if all copies of the Bible were destroyed, we could recreate much of it, simply from his memory.

He studied at Southern Seminary in the 1920's under Southern Baptist greats Robertson, Mullins, and Sampey, excelling in his studies and carrying the highest GPA at the Seminary. Rather than pursue an academic career and, perhaps, great notoriety, he instead chose to pas-

tor churches in rural Kentucky and then in Florida. The lives he affected and the people he helped are too numerous to count and he still remains as active as possible in his local church.

But this is not written to praise him, or reminisce as much as to recount a recent conversation I had with him. I visited him for several hours when I was home in Florida this summer and we spent some time talking of Convention matters, the changes here at Southeastern, and his own experiences at Southern Seminary.

Then my granddaddy surprised me with the announcement that as he had been spending much time meditating on the Scriptures and reviewing the intricacies of the original languages in his mind, he had come to the conclusion that some of our theology is wrong. Needless to say, this caught me off guard, coming from this staunch Southern Baptist who taught doctrine for so many years. He even remarked that if he still had good eyesight, he would write a new systematic theology.

In all seriousness I offered to type his thoughts if he would but speak them into a tape recorder. I was anxious to know his conclusions since I seek to gain

my own understanding of difficult theological matters. But he just smiled and laid his head back on his chair, without offering to elaborate further, and soon the conversation turned to other things.

I have pondered our conversation many times since then, wondering what it is that he has discovered and why he did not share it with me. "Shouldn't his wisdom be shared?" I ask myself. "I want to know what he has learned."

I may ask him again and perhaps he will tell me. However, I have come to the conclusion that perhaps the wisdom of this 105 year old man is beyond my 26 year old understanding. Perhaps the conclusions he has reached are a combination of his lifetime of study and ministry which are, as of now, beyond my grasp, and, for that matter, beyond the grasp of any of us. And I have learned a lesson, for I see that even those who spend a lifetime teaching and preaching along clear theological and denominational lines may someday come to the conclusion that their doctrines may be examined and may be found faulty, or even false.

My granddaddy is not too proud to admit that. Would that we all could say the same. hpl

### Danny Akin, Dean of Students

Coming to SEBTS is a great thrill for the Akin family. My wife Charlotte, and my four sons, Nathan (11), Jonathan (11), Paul (8), and Timothy (7) count it a great privilege to join this seminary family. The new vision of the school is one we enthusiastically affirm, and it is my desire to make whatever contributions to it that our wonderful Lord may allow.

As the Dean of Students I have the honor of serving in some sense as a pastor to the student body and their families. As an adjunctive faculty member, I have the responsibility of conveying precious spiritual truth to men and women preparing for Christian ministry. Mine will be an open door policy. I want to assist any one in any way at any time that I can. If you want to talk to someone, come by. If you need someone to pray with, please come to see me. I firmly believe that "with God

nothing is impossible" (Luke 1:37), and that on our knees humbly before His throne of grace we will find a loving heavenly Father willing and able to meet any need His children may have.

I will not be a perfect Dean of Students. I will, however, try to be one willing to listen and learn from those I serve and work alongside. My goal will be to honor and exalt the Lord Jesus and to serve our students in the most effective way possible. To do that I will need your help. First and most important, I will need your prayers. Second, I will need your feedback, your perspective, your critique, and your encouragement. I will be a learner as well as a teacher, a servant as well as a leader.

I am excited to be here and I am looking forward to meeting each one of you personally. May our heart beat with a passion to "do all to the glory of God" (I Cor 10:31).

### CAMPUS REVIVAL WITH JERRY VINES

OCTOBER 20 - 22

\* \* \* \* \*

FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 30

7 - 9 P.M.

LEDFORD CENTER

\* \* \* \* \*

TRUTH CONCERT

OCTOBER 31

7:00 P.M.

BINKLEY CHAPEL



## EDITORIAL

### THE VOICE AT THE END OF THE LINE...

You remember the feeling. There was, perhaps, a tugging at your heart, a persistent inner-voice, or a series of Divine-ordered events that you've come to know was God's call to you for ministry. Along with the call came the conviction that you should further your education to better equip you for the task. For some of you, a seminary education was a "given" - a natural continuation of studies directly following your Bachelor's degree. For others the thoughts of a seminary education came after years of being out of high school or college and being involved in a career. Many of you, like me, felt God's particular call to come to Southeastern Seminary. The memory of that experience is one that I won't forget.

I knew that I needed to get a seminary degree. I had served for several years in the pastoral ministry during which time I earned a Bachelor's degree. In the back of my mind was the thought that I needed to continue my education. Several opportunities came and went to attend seminary. I always decided that I would wait a little longer. Finally, one morning in early January, 1991, God spoke to me in a way unlike He had ever spoken to me before. I felt in that instant that I had to come to Southeastern Seminary. I remember it well. I gave God all my pat excuses. It would be too disruptive to my family life and my ministry. We had a baby daughter. I would have to leave my family and church and stay in a dormitory during the week. We couldn't afford it. Classes were to start in a couple of

weeks and it was most likely too late for admission.

As I said, God called me to come and He had that covered too. That's where this "voice at the end of the line" thought comes in. I called the school and I spoke to our beloved Registrar, Sheldon Alexander. I told him my situation and through a big smile (I could tell he was smiling - it came right through the phone line!) he told me he thought we could work something out. There it was. My last excuse. God had firmly opened the door. Now, let me tell you something about that voice at the end of the line. I needed that encouragement and God knew that I did. With those words from Sheldon Alexander and that smile, I somehow knew that what I was about to do was the thing God was calling me to do. I may have gotten someone else on the phone that day who might not have offered such encouragement for one reason or another. We never know as we encounter others just what God's purposes are.

In January of this year, I found myself employed as a switchboard operator here at school. It occurred to me one day soon after getting this job that the person who answers the phone is the first (sometimes last) impression that the caller has of Southeastern Seminary. Of course, our job at the switchboard is to simply put the calls through to the proper person. Sometimes, though, callers call after business hours and we find ourselves answering general questions about the school.

One Saturday, late last Spring, I an-

swered a call from a young woman in Georgia. She had some questions and, I began to suspect, some doubts. After telling her that all offices were closed and suggesting that she call back on Monday, she persisted in talking. She told me that her husband was going to be a student here in the Fall and they were anticipating a move. Her doubts and anxiety about employment for herself came through. I had no answers (hey, I just answer the phone here!) but in a single moment the Holy Spirit led me to listen to her. I remembered the first call I made here and how I needed so desperately to hear a word of assurance and I got it. I listened to her. Finally she said, "They say it's real pretty up there." And I said, "It's beautiful. Ya'll will love it. Everything will work out. You'll see." I'm not sure how reassuring those words were to her or if they were affirming at all. I just hope that in a small way I was able to make a return on the "investment" that our Registrar made on this anxious and timid prospective student with his smile through the phone and his firm words of assurance.

God's Word tells us in Ecclesiastes 11:1 to "Cast your bread upon the waters, For you shall find it after many days." Our Lord gives us countless opportunities to "cast our bread" as we encounter others. Let's be willing to open our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in those special, and often overlooked, opportunities to be that "voice at the end of the line". God may use it in a wonderful way! MTM

*Articles, Announcements  
and Letters to the Editor  
are Welcome!*

*All materials should be  
signed and submitted to:*

*The Enquiry  
Box 2776*

**Heather Lawrence**, Editor  
**Merle Martin**, Assistant Editor  
**Maurice Robinson**, Faculty Advisor

In establishing this newspaper the students of Southeastern Seminary are engaging in an old and honorable practice, that of inviting relevant discussion by concerned and responsible people on matters pertinent to their common life. They have chosen a name which is equally honorable, one which enjoys a place of special significance in our Baptist history.

In 1792 William Carey published a booklet entitled "An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens." He intended not only to set forth his own observation, but also to call forth discussion from others who shared with him a commitment to Jesus Christ and a desire to fulfill their obligations which this discipleship implied. It is significant that he was concerned with Biblical foundation; that he gave attentions to historical conditions; and that he did not ignore the questions of practicality. It is hoped that this "Enquiry" will honor this spirit, this tradition, and this name.



# A JOURNEY TO ROMANIA: EXCERPTS

*Saturday, August 1*

*This is the day our group leaves for Romania....We each have about 1000 tracts printed in the Romanian language, as I was putting these in my suitcases I thought about how many lives may be changed by these tracts...As I was packing them I asked God to protect them and to use them to glorify Himself and reach many over there for Jesus....We leave the campus in one hour, may God's name be glorified, magnified, and may He use us to introduce many Romanians to Jesus Christ.*

*Sunday, August 2*

*Amsterdam airport. So many people coming and going, I wonder how many claim any religious affiliation at all. To narrow that down, I wonder how many of them know Jesus Christ.*

*Monday, August 3*

*Today we traveled from Budapest, Hungary to Oreda, Romania....Two significant things happened today. The first was when we were crossing the border from Hungary into Romania we had to wait approximately one hour and ten minutes to make the crossing...Actually our wait was very small compared to some others....there was a line of cars bumper to bumper for at least two miles that was not moving...These people are pitiful, they could not make a decision, afraid of making the wrong one. Actually they weren't pitiful, it's the situation they are placed in.*

*Tuesday, August 4*

*Today we were riding the entire day in the bus....We met at the church to pick up some Romanian students who were to be our interpreters....When we arrived at the church they were ready except the keys to the van had been lost...*

*While this was an exasperating and perhaps embarrassing experience for the Romanians, things do or do not happen for a reason....The driver was to be a seventeen year old boy who has been driving only four months. The Lord may have been protecting that boy and his passengers from a tragic accident by allowing those keys not to be found. Sometimes*

*in our human-ness and from our perspective we cannot appreciate the workings of the Lord in our lives. I believe He was protecting us, or them, from whatever He saw that we did not know was out there.*

*Along the journey we stopped for a rest break....This provided an opportunity to observe the people....Their clothes are reminiscent of what we see in World War II movies, except quite dirty. [They] looked to be farmers and other blue collar workers, face and hands weather-beaten, no sparkle or joy in their eyes....One gets the feeling that these people have been working hard all their lives and all they have to show for it is a wagon and two horses, a small house that is fortunate not [to] have been destroyed by the Nazi's, and little else....I wonder what God thinks about their condition....It must break His heart.*

*After we...were into Romania we were stopped by the militia, thus must have been 9:00 or 10:00 at night....They checked a few passports and let us move on. We do not have an idea how this feels in America. Dr. Roberts' comment was, "Welcome to Neo-Communism."*

*Wednesday, August 5*

*Today we were able to see a little of Bucharest and get a closer understanding of what has happened to this country....*

*We visited a palace that was begun in 1982 by the former ruler of Romania, Nicolae Ceaucescu....The floors throughout are marble....Thirty square feet of this marble costs one million dollars. [There] was gold trim in the architecture...the chandeliers were enormous...the curtains were gold fabric....And on it goes as to massive wastes!*

*Why is this such a poor country? Why do the people have little if any trust in others? Look at the palace and the other buildings....the people of the country went without food, heat, gasoline and other necessities of life so that this building could be built.*

*After seeing the brokenness of the people, their seemingly hopeless plight in life; then seeing this palace with all its splendor and grandeur, one can begin to realize the terrible miscarriage of justice these people have experienced.*

*Why would anyone subject their people and their country to such a tragedy as this? Why indeed?....*

*We arrived [in Buzon] just in time to attend a Wednesday night prayer service at the only Baptist church here....The service had such a great spirit about it. Even though these people had experienced all the same helpless situations we noticed on the highway, these people smiled and had hope in their eyes....Their clothes were in the same sad condition and one could tell they were blue-collar working-type people, yet they were happy; they had joy!*

*Thursday, August 6*

*Today we began our work here. We ...decided that for today we would pair off and distribute tracts....Everything went well for the most part, however on three or four occasions we encountered someone who wanted to start a little trouble. When this would happen the [interpreter] would stand her ground and not give an inch. It did not make any difference if it was male or female, she was there for Jesus....*

*Most of these people are Orthodox and a sprinkling of Roman Catholics, then a large number are not anything at all....I just wonder how much good or how big a step we will take in only one week....*

*We held our first service tonight. The singing and testimonies were good but the sermon Dr. Roberts delivered was great. At the close of the service there were about 12-15 people who made decisions for Jesus Christ. That was a remarkable beginning, praise God for each and every one of them.*

*Friday, August 7*

*Today was our first day of street preaching....We quickly drew a crowd, even before we were ready to begin....Only about twice was there any disturbances, the biggest...came just as we were about to stop for the day. One man began to say something in Romanian and one or two of the female translators tried to quiet him, however he wasn't too be stopped. Then one of the male translators jumped in his face and stood toe-to-toe with the man. This drew an even larger*



## FROM THE DIARY OF DUDLEY DAVIS

crowd....Finally we were able to break away and make our way back to the hotel. We could look out the window of the hotel and see the crowd still arguing even after about thirty-forty minutes....From what I can gather some people see [our efforts] as an intrusion on the territory of the Orthodox church ...some see us as a political threat....In America we cannot identify with this sort of thing....

We held our evening service...we saw one man come to Jesus....There was a real spiritual battle happening there...and the sovereign almighty God snatched victory from Satan. I wonder what is in the future for that man. Well amen and amen. We'll leave that to God.

Saturday, August 8

...today I got my feet wet with my first ever experience of street preaching....In the back of your mind you always know there is a possibility of a disturbance, at the same time you claim God's protection and His promise that He is always with us. Suddenly that becomes very real.

Another thought is that the government officials may suddenly object to what we're doing...I wonder if the message is really getting to the people, do they understand what we're trying to say?....

Tonight's service was another one where God worked.

Sunday, August 9

This morning we worshipped with Pastor Daniel's group....I was told that one of the ladies who spoke told the group that her husband wants a divorce since she has become a Christian....This poor lady needs the prayer and support of that small group of fellow Christians. I hope and pray they do not fail her.

We had lunch with the mayor today....As I understand it he invited us to have lunch with him....It seems that he has said he will help Pastor Daniel secure a larger place for his church to meet, also he will help a girl who is a new Christian and needs an apartment....In effect we were sucking up. Our group was used as chess pawns so the mayor and the neo-communist government could show off how "cooperative" they are with the Amer-

icans and their little evangelical movement. We have placed Pastor Daniel in a very difficult situation...in bed with the neo-communist government....We must trust that God will hold this situation in His hands.

In tonight's service we saw another group of 10 or 12, maybe 15, accept Jesus....God is working miracles every night.

Monday, August 10

Today was an unusual day....Dr. Roberts told us that the [translators] want to take us to lunch and that it [would] be at Lydia's house....It was really good to see how Romanians live and see the inside of a home. They are not much different from us, that home could have been that of any grandmother in America....

To show us that God is ever faithful, He saved someone tonight and some serious discipling was also accomplished. God is changing people's lives and adding to His church daily.

Tuesday, August 11

Today we were on the streets two times. This morning we distributed tracts and this afternoon we were street preaching. On both occasions we encountered some problems....One scene I won't forget soon is...three of our Romanian translators forming sort of a triangle with their backs to each other....none of the students were willing to compromise the Word of God....I had to almost literally pull them away....I admire the zeal these students have displayed greatly. When I say this to my fellow American students they criticize the Romanians for shouting back and arguing with the troublemakers. I asked them how many Americans do they know that would stand up for Jesus like these students do. The only comment made was Dr. Roberts said, "Not many". Enough said.

Wednesday, August 12

Today is our last day here in Buzon. ....I have mixed emotions about leaving. On the one hand I do not want to leave, there is so much work to do here for the Lord and Daniel is the only leader and

his congregation is so small. Yet...I want to get back to SEBTS and prepare for the school year.

We held our final sessions of street preaching today without incident. Also we passed out all of the remaining tracts so we know that seeds have been planted....

Tonight we held our final service and saw some people come forward once again. We have been claiming Acts 2:47.

Thursday, August 13

We left at 1:00 this morning...to go back to Oreda. Our interpreters went with us....They are a marvelous group of young people. I hope to see them again on this earth, before we go to spend eternity together....Tomorrow we really head for home.

Friday, August 14

We boarded the bus once again and headed toward Hungary....We were able to cross [the border] without too much of a delay....There were many people standing at the actual gate waiting to be able to cross. Naturally they were upset with our bus when we were able to proceed right past....You could see the anger on their faces as we rode past them. It was an unforgettable sight....

Saturday, August 15

Today we complete our journey. We had a little time to look around Amsterdam....A beautiful city but so many people appear to be transient....just sitting or lying on the floor of the train station or in the sidewalk. One gets the feeling that ...they really don't have a set destination. God loves each one of them just as much as He loves us. I wonder why we don't.

We boarded the airplane and it was an excitement that has been building. ....It's only just a matter of hours now before we'll actually be home....I wonder if in all the excitement of the moment, "Do we thank God for this trip experience and all that it has involved? Do we realize what God has been up to in the past two weeks, from the time we said goodbye to these very people we are now saying hello to?" Probably not.



# ON PRAXIS AND PIZZA

by Merle Martin

"Sometimes at Seminary I have a hard time finding opportunities to share my faith with others because I am rarely around the lost. This was not the case this summer. The lost were everywhere. They seemed to have it all together but were deeply hurting and were quite open to the Gospel I developed a deep love for these needy souls over the summer," Chad Sparks reflected recently as he described his summer involvement in Praxis.

Chad, a second-year Master of Divinity student, and his wife, Darla, who teaches first grade in Raleigh, are both natives of Tennessee. In January of this year they felt called to participate in Praxis, which is a three-way cooperation involving the Seminary, the local Baptist association, and the Home Mission Board of the SBC. The prospect of working as a ministry team with his wife and earning 8 hours of seminary credit was attractive to Chad, also!

Initially, their assignment was to work in starting a new church in North Charlotte, in an area near UNC-Charlotte. God had other plans for them. "We found out that instead of North Charlotte where we were to start a new church from scratch, we were to go to South Charlotte, to an area called Matthews, to help the Windsor Square Baptist Church, a newly organized church, get on its feet."

Chad describes the church situation as "interesting." "It consisted of two groups. The first group was from the congregation of the former church. They had a rough history filled with much strife, a split, and even a lawsuit. After the dust had settled the church was down to an average attendance in the single digits, and had decided to cease and give the church property to the Mecklenburg Baptist Association. They were also in serious debt of about \$100,000.00."

"The second group was made up of members who had split from a large church in a neighboring association," noted Chad. This group had met for

several months in a Seventh Day Adventist church. "My job for the summer was to try to get this [merged congregation] established and going."

Chad and Darla began their work by meeting with the newly organized church and helping them to realize their possibilities for growth. Chad designed a versatile brochure about the church and he enrolled them in a service which would [provide] names and addresses of new residents in the area. They set about establishing an outreach program, organizing a steering committee, and making a start on settling financial matters. With Chad's leadership the congregation made cosmetic changes to the building and grounds and they planned a more contemporary worship service.

Apart from their visitation program, prospects came from Backyard Bible Clubs. Chad and Darla led three of these clubs in three large apartment complexes. "We did these all summer and they were a wonderful success. We were able to share Christ with about 75 children, many of whom had never heard about Him," remarked Chad. "At the end of the summer we invited these children to Vacation Bible School at Windsor Square church. It was also a great success and many families attended the church as a result of this effort."

The Sparks' found opportunities to witness literally at their front door. "Darla and I knew we were in for a difficult summer when we went to a Luau at the apartment pool, and found out that it was nothing more than a 'keg' party. We were the only ones there who drank coke. It was wild. I mean thong bathing suits, loud music, and the whole bit. We tried for about an hour to talk to folks and establish relationships, but when everyone started getting drunk we decided it was time to go."

Chad and Darla saw some changes, however. "It was neat to see some of those same people later in the summer come to Bible Study and many of their kids come to know Jesus. Darla said

that seeing the kids' faces light up when they learned for the first time that God created them special and that He loved them was worth the whole summer for her."

Chad used every circumstance to witness. "Sometimes we went to see the Charlotte Knights baseball team play. One time a lady came up to me and asked if I would be interested in trying to catch three fly-balls in the outfield in order to win free pizza for the entire stadium. I really didn't want to but Darla talked me into it. Well, I went down to the field and right before the game was to start they sent me out in left field and introduced me. They hit three fly-balls and I caught them. The crowd went wild. I was a hero. It was really good because while I was down there waiting to go on to the field I got to talk to some of the Knights Club members about Christ. The lady that took me down there gave me a bunch of free pizza coupons and so Darla and I ate pizza for the rest of the summer. Almost daily!"

After he established a good base Chad began looking for someone to continue the work after his 10 weeks were completed. He got in touch with a young pastor of a nearby church which had just been started. "He was innovative, and he had a burden for those who lived in the apartments," said Chad. "Everything worked out great and by the end of the summer we had reached around 25-30 adults, the church was reaching an attendance of 56 (up from 15), and was functioning well and moving forward. A spirit of excitement had emerged when they saw what God could do with them."

Would Chad and Darla Sparks do Praxis again? "If I had the chance to do it again I definitely would. I would only change the time frame. I wish I had 15 weeks instead of 10. I feel that everything was on the verge of bustin' loose when we left. It was really hard to leave and many tears were shed. I would encourage anyone to look into Praxis."



Special to The Enquiry:

## ACCREDITATION: WHERE WE STAND

by L. Russ Bush, Dean of the Faculty

Southeastern has for the past several years been under the special scrutiny of our regional accrediting association, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and of our professional accrediting association, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Both of these associations put the Seminary on probation during this past year. SACS took this action in December and ATS followed suite in June. The issues, however, have not been exactly the same.

With ATS the school was asked to more clearly define its stated purpose, to resolve the remaining conflicts between faculty and trustees, and to define more clearly our internal administrative procedures. Our academic degree programs were not the major issue. The ATS probation gives us two years in which to resolve our problems. We have already taken several actions that we believe will satisfy ATS when they next review us.

SACS visited the campus September 13-16 to review the work of our Self-Study and to re-examine the issues that led to their probation ruling. When SACS visited us last year, we did not have a long range plan in place. Our research data was almost non-existent. Our Seminary Statement of Purpose was in dispute. Our procedure for selecting new faculty was controversial and was judged problematic by SACS. As of today we have responded to each of these matters. We have prepared a comprehensive long range plan, including detailed evaluation procedures. The other issues cited have also been addressed.

Will these changes solve our accreditation problem? Truly we all hope and believe so. Faculty, staff, trustees, and administrators have worked hard to resolve the difficulties of previous years, and I believe we have made great progress in every problem area.

As Dean of the Faculty I want to plead with each student: keep the school in your prayers. I am confident of our progress, but we must demonstrate that progress to the visiting team.

What is our status?

1. ATS accreditation is assured through the 1993-1994 school year. Our degree programs remain accredited throughout the two-year period of probation. We will be reviewed and a new decision will be made no later than June 1994.
2. As a result of the SACS visit, we will either be reaffirmed and probation will be lifted in December 1992, or the decision could be deferred until December of 1993. In that case we would remain on probation until then. If we were for some unexpected reason to be unable to demonstrate compliance with the SACS criteria, accreditation with SACS (but not ATS) could be lost in December. (I think this is the least likely option.)
3. All academic work done under the probation order is considered to be accredited work for all purposes. Only if both ATS and SACS accreditation were lost would students' degree credits be affected. Our hope is that SACS accreditation will be reaffirmed this year and that reaffirmation by ATS will soon follow. Worst case: SACS could act against us. Even at that, we would still have two years under ATS accreditation during which we would earnestly work to solve all remaining problems.

I believe that Southeastern deserves full recognition by both of our accrediting agencies. Let's pray and work to that end.

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## STUDENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES FALL ELECTIONS

The Student Council has announced an October 15-16 election to fill vacancies left after the Spring 1992 election.

Several class representative slots remain unfilled, including one for the Th.M. class, two each in the M.Div. senior and junior classes, and one each in the M.A. junior and senior classes. Responsibilities of class representatives include regular attendance at the monthly Student Council meetings as well as

other essential leadership and communication functions.

In addition there remain several unfilled slots for committee chairpersons. Among these are the Arts Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Off Campus Ministries Committee, and the Student Welfare Committee. Each committee chairperson has specific responsibilities as designated in the Constitution of the Student Council, but

general duties include attendance at Student Council meetings and directing the actions of students involved with the various committees.

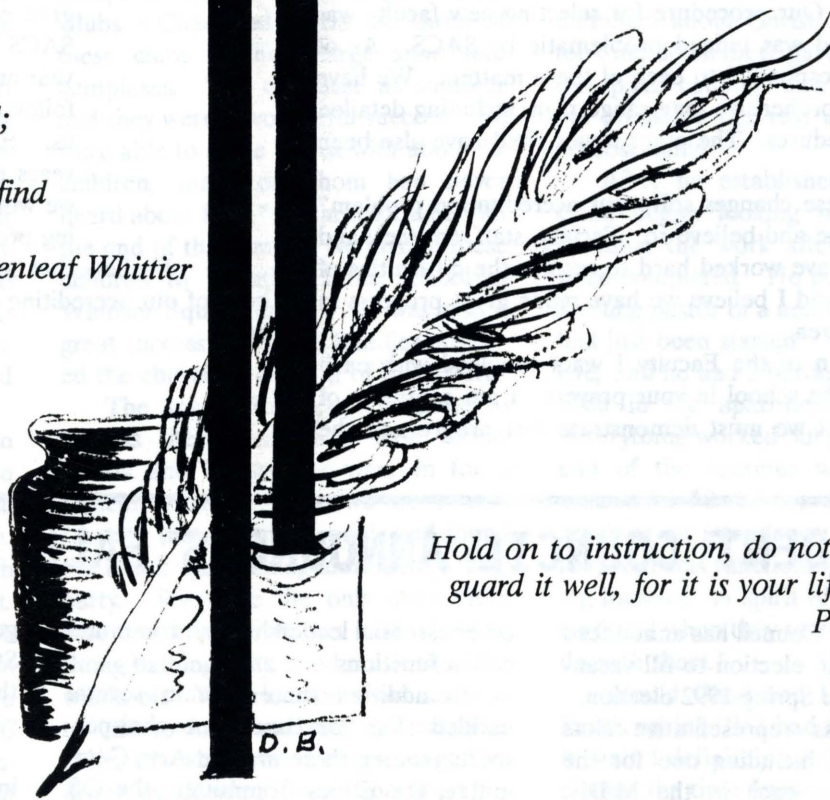
Interested persons may seek further information from the Student Handbook, or from any Student Council officer. Applications for each of these positions are available in the office of the Dean of Students and must be submitted by September 30.



*Where the light is brightest,  
the shadows are darkest.*  
Goethe

*To accept grace  
means to accept its necessity.*  
Max Lucado

*Nothing before, nothing behind;  
The steps of faith  
Fall on the seeming void, and find  
The rock beneath.*  
John Greenleaf Whittier



*Hold on to instruction, do not let it go;  
guard it well, for it is your life.*

Proverbs 4:13