

Obituary of Dr. William J. Hand,
Emeritus Professor,
Age 92

William J. Hand, 92, of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, Emeritus Professor of Pastoral Counseling and Emeritus Librarian at The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Tuesday, November 16, 2004, of a heart attack at Central Montgomery Hospital in Lansdale. In 1946, Dr. Hand joined the seminary faculty as a librarian and in the 1960s, after earning a doctorate in Sacred Theology from Temple University, he became Professor of Pastoral Counseling. Following his retirement in 1977, he continued to coordinate students' pastoral field education and served for a time as interim librarian. Before becoming a librarian, Dr. Hand, an ordained Baptist minister, had been pastor of Manayunk Baptist Church. While on the seminary faculty, he occasionally returned to the church as interim pastor. Dr. Hand graduated from Overbrook High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, now University of the Sciences, and a master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania. He later earned a bachelor's degree in divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a bachelor's degree in library science from Drexel University.

He loved reading and studying, a longtime friend and former student, John L. Rodgers, said. Dr. Hand also enjoyed travel, Rodgers said, and had visited more than 100 countries. He was active with the Baptist World Alliance and was planning to attend the alliance's conference in London in April. Dr. Hand has no immediate survivors.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 700 N. Broad St., Lansdale, Pennsylvania..

Memorial donations may be made to The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 6 E. Lancaster Avenue, Wynnewood, Pa. 19096.