

BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS
NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

127 NINTH AVE., N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AL 4-1631

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February 1, 1962

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

Catholics Deny Others
Marriage Opportunity

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

BARCELONA, Spain (BP)--Jose Borrás is a professor in the Baptist Seminary here. In the eyes of the government and official society, the young professor is not legally married to his charming Baptist wife!

Jose and Esther met in the seminary several years ago when he was a student and she boarded here while attending the Spanish University.

Jose had been a Catholic priest. While investigating the beliefs of Baptists in order to preach against the heretics, Jose recognized the truth as taught by the Baptists and the New Testament.

He became converted at great personal cost, since he immediately lost his family, friends and his life-long training.

When Jose won Esther's love and her consent to be married, they were unable to secure a marriage license because of Jose's former priesthood.

Jose left for Ruschlikon to study at the International Baptist Seminary. He was invited one summer to go to England for a preaching mission. If only Esther could go, they could be married!

A group of American wives in Spain heard Esther's story and helped her with her transportation expenses. At last the young lovers were married, and Esther returned to study at Ruschlikon with her husband.

Now the Borrases are serving the seminary and a church near Barcelona. They are very compassionate toward the Baptist couples in Spain who are denied marriage if either or both of the couple have ever been members of the Roman Catholic Church.

"Once baptized a Catholic, always one," says their Church, and thus denies them the freedom to be married in Spain.