

May 24, 1974

Louisiana 'Shrimper' Is
'Fisher of Men' for Jesus

By Steve Wall
for Baptist Press

Reuven Duplantis clanked across the wooden pier in the early morning darkness to his shrimp boat, Ninevah.

The boat eased from the pier, heading south down Louisiana's Little Caillou Bayou where "shrimping" is a way of life.

"I guess Nineveh is a strange name for a boat," Duplantis said, "but that is just the point. I named her that because no one here had ever heard the name. When someone asks about it, I have a chance to bring in the Bible and tell them what the Lord has done for me."

Duplantis, who shrimps six months of the year and works with his father's crew boat in the oil fields the other half, says God changed his life nine years ago.

"I was really drinking a lot in those days, and I was pretty mean too. But after I accepted the Lord all that changed.

"I was taking some classes at night. During one class the instructor, a Christian from outside the community, threw out a Bible verse, and it got to me. I got a Bible to see for myself.

"I couldn't understand the verse, and neither could my wife. It really started bothering her, so she went to doctors for help. Finally, one doctor told her that her problem was spiritual.

"Then she went across the bayou to the Baptist mission pastor and talked with him. "She became a Christian," Duplantis said, "and our problems really started then.

"Naturally she wanted to go to the mission, but I forbade her going. It got so bad I went over to the pastor and told him if he didn't leave my wife alone with all that Bible and Baptist stuff, I would kill him. I meant it, too.

"My drinking got worse, and our family problems mounted. Deep down I knew what the problem was. So one night I told my wife that I wanted to talk with the mission pastor.

"It happened that was a night the mission was having a fellowship.

"As we walked in, the pastor saw me. I believe he turned every color in the world and ended up as white as a sheep. He remembered my warning."

Duplantis talked with the minister that night, and "the next day I became a Christian."

As a new Christian Duplantis began visiting his old drinking buddies, telling them what had happened. And he visited some that had not been real close friends.

Duplantis chuckled, then added, "I felt like Paul after he had become a Christian and returned to Jerusalem. My friends were afraid that it just was not true.

"But I still told everyone I was a changed man. I may not have witnessed in the right way, but it was really important for me to tell everyone."

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Duplantis' new character came through one night when a Cajun man broke up a Sunday evening class at the church building.

"He came busting in and went straight to the preacher and started pushing him around," Duplantis said. "It seems that the man's wife had become a Christian and he just didn't want that.

"He said the preacher had wrecked his marriage and turned his wife against him.

"After a while, knowing that the preacher had taken enough, I went up to the man, put my arm around him, and let him know that if he did not stop it, I would stop him.

"You know, that man broke down and started crying. He said he didn't mean it and that he needed help. Later he became a Christian."

Shortly after his own conversion, and as a result of his own reading, Duplantis said he became convinced he should start tithing (giving 10 per cent of his income to the church.)

"I told my wife," he said, "and she let me know that we were so far in debt we had no money for things we needed.

"So I said we would sell the house and our new car in order to pay ourselves out of debt. And we did it. We started tithing, and now we have more than we did then.

Of his occupation in shrimping, Duplantis noted, "It's little wonder I only do this part of the year. Getting up at 2:30 and taking three hours to get to the shrimping waters is asking a lot.

"Sometimes the money is good and sometimes the prices drop, but it is just something that is in the blood. It goes back for generations."

Duplantis also believes that when a person becomes a Christian, it is also "something in the blood" that changes a person's life, no matter what he or she does for a living. (BP)

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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May 24, 1974

**SBC Coordinated Promotion
Planning Coordinator Named**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Lynn M. Davis Jr., manuscript analyst at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, has been named coordinated promotion planning coordinator for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Coordinated promotion planning is a process through which Southern Baptist Convention and state convention program leaders cooperate in promoting selected denominational emphases, goals and projects to assist the churches.

As coordinator, Davis will work with all the agencies which cooperate within the SBC Inter-Agency Council and relay the yearly emphasis to the executive secretaries and staffs of each Baptist state convention.

He succeeds George L. Euting, who resigned last January to accept the pastorate of New Bridge Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

"Lynn Davis is well qualified to represent the various agencies of the convention in coordinating the programs with the state conventions," said Fred B. Mosley, chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Agency Council and assistant executive secretary of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. "We are pleased that he is in this position."

Prior to coming to the Sunday School Board, Davis served as editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger, Baptist state paper, for nearly five years. Earlier, he was state student secretary for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. From 1960-62, he was assistant director of public relations at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary and editor of Vision magazine, a student publication.

In 1966, Davis joined the Sunday School Board's office of public relations as supervisor of the information section, chief of the Baptist Press bureau at the board and associate editor of Facts and Trends. He became manuscript analyst in October, 1972.

A native of Jacksonville, Fla., Davis received the bachelor of fine arts degree from Ohio University, Athens, and the bachelor of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

"His experience and background in religious education and in working with state conventions makes Lynn an excellent choice for this important denomination," states Morton Rose, Davis' supervisor in the board's church services and materials division. "He also has personal skills in communications and a commitment to the total work of Southern Baptists."

Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the SBC Executive Committee, pointed out that "although Davis will be employed by the Sunday School Board, he will work for all the SBC agencies when dealing with the state conventions."

"His background is tremendous for what he is about to do," McClellan added.

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(BP) Photo of Davis sent to state paper editors.

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"Fellow Citizen, A. Lincoln"
Wins Blue Ribbon for Baptists

5/24/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here has won its second blue ribbon (first prize) from the prestigious American Film Festival for a documentary production released in its The Human Dimension television series.

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"Fellow Citizen, A. Lincoln" won the blue ribbon in the festival's history and archaeology category. The film was produced by Aram Boyajian and Cecile Starr of New York for the commission.

The American Film Festival only awards one blue ribbon and one red ribbon in each category, making it a coveted award by film makers. Winning films will be distributed to libraries across the nation.

"Home," the commission's documentary on ecology, won the festival's blue ribbon in 1972.

Truett Myers, the commission's senior vice president, production services, said "Fellow Citizen, A. Lincoln" is a result of the philosophy which launched The Human Dimension television series.

"The decision was made to deal with a wide variety of subjects of interest to today's society," he observed. "It was felt that a study of the life of Lincoln would reveal spiritual strengths that the country still contains."

The documentary details the life of the Civil War president. The script, written by Ms. Starr, includes Lincoln's description of his early life, education and political interest--which he describes as "waning" but revived when the Missouri Compromise was repealed.

Excerpts from his speeches voice his belief that the signers of the Declaration of Independence "did consider all men created equal--equal in their right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and that "In giving freedom to the slaves, we assure freedom to the free."

The documentary features numerous prints, photographs, paintings and documents relating to Lincoln from the Library of Congress, the National Archives and the Smithsonian Institute as well as several historical societies.

"Fellow Citizen, A. Lincoln" also won a Chris Bronze Plaque in the 21st annual Columbus (Ohio) International Film Festival.

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Cheyne Named Field Rep
For Eastern Africa Area

5/24/74

RICHMOND (BP)--John R. Cheyne, missionary to Africa for 20 years, has been named field representative for Eastern Africa by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The action came in the board's May meeting here.

As a field representative, Cheyne will provide a personal link between the board and about 280 missionaries in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. He will begin Aug. 1.

He will also serve missionaries who may be assigned at a future date to other countries in East Africa where Baptist work is not established.

The Cheynes have been stationed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the last seven years. Prior to that they served in Rhodesia where they were stationed in Shabani, Salisbury, the Gokwe Reserve and Que Que.

In Ethiopia, where he helped pioneer Baptist work, Cheyne is involved in evangelism, publication work and the business affairs of the Ethiopia Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries). In Rhodesia he directed production of Baptist literature, drew plans and supervised construction for the Baptist building committee and worked with churches and preaching points as an advisor.

The son of Salvation Army officers, Cheyne was born in Chicago, Ill., and also lived in Little Rock, Ark., and Anniston, Ala., as a boy.

He was graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University), Auburn, Ala., with the bachelor of science degree, from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with the master of religious education degree, and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, with bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees.

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Mrs. Cheyne is the former Marie Golson of Fort Deposit, Ala. She attended Huntington College, Montgomery, Ala., and was graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute with the bachelor of science degree.

The Cheynes have two grown sons, David, now a missionary journeyman, and Steve, a member of "Grain" (the Foreign Mission Board musical missions team) for the first half of the group's 1973-74 tour. They also have two daughters, Martha, born in 1955, and Becky, 1958.

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Raymond Kolb Named
Brazil's Field Rep

5/24/74

RICHMOND (BP)--Raymond L. Kolb, missionary to Brazil for 30 years, has been named field representative for Brazil by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The action came in the board's May meeting here.

As a field representative, Kolb will provide a personal link between the board and about 280 missionaries in Brazil. He will assume the new responsibilities July 1.

Kolb and his wife have been stationed in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil, where he has been a professor of theology at the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary since 1966.

Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1944, Kolb first joined the seminary faculty in 1950, but six years later he became director of the Baptist Industrial Institute in Corrente, Piaui, Brazil.

He also has been pastor of churches in the Recife area and for about a year was interim executive secretary of the state Baptist convention. The Kolbs have been active members of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Recife, where he directed the church's English-language ministry and she was music leader and hostess for the English worship services.

A native of Blue Springs, Miss., Kolb was graduated from Mississippi College, Clinton, with the bachelor of arts degree and from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with the master and doctor of theology degrees. Prior to missionary appointment he was pastor of churches in Mississippi and Kentucky.

Mrs. Kolb is the former Martha Ann Cochran of Dublin, Ga. She was graduated from Furman University, Greenville, S. C., with the bachelor of arts degree and from Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with Southern Seminary) with the master of religious education degree.

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Nashville Church Elects
Three Women Deacons

5/24/74

By W. A. Reed

NASHVILLE (BP)--Three women, elected as deacons of a Southern Baptist affiliated church here, may have broken a precedent in the Nashville area.

The election of Mrs. Kate Wooley, Miss Dorothy Scott and Mrs. Rebecca Hayes as deacons at Glendale Baptist Church puts them in an unusual position, according to the records of the Nashville Baptist Association.

Mrs. Martha Jones, secretary at the association, said, "We know of no other women who are in similar offices."

Don Ramage, deacon chairman at Glendale Baptist Church, said, "Their election stirred no controversy."

Richard B. Smith, minister of Glendale Baptist Church, said, in a phone interview, "We feel this is a good move for women of the church are competent as ministers and they have already been serving as ministers."

"At Glendale Baptist we have made a conscious effort to move deacons from the area of administration into the area of ministry," Smith said.

He added: "The word deacon in the New Testament means "servant" or "minister."

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While not numerous in terms of the 34,665 churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, the ordination of women as deacons is not a novelty in the SBC. Women are known to serve as deacons in scattered SBC churches in at least seven Southern and Southwestern states.

But it seems to be a first for an SBC church in Nashville, home of the SBC Executive Committee and a number of national SBC agencies.

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W. A. Reed is religion editor of the Nashville Tennessean.

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