



-- FEATURES
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The Preacher
Wears Coveralls

By Lynn P. Clayton

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—His auditorium is a diesel repair shop. His congregation wears blue work uniforms and smudges of grease. The music is the roar of construction equipment.

Ross English is a newly ordained Baptist minister with an unconventional field and approach to ministry.

As owner of a service dealership, then worker for a national company in his native Oregon, English and his wife, Carey, had all the material comforts they wanted. But increasingly he found himself more and more uncomfortable in his business world.

"I never fit in with the crowd," he said. "I cared a lot more about the people than I did the business. I decided that the only way I could help people the way I wanted was in the ministry."

With that realization the Englishes sold most of their belongings and headed back to Alexandria, where he had been in the Air Force, and Louisiana College.

When first back in Louisiana, English was minister of youth at the same Calvary Baptist Church where he accepted Christ. "But it was very apparent that wasn't the place for me. I decided to go back into diesel," he said.

He continued in school and began working as a line mechanic for a construction equipment company. "The pay was good enough that I didn't have to work a lot, so everything was fine," he said.

Soon the mechanics knew English was a ministerial student, or preacher. And to his surprise, the men began coming to him with questions and problems. So much, that it began to interfere with his work.

During this time he became concerned that he was not serving as pastor of a church.

"Then one day I was driving to work, praying about it, and it hit me. Here I am with a great opportunity for ministry. I have my field; it's not traditional, but there's need," he said.

"I went to my supervisor and told him that I would like to be a minister in the shop. He didn't know what to think, but he didn't say no."

Later English became a trainer and traveled to company shops around the state. He was able to minister in the same way in them. He again told his boss that he wanted to be a chaplain. "The boss told me he didn't want a preacher on the payroll. So I asked him if I could keep doing what I had been doing. When he asked what that was, I told him about my work with the men in the shop."

English said that he talks with workers about marital problems, spiritual problems and problems with management and co-workers. He said that now his supervisors appreciate his work more, and encourage him.

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"They know that a person with his life together is a better worker," he said.

English, who wants to go to seminary, has found a degree of receptivity by one seminary that is interested in seeing an outline of his program. He graduates in April and must decide if he will go directly to seminary or stay in Alexandria to develop further his unorthodox ministry.

In the meantime, Ross is extremely encouraged by the support his church and pastor, John Alley, give him. The church ordained Ross to the gospel ministry last month.

"I asked John if he would feel comfortable ordaining me," English said. "He has worked closely with me in all of this and understands what I am doing. He said he would feel comfortable, so they did.

"It is more important to the people that I work with. Many of them are Catholics and they feel better knowing I'm ordained. I have performed several weddings for the workers, and they like to feel it's official."

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Christian Vocational Students
On Upswing at Baptist Schools

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The number of students at Southern Baptist related schools who plan to enter church-related vocations increased by nearly 1,000 during the 1980-81 school year, according to an annual survey prepared by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The survey indicates that 23,758 students at 72 seminaries, colleges and schools plan to enter some type of Christian vocation, up last year from 22,791.

"It is significant that the greatest growth among church vocational students has been in Baptist seminaries and Bible schools," noted Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission. "Most of these students are in the last stages of their training so a greater number are likely to stay committed to a Christian vocation."

Junior and senior colleges, he explained, have historically had larger numbers of those planning to enter church-related vocations change their minds before graduation.

"It is especially encouraging to see a nine percent increase in the number of students preparing for the ministry at Bible schools operated by state Baptist conventions," added Walker. "These are generally older students and many will serve as much needed bi-vocational pastors."

The survey indicates the number of students studying for a pastoral ministry is 11,372; educational ministry, 3,943; music ministry, 2,653; other church vocations, 2,518; home and foreign missions, 2,912.

Church vocation students are enrolled in the following: seminaries, 12,463; senior colleges, 9,673; junior colleges, 418; academies, 22; Bible schools, 1,182.

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Preschool Child Care
Available at Convention

LOS ANGELES (BP)—Messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Los Angeles with small children will have preschool child care available in the convention center.

The service, for children who have not entered first grade, will be set up in room 216 of the Los Angeles Convention Center, where the SBC is to meet June 9 - 11. It will open Tuesday morning, June 9, and will operate through Thursday night, June 11.

It will not operate on Wednesday afternoon when no SBC sessions are planned.

The fee will be \$7 per day per child. Registration tables will be located on the second floor of the convention center.

Parents wishing to register their children should keep several things in mind: (1) Children showing any signs of illness should not be brought to the child care center; (2) Children should be brought and picked up by the same adult person. Identification of the person picking up the child will be required; (3) Parents of young babies should furnish diapers, bottles, and a washcloth in a suitable container; (4) Parents must pick up the children within 20 minutes following the completion of each session.

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Missionaries Stay in Lebanon
But Draw Up Evacuation Plans

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BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon have drawn up contingency plans for evacuation following more than a month of intense fighting between Christian and Muslim factions, according to missionary Emmett Barnes.

Although the mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) agreed on danger levels that should prompt evacuation, the decision to leave will rest with individuals, reported Barnes, mission chairman. All have opted to remain thus far, he said.

In a phone conversation earlier, Mrs. Barnes said the Baptist school and other schools in Beirut had reopened despite continued fighting. The Baptist school closed when it became dangerous to transport children in school buses, but later the buses were able to take longer routes to avoid danger areas.

A few shells have gone over her house, Mrs. Barnes said, and it has been very noisy in the downtown area but the missionaries are "all OK."

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CORRECTION:

In (BP) story mailed May 7 entitled "Dunn, Others Attack Cuts In Alcohol Abuse Programs," please correct second line of graph two to read: ". . . by Robert F. Drinan, a Jesuit priest who for 10 years was a member of Congress. . ." Original wording makes it appear Drinan was a priest for 10 years. He has been a priest for 40 years.

Thanks,
Baptist Press

First of the "30,000"
Marks Anniversary

NORTH CONWAY, S.C. (BP)—It was the mid-1950s and Southern Baptists had a goal: 30,000 new missions and churches by 1964.

And now it was Aug. 22, 1957. Home Missions Week was in progress at Ridgecrest. C. C. Warren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., and director of the "30,000 Movement," was about to recognize two missions in Waco, Texas, and Gray, La., organized June 10, as the first fruits of the project.

But associational missionary W. F. Chambless of Conway, S. C., stood to announce, "The North Conway Baptist Mission of Conway, South Carolina, was started at 3 p.m. on June 3, 1956."

At the evening session, Warren officially declared North Conway Mission first in the "30,000 Movement."

That mission became a church Dec. 2, 1956, and on June 7 will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Harvey Johnson, the church's first pastor, will be the guest speaker.

In 1951 missions committee chairman D. N. Forehand recommended that the deacons of First Baptist Church, Conway, probe the possibility of starting a mission in North Conway.

In 1952 land was secured and First Church raised \$7500 on "North Conway Mission Sunday."

But it was not until 1955 that George Lovell, then pastor of First Baptist, asked the missions committee to canvass the area and find out how many people were interested in joining a Baptist mission.

Prospects numbered nearly 300.

About 50 members of First Baptist—many of them active leaders—volunteered to work in the mission. They said they would move their membership there when it became a church.

Sixty persons were present at the first meeting of North Conway Mission June 3, 1956 at the local elementary school. The following Sunday a full Sunday School program got off the ground.

First Baptist, Conway, provided the first building, an educational facility with assembly room for worship, completed in 1956. A second educational wing was finished in 1958 and a sanctuary to seat 650 in 1963.

The church has had four pastors. Johnson, who served from 1957-63, was followed by Billy Fallaw, 1964-68; Glenn Tallant, 1969-78; and the present pastor, Derris Davenport.

North Conway has more than 650 members. There have been 547 baptisms and for years the church has given 18 percent of undesignated contributions to the Cooperative Program.

Claud O'Shields
Dies In Accident

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)—Claud O'Shields, 66, communications consultant with the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, was killed in a one-car accident near Norfolk, Va., May 6.

O'Shields, who lived in Surf City, N.C., was eastern representative for the Radio and Television Commission from 1965 until his retirement in 1980, when he joined the state convention staff as a part-time consultant.

O'Shields joined the state convention staff to promote the use of videotape by churches and associations. He was named chairman of the 1982 Joint Evangelistic Crusade mass media committee about nine months later.

Prior to joining the Radio and TV Commission staff, O'Shields was manager of WECT-TV in Wilmington, N.C. He had also been a trustee of the commission.

He also was a trustee of the North Carolina Baptist Children's Homes, Campbell University, and Boys Home at Lake Waccamaw, N. C. He was also a former moderator of the Wilmington (N.C.) Baptist Association.

He is survived by his wife, Ethel Josenhanas, and four children.