



NANCY CLINES: She is a native of Honduras.

Hispanic Missionary Named

By Paul Collins

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MOUNT AIRY

When David E. Clines was a student at a seminary near San Francisco, he "fell in love" with the Hispanic people.

"They just made me feel comfortable," he said. Before he became fluent in Spanish, "they were patient with my abuse of the language." And he was impressed with their enthusiasm and their strong family values.

He was the minister of youth at First

Hispanic Baptist Church in San Francisco. After he graduated from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 1985, with a master of divinity degree, he went to Honduras, where he taught at a bilingual Christian school in Tegucigalpa. He also was the minister of youth at a church there. In 1986 he married a native of Honduras.

On Tuesday, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention appoint-



DAVID CLINES: He plans to "plant" churches.

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ed Clines the first full-time Hispanic missionary for the Surry, Yadkin and Elkin Baptist associations.

Clines' wife, Nancy, who is a medical doctor, was also named as a Hispanic missionary, but she will not be paid for her work. Clines, 33, said that his wife will be in more of a supportive role.

They live at 2544 Owen Drive in Winston-Salem. Dr. Clines will continue working at the Forsyth County Health Department, where she works on a variety of programs for Hispanics, and Clines will resign his position as a Spanish teacher in the Stokes County schools.

The Surry, Yadkin and Elkin Baptist associations include Surry and Yadkin counties, parts of Wilkes

and Iredell counties, and parts of Patrick and Carroll counties in Virginia.

Clines estimated that several thousand Hispanics live in the area permanently and that several thousand more move here during spring and summer to do farm work. He expects the population will increase.

The spiritual needs of the Hispanics in this area are not being met, he said. "They are not being brought into our culture at all. They are living very isolated."

He said that they often live in trailers behind farmers' homes.

"They don't feel comfortable (speaking) in English," he said. They often do not know what is going on in the world or their own communities.

Clines hopes to "plant" churches for Hispanics. Usually, the process begins with the establishment of a

Bible study group. That might grow into a mission, which is not able to support itself financially. A mission could grow into a self-supporting church.

When groups are started, Clines will lead the worship services himself at first. But he will train Hispanics to become church leaders so they conduct the worship services themselves.

There are already three Hispanic missions within the Surry, Yadkin and Elkin Baptist associations.

Clines said he hopes to set up visitation programs for Hispanics — to invite them to church and find out if they need anything, such as food, clothing, jobs.

Many Hispanics were raised as Catholics. And the Catholic Church in Latin America is vastly different than the Catholic Church in the United States, he said. In Latin America, Catholics may have ill will

toward non-Catholics, because of historical and cultural differences, he said.

But he said he has not had any confrontations with Hispanics here. Clines, who is outgoing and has a good sense of humor, said he tries to let Hispanics get to know him and feel at ease with him.

A bigger problem, he said, is inertia. "It's so easy not to attend a worship service."

He has been the part-time Hispanic missionary for the Surry and Elkin associations since November.

Clines' new appointment is for three years. He said that his salary, benefits and reimbursements will total about \$25,000 a year.

The program will be jointly paid for by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention and the Surry, Yadkin and Elkin Baptist associations.