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Policeman Ted Williams Becomes The Rev. T. L. Williams

Policeman-Preacher Hopes He Doesn't Have To Shoot

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What do a Marine drill sergeant, a police officer and a Baptist preacher have in common, besides a voice that gets immediate attention?

Plenty . . . when all of them are one and the same person.

During weekdays, Rocky Mount Police Officer T. L. (Ted) Williams writes citations, directs traffic, investigates accidents, and performs other numerous chores associated with his job as a police officer. But on Sundays, the Rev. T. L. Williams reads the Bible and preaches the Gospel at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church between Dunn and Newton Grove on N. C. 50, where he is pastor to a congregation of some 40 persons.

"He is one heck of a police officer," says Rocky Mount Police Chief D. C. Hooker. "Officer Williams is a very conscientious officer who performs his police duties with the integrity and knowledge that benefits any police officer. He does an outstanding job on the force, and he is a credit to the uniform and to his fellow officers."

Williams completed one year of service with the local department in April.

While Chief Hooker makes no bones about his observations of Officer Williams, the officer makes no bones about how he feels as a man with two identities, and his belief that the two vocations work hand-in-hand toward accomplishing some of the same goals.

"If someone had said to me that in three years I was going to be a police officer, I would have said they were out of their mind," Williams declares. "But, here I am. And I feel that police officers are servants of



On weekdays, T. L. (Ted) Williams is a police officer . . .

the Lord, just like journalists are."

Williams, a 35-year-old native of Washington, Pa., joined the U. S. Marines at age 17, and felt the call to preach while he was a drill instructor at Parris Island, S. C.

"I got out of the Marines and attended Louisville Bible College," he relates. "I served a pastorage in Kentucky and in Jacksonville, N. C., and went to the Dunn church in June of 1975."

While he was pastoring the church in Jacksonville, Williams wanted to continue his education, and began searching

for a way to fulfill that goal.

"My gunnery sergeant in the Marines had retired, and had become chief of police at Newton Grove. He ran an advertisement in the paper, so I applied for a job as a police officer."

Williams was attending the Police Academy in Wilson when he met Captain Ben Richardson of the Rocky Mount Police Department. Richardson was teaching a course, and talked with Williams about the advantages of joining a larger police department, and Williams joined the local police department.

After Williams had applied for the job on the force in Newton Grove, both he and his wife, Ruth, went through the Police Science course. Williams points out that the police department in Newton Grove was going to use both him and his wife in police work, but that changed when he joined the local police department.

"I find no conflict with being a preacher and a police officer, at all," he says. "A lot of the work is public relations, and the image of the police officer is important to me. The police officer has to earn respect from the public, and he earns it on a



. . . and on Sundays he preaches from the pulpit.

day-to-day basis as he goes about his duties. There are several good Christian men on the police force here, so there is an atmosphere of Christian fellowship.

There is no conflict, as far as the officer is concerned, with carrying a gun during the week. Would he hesitate to use it if he was called upon to do so?

"I love police work, and I guess 10 years in the Marine Corps had something to do with that. But there definitely is a need for church work out here among the people where a police officer usually is. You can witness by your example, you know."

Williams says that he hopes, someday, to get to a seminary. But until that time comes along, he will continue filling the two

"That's something I pray about every day," he admits. "A man never really knows how he will react in a given situation, until he is in that situation. But I don't believe I would hesitate to use the gun if I had to. I pray that the Lord will not place me in that kind of situation, but if he does, then I would use the gun. I'm human, just like everybody else. And I love my wife's husband quite a lot."

Rev. Teddy Williams is named new pastor

Rev. Teddy L. Williams has been called to pastor the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church at 121 Thompson St. Jacksonville.

Rev. Williams was born at Clarksburg, W. Va., in 1939 and shortly thereafter moved to Washington, Pa., where he was raised. In 1957, he entered the U. S. Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in November, 1967, to enter the gospel ministry.

While attending school in

Louisville, Ky., he pastored the Quality Missionary Baptist Church in Quality, Ky., from November, 1968, to April, 1969, after which he moved to Jacksonville.

Rev. Williams was licensed to preach by the Port Royal Baptist Church in Port Royal, S. C., in 1967 and he was ordained in February, 1969, by the Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., at the request of the Quality Missionary Baptist Church.

Rev. Williams is married to the former Miss Ruth Ann Reid who was born and raised in Charleston, W. Va., they have three children. Rev. Williams and his family will reside at the Calvary Church parsonage at 122 Thompson St. He plans to continue his education at East Carolina University, while serving as pastor.

Rev. Williams has a brother who is a teacher in Louisville, Ky., and a sister who is a county health nurse in Somerset, W. Va. His father, the Rev. Orville L. Williams, is associate pastor at the Pomona Valley Baptist Church, Pomona, Calif.

Rev. Williams will replace Rev. Walter Jones.



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