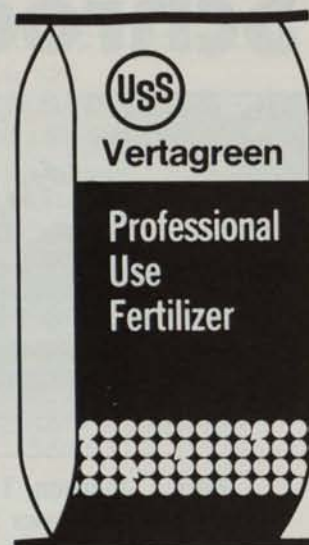


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Prayer Breakfast Speaker in New Orleans

DR. IRA LEE ESHLEMAN Biographical Sketch

Dr. Eshleman, better known as "Doc" or "Chappie" to the professional football world, is President of Sports World Ministries, Inc., headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. His unique and colorful ministry to pro athletes began 14 years ago when he became the first full-time chaplain to the National Football League. His involvement sprang from a deep-seated conviction that if he could help the Pro find a center to his life in Christ and then teach him to communicate his faith, he could reach a great segment of the student world and all sports-minded people.

The 17 years "Doc" was pastor of one of Florida's largest non-sectarian Christian churches. He also founded and directed **Bibletown U.S.A.**, a conference center with a global outreach from the heart of the fabulous Gold Coast. Some know it as "America's Capital of Sacred Music", others for its missionary outreach, retirement community of 600 homes and its magnificent auditorium. His direction of this tremendous project led to his selection as "Man of the Year" for the State of Florida in 1960.

"Doc's" commitment to Christ followed five years in the business world, at which time he entered the Moody Bible Institute to prepare for a foreign mission assignment. His honorary doctorate was conferred upon him after serving two years as the World's Fair Person in New York. There he produced 36 color telecasts for RCA and 45 sacred concerts for the Fair

authority. Earlier he became well-known to the Christian community for his weekly broadcasts as **Radio Bible Commentator**, his weekly TV show **Gold Coast Echoes**, and for directing two of Billy Graham's earlier crusades.

Some of the exciting fruits produced by the Spirit in this chosen servant are reflected in four books by different authors: **God's Voice To the Pro**, **Somebody Called Doc**, **12th Man in the Huddle** and **The Making of a Super Pro**.

"Doc" says the most fruitful time of his ministry began in 1967 traveling the NFL circuit and implementing the pre-game chapel services. He started similar programs in the Canadian Football League, launched post-season seminars for the pro athletes, and now ministers to hundreds of thousands of students each spring through a team of 20-25 committed and trained NFL stars.

The chaplain insists that speaking at eight Super Bowls and 10 Pro Bowls is not to be compared to the thrill of seeing thousands of students respond each spring to God's solution to emptiness and boredom; or to see the fantastic response he receives at conventions and church convocations when he simply tells what God's Spirit is doing behind the scenes in pro sports.

Although "Doc" loves to talk about some of the great names in sports who are very special to him, he and his wife Viola have four children of their own who hold a special place in his heart. Paul, assistant to the president of Campus Crusade for Christ, and Sharon, wife of a vice-president of the Crocker Bank, both live in California. Bonnie and her husband have a Cadillac-Olds agency in Michigan and Dennis is County Administrator in Palm Beach, Florida.