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June 24, 1966

Criswell Lauds
Catholic Church

DALLAS (BP)--If it were not for the Catholic Church, the nation's biggest cities would be entirely heathen, the pastor of the First Baptist Church said here in an interview.

Quoted in a news story in the Dallas Times Herald, Criswell said:

"In the big cities the Catholics do far and away the most effective job of winning, enlisting and keeping people."

The pastor's observations reportedly were made during a discussion of a visit he made to a Catholic church last winter in Los Angeles.

"We (Protestants) have not been able to reach the big cities. I can't understand it nor can I explain it. But our Protestant message dies in the big cities," Criswell said.

It was suggested in the news story that Criswell's leadership for 22 years in and the success of the First Baptist Church, a congregation of nearly 14,000 members, did not jive with the pastor's remarks.

"I don't look on Dallas as a big city," Criswell said. "By big cities I mean New York, Chicago and Los Angeles."

The article said Criswell told of spending an entire Sunday morning in a Catholic church at Los Angeles. "I watched everything. I stood at the front and back and even went down to the altar. Altogether I sat through three complete services. It was an enlightening and worshipful experience."

He was asked if he felt like a heretic.

"No, but I did feel strange," the news story quoted. He acknowledged that in the earlier years of his ministry he would not have conceived of entering a Catholic church.

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1500 Teen-Age Girls
Face Religious Issues

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Over 1,500 teen-age girls centered their thoughts on how "To Live My Faith" at the annual Young Woman's Auxiliary Conference, June 16-22, at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

The conference, sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, featured daily conferences on religious liberty and on the personal lives and problems of the girls. The program was designed to try to help today's girl find herself individually, vocationally, and spiritually.

A missionary atmosphere permeated the week as Baptist missionaries from around the world addressed the conference. The view of missions was a realistic one, with the missionaries pointing out both the problems and the rewards of the work.

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Conference speakers included Walfred H. Peterson, director of research for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., and William W. Lancaster, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

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Congress Urged To Set
'Bible Translation Day'

(6-24-66)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress is asked to designate a Bible Translation Day in a resolution introduced in the United States Senate. The designated date would be Sept. 30, 1966.

Sen. Fred R. Harris (D., Okla.) introduced the resolution as an "extension" of the proclaiming of the year 1966 as the Year of the Bible. The presidential proclamation naming this year as the Year of the Bible was prompted by the 150th anniversary of the American Bible Society.

Harris set the September 30 date for the Bible Translation Day because it marks the anniversary of the death of St. Jerome, "the first great translator of the whole Bible."

The Senator devoted most of his speech in introducing the resolution to commendation of the Wycliffe Bible Translators and two of its affiliate organizations, the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the Jungle Aviation and Radio Service, Inc.

The ultimate goal of the Wycliffe Bible Translators and its affiliate organizations "is to study the more than 2,000 unwritten languages of the world, to provide alphabets in written form, and to translate the Scriptures into these languages," he said.

Wycliffe is currently working in 18 countries on five continents, in nearly 400 languages.

The resolution, taking note of 1966 as the Year of the Bible and of the work being done to translate the Bible in over 2,000 languages in areas where it has not yet been translated, would authorize the President of the United States to:

"...issue a proclamation designating the 30th day of September in 1966 as 'Bible Translation Day' and inviting the governments of states and communities and the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

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SHIPMAN NAMED RADIO-TV COMMISSION PROMOTER: C. Edward Shipman, western marketing director for the SBC Radio-TV Commission, has been promoted to director of promotion for the commission, effective July 1. He has been on the commission staff about one year. (BP Photo)