



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES

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February 5, 1968

"Good News"--A New Beat
For Southern Baptist Youth

By Patsey Winfrey

NASHVILLE (BP)--The young generation, brought up at a pace several times faster than that of the generation before them, has become addicted to a new beat, and it's having an effect on Southern Baptist music.

Baptist youth workers, trying to understand this generation born after World War II and brought up on television and loud noises, have come up with a collection of folk music that presents the challenges of Christian living in their idiom.

Called "Good News," this 55-minute folk musical is being described by some Baptist youth workers as "one of the hottest things Southern Baptists have produced." It may very well mark the wave of the future in Baptist youth music.

"Good News" is not just an unrelated collection of folk songs with a religious message. Rather, it is a musical dialogue between a skeptical young man and a group of Christian youth.

The skeptic ridicules Christianity by saying it is only for Sunday. The singing group uses folk songs to answer his skeptical questions. With the beat of drums, bass strings and guitars, they tell how much Christ means to them and how very real He is in their lives.

Not intended primarily for church services, the musical is a vehicle which youth may use to give their Christian testimony outside the typical church setting. Some of the more effective places are shopping centers, parks, television, summer assemblies or camps, conventions, etc.

It is usually performed to the accompaniment of drums, guitars, pianos, tambourines, string bass, banjos, and/or multi-colored floodlights.

This new sound in Christian music was first echoed at Glorieta Baptist Assembly in New Mexico last summer when about 100 staff members presented the premiere performance.

Actually, it all started on a November afternoon in 1966 when Bob Oldenburg, social consultant in the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, met with three university students to discuss creating, composing and compiling a folk musical with a Christian theme. Their desire was to express the joy of abundant living by serving Christ.

Oldenburg had been intrigued with the idea since hearing a program called "Up With People" presented by a group of about 150 young people in Nashville in January of 1966. This group seemed to captivate the Nashville youth, especially the teenagers and young people in Baptist churches, Oldenburg observed.

Oldenburg said he felt that folk music, telling about Christianity, might also captivate youth. Interested young people were ready and anxious to help prepare words and music for such a performance.

At a Recreation Lab in Austin, Tex., Oldenburg presented his idea, along with several folk song arrangements to youth and recreation directors. The directors seemed quite enthused and impressed with the idea and arrangements. By June 1, 1967, Oldenburg had compiled 20 folk songs which he called "Good News." He took the arrangements to Glorieta Baptist Assembly to try them out on the 100 young people on the staff.

"The songs were quite easy to learn," said Oldenburg, and by practicing during their spare time, the staffers learned the music and gave their first performance. The group and music were so well accepted that a record was made, and the music was published by Broadman Press. "Good News" was performed by the Glorieta staffers each week during the 1967 summer sessions.

More than half of the music and words were written by Oldenburg. Other arrangements were written by young people and youth directors.

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Although "Good News" was first performed at Glorieta by staffers, it has been performed in almost every state in the United States by young people from various churches.

Music director for First Baptist Church, Thomasville, Ga., Billy Ray Hearn, who wrote the words to "Wake Up and Live," one of the 20 songs in the musical, has led his youth choir on many engagements throughout Georgia. Many of the youth in this choir were part of a group that performed at Ridgecrest and Asheville this past summer. This choir made a singing tour throughout Florida and appeared on local television during the Christmas holidays. They plan to present the musical as often as possible.

Hearn and his group, along with some of the Glorieta staffers, will tour Europe this summer for five weeks singing the "Good News." While in Berne, Switzerland, they will sing for the Baptist Youth World Congress.

Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, has another very active group directed by Aubrey Edwards. This group performed every day at the Tennessee State Fair last fall. They have appeared on television, at the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the State Royal Ambassador Congress and other Baptist meetings in Tennessee.

In Asheville, N. C., a group of 250 young Ridgecrest staffers and church recreation conference participants, sang "Good News" in front of the city auditorium. A motorcade of 100 cars brought the youth to the auditorium. This group appeared on WLOS-TV in Asheville. Hearn also directed this group.

Jim Stanton, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Greensboro, Ala., and Don Blaylock, minister of music, Buechel Park Baptist Church, Louisville, directed 400 young people from Glorieta at Santa Fe, N. M., last summer. The group included staffers and youth attending church recreation week. This was the first group to perform outside the assembly and was the largest group organized.

Many people are asking if folk music has a place in SBC life. One youth responded to this question, saying: "Yes, it has a place if young people have a place."

New folk songs are being written now which are similar to "Good News" for church youth groups.

"Good News" is only a beginning of the new beat Southern Baptists have. They are on the look-out for new techniques of getting outside the church and into the mainstreams of life.

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Patsey Winfrey is a newswriter in the Public Relations Office of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

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BP PHOTO mailed to state Baptist papers.

C O R R E C T I O N

On BP Feature mailed Jan. 30, 1968, headlined "New Yorkers Anticipate Spiritual Spring Training" by Roy Jennings, please correct figure in last graph. Last sentence should read, "From the total offering of \$5½ million, the last \$1 million will be used... (changing \$1½ million as sent to \$1 million). Thanks.

Baptist Press



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February 5, 1968

**California Baptists Launch
Intensive "Encounter" Effort**

By J. Terry Young
Editor, The California Southern Baptist

Encounter California, an intensive effort to confront a state of 20 million people with the Gospel, has been formally launched with a state-wide evangelism conference and 36 associational evangelism conferences in key areas of California.

The fuse for the launching was lighted on Dec. 4, 1967, at simultaneous "M" Night (Mobilization Night) meetings throughout California, but the evangelism conferences are the first major events in the succession of key steps which are in the calendar for the next four months.

Teams of speakers, including 20 key Southern Baptist leaders from Texas and other states toured the state to assist in launching Encounter California which has been in the planning stage for more than a year.

They were joined by 18 prominent leaders from within California in forming four-man teams going to each of the associations.

The next three months are filled with a succession of carefully planned steps leading up to 46 week-long mass crusades in the population centers of the state, and, finally, 800 local church revivals.

The Southern Baptists of California have asked the Baptists of Texas, who pioneered the Encounter concept of evangelistic crusades, to assist in Encounter--California.

In addition, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has given financial assistance to the campaign.

Baptist Associations in California have been matched with associations in Texas, and individual churches within those associations have been linked for the crusade.

The Texas churches are sending their pastors, and in some cases their ministers of music and a group of laymen, to assist the California churches in the local revivals.

The California churches are attempting to involve a large portion of their church members in the many-faceted program. For instance, most churches are setting up 18 committees with specific assignments.

A statewide religious survey is scheduled during Discovery Week, Feb. 18-25, to locate and identify large numbers of specific prospects.

Each church will seek to enlist at least one-third of its resident members in an intensive witnessing campaign which begins with a personal evangelism consecration day on March 10 and is followed immediately by a week of intensive training for witnesses.

During the period March 17-30 the Southern Baptists will distribute 2 million copies of a special edition of the Gospel of John. The special Encounter booklet contains the personal testimonies of a number of prominent Americans, the Gospel of John from the American Bible Society's Good News For Modern Man translation of the New Testament, and special information about the Encounter revivals in the local area. As these gospels are distributed a brief testimony will be given at each home.

California and Texas churches will share in a "prayer lift" program beginning March 25 designed to intensify the spiritual undergirding for the final weeks of the mammoth crusade.

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Central crusades in 46 of the major population centers of the state will be conducted April 21-26. These crusades, which begin on Sunday night, are being held in municipal auditoriums and other large public facilities. Prominent Baptist preachers from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention will conduct the evangelistic services during the central crusade.

Local church revivals will begin in more than 800 Southern Baptist churches in California immediately upon the close of the central crusade. The local church revivals are scheduled April 28-May 5.

Not every church and mission in the state will have a local revival because some, which do not yet have a building of their own, meet in rented quarters which are not available to them any time except on Sunday.

The final phase of Encounter--California begins Sunday night, May 5, the closing Sunday of the local church revivals. Hopefully, thousands of new converts will be enrolled in new member orientation classes set up for them in each church, said Encounter--California leaders.

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American Baptist Pastor
Kills Man Attacking Wife

2/5/68

CAIRO, Ill. (BP)--A Baptist minister here told police he beat to death a man he found attacking his wife, but no charges were filed against the minister.

Larry Potts, pastor of the Cairo Baptist Church (American Baptist), told police he walked into his home and found his wife being attacked by a man identified as Marshall Morris.

The minister said he first struck Morris with his fist, and then grabbed a baseball bat. Morris was in his late sixties.

Both Potts and his wife, about 30, were treated at the St. Mary's hospital here.

Although he is pastor of a church affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, Potts is a graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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Southeastern Seminary
Prof Joins Stetson Staff

2/5/68

DeLAND, Fla. (BP)--Marc H. Lovelace, professor of archaeology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C., has been named to the faculty of Stetson University, a Baptist school here.

Lovelace will be teaching in both the departments of history and religion, working under Harold Schultz, newly elected history department chairman, and Lafayette Walker, chairman of the religion department.

Lovelace is a "magna cum laude" graduate of High Point College, High Point, N. C.; and earned the doctor of theology degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He was on the faculty of Wake Forest College (Baptist), Winston-Salem, N. C., before joining the Southeastern Seminary faculty in 1952.

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