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May 13, 1968

Encounter California Crusade
Results in 18,860 Decisions

By the Baptist Press

Encounter California, billed as the largest state-wide evangelistic effort ever held by a Baptist state convention, has resulted in an estimated 18,860 decisions in the 46 central crusades in major metropolitan areas, and in local church revivals at Baptist churches throughout the state.

The estimated total number of decisions was reported in Fresno, Calif., by the head of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California's evangelism department, Eugene Grubbs.

Grubbs said that total decisions for Christ in the 46 central crusades were 2,961. In the local church revivals, 15,900 decisions were registered, he said.

Grubbs said that figures indicating the number of duplicated decisions in the central crusades and local church revivals were not available, but he said information from other Encounter-type crusades in other areas showed not more than 75 per cent of the decisions made in central crusades are duplicated in local church revivals.

Based on these figures, said Grubbs, it is estimated that 16,640 different persons made decisions during the two-week period.

Cumulative attendance at the 46 central crusades totalled 179,607, with average attendance of 29,601.

Grubbs said that the 2,961 total decisions in the central crusades included 1,236 professions of faith, 1,423 rededications, 80 commitments to special service, and 222 other type decisions.

The 15,900 local church revival decisions included 4,940 professions of faith, 3,974 decisions to join churches by baptism, 1,531 transfers of membership, 213 commitments to special service, and 9,214 other decisions.

Grubbs said that the number of decisions is by no means the measure of the full impact of Encounter California. The full picture will not be revealed, he said, until reports for the year are received.

Due to the heavy emphasis on personal witnessing and cultivative evangelism, the influence of Encounter California should continue, Grubbs said.

In an editorial at the close of the encounter crusades, California Southern Baptist Editor J. Terry Young called for comprehensive analysis of the results of the crusades, in an effort to determine who made the decisions and why.

The three-month crusade effort involved training of church members as personal witnesses, a state-wide religious survey to identify prospects, an intensive program of prayer support involving churches in Texas and California, plus the 46 central crusades and the 800 local church revivals.

The central crusades were held in municipal auditoriums and other large public facilities, featuring evangelistic messages by prominent Southern Baptist preachers.

New member orientation classes have been set up in each of the 800 churches which conducted revivals as a part of the crusade.

Encounter California was sponsored by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, with assistance of the Home Mission Board of the SBC which provided some financial undergirding, and the Baptist General Convention of Texas, which supplied numerous Texas Baptist pastors and laymen who worked in the crusades and revivals as evangelists and in personal visitation.

Churches and associations in California and Texas were paired together in a "Prayer Lift" which sought prayer support for the crusades.

Summer Missions Schedules
Special Migrant Emphasis

ATLANTA (BP)--A group of Arkansas students will migrate to Burley, Idaho this summer where they will rotate shifts hoeing beets and caring for migrant children in the first student summer missions project of this type ever sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The 19 Arkansas youths are among 883 students who have been appointed for summer missionary service in each of the 50 states as well as Puerto Rico.

According to Don Hammonds of special missions ministries of the Home Mission Board, the Arkansas group will drive to Burley, camping along the way. They will be accompanied by Gerald Cound, Baptist Student Union (BSU) director of Arkansas A & M College in College Heights, Ark., his wife and two children.

In Burley, the Counds and the young missionaries will live in a migrant work camp hoping to minister to the laborers.

Hammonds said the mission group plans to establish a day care center for children of these laborers and to provide worship experiences either in the camp or in cooperation with the local church.

They also will use some Vacation Bible School techniques, home Bible study methods, films and other established program methods, sticking with the most successful, Hammonds said.

In addition, six missionary teams have been appointed to bolster inner-city areas in St. Louis, Detroit, New York, Worcester, Mass., Los Angeles and Charlottesville, Va.

Other special projects include team ministries in resort areas and church construction and renovation work in several states, Hammonds said.

The majority will be involved in general missions work such as Vacation Bible Schools, weekday ministries and surveys.

Appointed through the Home Mission Board, the students -- most, college sophomores or above -- will serve June 10 to Aug. 16.

The Arkansas students are among 162 who were appointed in cooperation with a state Baptist Student Union. Other states supporting BSU missionaries include:

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

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Note To Baptist State Paper Editors: A list of those in your state connected with student summer missions is being mailed to you.

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Georgia Training
Union Aide Elected

5/13/68

ATLANTA (BP)--Paul W. Peace, pastor of the Hampton Baptist Church here has been elected an associate secretary of the Training Union department of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Effective July 1, Peace will serve in a general capacity in promoting the work of Georgia Baptist Training, and will have special responsibilities in the organizing of new Training Unions, and in youth work. Training Union in Baptist churches has the overall responsibility of all church training ministries.

Peace is a graduate of Norman College, Norman Park, Ga.; Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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West Named To Staff
Of Christian Life Agency

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission has elected Elmer S. West, Jr., of Mars Hill, N. C., as director of program development, effective June 15.

West, 45, is pastor of the Mars Hill Baptist Church, and former personnel secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the commission, said that West's coming will greatly strengthen the commission's total ministry in the field of applied Christianity.

West will be responsible for channeling the commission's emphasis on Christian social ethics through other Southern Baptist programs, organizations, and publications; and his work will involve developing materials and activities to correlate denominational emphases with pressing contemporary moral concerns, Valentine said.

West will fill a similar post left vacant by Ross Coggins who accepted the directorship of the Southeast Region of Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) a year ago.

West, began work with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., in 1953 and for ten years served as personnel secretary. Prior to his election as a mission board staff member, he served for four and a half years as a member of the board.

In 1963, he accepted the pastorate of the Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale, Va., a Washington, D. C. suburb; and since 1966 he has been pastor of the Mars Hill Baptist Church, Mars Hill, N. C.

Under a U. S. Navy chaplain's training program during World War II, he studied at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y., and graduated there with the bachelor of divinity degree. He also did graduate work on a special fellowship grant in sociology and psychology at the University of Chicago and an internship at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, N. C.

A native of May's Lick, Ky., West attended Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky., and graduated from the University of Richmond, Richmond, Va., with the bachelor of science degree. He was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree by the University of Richmond in 1958.

West is married to the former Betty Jane Watts, daughter of J. Wash Watts, retired professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. They have three daughters, Kathy, Martha Anne, Jennie Beth and one son, John.

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House Revives and Passes
Monday Holiday Proposals

5/13/68

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives has pumped new life into the plan to change some federal holidays so that they fall on a Monday, in the hope of creating more three-day weekends for the nation.

In a vote of 212 to 83, the House voted to change three federal holidays so that they regularly fall on Monday. In addition, the House voted to create a new holiday to be called Columbus Day.

According to the action, which has not yet been approved by the Senate, the following holidays will be changed:

- * Washington's birthday, to the third Monday in February:
- * Memorial Day, to the last Monday in May: and
- * Veterans Day, to the fourth Monday in October.

The new national holiday in honor of Christopher Columbus would be observed on the second Monday in October.

The bill, if enacted into law, would go into effect January 1, 1971.

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The new bill passed by the House and now pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee, is a modification of original proposals that would also have changed Independence Day from July 4 to the first Monday in July and Thanksgiving Day from the fourth Thursday to the fourth Monday.

Also, in the Senate, the proposals would replace George Washington's Birthday with President's Day, to be observed on the third Monday in February.

The House Judiciary Committee said in its report to the House that the present bill represents "a refinement" of their judgment regarding the holidays that could be changed "without doing violence to either history or tradition."

In the several days of hearings held by Senate and House subcommittees, only one religious group testified against the creation of more three-day weekends.

Marion G. Bradwell, a spokesman for the Lord's Day Alliance said his organization opposed this because of "its effect upon the Christian education programs of the churches."

The legal effect of the proposed law would be limited to observances of holidays by federal employees and in the District of Columbia. However, state legislatures generally follow the lead of the national holidays set by Congress.

Citing "widespread support from every quarter of the nation" the sponsors of the House bill said they anticipated that the states will follow the lead of this bill and enact consistent legislation.

In the case of establishing a new holiday in honor of Columbus, Congress would be following the lead of 34 states where such a law has already been enacted. Also, the state of Massachusetts has already passed Monday holiday legislation and similar proposals are pending in several other states.

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Baptist Pastor Writes
For Catholics on Race

5/13/68

GARRISON, N. Y. (BP)--A Southern Baptist pastor has written an interpretative article entitled, "A Southern Baptist Looks at Race," published by a national Catholic magazine, The Lamp, published here.

Tracy Early, pastor of the Urbanna Baptist Church in Urbanna, Va., wrote the article, which was displayed in a six-page spread with photographs in the Catholic magazine, which bills itself as "a Christian unity magazine."

In the article, Early cites the shift from the non-violent approach to civil rights movement, to the current more militant stance, saying this new situation presents the churches with a new challenge with unprecedented urgency.

"The first response of the churches -- here we must accept a hard saying -- should be repentance," wrote the Southern Baptist pastor.

"The churches must confess that in regard to the racial crisis, they have not done those things that they ought to have done, and they have done those things that they ought not to have done, he wrote.

"There have been many exceptions..., but considering the overall picture, it is accurate to say that the churches have not had...an adequate understanding of the problem of racism, nor the will to wage a strong fight against it.

"They have preached love and good will in general terms, but they have failed to come to grips with the reality of racism as it is actually manifest in our daily life.

Churches confronting the racial crisis have tremendous resources for light and power, he observed, including Biblical statements and the entire structure of theology.

"Every doctrine is a denial of racism," he wrote. "The doctrine of creation asserts that all men are sons of Adam and therefore brothers by physical descent, and the doctrine of the new birth sees all believers as brothers in Christ. The doctrine of sin says that all are guilty and unable to look down on others as morally inferior, while the doctrine of salvation finds the fulfillment of human life, not in the possessions of outward characteristics such as race, but in the gifts of God's love.

Early ended with an appeal for white Christians to try to understand the Negroes' deep and strong feeling that they have been treated unjustly, and an appeal for Christians to seek "the grace of Christian forgiveness."

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Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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MAY 14 1968
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(BP) -- FEATURES

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May 13, 1968

Animated Dot Named "JOT"
Gets Kids' Big Response

By Ed Shipman

FORT WORTH (BP)--"Dear JOT: I love you, JOT. Will you be my Valentine?"

Dear JOT: I watch your show every Saturday. Man, you can really go, man. You are the neatest guy in the whole world."

"Dear JOT: I would like to be a person like you, JOT."

And on and on they go, hundreds upon hundreds of them -- letters from one of television's newest and most ardent "fan clubs" -- the admirers of JOT. And the club is growing, with about 500 letters per day being received here concerning JOT.

JOT is an animated dot who stars in a new children's program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

Or is JOT only a dot? Some fans aren't so sure. "Are you really an egg?" asked one timidly. "What are you, anyway," another demanded, "a baseball or something?"

Others assume that JOT is a little boy, much like some little boys they know quite well. But one thing seems clear from the letters that have poured into the Baptist office here -- JOT has won a place in the hearts and daily lives of hundreds of children who have seen the show.

For not only do the kids think JOT is the "neatest" and the "coolest" little fellow they ever saw. They see themselves in him. They see good in him. They see God through him.

"Dear JOT: Sometimes your program reminds me of the things I used to do but I try to be good. Just like you try to be good. I guess you and me are almost alike, huh."

And another: "I like your show very much. It shows what little Christian people show to others. I am a little Christian girl."

Some grown-ups may wonder whether the little viewers really get the message as JOT stretches, rolls and bounces around. They needn't worry.

Said one 10-year-old critic: "(Your show) is very educational. It will help children to learn about the Lord Jesus." And another, age 6: "I like the way you pick verses out of the Bible. It teaches a good lesson." One young correspondent assured JOT, "I took in your tip about 'Thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord!'"

In story content and clever animation, JOT is designed to awaken youngsters to the need for proper relationships with their fellow human beings and with God. And the letters received from members of the viewing audience speak loudly to this purpose.

"I read that memory verse, Psalms 37:3. When I get in a fight with my friends I tell them the next day I am sorry."

"I truly do want to learn more, so that I will have faith in God and Jesus our Savior."

"I'm not very spiritual but I try to be. I watch your show as often as I can. I can understand the meaning 'to tell the truth.' I go by that -- sometimes."

JOT extends help of a special sort to many a youngster with problems he might not reveal to anyone else, even to his parents or closest friends.

"I have a bad temper, so please ask God to help me with my temper."

"The reason I like to look at you is because it helps me a lot in Sunday school, school and even at home."

"My brother is always teasing. Don't listen to him. My brother is causing trouble the entire day."

"I don't have any friends. All I have is a sister and two brothers. They always beat on me. I haven't had friends for three years, ever since I moved from North Carolina to Virginia. I hope you will be my friend."

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"I'm 12, but that doesn't matter. I'm having a hard time in school and you are relaxing."

Of course, not even JOT can turn every young mind from the lure of material things.

At the close of each show JOT asks the kids to write to him for a "surprise." It consists of a JOT button, an illustrated story telling how JOT came to be and a letter to the parents explaining JOT's purpose.

By returning a card enclosed with the first "surprise" the child can receive the second "surprise" -- another JOT story and a Bible verse game for the youngster to play.

Not all members of the JOT fan club are from the snaggle-tooth set. Since JOT was released early this year, originally to only nine stations, Radio-TV Commission here has received about 500 letters a day in response to the program, and many of them have been from adults.

Some of the grown-ups readily admit they like JOT as much as their children do. Here are excerpts from a few of the letters: "Sally, age nine and our Jimmy, age seven, think JOT is just the greatest and I think so too"...."My children watch your program every morning...and I even watch it"...."I think JOT has a wonderful message, for children and adults alike"....

Scores of Baptists, many of them pastors or Sunday school teachers, write commending JOT and pledging their prayer support for the program's ministry. A Birmingham area pastor said, "My four boys and I watch JOT on WBRC-TV, Birmingham...In my opinion this brief program can have untold influence for our witness."

Another letter said: "I enjoy your programs. I feel they are a great benefit for the young children in understanding the Bible. I'm a Sunday school teacher and a counselor for a church group of children."

Many letters reflect deep parental concern for the general run of children's TV fare: "As a mother who is concerned about the quality of television programs for children,... it's a wonderful inspiration to me to know that someone in TV cares about what our children are watching..." "This is the first cartoon I've seen with religious backing..." "How encouraging it is in the vast 'wasteland of TV' to find such a cartoon as you produce..."

Parents repeatedly commend the effectiveness of the cartoon vehicle for getting spiritual messages across to children. "Children will remember this cartoon longer than our telling them," said one mother. "We have found," said one couple, "that boys the ages of ours will listen attentively to something like this, whereas they tire of a sermon type thing..."

And others: "This show gives them...an understanding of God much better than I could ever tell them"...."Since 'JOT' has been on she has learned faster the things I had been trying to teach"...."a perfect way to reach children"...."a wonderful way to teach children the proper morals."

With "JOT" coverage being expanded to 40 stations across the nation in the next several weeks, the JOT fan club is expected to undergo a membership explosion. And when it happens it may be expected to produce another tidal wave of letters from those who have welcomed JOT into their homes and their hearts. For it seems one perceptive youth had it right when he said that "JOT is a groovy new and ideal way of giving small children, and large, cartoons carrying out the Gospel."