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March 4, 1969

**Church Raises \$77,000
In 'Survival Offering'**

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The financially-troubled Mid-City Baptist Church here has announced that it has raised more than \$77,000 in an effort to pay its debts.

The money was pledged and paid at a special Sunday morning "Hope Survival Offering."

The offering was taken at the close of a revival meeting led by Evangelist E. J. Daniels of Orlando, Fla., who preached on the subject, "The Sin of Robbing God and Not Supporting His Church With Tithes and Offerings."

The 4,700-member church, largest Southern Baptist congregation in New Orleans, is in bankruptcy following action taken by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in November of 1967 charging the church and the Trinity Church Bonds firm with the sale of fraudulent bonds.

Interest on the sinking fund payments for the bonds reportedly amounts to nearly \$1,000 per day.

The trustee in bankruptcy has given the church until June 30 to raise more than \$125,000 over and above its regular offerings.

The pastor of the church, J. Paul Driscoll, said following the revival in which \$77,000 was raised that he felt victory would be assured.

Driscoll said that an estimated 98 per cent of those present pledged to tithe. Daniels, the evangelist, predicted that the offerings of the church might increase at least 25 per cent, basing his estimate on results at other churches where he has conducted similar services.

Many of the people withdrew their savings and donated the money to the church, and the pastor gave his home in the offering, Daniels said.

"After seeing the spirit of the Mid-City Baptist Church," added Daniels, "I am convinced that every debt will be paid and no one will lose money who has invested in this church. They may not do so as soon as they and the creditors would like, but I believe the church will pay every cent," Daniels said.

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Hingson, Lopes, Mims, Dehoney
Set As Laymen's Meet Speakers

(3-4-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Four major speakers have been enlisted for the Baptist Men's Congress on Evangelism and Lay Involvement slated here during the Independence Day weekend, July 3-5.

The four speakers were enlisted by Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., president of the Pan American Union of Baptist Men which is sponsoring the congress, in connection with the men's department of the Baptist World Alliance.

A major address will be delivered by Dr. Robert Hingson, director of the Brother's Brother Foundation in Pittsburg, Pa. Dr. Hingson, a Baptist, is widely known for his efforts to immunize disease-ridden countries with the "Peace Gun" he developed to inoculate patients without the use of a needle and syringe.

Two officials of the Crusade of the Americas, 1969 evangelistic effort involving Baptists in North, South and Central America, will also be major speakers. They are:

Rubens Lopes, pastor of the Vila Marina Baptist Church in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and president of the Central Coordinating Committee of the hemisphere-wide Crusade of the Americas; and

Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., and coordinator for the Crusade of Americas in the United States and Canada.

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The fourth major speaker so far is Lambert C. Mims, mayor of the city of Mobile, Ala., Cooper said.

Idea for the meeting on involving laymen in evangelism during the Fourth of July weekend in North America came out of the Pan American Baptist Laymen's Evangelism Congress held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, last July. Cooper was elected president of the organization and chairman of a committee to plan the 1969 meeting then.

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Revival Said Progressing
Among Space Scientists

(3-4-69)

MERRITT ISLAND, Fla. (BP)--While Apollo 8 and Apollo 9 astronauts were hurled into orbit from nearby Cape Kennedy, a spiritual revival has been in progress among a great host of the scientists, engineers and technicians who plan to put the first man on the moon.

This is the observation of Adrian Rogers, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Merritt Island, which has been the center of much of this spiritual activity, he added.

A significant number of highly-paid space center workers have resigned their positions to enroll in theological study or take positions in Christian work and service, Rogers said.

At present 13 of these men are already serving as pastors, ministers of music, or in similar church-related positions, he added.

Rogers said that the most significant mark of the spiritual revival in the church is the number, 71 in all, who have made commitments to full-time Christian service.

The pastor said that evangelism is the heart-beat of the church's entire program. Each of the 36 deacons is an active soul-winner, and serves as spiritual ministers to the congregation. Business details are administered by church committees, not the deacons.

Rogers also emphasized that the intelligent and highly-trained people of the space center still respond to the authoritative preaching of the Bible, stating that "Bible-centered teaching and preaching joined with Spirit-filled laymen can bring revival anywhere."

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