

July 9, 1970

European Bicycle Evangelistic
Tour Set By Florida Teenagers

By Adon Taft
Religion Editor, Miami Herald

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--Forty teenagers from the First Baptist Church of Perrine, Fla., will participate in a three-week evangelistic tour of northern Europe on bicycles in late July and early August.

Highlight of their unusual excursion will be a visit to Leiden, Holland, where they will take part in the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the sailing of the Pilgrims for America.

Then, traveling in groups of eight with an adult advisor for each group, they will start in Luxembourg and pedal through Germany, Holland and Belgium.

One objective of the group will be to build friendship for the United States by showing Europeans American young people who are courteous, interested in others and proud of their own nation.

Metropolitan Dade County, Fla., Mayor Chuck Hall is so impressed with the Baptist teenagers and their purpose that he has given them his blessing and greetings to bear to officials of some of the European cities they will visit. "I'll appreciate you showing Europeans what young Americans really are like," he said.

The Americans will be distinctive on their identical bicycles provided by the church in Perrine, a Miami suburb. Each bike will fly a U.S. flag and, under it, the flag of the country through which the group is pedalling.

Each of the boys and girls will wear a colorful blazer outfit provided by Jack Brasington, a Baptist layman, through a sporting goods firm at which he's employed. Brasington, a former football star at the University of Miami, attends University Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Fla., a Miami suburb, and is active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

While stopping in youth hostels in European cities nearby, the Baptist young people will carry out their main purpose of subtle evangelization, according to their leader, Tommy Watson, pastor of First Baptist Church.

"We're planning to have morning and evening devotions just for ourselves," he explained. "But we figure when other young people see what's going on, they'll gather around and we'll have an opportunity to witness to them."

A folk singing group is included among the cyclists, he added, and all of the young people are prepared to give testimonies concerning their personal faith and to hand out gospel tracts.

They have been preparing physically for the trip by practice jaunts around South Dade County on the bikes and by training to rely on Pilsbury's instant breakfast and space energy sticks, the pastor reported.



BAPTIST PRESS

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Asia Evangelistic Campaigns Record
2,311 Early Decisions; Spiritual Impact

RICHMOND (BP)--More than 2,311 persons have made decisions for Christ in the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Taiwan prior to and during the opening days of the 1970 Asia Baptist Evangelistic Campaigns.

The campaigns have featured a number of evangelists and musicians from the United States and have been jointly conducted by Southern Baptist missionaries and Asian nationals.

S. M. Lockridge, black pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, San Diego, Calif., preached at rallies sponsored by Vietnamese Baptist churches.

Only limited advertising of the meetings was permitted because of the threat of rockets and grenades wherever an assembly is held in Saigon, but still large crowds turned out, according to Joseph B. Underwood, consultant in evangelism and church development from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Thousands of Gospels of John had been distributed in Saigon, Underwood said. Even before the meetings began some people who received the Gospels mailed in the enclosed cards to ask for further information and register their decisions to accept Christ.

Saigon's Trinity Baptist Church, an English-language congregation which ministers mainly to U.S. military personnel, reported that 80 men made professions of faith.

Besides meetings in Baptist churches and established missions, several new preaching points were started around Saigon as Vietnamese Baptists, missionaries and visiting evangelists went into new areas.

The Lively Ones, a musical group comprised of students from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., provided music for the Saigon rallies.

An unusual result in Thailand was the sponsorship by Thai Baptists of a Thai national to serve as a missionary to a town on the River Kwai. The mission project, which represents probably the first joint outreach by Thai Baptists, reportedly was motivated by spontaneous weekly prayer fellowships begun by Thai church members preceding the evangelistic campaign.

Ronald C. Hill, a Southern Baptist missionary, says, "An association for Thailand's 14 Baptist churches may come out of this experience of working together."

In the Philippines, preliminary reports from less than half of the participating churches list 2,097 decisions made during the June 21-July 5 campaign, said D. Leslie Hill, Southern Baptist missionary co-chairman for the nationwide crusade. The total includes 1,257 professions of faith in Christ.

Forty visiting preachers, musicians and laymen, two summer missionaries, and Filipino Baptists, took part in the Philippines campaigns.

In Bangkok, Thailand, more than 2,200 people attended the first four nights of evangelistic rallies and 64 made professions of faith, according to Ronald C. Hill.

Many who came had received a special edition of the Gospel of John printed with Thai illustrations, while some came because of Baptist-produced radio and television programs, he said.

The first rally, which attracted 800 people from the Bangkok area, was broadcast on a radio station reaching most of Thailand. Its most effective feature was a testimony by Thailand's current national lightweight boxing champion, he said.

Daniel Cheung, pastor of Kowloon City Baptist Church, Hong Kong, was the preacher for the week of meetings in Thailand. J. Robert Bradley, director of the music department of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., was the featured soloist.

Ron and Patricia Owens, from Newnan, Ga., provided music at the first rally, along with a 60-voice joint choir and an ensemble from Bangkok, Thailand, which performed on Thai instruments.

More than 70 decisions were registered during three pre-campaign meetings in Hong Kong. Baptist young people presented a drama to capacity crowds of 1,500 for three successive nights in Hong Kong's city auditorium.

The main campaign began the fourth night with J. T. Ayorinde, general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, preaching in the auditorium.

Many decisions followed as the meetings continued nightly in the Baptist churches of Hong Kong, according to Underwood.

In Taiwan, participating churches reported they were experiencing a spiritual revival.

"Among the most impressive sights were Chinese Baptists witnessing personally, urging their friends to accept Christ," said Underwood. "There were decisions each night in the churches, including two professors who made professions of faith the first time they heard the Gospel preached."

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BP photo to be mailed to state Baptist paper editors.

Alabama Church Training Worker
Joins Sunday School Board Staff

7/9/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Glenn A. Smith, former church training consultant for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, has joined the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as consultant in general administration work for the church training department.

Smith will interpret and promote the total church training program and the New Church Study Course to state and denominational agency personnel, pastors, ministers of education and Training Union general officers.

A native of Georgia, Smith holds the bachelor of arts degree in English from Samford University, Birmingham, and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He served the Alabama Baptist State Convention for more than three years and earlier was pastor of churches in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky.

-30-

July 9, 1970

4

Baptist Press

Scholarship Winners Announced
For Youth Music Workshop

7/9/70

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--Miss Mary Anne Crane of Baton Rouge, La., and Mike Ellis of West Palm Beach, Fla., have been selected as winners of the faculty award for the 1970 Southern Baptist Youth Music Workshop.

They will receive a full scholarship to either the Youth Music Workshop session at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Assembly, July 1-7, 1971, or at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Assembly, July 15-21, 1971.

Scholarship recipients were selected by the third annual workshop's faculty on the basis of musicianship, cooperation and Christian example.

-30-

Criswell, Ockenga Call Bible
Prophecy Conference in Jerusalem

7/9/70

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--A committee of preachers, professors and theologians, headed by W. A. Criswell of Dallas, Tex., and Harold J. Ockenga of Wenham, Mass., have called a conference on biblical prophecy in Jerusalem, June 15-18, 1971.

A statement released here by the two men said the world situation is appropriate to "call the world's first convocation of Christian thinkers at Jerusalem to restudy the Bible's pertinent prophecies and to proclaim their message for our time."

Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and Ockenga, president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Wenham, are co-chairmen of the committee to call the conference. Carl F. H. Henry, professor of theology at Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia, and founding editor of Christianity Today, is chairman of the conference's program committee.

Contacted in Dallas, Criswell, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said he favors the conference because, "World events are pointing toward fulfillment of some of the great prophecies in Holy Scripture, especially in connection with Israel and the Holy Land of Palestine."

Criswell said he agreed to serve as co-chairman "on an individual basis" and that there would be no official Southern Baptist connection. He said, however, many Southern Baptists would be among some 3,000 persons expected to be invited to the conference.

Four stated purposes of the call committee were listed as:

1. Creation of "a public forum for examination of the Biblical view of last things and better understanding of the prophetic portions of scripture."

2. Expression of "belief in the risen Christ's literal return to a society which unbelievably asks, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'"

3. Enlivening "Christian witness through a fresh awareness that our generation lives closer to the return of Christ than any preceding one and that we must soon give an account of our stewardship."

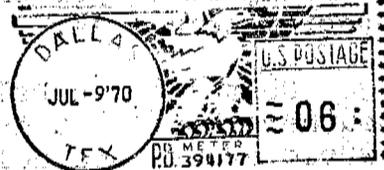
4. Focusing "the serious attention of men everywhere on the Bible's message for the whole human race in our critical times, including our youth in their apocalyptic preoccupation with the occult, the ecological and the hedonistic."

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