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November 2, 1971

Crusade in Spain Yields Decisions and Publicity

MADRID (BP)--An evangelistic crusade held in Spain yielded 250 professions of faith and a flurry of publicity for Baptist work in the traditionally Roman Catholic country, according to reports from Southern Baptist missionaries here.

Two hundred fifty Southern Baptists from 22 churches in Tennessee, Texas and New Mexico united with 22 Spanish Baptist congregations to preach, sing, give out tracts and Bibles, and share testimonies translated into Spanish.

A crusade in 1965 conducted by the Spanish Baptist Union and the Southern Baptist Mission in Spain yielded over 600 decisions, but did not involve as many visiting workers.

The visitors, ranging in age from 16 to 80, were organized by W. H. Jackson, Jr., of Abilene, Tex., on the invitation of the Spanish Baptist Union through its promoter of evangelism, Juan Luis Rodrigo, pastor of First Baptist Church, Madrid.

Jackson is a former Southern Baptist missionary to Japan who directs the World Evangelism Foundation, based in Abilene, Tex. Southern Baptist missionaries helped as coordinators and interpreters.

While the number of professions of faith was significant, missionary observers felt the impressive promotion was an important by-product.

Jackson's group had arranged for greetings from Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and Senator John Tower of Texas, coverage by wire services and Time-Life, and honorary state citizenships and cowboy hats for Spanish dignitaries.

Large groups of people in several Spanish cities heard such visiting musicians as Willa Dorsey, the Ohman Brothers, Joe Calderson, and saw the works of artist Bob Paramore.

Crusade participants made several presentations to government officials. During a reception in the office of Madrid Civil Governor Jesus Lopes Hernandez, the group presented the governor with certificates making him an honorary citizen of Tennessee, Texas and New Mexico.

The Madrid governor assured the Baptists that Spain was in the process of giving religious freedom to minority groups.

Jose Borrás, president of the Spanish Baptist Union, said, "It has increased our vision to the tremendous possibilities that we have before us."

Rodrigo, the Spanish Baptist Union's evangelism director and pastor in Madrid, observed after the crusade that "Spain is not open, but it is opening."

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Nashville Church Robbed While Pastor Preaches

11/2/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--Two men wearing multi-colored ski masks bound and gagged six persons at First Baptist Church of Donnelson here while they were counting the Sunday morning offering during the worship service. The men fled with about \$1,100.

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Only minutes before, the counting committee for the church had taken the offering into the church office to separate the offering envelopes and prepare the funds for deposit in the bank.

While the pastor, W. L. Baker, was preaching his morning sermon, the two bandits held up the counting committee at gunpoint.

The robbers made everyone lie on the floor. Then they tied the victims' hands, and put tape over their mouths and eyes, Baker said.

"If they move, shoot them," one of the holdup men who was carrying a knife told his accomplice, who held a small calibre pistol.

"I'd like to," the second man reportedly replied. "It's been a while since I shot anybody anyway."

None of the six persons bound and gagged by the robbers was injured. In addition to the five committee members, the eight-year-old son of one member was also tied and gagged.

One of the committee members, Percy Young, managed to free himself. He first went outside to try to spot the bandits; then entered the sanctuary and motioned for Ron Baumgartner, the minister of music, to come help him free the others.

"The first I knew of the robbery was after I finished the message when Ron Baumgartner handed me a note saying what happened," said Baker, the pastor.

"I immediately announced it to the congregation, and I think there was a feeling of almost complete shock," the pastor said.

Baker said later that a tabulation of the offering envelopes left by the robbers indicated that the bandits got about \$600 which had been placed in the offering plates.

In addition, they took about \$500 in cash from the wallets of the five committee members. One of the committee members was carrying nearly \$400 after cashing an expense account check from his company in preparation for a business trip he was to take.

Baker said that the church had received numerous calls from persons in the community distressed about the robbery. Several persons who are not members of the church made contributions to help make up for the amount stolen, he said.

Metro Police Lt. Kenneth Reasonover said that detectives were seeking two white men, each of medium height and weight, probably in their early twenties.

Lt. Reasonover said it was the second time that a church in Nashville had been robbed at gunpoint. The first one was St. Henry's Catholic Church about eight years ago.

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Shipman Resigns from Radio-TV Commission for Foundation Work

FORT WORTH (BP)--C. Edward Shipman, director of the Audience Services Division and former promotion director for the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission here, has been named administrative vice president for a lake-resort home, and administrator of a Fort Worth based religious foundation.

Shipman, who joined the Radio-TV Commission in 1965, will serve in a dual capacity as administrative vice president of Lake Country, Inc., and administrator of the corporation's religious foundation, which is yet to be named. His resignation is effective Dec. 1.

Lake Country is a permanent-home, lake resort community located on Fort Worth's Eagle Mountain Lake. It was developed by two former commission staff members, Loen Bushman and Joe Ann Shelton, and two Fort Worth real estate developers, Jeanette Cogdill and Patricia Craus.

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Shipman said that the foundation he will head will seek to provide funds to support projects and groups endeavoring to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, rather than being oriented toward building programs. The foundation is funded partially through a percentage of the earnings of Lake Country, Inc., he said.

A former pastor of Baptist churches in South Carolina and Texas, Shipman has been pastor of a rural church, Rainbow Baptist Church near Glen Rose, Tex., for the past seven years.

He also worked for the Fort Worth Press for about five years, and is a former reserve army chaplain. He is currently the program vice president of the Baptist Public Relations Association, and former president of the Fort Worth Chapter of Religious Public Relations Council.

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Tennessee Convention Tops
1971 Budget by \$89,768

11/2/71

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--The Tennessee Baptist Convention ended its fiscal year, exceeding its 1971 budget of \$5.6 million by about \$89,768.

When the books closed for the year, total income for the convention through the Cooperative Program unified budget was \$5.7 million.

It was an increase of \$225,663 over receipts for the previous year.

"We appreciate the fact that we have gone over the budget and that we have recovered from the apparent slump of last year in our giving," said W. Fred Kendall, executive secretary of the convention.

Announcement of income exceeding the goal came just two weeks before the convention was scheduled to convene in Gatlinburg, Tenn., where it was to consider a recommended budget of \$6 million for the fiscal year, 1971-72.

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