



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

---FEATURES
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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

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Students Invade Florida Beaches;
Witness During Easter Vacation

By Sandy Simmons

FORT LAUDERDALE and DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP)--David Maze was one of thousands of college students who traveled south to the Florida beaches during Spring Easter vacation break with the use of his thumb.

Hitch-hiking was the popular mode of transportation bringing many of the 500,000 college students who came to the resort areas of Fort Lauderdale and Daytona Beach. For David Maze it was an opportunity to talk with people and witness to them.

Arriving in Daytona last week from Oklahoma Baptist University, he was one of some 300 college students from all over the nation who had migrated to the beach with a purpose beyond just soaking up Florida sun. The students from colleges in Tennessee, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan and other states volunteered their Spring vacation to share their faith in Jesus Christ with other visitors on the beaches.

During two weeks in Fort Lauderdale more than 190 students spent afternoons talking with transient students on the beaches, and operated a coffeehouse on weeknights. Their mornings were spent in Bible study and evangelism training.

The three-week beach project was coordinated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in cooperation with National Student Ministries, the Florida Baptist Convention, local associations and churches.

"Through this outreach ministry we have developed many new friendships with the students here on the beaches, and that way we have found opportunities to share our faith with them," said Nathan Porter, Home Mission Board director of student evangelism.

"The greatest contribution is what a project like this one does for the participants," Porter continued. "They are taxed to the fullest, physically and emotionally, but they are seeing God at work as never before. As God works in their life, they will touch the lives of others."

In evangelism training sessions the students were told, "There is a real difference between 'zapping someone for Jesus' and a genuine concern you must feel for them.

"What we need to do is move people from indifference and hostility to a place of searching. You must be able to give of yourselves to someone, not just give a 'one-way' sign," warned Dan Yearly, Baptist campus minister at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Tex.

"To relate to the students on the beaches you must have a genuine concern and love, and also respect their viewpoint. You have to be able to love them, listen to them and laugh with them," commented Shuford Davis, Baptist campus minister at Florida State University, Tallahassee.

On weeknights in the coffeehouse the students mingled with more than 300 students from the Fort Lauderdale beach who visited each night to listen to student entertainers singing and strumming guitars, and to share the sandwiches, orange juice and coffee.

"We met one guy on the beach Tuesday afternoon," a student volunteer related. "He said he had been on the beach three weeks and we were the first people he had met. He came to the coffeehouse that night. I was wondering how to start talking to him about Jesus."

The tables in the coffeehouse are covered with white paper and crayons are available. "I started drawing a picture of a tree on the table," the student continued. "I said, 'Let's call this the tree of life.' And we began to talk about things that would be on the tree; we agreed to put God at the top of the tree. Later we talked again, and he said he had been missing something in his life for a long time. He accepted Jesus right there." (MORE)

In Daytona, more than 500 students passed through the "Rap Room," as the coffeehouse there was named. The Daytona Rap Room was operated in the afternoons and on weeknights as more of a gathering place for students, unlike the candlelight coffeehouse atmosphere of the Fort Lauderdale project.

During the week the American Red Cross conducted a blood drive in the building, and with the help of the students, a volunteer band who played during the afternoon, and a rainy day, the Red Cross volunteers received 72 pints of blood. Their goal had been only 50.

Bill Lee, director of University of Tennessee Baptist Student Union and director of the coffeehouse in Fort Lauderdale, said his impression of the students who came into the coffeehouse and of those on the beaches was one of sensitivity.

"They are sensitive and cooperative; they would come up and ask, 'May I sing for the group in the coffeehouse?' and 'Thanks for caring.' They came because they sensed someone cared, and they were open to the gospel because they are sensitive. But we need to remember, because of this same sensitivity, they are also open to Satan worship and drug addiction because they are searching for something to give them life."

"The coffeehouse," explained Burt Purvis, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student and director of the Daytona Rap Room, "is an effort to reach the needs of these kids and to show people we care, and provide a witness at the same time. It takes more than words. You can't look in their eyes and say you love them and hate them the next week. The success of sharing Christ is in the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't save anyone; the Lord does.

"We can't change the students; God works the miracle. Sometimes we limit God to padded pews and chandeliers. If that's true we are in trouble. God is here on the beaches, and our kids believe that that's why they are here," Purvis added.

It took David Maze more than 10 rides to get from Oklahoma to Daytona, a trip he considered easy.

"I came in hopes of a spiritual renewal which I need due to some deep frustrations from not being able to handle situations and work with people," he said. "I want to learn to reapply myself to really become a tool of God on campus. Here I am experiencing, not having to push Christ off on people, but experiencing the Holy Spirit taking hold and leading me into a situation and meeting the needs of people."

On Thursday afternoon after much prayer, Maze had opportunities to talk with a Hare Krishna member, a female "warlock" who needed not only a friend but a hamburger too, and several college students.

"These students on the beaches are looking for someone genuine," declared Tim Pearson, a student from William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss. "It cleared a lot of things up for me when I realized they would like to be like Jesus but not like me. That shows me I really need to try to be more Christ-like. I used to be on drugs, and I remember all I was looking for was someone 'real'; these kids are looking for the same thing."

During the second week of the beach project at Fort Lauderdale two bands played for entertainment in the coffeehouse--FAITH (Forsaking All I Take Him), a seven-member group from Concord College, Princeton, W. Va.; and Phase III, a six-member band from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Ark.

At Daytona, a 35-member choir from Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La., presented the musical "Life." Students from Georgia, Ohio, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Florida participated in the beach evangelism project.

Sneed Named Editor of
Arkansas Baptist Magazine

LITTLE ROCK (BP)--J. Everett Sneed has been elected editor of the Arkansas Baptist News-
magazine. The action was taken by the Executive Board of the convention in a meeting April 4.

Sneed will assume his duties May 8. He succeeds Erwin L. McDonald as editor of the
Arkansas Baptist State Convention publication.

Sneed, 41, has served as director of special missions ministries of the Arkansas Baptist
State Convention for the past two and a half years. He formerly was superintendent of missions
for the Independence Baptist Association in Arkansas. He has also pastored churches in Texas.

Sneed holds the bachelor of science in education degree from Arkansas College, Batesville,
Ark.; the bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth;
and the master of arts degree from Baylor University, Waco, Tex. He also holds the doctor of
philosophy degree from the University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany.

Sneed, a native of Batesville, Ark., is the son of a Baptist minister, the late E. I. Sneed,
who served churches in Independence County, Ark.

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BP PHOTOS to be mailed to state Baptist papers

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Baylor Medical Center
Rated Fourth in Nation

4/5/72

DALLAS (BP)--Baylor University Medical Center here has been chosen fourth among the
nation's top 13 "super hospitals" in a recent survey by Town and Country Magazine.

The magazine polled leading physicians, surgeons, hospital administrators and other recog-
nized health care leaders.

Baylor, an affiliate of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, recently dedicated the new
Carr P. Collins Hospital containing a 50-bed psychiatric unit and 250 beds for rehabilitation
patients. The hospital's 1300 beds places it among the top 10 of all voluntary general hospitals
in the United States.

The article said that the "super hospitals" have "men who are leaders in their field" and the
"most modern diagnostic equipment and modern devices for improved patient care."

Baylor Medical Center followed Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston; Johns Hopkins
Hospital, Baltimore, and Hubert C. Moffit Hospital, San Francisco, in that order.

Baylor was the only institution chosen in the Southern or Southwestern states. Eight were
in New York, New England and other Eastern states, two were in California and two in the Mid-
west.

-30-

Cooperative Program Gifts
Increase 9% During March

4/5/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Pro-
gram unified budget increased by nine per cent during the month of March, boosting gifts to a
record level compared to the first quarter of 1971.

For the first three months of 1972, Cooperative Program gifts totalled \$8,072,629, an in-
crease of \$155,964 compared to the \$7,916,664 contributed in the first quarter of 1971.

In addition to the record \$8,072,629 contributed through the Cooperative Program, Southern
Baptists also gave \$16,492,732 in designated contributions to special missions causes during the
first quarter of the year. Designated gifts were up \$1,140,855, or 7.43 per cent compared to the
\$15.3 million in 1971.

(MORE)

The grand total, Cooperative Program plus designated gifts, reached \$24,565,361 for the three-month period, an increase of \$1,296,819, or 5.57 per cent over the \$23.2 million contributed to national mission causes in the first quarter of 1971.

During the month of March, a 9.52 per cent increase in Cooperative Program giving helped boost the total for the quarter to an increase, whereas last month, the total was running 1.5 per cent lower than the total for the previous year.

During the month of March, Cooperative Program contributions totalled \$2,747,848, an increase of \$238,944 compared to the March 1971 gifts of \$2.5 million.

Designated gifts during March also increased from \$3.4 million in March 1971 to \$3,833,868 in March 1972, an increase of \$350,210, or 10.05 per cent.

Of the total amount received for the first quarter of 1972, \$20,301,090 has been distributed to SBC foreign mission efforts through the SBC Foreign Mission Board; and \$1,739,047 has gone to home missions through the SBC Home Mission Board.

The figures include only amounts channeled through the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee for national and world-wide mission efforts, and do not reflect mission contributions to local and state Baptist mission causes.



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*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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