

A&M Christians praise God in weekend 'March for Jesus'

Participants sing songs, offer prayers

By JANET HOLDER
The Battalion

More than 2,000 Christians from different denominations praised Jesus and prayed together during a "March for Jesus" Saturday on the Texas A&M campus.

People came from more than 30 area churches to sing songs, say prayers, and wave banners that said "Jesus is Lord" while walking around the outskirts of campus.

"The purpose of the march is to praise Jesus, to bring the body of Christ together, and to reach

out to the community with the love of Jesus," said Dan Hale, one of the directors of the march. "We want to unite, not in a negative manner or a protest, but simply to praise God."

The march was sponsored by The Navigators, an A&M Christian student organization.

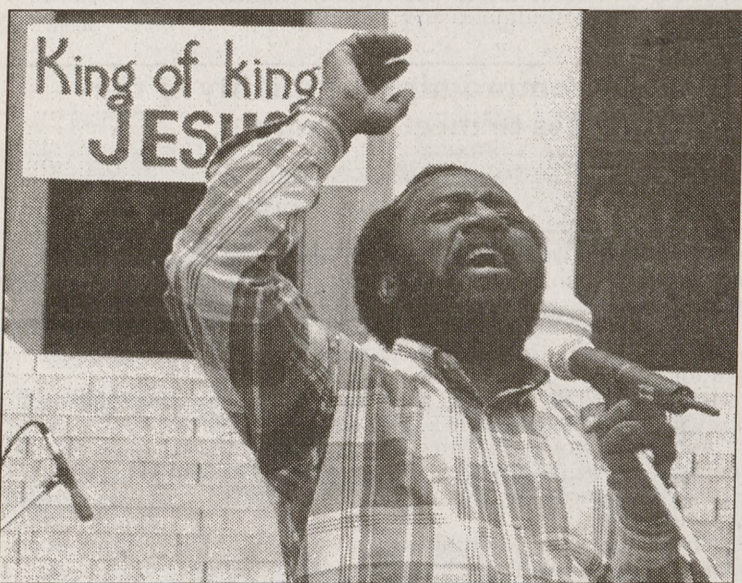
Shane Sanders, a Navigators member, said, "We decided to sponsor the 'March for Jesus' because we thought it would be a good witness to others. It is rare for Christians of different denominations to get together and understand and accept each other. We wanted to be a part of it."



NICOLAS PENA/The Battalion

Chris T. Cando, a children's teacher of the faith from the Faith Outreach Christian Center in Navasota, feels the energy within the

words of the songs sung during the March for Jesus held Saturday morning.



NICOLAS PENA/The Battalion

Lonzell Payton Jr., a member of The New Birth Baptist Temple in Bryan, delivers his prayer for the cities of the Brazos Valley. Payton was one of 2,000 participants in Saturday's "March for Jesus."

Hale said the march tried to reach all denominations by keeping one factor in common: Jesus.

Although many marchers saw the event's purpose as just a way to unite and praise God, others placed more importance on the event.

Sue Manthei, a freshman sociology major, said, "I believe this march is part of the holy war in America. Those who stand for Christ will begin to march or be open about their Christianity. Those who aren't really for Christ

won't march. Christians will become more open and more public than before. It is the beginning of revival."

Lisa Rodriguez, a senior secretary for the entomology department, said, "The March for Jesus is a personal matter for me. It is between me and God."

Many of the people from the churches brought their entire families, which often meant bringing strollers, baby-carriers and wheelchairs along. Rodriguez said she wanted to bring

her all of her family because she saw the march as a way for her to teach her children, ages 2 and 9, how to praise God.

The march started in the parking lot near the polo fields and ended in a prayer and praise rally on the steps of the System Administration Building.

The march was part of a worldwide event in which more than 1 million Christians in 350 U.S. cities and 40 foreign countries participated.

The first "March for Jesus"

was held in London in 1987 where 15,000 people prayed and sang through the city's financial district.

The "March for Jesus" began in the United States in 1990 in Austin where the "March for Jesus" national office is now located.

The "March for Jesus" organization is currently preparing for the "Global March for Jesus" on June 25, 1994, which will include people from every time zone marching for Jesus.

Cancer kills Mercury 7 astronaut

Man with 'The Right Stuff' dies at 69 after 40 years of service

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEAGUE CITY— Donald K. "Deke" Slayton, an original Mercury Seven astronaut who waited 16 years to fly in space, died of brain cancer Sunday morning. He was 69.

Slayton died in his sleep at about 3:20 a.m. CDT with his wife Bobbie by his side, said Howard Benedict, executive director of the Mercury 7 Foundation.

Slayton was diagnosed as having a brain tumor last year. Medical treatment forced the cancer into remission, but the disease recently reappeared.

A World War II combat pilot, Slayton was selected by NASA in 1959 as one of America's seven original astronauts, who years later became the subjects of Tom Wolfe's book "The Right Stuff."

Slayton was assigned to the second Project Mercury orbital mission in 1962 — the first went to John Glenn — but was grounded by an irregular heartbeat. Scott Carpenter flew instead.

Later, Slayton supervised NASA's astronaut corps, first as chief astronaut and then as director of flight crew operations during the Apollo moon missions. He was in charge of choosing the Apollo crews: who was flying with whom, and in what order.

"He brought discipline to the office and he earned the respect of the astronauts. He was their mentor," said Benedict, who's been writing a book about the early days of the space program with Slayton and Alan Shepard, the first American in space.

Eventually, Slayton overcame his heart problem and was restored to flight status in 1972. He made his first and only space flight at age 51 with two oth-

er Americans during the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission, in which U.S. and Soviet spacecraft linked in space. It was the first international human space voyage and the last Apollo flight.

Slayton relished his nine days in space. He served as Apollo docking module pilot.

"It's worth waiting 16 years for," he said. Slayton joked while in orbit that the flight was so problem-free "I haven't done anything my 91-year-old aunt up in Wisconsin couldn't have done equally well."

During descent, however, the crew forgot to flip some switches and gas from the steering jets filled the cabin. Astronaut Vance Brand passed out when Apollo splashed down in the Pacific. Slayton and commander Thomas Stafford quickly donned gas masks and put one on Brand, who recovered.

After his flight, Slayton became manager of the space shuttle approach and landing tests at Edwards Air Force Base in California. He later served as manager for orbital flight tests until his retirement from NASA in 1982.

For the past decade, Slayton was president of Space Services Inc. of Houston, now a subsidiary of EER Systems Inc. He founded the company to develop rockets for small commercial payloads.

Slayton always was interested in flying. The Sparta, Wis., native joined the Air Force in 1942 and received his wings a year later. During World War II, he flew 56 combat missions in Europe as a B-25 pilot with the 340th Bombardment Group. He later joined the 319th Bombardment Group in Okinawa and flew seven combat missions over Japan in A-26s.

License

Continued from Page 1

Texas Department of Transportation officials said 26 colleges and universities, including all eight Southwest Conference schools, are now taking part in the Collegiate License Plate Program. And, Stephenson said, Texas

A&M is leading the way in overall plate sales.

"Almost 12,000 Aggies have purchased collegiate plates, that is more than any other institution," he said. "We have sold almost as many plates as all the other schools combined. That is quite an achievement."

The basic collegiate license plate costs \$30 more annually than the regular charge for a Texas license

plate. The personalized plates cost an additional \$40. Of the total price, \$25 is a tax-deductible contribution to the scholarship fund for needy students.

The contest, which is open to Aggie supporters, will end August 31. Winners will be announced shortly after the contest ends.

Entry forms may be obtained by calling or writing the Office of University Relations.



Campus News Briefs

Texas A&M to serve as host for human resource conference on June 17-18

The Center for Human Resources Management of Texas A&M will host a conference in June on the role of human resources in the changing workplace.

Speakers will include Dr. Lloyd Lewan, chairman of the board of Lewan & Associates Inc.; Larry Ledin, president and chief executive officer of Basic American Foods; and Dr. Jay Barney, associate professor of management at Texas A&M.

The event will be cosponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management and its state chapter, the Texas State Council.

The conference will be held in Room 457 of the Blocker Building on June 17 and 18.

Applications available for participation in A&M United Way Plus program

Texas A&M is now taking applications from area charities who want to participate in the University's United Way Plus campaign.

The campaign gives the faculty a convenient way to contribute to charities.

A committee of students, faculty and staff will review the applications and determine which groups will be included in the drive. Only tax-exempt health and human services will be considered.

Requests for applications should be directed to the Office of the President at 845-2217. The deadline is June 25.

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