



# GOOD FISHING in PUERTO RICO

the number of persons in what the World Christian community" approached 175,000.

Ever since the Caribbean Crusade of January and February, 1958, the Christian leaders of Puerto Rico have been hoping to bring the Graham Team to their island for another evangelistic campaign. The president of the island's evangelical council, the Rev. Florentino Santana, said eight years ago on "The Hour of Decision" broadcast, as reported in *Christian Life* magazine, April, 1958:

"There is a proverb among us, the Puerto Rican people. It says, 'A troubled river is a fisherman's gain.' The great river of the Puerto Rican waters for the winning of souls is really troubled, and the fishers of men are having a very busy task. Everywhere we go we find a prayer meeting. In one of the central towns we have had more than one hundred of them.

"In the meeting at Mayaguez, in the western part of the island, a crowd of about 15,000 people gathered. At Ponce, in the southern part

In Puerto Rico—the "rich port"—a rectangular island that is the smallest and most easterly of the Greater Antilles, the temperature has never been known to dip below 39 degrees, and the sun normally shines all but five days of the year.

This tropical paradise is actually a peak of land atop a massive mountain rising from the sea floor. Discovered by Columbus on his second voyage, in 1493, the island was ceded to the United States by treaty with Spain. It is now

a self-governing political entity voluntarily associated with the 50 states.

An evangelical witness has been active in Puerto Rico only since that treaty of 69 years ago. After the change of government took place on January 1, 1899, missionaries with Baptist, Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Brethren ties sailed to the island. A theological school was opened and other communions followed. By 1915 about 9,000 church members were reported. By 1957

of the island, there were more than 20,000. In San Juan over 45,000 attended in the rain. Many of the services were broadcast, and a fine TV program reached the whole island.

"We are anxious to have another Crusade in Puerto Rico, for we can be assured that the Gospel will, as in the apostles' time, turn our beloved island upside down." Mr. Santana, still an active pastor, took part in the recent *World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin*.

Evangelical leaders over the years have continued to press an invitation upon the Graham Team to return, and now a major Crusade is scheduled for Holy Week, March 19-26, 1967, in Hiram Bithorn Municipal Stadium in the capital city of San Juan, which has a population of nearly 800,000. The stadium has a seating capacity of 30,000, most of the seats being under cover.

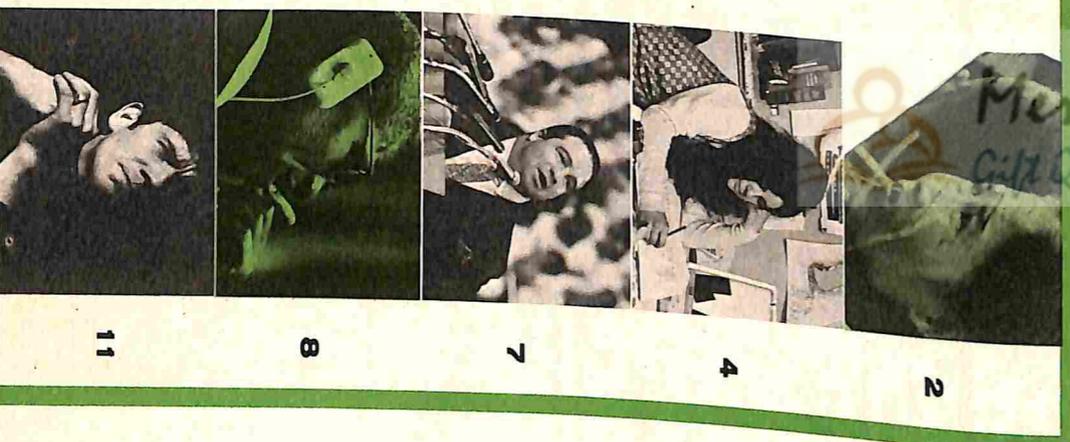
Actually the meetings in Hiram Bithorn Stadium constitute only a fraction of the Crusade activities which will encompass the whole island. Details of the "campañas" for the other cities will be published next month in *DECISION*. Preparations at the Crusade office, 1906 Ponce de León Avenue, Santurce (in San Juan), are

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### PUERTO RICO CRUSADE TOUR

MARCH 15-25

Join the tour led by Roy Gustafson to Puerto Rico for the Crusade in the city of San Juan. Three days will be spent in Jamaica, two days in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and five days in San Juan.

For information write immediately to Puerto Rico Tour, Box 779, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

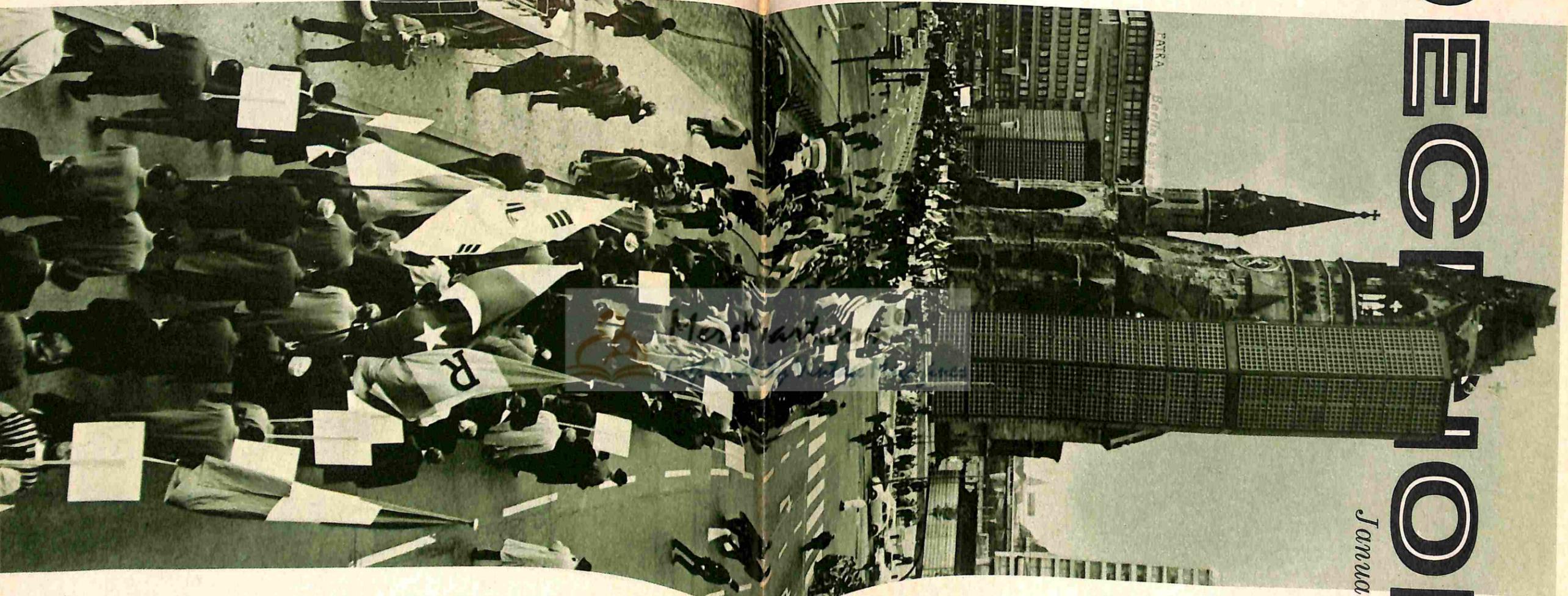
being directed by the Rev. Efraín Santiago. Assisting him in the early stages were Mr. Ramón Olivencia, radio and TV announcer; Miss Sonia Sands, recently graduated from Wheaton College; and a San Juan school principal, Mr. Félix S. Miranda.

The Holy Week Crusade will be following another notable evangelical event on the island. The Pentecostal Church celebrated its 50th anniversary on July 18, 1966. Between now and Palm Sunday these and other Christians across the West Indies will be praying that the waters may be sufficiently "troubled" so that the Fisher of Men will bring thousands of Puerto Ricans into his Kingdom.



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*'March of Witnesses' takes World Congress on Evangelism delegates down Berlin's Tauentzienstrasse from Wittenerplatz to the Kaiser-Wilhelm Memorial Church on Reformation Sunday, October 30, 1966. Klaus Busby photo*

*The following statement was drawn up in Berlin, issued by the executive and sponsoring committees of the World Congress on Evangelism, and approved by the 1,200 participants from 104 nations in standing acclamation on the closing day, November 4, 1966. We could think of no better way to begin the new year of 1967 than to make this historic expression of faith our January editorial. — Ed.*

**O**n behalf of our fellow-men everywhere, whom we love and for whom our Savior died, we promise with renewed zeal and faithfulness to bear to them the Good News of God's saving Grace to a sinful and lost humanity; and to that end we now rededicate ourselves before the sovereign King of the universe and the risen Lord of the Church. We enter the closing third of the 20th century with greater confidence than *continued on page 2*

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RACHE

ONE  
GOSPEL

ONE  
TASK