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500,000 Pounds To Nassau: Young People's Paper Drive

Five-hundred thousand pounds of paper and a dream. At First Baptist Church in Shelby, that's a logical combination.

In round, plain-spoken numbers, that's 500,000 — the estimated number of pounds of paper the young people at First Baptist will have to collect and sell to realize their dream, which is to make a concert tour of Nassau.

The dream is being shared by both the young people and John Ward, their minister of music, who says they began collecting paper for the drive at the first of the summer. So far, they've gathered and sold about 30,000 pounds.

"The tour to Nassau is no more than a dream at this point," Ward emphasized. "There are many, many angles to consider and arrangements to be made before we can even begin planning to go. But no matter where we go on our next tour, we will try to make it a missionary effort to sing in some of the pioneer churches."

A group of 41 young people and their advisors returned the last of July from a 10-day tour of the New York area. As their bus reached the Shelby outskirts, they were met by a large group of friends, parents and a police escort. A parade was formed and followed them into town. Later at Sunday night services at First Baptist the young people gave a concert and gave testimonies concerning their experiences during the trip.

While on the tour, they sang in concerts at Colonial Heights, Va., the Polish Baptist Church in Brooklyn and at the Manhattan Baptist Church. Singing,



ON THE JOB — The young people at First Baptist Church are kept busy collecting paper for their drive to earn funds for their next concert tour. So far, they've collected

about 30,000 pounds, and have only 470,000 to go. Pictured left to right are Bryan Young, Carol Smith, Peggy Williams and Susan McDonald. (Staff Photo)

however, was only a part of the work done by the group, supervised by Miss Carol Pearson, youth director for the church.

The young people, composed of high school and college students, worked in vacation Bible schools and did religious survey work in eight different sections in the New York area, including part of neighboring New Jersey and Long Island. They did door-to-door and telephone canvassing, in an effort to find

prospects for the Baptist churches in those areas.

The trip cost them about \$2,500, according to Ward, who added that the young people were being assisted in their paper drive by church members and residents of various neighborhoods.

"They either come by and leave papers, magazines, even cardboard, in the trailer we keep, for that purpose, parked by the ramp which connects the two church buildings," he said.

"Or, a lot of times, they'll call and let us know that they have paper for the drive, and our young folks will pick it up."

Other projects are under way to raise money for the tour, Ward said. Two rummage sales already have been conducted, and the young people plan to have several more.

"Meanwhile," Ward concluded, "they're learning the music for their next concert program."

Church

