

Union County Crusade

By Norman Cooper
North Georgia News Editor

"Worship should be a celebration, not a toleration," stated evangelist Brian Fossett during the first night of the Union County Crusade being held this week. "It is a sin to be more excited about a bunch of grown men hitting balls with sticks in long underwear than being excited about the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

The Crusade, which began under large tents a few years ago, has moved indoors, utilizing the Union County High School gym. The Crusade, sponsored by area churches, began Sunday and will conclude Wednesday.

"We expect good things from God and we are glad to have Rev. Fossett here," said Rev. Eddie Herring, pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Blairsville and president of the Union County Crusade Committee.

The combined choir on Sunday included singers from Antioch Baptist, Harmony Grove Baptist and New Hope Baptist. Other churches will have singers in the combined choirs on various nights.

Rev. George Cline gave the opening prayer. Rev. Herring gave a welcome, introduced the evangelist and gave the benediction. Richard Rivera gave the offertory prayer.

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Rev. Eddie Herring, president of the Union County Crusade Committee, greets the crowd



Evangelist Brian Fossett



Attendees stand while scripture is being read at the Union County Crusade, held in the high school gym this week. Photos by Norman Cooper



Photos by Norman Cooper

Combined choir and musicians in place just before Sunday's service of the Union County Crusade.

Crusade

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Special music was provided by a trio from Antioch and four young ladies from First Baptist. Jeff Bauman and the Young Harris College Men were scheduled to sing Tuesday night. Lilly Adams led the congregational singing.

During the message, Rev. Fossett said that people need a balance of truth and grace - not just positive reinforcement from the pulpits.

"God is a God of grace and judgement and will not tolerate sin," said Rev. Fossett. "We need preachers to stand up and preach the word. We need some who will say 'Thus saith the Lord.'"

The evangelist said there is no excuse to be dead in God's house. "We need to be excited."

Churches participating in the crusade (the list is complete as of Sunday night) are First United Methodist of Blairsville, New Hope Baptist, New Union Baptist, Mt. Zion Baptist, First Baptist of Blairsville, Calvary Assembly of God, Pine Top Baptist, Antioch Baptist, Harmony Grove Baptist, Liberty Baptist, Zion Baptist of Suches and Trackrock Baptist.

The Women's Enrichment Center provided the nursery and Robert Goodwin Family ministry held a children's church for the children.

In addition to the cru-



Part of the crowd Sunday



Special music Sunday night

Lilly Adams



Rev. Cline

Special music Sunday night

sade this week, there are two upcoming events.

A women's conference will be held on Sept. 24 at the First Baptist Church fellowship hall with special speaker Sen. Nancy Schoefer. A youth rally,

"Living on the Edge" will be held Sept. 9 on the Union County High football field immediately following the game. Stuart Hall will be a speaker and music will be provided by "Two Bare Feet."