Gospel 'Updated' By Folk Singers, Coffee Houses

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

If Christianity is to have any impact on today's youth it must be relevant.

Many of the modern voices for relevancy are crying for a change in the message.

They say the old gospel message is not sufficient to meet the needs of the beat generation.

PERSPECTIVE

That the "gospel" of God becoming man — walking among us and dying on a cross — is not enough.

THEREFORE the cry is for a "social" gospel with less emphasis on "total commitment."

However, the deeper and more mature thinkers in the Christian society realize that is not the message but the methods that need updating.

The message, they say, is deeply relevant.

It is the method of presentation that needs changing.

And Brevard County is witnessing some big changes in updated methods of presenting the changeless message.

The First Baptist Church of Titusville is having success with a coffee house ministry at their "Catacombs."

Their folk singing group, "The Minority," is having fabulous success as they travel all over the nation.

THE FIRST Baptist Church of Merritt Island has built a recreation complex for the entire family.

Members of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Eau Gallie held their evening service in a local rock 'N roll dance palace, "Our Place."

The occasion was the presentation of the Christian folk musical, "Good News," by a touring youth group.

This Sunday, Baptists in Indialantic are leaving their church building to carry the changeless message to the beach.

A massive youth choir of more than 120 voices from several churches, accompanied by guitars and banjos, will stand on the boardwalk to present their own version of "good news" to the kids on the beach.

And who says today's churches aren't relevant — in message and method?