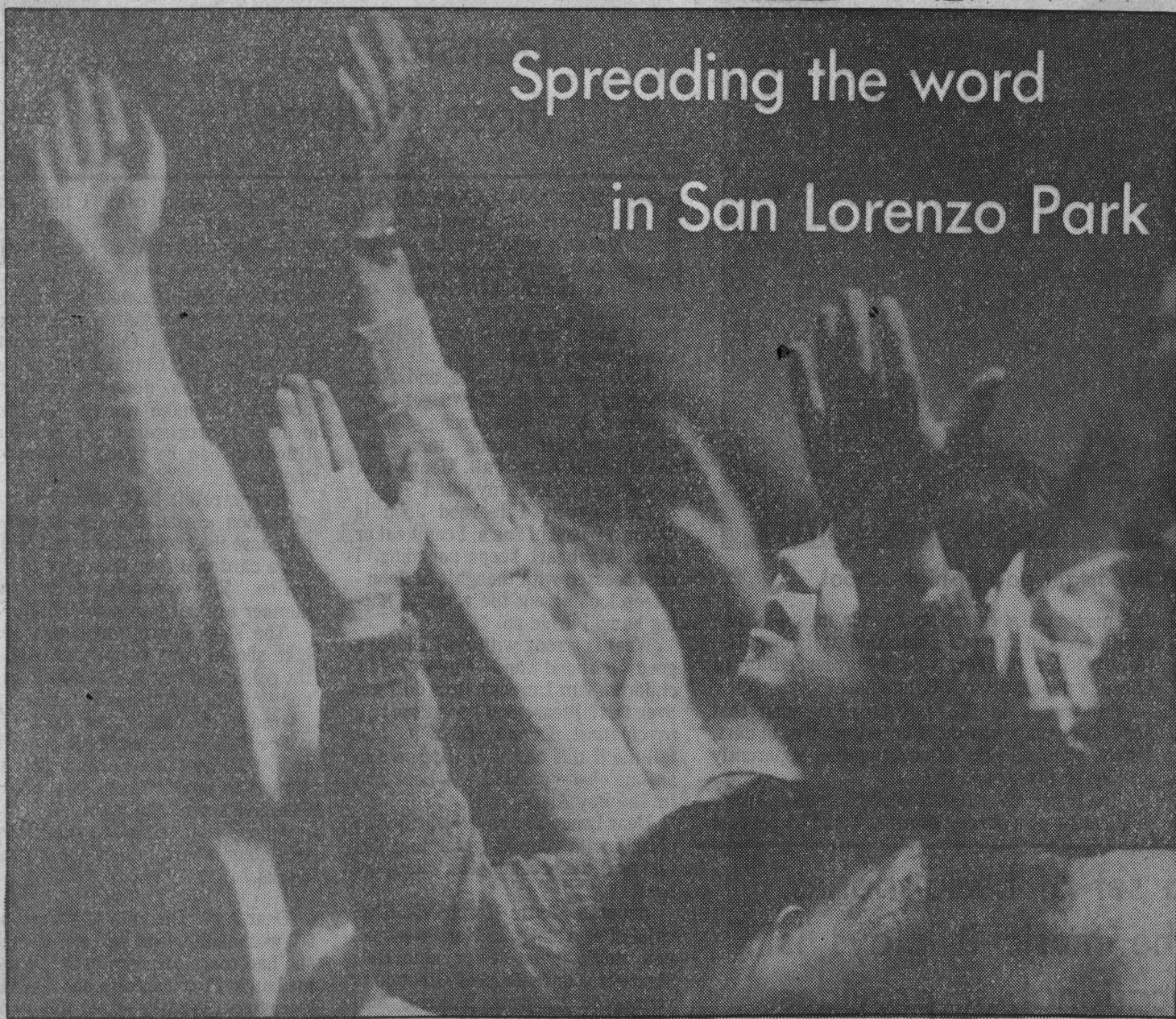


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Sentinel

Spreading the word in San Lorenzo Park



Hands of the faithful at San Lorenzo Park Wednesday evening



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Area churches band together for tent revival

THERE'S BEEN A tent big enough to hold a modest circus pitched at San Lorenzo Park for the past two weeks, but you won't see any elephants in the vicinity. Instead, it's an old-fashioned tent revival sponsored by 17 area churches and coordinated by the Hope Christian Fellowship in Santa Cruz.

"Usually you have a hard time just getting two churches together on something," notes Michael Dye, who donated the tent.

Dye bought the tent from a church in Fresno last year in hopes of staging a traveling Christian tent revival, but local interest helped keep him in his

own backyard.

A different church has lead the revival meetings each night, Dye added, and church members have made commitments to personally help each new convert. "Our emphasis is not so much evangelism as working in the churches," he said.

And that's not all. Volunteers blanketed the area with 40,000 pamphlets, and they even wear teeshirts which announce, in rock concert fashion, "Good News — San Lorenzo Park — Aug. 16-24."

"That's so I don't forget," Dye joked, glancing at his chest.

Some 600 persons have attended the meetings daily, said Dye. The biggest

service is the 7 p.m. nightly revival, which usually nets about 400 people.

The effort ends tonight at 7 when musicians from each of the 17 churches will conduct an evangelical jam session of sorts.

After tonight, the tent comes down — unless Dye and company can find someone willing to donate a large lot with parking spaces with neighbors who don't mind amplified music.

"The city denied our permit to stay any longer, or we'd like to put it back up on Monday," he said.

Persons with commercial land such as they need can call Dye at 476-4900 or John Land at 462-6131.

—LAURIE SLOTHOWER