

September 13, 1962

**Japan Crusade Leaders
Enlist Revival Help**

MEMPHIS (BP)--A Japanese pastor and an American missionary made a stop at the Brotherhood Commission office here in a two-week whirlwind trip across the United States to enlist help in a nationwide revival crusade planned for Japan next spring.

Shuichi Matsamura, director of the Japanese New Life Movement and pastor of a Tokyo Baptist church, and William H. Jackson Jr., a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, got the assurances of three Memphians to participate.

They are James M. Sapp, promotion director of the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission, who recently returned from a laymen and young people's rally in Japan; Ramsey Pollard, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, and Gerald Martin, pastor of Poplar Avenue Baptist Church.

The crusade, known as the New Life Movement, will start in Tokyo March 26, spread to other metropolitan cities in city-wide revivals and climax with evangelistic services in the Baptist churches. It will last about 40 days.

Texas Baptists, who will provide about 600 pastors and laymen to the Japanese churches during the crusade, have underwritten the New Life Movement with a minimum pledge of \$300,000, Jackson said.

Matsamura said he hopes to enlist other outstanding Baptists for the crusade. Evangelist Billy Graham and Ethel Waters, famous Negro singer, have agreed to help. The men also plan to ask Roy Rogers, the Hollywood cowboy star, and Van Cliburn, internationally known concert pianist from Texas, to participate.

Dramatic, forceful evangelistic methods which have imagination and vision are necessary to reach the modern Japanese, Jackson said.

The missionary said Japanese today are more receptive to the gospel than at any other period of history. He's served in Japan for 12 years.

Matsamura echoed Jackson, pointing to the recent laymen and young people's rallies attended by 400. There were 46 who dedicated themselves to preach the gospel and the rest recommitted their lives to Christ.

Goals for the crusade are to double the number of churches and attendance and to encourage each Christian to enthusiastically witness for Christ, Matsamura said. Japanese Baptists plan seven new churches in Tokyo alone.

There are about 150 Baptist churches and missions in Japan with a membership of 14,000. Population of the country is 94 million.

Matsamura asked Southern Baptist churches to join Japanese churches as prayer partners during the revival.

During his visit here, congregations of First Baptist Church and Poplar Avenue Church immediately asked for prayer partner assignments.

Other churches wanting to participate in this manner can write T. A. Patterson, chairman of the Japan New Life Movement Committee, Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex.

Florida Recommends
41 Per Cent For SBC

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--The Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in November will be asked to approve a 1963 budget of \$2.7 million, with 41 per cent going to worldwide work through the Southern Baptist Convention.

The budget was drafted here by the state board of missions, following an action of the 1961 convention to increase the percentage of the annual amount going outside Florida, moving toward 50-50 distribution.

Stetson University, DeLand, would get \$253,000 of the proposed budget, an increase of \$4200 over the current year. Baptist Bible Institute at Graceville would get \$93,150, an increase of \$15,150.

The board approved preliminary plans for the Baptist Student Center Building on the campus of University of South Florida, located at Tampa.

Learning the Stetson Law Center Foundation at St. Petersburg had accepted over \$5000 from a dog racing track in the area, the board voted to beseech the foundation to return the money and to accept no more in the future. The foundation was reported to be an independent, non-profit corporation.

Trustees of Stetson University also asked the foundation to return the money to the race track. Six of the officers and directors of the foundation are also trustees of Stetson University.

Stetson's main campus is at DeLand but its law school campus is at St. Petersburg.

Court Holds Taxable
Some Board Property

NASHVILLE (BP)--Employee parking lots and the employee cafeteria and snack bar belonging to the Baptist Sunday School Board here have been held taxable by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The state's highest court, however, ruled the remaining, and by far the largest, part of the board's property exempt.

Officials of the Southern Baptist Convention agency could not immediately say what the annual tax bill from the City of Nashville--which began assessing the board's holdings three years ago--will be.

They indicated the Supreme Court left it up to a lower court to determine later the evaluation for tax purposes for the board's four parking areas and two employee eating facilities.

The original assessment for the entire Sunday School Board office and operating buildings was \$5 million.

Disappointed at the court's opinion, Sunday School Board officials said they have an opportunity to ask for a rehearing of the case by the court, but did not know immediately if they would petition for it. An appeal to the United States Supreme Court was considered unlikely.

The court's ruling apparently set a precedent which will affect other denominational publishing agencies located in Nashville, which the city also has sought to tax.

"If finally sustained, the immediate effect of this additional taxation is that our programs of education and field services will have to be curtailed and reduced to the extent necessary to pay these taxes," James L. Sullivan, Nashville, the board's executive secretary, said.

"We are even more disturbed by the implications of this taxation in terms of churches in Tennessee. The door may now be open for municipalities to tax church parking lots, dining areas, and other portions of their buildings and grounds which may be interpreted as being used for other than exclusive religious purposes, even though income is not received by the churches for such uses," he added.

Sullivan said the board is "disappointed with the ruling...that the employee parking and eating facilities are considered the same as commercial. However, the Sunday School Board has always taken the position that properties owned by it which are not being used exclusively for religious and educational purposes should be subject to taxation. We have always paid taxes on such property."