

July 2, 1958

Miss Matsuo Speaks To Youth Conference

TORONTO--(BP)--Eight thousand young people from 68 nations filled Varsity Arena on University of Toronto campus to overflowing here while Miss Sadako Matsuo of Japan reminded "we are bound by one tie in Jesus Christ."

She spoke at the first session of a six-day Baptist Youth World Conference.

"When we look at the varied backgrounds out of which we have come--different cultures, different religions, different educational experiences, different national states, and different social situations, we may well wonder concerning the basis of our heart-felt unity here tonight," Miss Matsuo said.

"We have witnessed bloody wars which have left feelings of hatred and distress in the hearts of people in many of the countries of the world. Yet, we have each experienced an encounter with Jesus Christ. We have seen the work of God at different times and different places.

"We are bound by one tie in Jesus Christ," she said. "In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither bond nor free."

Then she said: "If we have personal or national feelings of either superiority or inferiority, let us rid ourselves of them, and let us be humble before the cross of Christ. Let us witness before the world, as partners in obedience to Him, our oneness in Christ, and proclaim the love of God which binds us together as heirs of the gospel."

Miss Matsuo is a religion student at Baylor University, Waco, Tex. Her remarks came in response to words of welcome to the conference expressed by Canadian officials.

Other features of the opening session were an address by David Gomez of Brazil and a pageant by young people of First Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn., under direction of Cecil McGee, drama consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Gomez, home missions secretary for the Baptist Convention of Brazil, spoke on the power of God to transform men. God himself was transformed in the coming of Christ, he said.

The pageant was a dramatic presentation on the growth of Christianity since the New Testament period. It paid tribute to the martyrs of history and revealed the growth of Baptists in the world to their present 23 million today.

-30-

Adams Serves As Bible Lecturer At Conference

TORONTO--(BP)--W. W. Adams, professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, told the fifth Baptist Youth World Conference here that he doesn't know "any church anywhere on earth that's doing more than 25 per cent of every good work the Bible calls for."

Adams served as the Bible lecturer at the conference which drew 8000 young people from 68 nations. He brought four lectures from Paul's epistle to the Colossians.

He drew attention to Paul's frequent references to his bonds, and stated, "If you and I were to take Christ's word in whole, a lot more of us would go to jail just as Paul did."

-more-

"Our greatest weakness today is our failure to relate our Christ winsomely and fully to all the world's cultures. It's not enough to believe, love, and preach Christ. We must learn and appreciate the philosophies and practices of all peoples and show logically how Christ and Christ alone is the answer to their problems."

-30-

8000 Young People
Attend Conference

TORONTO--(BP)--It is unlikely that Canada will soon forget the 1958 invasion of Toronto--when 8000 young people from 68 nations of the world met here for their fifth Baptist Youth World Conference.

"The visitors, of many races and coming from homelands around the world, proved that Christian love is a perfect solution to all the world's ills," a conference spokesman said.

The Toronto Telegram called the conference "an inspiring example of the effort of young people to bring purpose to their lives," and observed that the youth were gathered here "to discuss common problems and common hopes."

"There are differences of language and custom among them," the paper said, observing, "but these offer no barrier to fellowship. Christian principles and ideals unite them. They demonstrate the basic fraternity of mankind in a cause that speaks to the human heart and mind.

"In a world caught in the grip of tensions that threaten peace and security, these people offer hope for the future. They refuse to believe that war and hostility are the fate of humanity. The love that conquered the centuries and moves men even in this age of conflict to look forward to a better tomorrow, is their faith."

The week's program featured fellowship and discussion periods in addition to general Bible study and worship sessions. The conference is sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, of which Robert S. Denny, of Washington, D. C., is youth secretary and Joel Sorenson, of Stockholm, Sweden, is chairman of the youth committee.

-30-

Registration Over 2000
Mark For RA Congress

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Advance registrations for the Southern Baptist Convention Royal Ambassador Congress here Aug. 12-14, have passed the 2000 mark.

Number of registrations arriving at the Brotherhood Commission offices in Memphis each day is increasing rapidly, Edward Hurt Jr., RA secretary, announced.

Illinois was not only the first state to reach its goal, but the first to go beyond it. George Wheeler, Carbondale, Illinois Royal Ambassador leader, said he expects to have twice their goal by the time of the Congress.

The Illinois goal was 70, and the state has already pre-registered 111 Royal Ambassadors and their leaders.

Maryland was the second state to pass its goal. The state has already registered one over its goal of 33.

Florida, with a goal of 198, has registered 150 boys; Kentucky, with a goal of 210 has registered 106, and South Carolina, with a goal of 312, has registered 255.

Texas has registered 309, the largest number from any one state.

"Congress officials have a goal of 8,858 boys and men at this meeting which is said to be the most unusual program ever planned for American boys," Hurt reported.

Program plans are built around the Congress theme: "Christ in Me . . . the Hope of the World."

-30-