



BAPTIST PRESS

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75-108

Structure, Staff Changes

Approved for BWA

STOCKHOLM (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) got a new president, seven new member bodies and a new constitution, involving changes in the BWA structure and staff, during the 13th Baptist World Congress here.

The body also established goals for worldwide relief projects and set Toronto, Canada, as the site for the 14th Baptist World Congress in mid-July, 1980. More than 10,000 persons attended the 13th Congress, the BWA's most representative one in its 70-year history, with 9,612 from 84 nations officially registered.

David Y. K. Wong, an architect and engineer from Hong Kong, became the first Asian and the first layman to hold the BWA presidency. He succeeds V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia, a minister of the American Baptist Churches, USA, for a five-year term.

Besides Wong and 12 vice presidents, Congress delegates re-elected Mrs. R. L. (Marie) Mathis of Waco, Tex., immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, to chair the BWA Women's Department. Stephen Steeves of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, succeeded Wong as chairman of the Men's Department and Daltro M. Kiedann of Porto Alegre, Brazil, succeeded Karl-Heinz Walter of West Germany as chairman of the Youth Department.

The new constitution, representing the first basic change in the BWA's structure since it began in 1905, called for adding a new division of evangelism and education and looked toward the establishment of area BWA offices for Asia, the Americas, and Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The BWA's new General Council, previously known as the Executive Committee, also made major staff changes.

C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary in the London office since 1965, will move the headquarters office in Washington, D. C., in early 1976. He will probably direct work in the new division of evangelism and education.

Gerhard Class, now general secretary of the Baptist Union of West Germany, will fill Goulding's position as secretary for Europe about mid-1976, and a new area office will be opened in Asia, possibly Hong Kong, with Alan C. Prior of Australia as associate secretary for a three-year period.

The positions of General Secretary Robert S. Denny and C. E. Bryant, associate secretary for communications, and Carl W. Tiller, associate secretary for study and research, were left unchanged.

Associate Secretary Theo Patnaik, who directed BWA youth work, has resigned, effective Oct. 1.

The General Council took a hard look at financial costs of the major organizational changes and outlined a series of priorities which will be taken in turn as funds become available. Top priority will go to implementing the new division of evangelism and education.

The 1975 annual BWA budget of \$237,600 will climb to \$264,000 in 1976 and \$285,000 in 1977. The council also approved a relief goal of \$539,300 for 1975 and \$577,150 for 1976.

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In another action, the council approved a suggestion from the retiring 1970-75 committee of the World Mission of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ to "appeal to all Baptists, both inside and outside the BWA, to improve and increase missionary service to the rapidly growing billions of persons in our generation."

The BWA increased its member bodies from 99 to 106 with a combined membership of 28,020,436 out of 33.8 million Baptists in the world.

The new bodies are the Baptist Convention of Rhodesia, Baptist Union of Central Africa, Communauté Baptiste du Fleuve Zaïre, Garo Baptist Union of Bangladesh, Bahamas Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Association of Indonesian Baptist Churches and European Baptist Convention (primarily made up of English-speaking churches with strong Southern Baptist backgrounds).

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New BWA President Urges
Lay-Pastor Teamwork

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7/17/75

By John J. Hurt

STOCKHOLM (BP)--The new president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), David Y.K. Wong, sees himself as a symbol of the feeling about Baptists that laymen and pastors should "work together as ministers."

The 65-year-old Hong Kong architect and engineer, a fourth generation Baptist, said evangelism must have the Baptist priority "and in order to accomplish the task, and being a layman, I would like to promote lay evangelism."

Wong, the first Asian and first layman elected to the BWA presidency, fielded questions in good English at a press conference after his election.

Asked what significance Asians would attach to his election, Wong said it might prove "it is time for Chinese Christians to carry more responsibility in the task of evangelism."

Small in stature, five feet and four inches and weighing only 125 pounds, Wong wears a perpetual smile. He has long been active in Baptist work, having served as chairman of the board of governors, Hong Kong Baptist College, chairman of the Asian Baptist Fellowship and chairman of the BWA Men's Department.

Wong refers to himself and his wife, Lillian, as "common people," although he is rated high among the leaders in his profession. He said he would be "just as happy if God wants us to hand out tracts on the corner of the street."

Apparently a veteran in diplomacy, Wong kept the press from pinning him into a corner as to whether he would or could visit Communist China or Russia. "If invited, I am willing to go," he said. A second question brought only the answer that his passport carried no restrictions.

He professes a loyalty to China. He was an engineer on the Burma Road before the Japanese invasion and was employed as an engineer during World War II.

Looking back on those war years, Wong describes himself as a Christian "living in a well protected cage." His devotion developed later as a refugee in Hong Kong. "The Lord has blessed me continually since," Wong said. "As the years go by, I realize more and more that there is plenty of work to be done for the Lord."

"The Lord willing, I am going to devote my whole time to serve Him in whatever capacity He wants me in. My wife has the same desire. We pray that God will use us to work for His glory."

In an address prepared for acceptance of the presidency, Wong expressed appreciation and called upon Baptists in a "rapidly changing world" to ask, "What would Jesus want us to do in this situation?"

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H identified seven "priorities for the work of our Baptist World Alliance" as:

1. "To strive to make the Alliance a visible, living symbol of the essential unity and oneness of Baptists in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. "To encourage support for the (BWA's newly voted) . . . division of evangelism and education, so that the mission of the church may be extended and strengthened.

3. "To join all Baptists--especially those of Asia, Africa and South America--more fully in the missionary task of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. This good news extends throughout the diverse geographical areas, the language groups and the cultures in which God has placed us.

4. "To emphasize the need for lay persons to become actively engaged in ministry and personal witness.

5. "To emphasize the urgent need for Christians to accept responsibility for the alleviation of human suffering, for the fostering of religious liberty and for social justice. We recognize that proclamation, Christian service and social action are necessary expressions of our love for neighbors and our obedience to Jesus Christ.

6. To establish relationships of mutual understanding, respect and cooperation with other believers who share our concern for making Christ known in every place, and for serving mankind in His name.

7. "To continue to work for peace and reconciliation in the midst of the tension, distrust, violence and conflict which abound in our world."

Wong concluded by saying only "God has the strength that we need and our trust is in Him."

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(BP) Photo of David Y. K. Wong mailed to state Baptist papers.

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Japanese Baptists to Hold
Crusade in Amarillo, Texas

Baptist Press
7/17 /75

TOKYO, Japan (BP)--After many years of U. S. Baptist evangelistic campaigns in Japan, the Japanese are reciprocating.

The Akatsuka Baptist Church in North Tokyo will conduct a crusade at Amarillo, Tex., Aug. 3-10, as part of their 50th anniversary observance. After five years of planning, 54 church members (one-fourth of the total membership) will travel to the United States at personal expense to hold a crusade, with the assistance of First Baptist Church, Amarillo.

"These Christians realize they will face a language barrier. Some of them have been studying English to facilitate communication," said Lois (Mrs. Charles L., Jr.) Whaley, Southern Baptist missionary to Japan. Virginia B. Highfill, also a Southern Baptist missionary, has conducted orientation classes and will assist in the meetings as an interpreter.

"This is an evangelistic tour," said Pastor Shinsaku Kodama. "Those who were interested in sight-seeing and amusement have been discouraged.

"Many dedicated Christians who cannot accompany us have contributed to the fund of \$5,000 for promotion and preparation in Amarillo," he added.

The pastor's brother, Tadashige Kodama, manager of an oil chemical company in Tokyo, is among those participating. He first heard about Christ in 1948 when he attended a meeting where Baker J. Cauthen, now executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, was preaching. Later he made a profession of faith and now serves as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

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"I came to know Jesus Christ and accept him through the evangelism of Southern Baptists in Japan. My wife was saved in the same way, and so was my whole family. I hope I can express my thanks for what has been given me and that I may be used by God in this crusade," Kodama said.

While the Akatsuka Church is busy with preparations in Tokyo, First Baptist Church, Amarillo, is also in the midst of plans for the arrival of the Japanese Christians. Advance publicity has begun, and meetings of hosts and hostesses, who will house the 54 guests in their homes, are underway.

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist, is looking forward to the arrival of the Japanese Baptists. "The primary benefit of the visit will be the kind of witness they give to the lost in our city and to us who will work with them."

"For five years our guests have prayed and prepared for the visit to Amarillo," he added. "That kind of commitment will surely be a blessing to our people and those who come from Japan."

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers.

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