

SPECIAL FEATURE

SERVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Baptist World Alliance Day

Femsep and Kamasep: New People for Changing World

In 1953, natives in Papua New Guinea tried to get rid of white men and ambushed two white resident government patrol officers.

When David Y. K. Wong and his party arrived in the country, one of the most recent of 111 Baptist convention and union affiliations with the Baptist World Alliance, he met Femsep, who led in the killing of the patrol officers.

"I was a fierce man," he said through an interpreter. "But I am a Christian now."

Femsep came to know Christ through the work of the Telefomin church, organized in 1959, and through the leading of the Holy Spirit. He was baptized 12 years ago, and has kept his faith ever since.

The natives of Telefomin believe strongly in the spirit world of the animist. Animist leaders sought Femsep's influence and personal leadership in support of their spirit house near the Baptist church. But Femsep refused. He was firm in his Christian faith.

Wong, president of Baptist World Alliance, also met Akis Kamasep, member of a cannibal tribe.

He told Wong, "When I was a boy I saw my tribesmen fighting and killing their enemies. Then they ate the bodies of their enemies. We used to fight each other. But now we are friends because we believe in the same God."

Femsep, a dedicated Christian layman, and Karasep, a pastor, are among the 2.8 million citizens of Papua New Guinea, the once primitive "land that time forgot" which became an independent republic in 1975.

They also are members of the Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea, which joined the Baptist World Alliance in 1977.

Femsep and Karasep are among 33.7 million Baptist Christians who constitute the world Baptist family that will observe the first Sunday in February as Baptist World Alliance Day.

Says Wong: "Our homes and our prayer houses are scattered across the six continents, and our witness is severely tested in those lands with atheistic governments and non-Christian religions. But each of us, in this vast number, have, like Femsep and Karasep, personally professed faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord."

"Baptist World Alliance Day gives us an opportunity to meditate on the fellowship we know as a world family, an expression of the oneness of Baptist people in the Lord Jesus Christ."

"Great new things are happening in our world. Let us pray that God may use us, his children, as we work together with him."

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David Y. K. Wong, an architectural engineer of Hong Kong, is president of the Baptist World Alliance.

Pastor Drives Taxi,
Preaches the Gospel

By Linda Lawson

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico--When Floy Morales, an unsalaried pastor who drives a taxi for a living, was asked to be associational Sunday School director, he decided he needed some training.

His idea brought a six-member team from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to train 25 Sunday School special workers. Those workers will go into the 30 Baptist churches and missions in Puerto Rico to train teachers in lesson planning, teaching methods and visitation.

Morales, who looks younger than his 41 years and enjoys surprising people with the news that he has a two-year-old granddaughter, became a Christian in 1959 while living in New York.

Not long after he returned to Puerto Rico and joined the Baptist church in Utuado, the pastor resigned. "They needed somebody to take care of the church. The members chose me," he said. After two years as a lay leader, he became the pastor.

In his other career as a taxi driver, Morales' travels take him between the island's interior and the capital city of San Juan. Signs in his van such as "God Loves Me" and "I am Saved in Jesus" bear silent witness to his faith.

He also finds many opportunities to talk and counsel with people as they travel. "Driving helps me in my preaching," he laughed.

He hopes the workshop that resulted from his need for training will be a catalyst for dealing with a problem he feels is common to Baptists everywhere--helping each member see himself as a minister.

"Baptists like to depend on others instead of doing the work themselves. Everyone wants to eat, but no one wants to serve," he said.

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Church Puts SBC Logo
In Sanctuary Window

BASSETT, Va. --Oak Level Baptist Church, a congregation of about 330 in the small town of Oak Level, is proud to be Southern Baptist and glad to have a new way to identify themselves as such.

The church voted overwhelmingly to incorporate the new Southern Baptist Convention logo into a colored window behind the baptistry in their new sanctuary. The logo, a cross superimposed over the world and an open Bible, was approved at the 1978 meeting of the SBC in Atlanta.

It was the significance of the symbol itself that prompted the church to vote so readily to incorporate the design in its new structure, says pastor Charles L. McGuire. "It shows the church, reaching out with the way of the cross to the world."

McGuire said the six by 13-foot logo, in front of a multi-colored background, will face the road where "it will identify us as a cooperative Southern Baptist church with graphic representation of the symbols of faith."

The window will be made of Krinkl Glas, a trademark name for the "glass" which is actually plastic impregnated with fiber glass. It's said to be 20 times as strong as regular glass of the same thickness.