

Rev. Dawsen Petrusi

I was born and raised on the upper Suriname River in a village called Piki Seei. My father and mother are of the same clan. My father was the first husband of my mother, and my mother was the first wife of my father, and they never have been separated. They have been Christians for 25 years. They worked in the fields, but when my father was young he made and sold wood carvings. He also felled trees and squared them off to sell for making planks. My father is about 70 and my mother is around 65. In our family there were eight brothers and one sister; however two of my brothers are no longer living. I, Dawsen, am the oldest. All of us count Futunaakaba as our home village. One of my brothers works in French Guiana and is a mechanic, another is a carpenter, the others do odd jobs.

I became a believer in Master Jesus in 1969 and was baptized that same year. I then told my uncles that I took Master Jesus for my God and I wouldn't be praying to any of the spirits or to the ancestors anymore. They became very angry. They called all the people of the village who gathered in force and insulted me saying I would come to nothing, because I had stopped praying to the gods of our ancestors and was now praying to the god of the white people. But that didn't discourage me; I kept on believing. The verse of God's Book on which I lean the most is Galatians 2:20.

I went to a three-year Bible School because I saw that God wanted me to tell His message to people. My teachers saw that God had really called me into His work. They ordained me and put me in charge of a church of one hundred people. At that time I was also helping to translate God's Book. I was also attending different seminars that teach you how to do God's work, including how to guide your own household.

When I was young, I had a hunger for learning. After I became a believer, I wanted to know God's Book in detail. God saw my hunger and he brought me in contact with the people who translate God's Book and I was able to study it in detail like I wanted to. I see that as the biggest help to me for doing the work of God.

Before my wife and I were married, she had two children. She was not a Christian at that time. Since our marriage, I have counted the children as my own. Our daughter is 28 years old, our son is 23. Neither lives with us any more but we are raising Sadrika's two children.

I was the pastor of the church at Futunaakaba for eight years. I also worked as an outboard motorist for the church. For eight years I was the pastor of a church in Commewijne District outside Paramaribo. For fifteen years I worked as a translator of the New Testament into Saramaccan. I am now an itinerant pastor on the Suriname River. I do evangelism and nurturing of new believers.

At present, these are my activities:

- I go around and visit people, telling them about Jesus.
- I visit people and give guidance in their lives. Sometimes people come to me for guidance, too.
- I visit sick people and pray for them.
- I am building a house at Piki Seei and plan to move there soon. The village of Piki Seei is a heathen Saramaccan village.

Mrs. Felia Petrusi

I was born and raised in a village called Futunaakaba located along the Suriname River. My mother and father are still living. My mother is a believer but my father is not. They are both older than sixty years old and work in the fields but my father used to travel and earn money. I have six brothers and all of them are at Futunaakaba. They earn money as different work jobs become available. Only two of them are believers. I was a church-goer (in the Moravian Church). When I became an adult I heard that I had been baptized as a child but I didn't know what it meant to be born again. I lived as a non-believer. But one day I heard the message of Master Jesus that you must be born again and God will forgive you for your sins and

I became converted and was baptized in the name of Master Jesus. Soon after that I was married. God had already taken my husband in His work so I also went into the work, because what your husband does is what you also will do. That is how I came into the work of God.

I have only an elementary education. I never went to Bible School, but I attend seminars where they teach how to do the work of God and how you should live as a Christian in your house. The way my husband was involved in the translation of God's Word has helped me a lot too.

A note from the leadership of the Organization of Christian Fellowships Dian (Light), Antoon Sisal, President. "This is to certify that Dawsen Petrusi, born on May 10, 1947, has been working with our organization as a pastor of a church fellowship in Tamansarie in the district of Commewijne since July 5, 1987. Brother Dawsen Petrusi is a dedicated servant of the Lord and a thoughtful father to the members of his fellowship. Under his leading the fellowship has grown not only in number but in quality. We have high regard for who he is and what he does."

Where currently serving: Suriname

Birthdates:	Dawsen	May 10, 1947
	Felia	(not given)
	Sadrika (daughter)	January 26, 1970
	Abisto (son)	February 9, 1975

Wedding Anniversary: December 1976

February 2001