

WSCF renews its global vision



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▲ Participants at the 33rd General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation line up in Chiang Mai, Thailand, August 2004.

WSCF has put forward a confident and strategic vision and action plan to guide the federation through its next four years. In August 2004, the 33rd General Assembly took on a broad-ranging vision statement renewing the federation's mission. The statement (below right) challenges WSCF to be a prayerful, critical and proactive force for positive change in the world.

The General Assembly held in Chiang Mai, Thailand saw 175 students, WSCF leaders and SCM friends come together for a week-long programme of challenge, prayer and planning.

The theme of the assembly was "Talitha Cum – Rise to Life in Abundance" and that is just as WSCF appeared in the vitality and dynamism of the meeting and its reports. Challenging presentations were offered by WSCF scholars Asian Feminist Theologian Ms. Yong Ting Jin and former Chair of the federation Dr. Wong Wai Ching. Topics including HIV/AIDS, global inequities and the mission of the federation were at the forefront during their stirring presentations. Bible studies led by senior friends including Prof. Musa Dube and Dr. Salvador Martinez focused the meeting on spiritual themes each morning throughout the event.

The assembly followed up the vision statement by setting in place the federation's priorities for the next four years. These aim to build WSCF up in core areas of its student programmes,

with Biblical and theological study, gender and women's concerns, nurturing global community and taking action against injustice at the top of the agenda.

The General Assembly has put in place a new group of leaders. These include new officers of WSCF, a new Executive Committee (ExCo) and a new General Secretary. (more on appointments inside)

The assembly warmly welcomed ten movements as newly affiliated members of WSCF. The ten movements are from Jordan, Syria, Khartoum University, Lebanon, Egypt, Namibia, South Sudan, Slovakia, Lithuania and Cambodia. Addressing the political upheaval affecting many of its members, the assembly issued resolutions on crisis points around the globe. The assembly condemned the partition wall in the Occupied Territories and urged global agreement on a definition of terrorism.

It called for the immediate withdrawal of military troops from Iraq and for invading nations to pay war reparations to the Iraqi people.

The assembly also spoke out in support of the people of Hong Kong as they demand direct general elections and called for an end to the persecution of young people, students and NGOs in Zimbabwe.

The General Assembly extended a motion of solidarity to 8 African countries in crisis: the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Swaziland, Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone, and Burundi.

The next four years will see the WSCF Executive Committee, staff and officers working to meet the federation's vision and to implement the priorities of this General Assembly. The next General Assembly of WSCF is due to be hosted by the North America Region in 2008.

The WSCF Vision

|| The WSCF is a global community of Student Christian Movements committed to dialogue, ecumenism, social justice and peace. Our mission is to empower students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world by being a space for prayer and celebration, theological reflection, study and analysis of social and cultural processes and solidarity and action across boundaries of culture, gender and ethnicity.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the WSCF is called to be a prophetic witness in church and society. This vision is nurtured by a radical hope for God's Reign in history. ||

WSCF appoints new global leaders

Five new officers and a new world-wide Executive Committee are in place to lead WSCF through the next four years.

The five officers of WSCF will work with the Executive Committee and the General Secretary on global programmes and administration.

Prior to the officer elections, the General Assembly had considered a report presented by its nominations committee from their search and assessment process. The assembly chose three from six highly-recommended candidates to fill the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

As the three new officers were elected, many delegates expressed surprise and regret that no women officers had been selected during the nomination process. The meeting quickly set up a new search process to fill the gap in women's leadership at the level of officer. Two further women leaders were found and were appointed as Vice-Chairs for the federation.

The WSCF officers for 2004-2008 are now as follows:

WSCF Chairperson: Dr. Kenneth Guest. Ken is a Methodist layperson from the USA. He is currently a professor of cultural anthropology at City University in New York.

WSCF Vice-Chair: Ms. Adèle Djomo Ngomedje. Adèle comes from the Reformed tradition and is a former General Secretary of Cameroon SCM. Currently Adèle is working as an intern for the Council for World Mission and Evangelism at the WCC in Geneva.

WSCF Vice-Chair: Mr. Udan Fernando. Udan is a Methodist from Sri Lanka. He is currently completing a PhD in international development studies from the Netherlands.

WSCF Vice-Chair: Dr. Eilidh Whiteford. Eilidh is a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church and has served as an officer of the Europe region of WSCF. Eilidh lives in Glasgow where she works for the British NGO Oxfam.

WSCF Treasurer: Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky. Youhanna is a Coptic Orthodox layperson and member of SCM in Egypt. Youhanna is a qualified accountant and works in an accountancy firm in Cairo.

The 33rd General Assembly also elected a new Executive Committee to oversee WSCF affairs up till 2008. The newly appointed ExCo consists of thirteen members, comprising two from each of the six WSCF regions and a donor representative. The WSCF ExCo will meet 2-3 times prior to the next assembly to assess and support the inter-regional work of the federation.

The members of the new ExCo are as follows: Africa: Ms. Hermione Kingbo (Senegal), Mr. Abraham Chikasa (Zambia).

Staff and officers flesh out four-year plan



Photo@WSCF/1 Clarke-Morris.

▲ WSCF staff and officers pictured at their strategic meeting in January 2005. (Back row from left): Elias El Halabi, Youhanna Kamal Shawky, Hanna Tervanotko, Udan Fernando, Eilidh Whiteford, Shin Seung-Min, Michael Wallace, Horacio Mesones (Front row from left): Adèle Djomo Ngomedje, Ken Guest, Lawrence Nana Brew, Georgine Kengne Djeutane.

WSCF staff and officers met in Geneva this January to set out programme themes and a global timetable for the next four years. Each year was given a theme in response to the General Assembly's newly-set priorities. The four themes which will shape global programmes and publications for this

quadrennium are: Women (2005), Empire (2006), Migration (2007) and Students (2008).

The staff and officers proposed that a global Women's Co-ordinator be employed to strengthen WSCF's action on gender justice.

WSCF elects first NZ General Secretary



▲ Michael Wallace.

WSCF has elected its first ever General Secretary from Aotearoa New Zealand. Michael Wallace (35) comes to the post with seventeen years experience with SCM, WSCF and other ecumenical organisations.

At home he was an Anglican representative on the national executive of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand and convenor of the SCM Aotearoa national executive. Before taking up his post with WSCF, Michael worked as Youth Co-ordinator for Aotearoa's ecumenical aid and development agency, Christian World Service. Michael will serve as General Secretary until 2008.

A former national secretary of SCM Aotearoa, Michael studied arts and theology at Otago University, Dunedin. He later graduated with an M.Phil. in Ecumenical Studies from the Irish School of Ecumenics, Dublin. Michael served on the regional committee of WSCF Asia-Pacific and as an active proxy to the ExCo.

Asia-Pacific: Mr. Michael Perkins (Aotearoa New Zealand), Ms. Nina Nayoan (Indonesia).

Europe: Mr. Morten Skrubbletrang (Denmark), Ms. Ingjerd Jøssang (Norway).

Latin America and Caribbean: Ms. Gabriela Miranda (Mexico), Mr. Yarkus Pérez Gandara (Chile).

Middle East: Dr. Faysal Faoud (Egypt), Ms. Carla Khijo (Lebanon).

North America: Ms. Rufaro Gwarada (USA), Ms. Joëlle Morgan (Canada). Donor representative: Ms. Tamara Walker (United Methodist Church USA).

Co-Secretary model put on hold

WSCF's Co-Secretary model of leadership has been put on hold for the next four years.

For the last twenty years the federation has been led by two Co-Secretaries General, one woman and one man each from a different region of the federation.

Due to financial constraints during the 2000-2004 term, former Co-Secretary General Ms. Beate Fagerli stepped down from her position to ease the financial burden of two executive salaries at the Inter-Regional Office. Her heroic gesture left Co-Secretary General Mr Lawrence Nana Brew to continue alone until the 2004 General Assembly. The federation hopes to return to the Co-Secretary model depending on adequate levels of funding in the future.

WSCF offers universal day of prayer for tsunami victims

WSCF students around the world offered the Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) this February in memoriam of the 2004 tsunami victims.

The WSCF's annual prayer for students has been celebrated around the world each year since its inception in 1898. This year the day of prayer was observed by many students including those from Liberia, Romania, Indonesia, Lesotho, Myanmar, Norway, Cameroon and the USA.

Compiled by the Rev'd Dan Gonzalez Ortega of the Latin America and Caribbean region, the 2005 UDPS liturgy included prayers for and a call to support regions hit by the tsunami disaster. SCMers had already offered support in many of the worst affected areas and often in a hands-on way;

"The SCMers of South Tamil Nadu rushed to the affected areas in Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Tharagambadi and Kanyakumari and spontaneously engaged themselves in relief and damage control work. SCMers (from four Tami Nadu college units) ventured into the ravaged places and immediately offered assistance in the form of distribution of food, clothing and other basic necessities. They also helped in cremating and clearing the dead bodies."

This description comes from the South Tamil Nadu SCM programme secretary Sheela David, reporting in the SCM India newsletter.

In Sri Lanka, Thailand and around South and Southeast Asia, many SCMers who joined in prayer had also experienced the tragedy first-hand.

In Brazil, Christian students gathered to pray the UDPS at the outset of the World Social Forum, while in Switzerland the leaders of the World Council of Churches joined in prayer with the federation on February 22nd.

Around 150 members of the WCC Central Committee gathered to pray the UDPS liturgy during their February meeting at the ecumenical centre in Geneva.

WSCF General Secretary Michael Wallace says it was a good opportunity for WSCF to contribute its unique student focus to a major ecumenical meeting.

According to Michael it was also a chance to put forward many of the WSCF students who



▲ February 2005: Over 100 Latin American Christian students join together to pray the UDPS liturgy in the lead up to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil.



Photo © Peter Williams/ WCC

▲ February 2005: Belkys Terehan, (General Secretary of Colombian SCM) lights a candle during a liturgy in the Ecumenical Centre chapel, Geneva. Belkys was one of the WSCF stewards who led the UDPS liturgy during WCC's Central Committee meeting.

were there, but who were in the background in their role as stewards:

"It was a good opportunity to put the stewards into the forefront and to offer something from their SCM life. People from WCC were surprised and delighted by the dynamism, passion and good music offered by the

SCMers who led the liturgy. We had a lot of positive feedback from senior friends and church leaders who took part in the liturgy that day."

To order a copy of the 2005 UDPS in Spanish, English, French or German please email the WSCF Inter-Regional Office at wscf@wscf.ch

WSCF welcomes and farewells staff

The federation has recently farewelled some of its longest serving staff members.

The Inter-Regional Office (IRO) saw Ms. Sarah Kirchoffer retire in November 2004 after an outstanding contribution of twenty-seven years service as IRO administrative assistant.

WSCF staff changed at the regional level for both Africa and Europe in 2004. In Africa Mr. Modeste Mshwanayo (Rwanda) completed his final term as Regional Secretary after eight years and Europe farewelled outgoing Regional Secretary Ms. Daniela Rapisarda (Italy).

In 2005, the Asia-Pacific Region farewelled Rev'd. Shin Seung Min (Korea) who served as Regional Secretary for eight years. The Latin American and Caribbean Region also saw staffing changes in 2005, with the

departure of LAC Regional Secretary Mr. Horacio Mesones (Uruguay).

Thank you to all the outgoing staff for your efforts which have made a positive difference to the life of the federation.

WSCF welcomes new Regional Secretaries:

Africa: Ms. Georgine Kengne Djeutane (Cameroon). Europe: Rev'd. Hanna Tervanotko (Finland). Latin America and Caribbean: Rev'd. Dan Gonzalez (Mexico). Asia-Pacific: Ms. Necta Montes (Philippines).

WSCF employed Ms Claudia Hoffmann-Denarié as IRO administrator in early 2005 and was sorry to see her depart in July due to family commitments. We welcome Ms. Samia Ouraïed as the new administrator of the Inter-Regional Office.

New WSCF logo rides the ecumenical waves

WSCF's new logo brings together the well-known WSCF motto with a spirited interpretation of the traditional ecumenical boat. Designed in 2005, the logo rides atop the historic WSCF motto from John 17:21 "Ut Omnes Unum Sint" –That they all may be one.

Under the boat the waters are rough but the boat progresses, as the sail confidently harnesses the power of the wind. The boat heads in the direction of the arc in the upper left corner which suggests a rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with Creation.

The typeface chosen for the motto comes from the classic WSCF type style used for the front cover of Student World in the 1960s. The logo was designed in a collaboration between artist Julianne Clarke-Morris and designer Marcus Thomas, both senior friends of SCM Aotearoa.



Investment in the future pays off

The WSCF Centennial Fund has reached its initial target of one million US dollars and now earns income to support the federation's work.

The fund was established by the 1990 General Assembly to set the global life of the federation on a firmer fiscal footing.

This year sees the third wave of centennial fund support for the inter-regional work of the federation.

In 2002 the trustees paid out for the first time since the foundation of the fund, giving twenty thousand US dollars toward the running of the 33rd General Assembly. A further grant of thirty thousand in 2004 made the fund the most generous supporter of the assembly.

At the annual meeting of the Centennial Fund Board of Trustees, the board paid close attention to the latest developments in the life of the federation. The trustees made grants to three upcoming WSCF projects, including the 2005 Inter-Regional Women's programme, the Ecumenical Assistance Programme and the global senior friends database.

This year's meeting saw a first for the Board when they entered into a property investment with the Europe region.

The Board took time to scrutinise the legal, tax and management issues involved before purchasing a residential property in Budapest with the Europe region.

The May 2005 meeting took place in Geneva, led by Centennial Fund president Dr. Ken Guest who completes his term with the fund in 2006. Well-known Korean senior friend and WCC president Dr Kang Moon-Kyu also completes his service in 2006. The 2005 Board meeting also looked at the ethical investment policy, discussed different options for currency investment and pledged to extend the membership of the fund's investment advisory group.

Currently serving on the Centennial Fund Board of Trustees are:

President: Dr. Kenneth Guest (USA)
Vice-President: Ms. Inger Lise Olsen (Norway)
Secretary: Ms. Clarissa (Gigi) Balan (Philippines)
Treasurer: Mr. Werner Gebert (Germany)
Dr. Kang Moon-Kyu (Korea), Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky (Egypt),
Mr. Michael Wallace (Aotearoa New Zealand).

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Support WSCF

Dear WSCF Supporter, thank you for your interest in and support for the federation.

If you would like to support our work financially, please send a cheque made out to the World Student Christian Federation and post it to us at the Inter-Regional office address above.

If you prefer you can contribute via a direct electronic transfer to our bank account:

Account number: LO790.08.11

Banque Cantonale de Genève

Swift code: BCGECHGGXXX

If you would like to make a contribution toward the long-term movement building fund of WSCF, please make a cheque out to "WSCF Centennial Fund" and post it to the WSCF Inter-Regional Office address listed above.

WSCF Inter-Regional Office