



Seventh Day Baptist World

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Samuels, Thorngate Visit Brazil & Chile: Planning 2017 Sessions, Teaching Sabbath Seminar, Observing Organization of New Conference in Chile



Ninety Brazil TIME Students plus others attend a Sabbath Theology Seminar by Samuels & Thorngate.



New Church in Concepcion, Chile

by WF President, Dale Thorngate

On September 9, WF General Secretary Andrew Samuels and I flew to Sao Paulo, Brazil and then on to Curitiba, Parana, where the Brazil Conference offices are located. We met with WF Vice President Jonas Sommer and the Host Committee for the 2017 WF Sessions and during the day Wednesday through Friday traveled to six different locations to view potential sessions facilities. Evenings we attended worship services in four area churches, one of us preaching in each place (short sermons, line by line, as an interpreter translated English into Portuguese. I am still impressed with how the Holy Spirit can work through that process).

On Sabbath and Sunday, Pastor Samuels and I taught Sabbath Theology for 90 TIME (Training in Ministry by Extension) students, classes from North, Northeast, and Southern regions, plus other adults who wanted a clearer Baptist understanding of the Sabbath.

On Monday we flew to Rio de Janeiro and on to Santiago, Chile, where we met the three Brazilian pastors who have been working with new Seventh Day Baptists in Chile to plant churches and establish an SDB conference. They are Pastors Jonas Sommer, director of the Brazil TIME Program, Daniel Gomes, Brazil Minister for Evangelism and Missions, and Claudir

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General Secretary Attends Uganda Conference of East Africa SDBs



Seventh Day Baptist leaders from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi meet in Uganda Dec. 2014

by WF General Secretary, Andrew Samuels

The main purpose of my trip to Uganda in December was to share in a conference of the Union of East African Seventh Day Baptist Conferences. There were delegates from Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, and of course, the host country Uganda. This is an annual conference with each of the countries taking turns to serve as host. Kenya and Burundi are members of the World Federation, while Uganda and Rwanda are in the process of seeking membership. It was fascinating to navigate the language conundrum in which we found ourselves. Although among the representatives from each of the countries, some English was spoken, in general Ugandans speak Luganda, Rwandans speak French and Kinyarwanda, Burundians speak French and

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Seventh Day Baptist WORLD is published periodically to help accomplish the purposes of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation: to provide increased communication among Seventh Day Baptist groups around the world, to promote projects of mutual interest which will benefit from international cooperation, and to stimulate fellowship among Seventh Day Baptist Christians.

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General Secretary's Message: **First Year and Semi-Centennial**



Pastor Samuels preaching in Brazil, Jonas Sommer, translating into Portuguese

It is hard to believe that I have completed one year as the General Secretary of the SDB World Federation. I am deeply grateful to all of you who have helped me in one way or another to accomplish the many aspects of my job. As I embark on another year of service, my aim is to continue to urge us to be world class Seventh Day Baptists through good leadership, good stewardship, and good discipleship.

With the help of the Lord, in 2014 I was able to visit with Seventh Day Baptists in Jamaica, Brazil, England, the Netherlands, Uganda, Chile, and of course in the United States of America. It was always a source of joy to fellowship with my brethren globally. Our bond through Jesus Christ indeed makes our fellowship sweeter.

This month puts us exactly two years prior to our next World Federation Sessions in Brazil in January 2017. Please begin to make plans to attend. Details of this event will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

2015 is the semi-centennial year for the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. That is a significant milestone. It is only by the power of the Lord that we have been able to come this far. And our journey has not been without its struggles, setbacks,

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President's Message: **God Has Plans for Us**



Pastor Thorngate preaching in Chile, Andreas Lezana translating into Spanish.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you.” (Jeremiah 29: 11-14, NIV)

The year 2014 has been a very busy year for Pastor Andy Samuels and me, as we served the SDB World Federation. While we were in South America in September, we taught Sabbath Theology to over 90 students and visited six different venues for holding the 2017 Federation Sessions in Brazil. While we were in Chile, we attended the first official meeting of the Convention of SDBs in that country. During this trip I was reminded of the above scripture.

As I began this New Year, I was reflecting on how God had blessed me in 2014 and was again reminded of this scripture. It is my prayer that God's kingdom will expand through Seventh Day Baptists all around the world, both Spiritually and numerically. God has blessed us in the past and he promises to continue in 2015.

Pastor Dale

General Secretary Chosen in Malawi

Dr. Bright Molande, Chairperson of the Central Africa Conference (CAC) Board of Trustees announces that Patrick D. Wella was confirmed as the new General Secretary of the Conference during their September 2014 sessions. Mr. Wella has a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Malawi, a Financial Management Certificate, and has completed their pastorate training TIME program. He has worked as a Secondary School Headteacher and has held many positions in the church as well as senior civil service positions. More of Dr. Molande's report will be included in a future issue of *SDB World*.

Australia Meeting

Australia Association President Gabriel Alegre reports that sixty people from most parts of Australia attended their September 2014 meetings in Sydney on the theme "Victory in Jesus." Encouraged by "a Spirit of Cooperation and Christian fellowship," they reaffirmed use of the *Manual of Procedures* including procedures for electing and ordaining pastors, created a pastor/leader exchange, and developed further strategies for growth. Children and young adults enjoyed outdoors/adventure activities.

Visits to Brazil and Chile, *continued from page 1*



Pastors and leaders of the new Chile SDB Convention with Brazil mission team and Pastor Thorngate.



Pastors Samuels and Thorngate with two groups of the ninety students who took the Sabbath Theology Seminar in Curitiba, Brazil. At far left is Douglas Machado, Host Committee Chairman for the 2017 WF Sessions.



Oliveiro, President of their Young Adult Association and Pastor of the Bocaiuva do Sul Church.

There are now four SDB churches in Chile: Santiago, Cauquenes, Concepción, and La Union. We were welcomed by Santiago Church Pastor Jorge Lezana and Deacon Manuel Marambio, a water engineer who lived in Brazil for 17 years and speaks fluent Portuguese and English besides Spanish—very helpful! Together we traveled to the new church in Concepción for worship and met Pastors Pedro Aguilera and Ricardo Astroza. It was an 8-hour trip south on Interstate-type roads so we stayed overnight and returned to Santiago Thursday. Pastor Samuels left to attend the New York City Church's 40th anniversary celebration; I remained and worshipped with the group gathered in Santiago to officially organize their conference.

Pastor Daniel Gomes from Brazil led them through the process of approving their Statement of Beliefs and the new Constitution and Bylaws. They approved these documents and elected officers of the new conference. Pastor Pedro Aguilera of Concepción was elected President of the Convención Iglesia Bautista del Séptimo Déa de Chile. (Pastor Gomes is at far left in the left photo above; Pastor Aguilera is next to him.) I was honored to preach the Sabbath welcoming service on Friday evening: "Shining Like Stars in the Universe," Philippians 2:23-28 and Pastor Sommer preached Sabbath morning. Sunday evening I preached the closing service: "Parables and God's Kingdom," Luke 5:33-39. On Monday, after a very busy and Spirit-filled weekend, Pastor Jorge took us visitors up to the mountains to see snow (springtime in Chile). Of course there was a snow-ball fight (which I observed).

What a joy to see how God is working among our brothers and sisters in South America! I returned to North America on the vernal equinox in Chile, autumnal in the USA, thus experienced winter, spring, summer, and fall all in one day. God is at work in every season at the same time among his people called Seventh Day Baptists!

First Year & Semi-Centennial, *continued from page 1*

and disappointments. However, our God has been indescribably faithful. Let's give thanks to Him for 50 years of ministry. Later this year, I will share with you a very unique and distinctive opportunity for you to personally share in this semi-centennial celebration with us. So, please be in prayer and anticipation for that once-in-a-lifetime privilege. God bless Seventh Day Baptists around the world for 2015!

Pastor Samuels



Pastor Jean de Dieu Karimutumye, General Secretary of the Rwanda Conference

Uganda Conference, *continued from page 1*

Kirundi, and Kenyans speak Swahili. Of course, I speak English. So, when I spoke in English, my brilliant young Burundian interpreter translated into Kirundi which is close enough to Kinyarwanda for there to be understanding, and at the same time someone else had to translate into Luganda for the Ugandans.

It was a joy to see the eager and attentive expressions of the conference attendees as I spent time teaching them on the nine principles of congregational polity and the eight tenets of covenant relationships. They had many questions, and appeared appreciative of the opportunity to discuss those matters. It was a tremendous affirmation to hear overwhelming feedback from the delegates that the teaching provided had helped them to resolve in their own minds, some of the issues with which they were wrestling.

I was also very grateful for the privilege of meeting the General Secretaries from the four countries, and I was provided with the opportunity to meet with each delegation separately to discuss unique concerns and praises.

The trip was very educational for me as I learned so much about the customs and practices of my brothers and sisters from these four east African countries. I was much encouraged by the fact that through Jesus Christ, in spite of differences in languages, customs, and practices, we all may be one. Our Week of Prayer theme for this year is timely indeed!



Pastor Daniel Nsubuga, General Secretary of the Uganda Conference



Pastor Benard Mose, General Secretary of the Kenya Conference



Pastor Gilbert Nduwayo, General Secretary of the Burundi Conference

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Addresses may be requested from the WF General Secretary.



The SDB World Federation is a volunteer organization funded entirely by contributions from individuals and member groups. Contributions are currently sought to fund the 2017 sessions in Brazil but are welcome for country projects or general operating costs.

Contributions may be mailed to

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or by Pay Pal on our Web site:

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