Seventh Day Baptist
World
May 2017

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Over 60 Share in the World Federation's January 2017 Session
Brazil SDB Conference Hosts Delegates & Observers from Twelve Conferences

Sixty delegates and observers from ten member conferences and two others attended the 8th Sessions of the SDB World Federation in Curitíba, Paraná, Brazil, January 22-28, 2017. Their number was often augmented by visitors from area SDB churches particularly for worship and study times when preachers, Bible study leaders, and musicians focused on Jesus' teachings: "The Kingdom of God is like...."

Core of the week's work was hearing reports from officers and from each of the member Conferences, including those with no representatives in attendance. Five separate committees then reviewed reports and brought recommendations back to the body for action out of which grow the plans and project focuses for the next five years.

Delegates voted to encourage more regional cooperation between conferences, and among a number of constitutional changes were those giving member conferences more direct involvement in selection of their regional Vice Presidents. Consideration of the proposed budget brought discussion and recommendations regarding how to broaden the base of financial support for the Federation's work and how to take advantage of developing communications technology while not losing the valued person-to-person contact that builds healthy relationships. With attention to differing needs in different countries, a variety of projects were suggested to be promoted for support in the next five years with priority often given to needs for leadership training, particularly in Seventh Day Baptist distinctives.

Leadership training was also the topic of one of several seminars conducted throughout the week. General Secretary Andrew Samuels and Missionary Society Executive Clinton Brown chaired a panel discussion in which delegates from several conferences described their current training programs, many of them adaptations of

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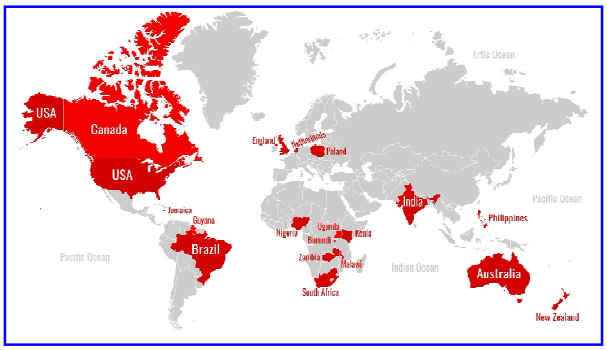

Seventh Day Baptist WORLD is published periodically to help accomplish the purposes of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation: to provide increased communication among Seventh Day Baptist groups around the world, to promote projects of mutual interest which will benefit from international cooperation,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

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8th SDB World Federation Session, continued

Jean Karimutumye

Daniel Nsubuga

Pedro Aguilera C.

Delegates accepted the Rwanda Conference into membership and welcomed their President Karimutumye (top) and General Secretary Nsubuga of new member Uganda Conference (center) as well as President Aguilera and other fraternal delegates from the new SDB conference in Chile.

the original TIME (Training in Ministry for Extension) to their specific cultural settings. Other seminars dealt with Youth Ministry, Administration and Management, Doing History, and 21st Century Cross Cultural Missions.

Two Africa Conferences, Uganda and Rwanda, had been in the process of applying for membership. Uganda's application was accepted last year and Rwanda's during this session. Fraternal delegates were also welcomed from the new SDB Conference in Chile.

Invitation of the USA & Canada Conference to hold the next WF Sessions in North America in 2022 was accepted and new officers were elected to work in the interim (see back page).

Once again, not all member Conferences were able to have representatives at the sessions. Visas were denied to President Paul Chukka of India; General Secretary Gilbert Nduwayo of Burundi and Vice President for Asia Al Paypa had travel paper problems. Sadly, there were no delegates from Australia, Britain, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, or South Africa. It was interesting that Pastor Andrzej Bujok, delegate of the Polish Conference, flew from Ireland where he lives and pastors a Polish church that is a member of that conference.

Highlight for all who attend, as always, is the thrill of international fellowship so warmly shared among brothers and sisters in Christ who feel God's spirit alive among them as they pray and sing together, often in different languages. They return to their conferences to extend the vision of the Federation's founders: "SDB unity in Christ and a vigorous witness throughout the world."

We received the sad news from **South Africa** Conference General Secretary Mazaleni Nkoli Mfundisi-Schaap that their President, **Nyaniso James Siwani,** passed away on April 15th. We will share a memorial regarding his long WF involvement in our next issue.

National flags line chapel walls.

Praise in many languages

One of five committees at work

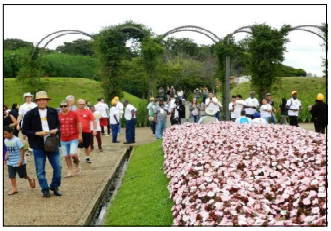
Translators & tech crew on-the-job

Treasurer Gavin Fox Gives Encouraging Financial Report

Quick summary: Total assets post-2011 Executive Meetings: about $45,000. Average net income per year for the last 5 years: around $10,000. Estimated total cost of 2017 sessions: $47,000 to $52,000. Total assets post-2017 sessions:about $55,000, the best post-session condition ever. Past five years: Income of $125,000, Expenses of $83,000. Delegates approved a budget of $110,000 for the next 5-year period with anticipated expenses through the 2022 Sessions of $97,000. More from Gavin's detailed report in our next issue. Thank you, WF supporters!

Brazil SDBs Welcome WF to their Conference and Area Churches

Brazil children present gifts



Delegates visit Curitiba

Bocaiuva do Sul Church

World Class WF Soccer

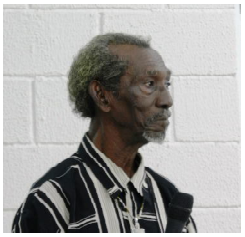
Most WF attendees arrived in time to share in the three-day Brazil Family Conference at the same Chácara Esperança conference site. Highlight of that weekend for them was the dramatic parade of Brazilian children rolling suitcases full of children's clothing and letters from them to SDB children in Africa and Guyana whose delegates would take the suitcases home as part of their luggage. During the following WF Sessions week, attendees enjoyed a day and a half of sight-seeing and SDB church visits. They were welcomed at 1st Church Curitíba, one of the original three in the Conference and at a new branch church, then for visit and snack at 2nd Church Curitiba (site of the Conference offices). Finally, they traveled to Bocaiuva do Sul where they enjoyed dinner and a rousing Sabbath welcoming worship with that church.

Federation Recognizes 12 for Faithful Service

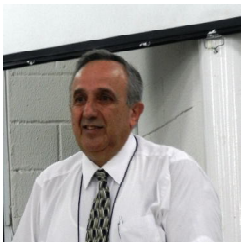
As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration on Sabbath night, mementos of appreciation were presented to leaders who have given much to further the purposes of the World Federation.

Pastor Naval Harley of Jamaica, Pastor Jacob Tyrrell of Guyana, and Pastor Otrain Manani of Malawi were recognized as the three remaining "Co-Wo-Co Nine," who signed the official proposal to form the SDB World Federation in 1964. Pastor Fred Maduka of the Blantyre church, where Pastor Manani now attends, accepted the gift to present to him. Past Presidents Gabriel Bejjani and Joe Samuels (posthumously) were named President Emeritus; Dale Thorngate, General Secretary Emeritus; and Janet Thorngate, Editor Emeritus. Others recognized were Jan and Ruth Lek for "long, dedicated, and outstanding service," Marlo Siolo ando Justin Camenga for dedicated service, and Kenneth Chroniger as Honarary Ambassador.

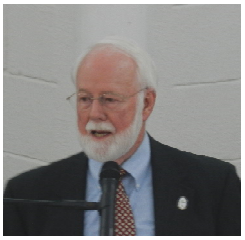
Harley



Tyrrell



Bejjani



Thorngate

Delegates & Registered Observers Attending 2017 Sessions

Brazil, Sidnei Grossklaus, Eli Magalhaes, Joao Teles, Bernardino de Vargas, Jonas Sommer. **Guyana**: Jacob Tyrrell, Kharlyn Henry. **Jamaica**: Alecia Dunn-Evans, Claudia Ferguson, Devon Levy, Sophia Levy, Naval Harley. **Malawi**: Fred Maduka, Canaan Phiri. **Nigeria**: Godfrey Achor. **Philippines**: Zosimo Marcelo. **Poland:** Andrzej Bujok. **Rwanda:** Jean Karimutumye. **USA & Canada:** Gavin Fox, Patty Petersen, John Pethtel, Andrew Samuels, Karen Umaña. **Uganda:** Daniel Nsubuga. **Zambia**: Quistin Chalwe. **Chile Fraternal Delegates:** Pedro Aguilera, Manuel Marambio, Roberto Vidal. **Ex-Officio:** Dale Thorngate, Clinton Brown, Janet Thorngate. **Observers**: *Guyana:* Bernice Trotz. *Jamaica:* Carlton Ferguson, Garfield Miller. *USA:* Anna Umaña, Avis Springer, David & Margaret Taylor, Gabriel & Hayat Bejjani, Kay Samuels, Levi Bond, Michael Spearl. *Brazil:* 16 registered observers & participants (host committee, musicians, etc.)

Newly Elected World Federation Executive Commitee

Outgoing President Thorngate conducts dedication ceremony for newly elected WF officers (from left): Douglas Machado, Vice President South America; John Pethtel, Vice President North America; Claudia Ferguson, Vice President Caribbean; Canaan Phiri, Vice President Africa; Garfield Miller, Treasurer; Michael Spearl, Assistant General Secretary; Karen Umaña, Recording Secretary; Andrew Samuels, General Secretary; Jonas Sommer, President. Not here: Al Paypa, Vice President Asia.

Watch for the June issue of

The Sabbath Recorder

It's a special full-color SDB World Federation issue--lots more pictures and reflections on the WF sessions from delegates, observers, & officers.

Watch for the Summer 2017 issue of

Seventh Day Baptist World

It will include a historical sketch and photos of Rwanda SDB Conference, newest WF member, and excerpts from member conference reports presented at the 2017 Sessions. You may receive it by e-mail or regular mail.

World Federation Member Groups

Australia Association of SDBs
Karl Rudd, Secretary
Brazil SDB Conference
Joao Teles, President
British Conference of SDBs
Owen Lynch, Executive Secretary
Burundi SDB Conference
Gilbert Nduwayo, General Secretary
Guyana SDB Conference
Sherlock Caesar, President
India SDB Conference
Paul Chukka, President
Jamaica SDB Conference
Devon Levy, President
Kenya SDB Conference
Benard Mose, Bishop
Central Africa Conference (Malawi)
Charles Sitima, Acting Gen. Secretary
Netherlands Conf. of SDB Churches
Frits Nieuwstraten, Pastor
New Zealand SDB Churches
Ian Ingoe, Contact Person
Nigeria Conference of SDBs
Godfrey Achor, President
Philippines United SDB Churches
Zosimo Marcelo, President
Poland, Sabbath Day Christian Ch.
Robert Cyganik, Contact Person
Rwanda SDB Conference
Jean Karimutumye, President
South Africa SDB Conference
Nkoli Schaap, General Secretary
Uganda SDB Conference
Daniel Nsubuga, Gen. Secretary
USA & Canada SDB Conference
Robert Appel, Executive Director
Zambia SDB Conference
Quistin Chalwe, Gen. Secretary

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 welcome for country projects or for general operating costs.

Contributions may be mailed to
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PO Box 7755
Silver Spring MD 20907USA

or by Pay Pal on our Web site:
http://www.sdbwf.org