

**Quistin Chalwe; General Secretary, Zambia Seventh Day Baptist Conference:** The tragic news of the loss of our Leader, dear brother, his wonderful wife and children is heartbreaking indeed. This is a great loss in the SDB family around the globe as we have lost them at a time we needed their services most as a Church. On behalf of the Conference of SDB Church in Zambia and indeed on my own behalf, we simply thank God for the gift of life He gave to Pastor Jonas and entire family, and for the many lives they touched when they were alive. Zambia will not forget the love they extended to us. I can remember that his wife was amongst many women who gave children's clothes to African Conferences, including Zambia. We had a minute of silence in our church on the next Sabbath after their death, in respect of their commitment to God's work in Brazil and around the globe. Pass on our deepest condolences to the entire family and the SDB family in Brazil. Well, one thing which comforts us is that we have hope that they are at the right hand of God and we shall meet up with them in God's Glorious Kingdom. Finally, the Conference of SDB Church in Zambia pledges to continue to pray for Brother Jonas' and his wife's entire families, the Conference of SDB Churches in Brazil, and indeed all the Seventh Day Baptists around the World, for the loss of our dearest brother, our Leader, dearest sister and our dearest children in Christ Jesus. May Their Souls Rest In Eternal Peace!

**Pastor Luciano Barreto Nogueira De Moura, former Seventh Day Baptist World Federation Vice President for South America:** "The Power of Choice ... and most importantly, consider God in your decisions!" — Pastor Jonas Sommer (September 10, 2016 - São Paulo SDB Church). 'It's very important to know what is your calling, and your life purpose.' That was the admonition Pastor Jonas had for any and every one, especially the young people he had an opportunity to influence. Whether you are from the countryside, with a simple, rural upbringing, or you are from contrasting circumstances, you can overcome every obstacle and dedicate your life to helping people and preaching the Gospel of Christ!" Those chosen by God consider Him in their decisions and are victorious in Christ! That's how Jonas and Clarice Sommer were. They were chosen and set apart by God, to live in Christ and for Christ. God blessed them with beautiful children. We were blessed for their lives, for their care, kindness, attention, and love that they gave without reservation. God used them fully to bless lives and fulfill the mission of preaching the Gospel of love and salvation. Their legacy in the T.I.M.E. Program and Women's Board will remain in our minds and hearts. They were a loving father and mother, excellent preachers, dedicated disciples, and beloved friends.

**Andy Samuels, General Secretary, Seventh Day Baptist World Federation:** Jonas had become one of my very best friends. He is one of the few people who specifically and intentionally asked me, "Would you be my mentor?" I have had the unmistakable joy and privilege of traveling to Brazil on about 6 different occasions. For every one of those trips, except for the first one in 2003, and the most recent in 2017, my friend Jonas was almost single-handedly responsible for me being there. His passion for leading the TIME Program in his native land was unquenchable. He took enduring joy in investing in the lives of the men and women who entrusted themselves to that discipline of spiritual leadership. And as much as he could, he allowed me to share in that investment. We traveled many miles together in Brazil. We slept in the same room on many occasions, spent many hours in each other's company, and in the process learned so much about each other. Although I did not need much assistance in this area, he helped me to love and appreciate Brazilian food, and taught me the Brazilian culture.

Jonas bore the Fruit of the Spirit. He was visionary. He was committed. He had a sharp intellect. He was an effective leader.

From the end of January 2017 to February 15, 2018, I communicated with Jonas just about every week in some way; by WhatsApp, by Skype, by e-mail, or by telephone. With him serving the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation as President, and I serving as General Secretary, that working relationship only served to deepen and strengthen our already solidly entrenched friendship. Exactly one month before his passing, in his capacity as President, he had unveiled to the SDB World Federation member Conferences, a five year plan for growth and development in fulfilling the Great Commission. It is an excellent plan. Clarice was a worthy spouse, sharing with her husband in all aspects of ministry. Both of their darling children, had inherited their parents' very active sense of humor, and Marcos shared a few jokes with me on occasion. I will not forget my dear friends.



**THEIR LEGACY MUST CONTINUE.**

**CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THEIR LIVES**

**PASTOR JONAS SOMMER,** August 28, 1975 – February 15, 2018.

Jonas Sommer was born and raised in a Seventh Day Baptist Christian family. His conversion took place in a Youth Retreat in 1996. In 1999, he felt called to Ministry and went to Baptist Bible College in Curitiba to study for a Bachelor's Degree in Theology, where he met Clarice. He and Clarice were married in November 2005. They have two children: Marcos Paulo and Paula Hadassa. He has served as the senior pastor of Joinville, Bocaiúva do Sul and Porto União SDB Churches. He later finished his Master's degree in Theology. At the time of his passing, he was the Director of the Brazilian T.I.M.E. Program, training Pastors and leaders for Churches. He was also the President of Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, having been elected to that office, just over a year ago.



**CLARICE GECI KOLLENBERG SOMMER,** April 11, 1976 – February 15, 2018



Clarice Kollenberg Sommer was married to Pastor Jonas Sommer, with whom she has two children: Marcos Paulo and Paula Hadassa. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Theology at Baptist Bible College in Curitiba, where she met her husband, who introduced her to Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs. At the time of her passing, she was serving the Lord as the Director of the Women's Board of the Brazilian Seventh Day Baptist Conference.

**MARCOS PAULO KOLLENBERG SOMMER**

September 17, 2009 – February 15, 2018

**PAULA HADASSA KOLLENBERG SOMMER**

September 25, 2013 – February 15, 2018



**TRIBUTES**

**Pastor João Teles dos Santos; President, Brazil SDB Conference:** It's not an easy task to talk about the Sommer family because we remember important and meaningful moments which will not happen ever again. They were essential in our Christian walk. They were always willing to work together and for the growth of the church. We haven't lost only our brethren, but great friends; and God, today, gives us the task of continuing their mission.



I was able to follow Pastor Jonas' Christian walk since his first steps. He was a hardworking man, with well-defined goals towards God. By the grace of God, I had the opportunity to participate in his ordination to the pastoral ministry and watch him become one of the great soldiers that established the T.I.M.E. Program in Brazil, which, thanks to God, today is a reality in the training of new pastors and leaders.

Pastor Jonas, along with his wife, Sister Clarice, were not only examples of Christians, but also dedicated parents for their children, Marcos Paulo and Paula Hadassa, who were examples of well-behaved and educated children.

This is a family that will be greatly missed and that has been severely cut off from this world. However God in his infinite wisdom knows all things and that is enough for us to accept and conform, even though we don't understand. Whatever was entrusted to them was done with much affection and love, for they were always in the Lord's service.

We can close our remembering of his short and effective ministry with the Apostle Paul's words:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." 2 Timothy 4: 7-8

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever!

Amen." Romans 11:33-36

**Sister Nadata Caesar-Pryce, General Secretary, Guyana Seventh Day Baptist Conference:** The Guyana Seventh Day Baptist Conference mourns the tragic death of the Sommer family with the rest of the SDB population, families and friends. We cannot question God nor His doings, but what we can do is draw closer to Him in this very difficult time. The Bible verse from Isaiah 57:1 comes to mind at this time. *"The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."* I did not know the family personally, but from the personal stories shared, I feel as if I did know them. May the Lord help us all during this very difficult time as we are still mourning the loss of our own Pastor and founding member of the World Federation, Pastor Jacob Tyrrell.

**Pastor Paul Chukka; President, Andhra Pradesh Seventh Day Baptist Conference in India:** We were shocked to hear the very sad news of the sudden death of our SDB World Federation leader Pastor Jonas Sommer, his wife Clarice and children Marcos and Paula in an auto accident recently. I remember in the days prior to the Brazil World Federation Conference in 2017, during which time, he supported me, guided me, encouraged me, and helped me financially, sending an invitation to attend the Conference; but due to denial of a visa, I failed to meet him personally in the said Conference. We never forgot his help as he is very kind, generous, and passionate to his fellow SDB leaders all over the world like me. The loss caused by his death is indeed untimely. On hearing the sad news, I passed on the information to all our SDB Leaders in the State of Andhra Pradesh in India requesting them to conduct condolence and special prayer meetings in their SDB Churches. Immediately on hearing this sad news, we conducted a special emergency meeting in our SDB Ponnuru Church, remembered the valuable services rendered to SDB's by Pastor Jonas Sommer, President of the World Federation and his wife. Tears shed in our eyes having gone through the pictures and video showing the tragic death of our World Federation SDB Leaders Pastor Jonas, his dear wife Clarice and their loving children Marcos and Paula. The pictures and the video were shown and shared with all our SDB Churches in our Andhra Pradesh State. They all felt very sad of the sudden demise of our beloved great passionate leader. Please convey our condolences to the rest of the bereaved family and to his close SDB Associates sharing that we never forgot such a great leader.



**Minister Claudia Ferguson; Seventh Day Baptist World Federation Vice President for the Caribbean -** So long my



sister, my friend, Clarice. I will always remember you and will keep and treasure your token of friendship, which you gave to me when we last met in Brazil at the sessions of the SDB World Federation. While you wore the burgundy and beige tam I gave you at the sessions, I carried your memorabilia with me each day. The suggestion to make a replica to wear on occasions in honor of your memory and friendship is good and appropriate. I remember sweet Marcos and Paula as you brought them to meet me. Marcos looked at me quizzically, but Paula was shy and hesitant. Both however, accepted my embrace. So long my Prayer Partner. While we are pained for the loss, God smiles, for your death is precious to Him. Since



God knows the inseparable bond you share with your beloved husband and children, He chose to carry you home together, hand in hand, smiling with one another. I can see how you all smiled and looked at each other as you viewed the beautiful city. So that's where we will meet again and, alas, not on your visit to Jamaica as Pastor Jonas contemplated, and which we anticipated. Enjoy your rest and again, so long my sister, my friend.

**Pastor Devon Levy; President, Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Conference:** It is with mixed feelings that we, the members of the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Conference, grapple with the untimely passing of our sitting President of the SDB World Federation and his entire family, Clarice, children, Marcos & Paula, in a car accident recently. We are saddened by the loss and continue to pray for the strength of their families and that of the Brazilian Conference. Our delegation personally met Pastor Jonas and his family last January (2017) when the Jamaican delegation went to Brazil for SDBWF Session. The experience for the almost 2 weeks was a wonderful one. They made us all feel at home. In fact, he was one of the few persons who spoke English fluently and translated for us during our stay. Pastor Jonas in particular, shared his joy and devotion in leading the TIME program in Brazil and assisting with the training of pastors and lay leaders in that conference. Mrs. Clarice captured our hearts with her warm and infectious smile. From all indications, she enjoyed working with the Women's Board in her Brazilian Conference. For me, that became evident when I saw at the Brazilian Family Conference how instrumental she was in getting the women to pack suitcases of children's clothing for our brethren in Africa. In our interactions with Pastor Jonas we were convinced that he had ideas of visiting our beautiful island, Jamaica, to taste our food and enjoy our lovely sunshine, but alas, this was not to be. We will miss him. We continue to pray for the Sommer family and our brethren in the Brazilian conference. We know that you are all saddened by these losses and cannot truthfully understand nor explain it. But please take comfort in the fact that, 'all things work together for good to them that love the Lord and for those who are called according to His purpose.' God bless!

**Brother Rob Appel, Executive Director, Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA & Canada:** Jonas & Clarice were my friends! Three years ago I was privileged to spend a week with them, in their home, in Santo Antônio do Sudoeste, Brazil, where I came to love them and appreciate their wonderful ministry they shared together. I also got to know their two wonderful children, Marcos and Paula. Paula was the same age as my oldest granddaughter and she was prompted by Jonas to call me, "papa". Jonas was a wise man, Clarice was exceptionally astute! Together they were a force to be reckoned with. The Brazilian T.I.M.E. program that was run by Jonas was the envy of all SDB Conferences around the World. What Jonas did in Brazil was ground breaking! Pastors in Brazil owe their start and education to Jonas' efforts. Jonas was a remarkable soccer player. He didn't have the look, but he was determined and elusive. He was the same way in his ministry. He could look like he was complacent about a subject, and then he could speak about it with such passion! I was devastated to hear of their passing. They will be sorely missed. God Bless all they touched!



**Dale Thorngate, General Secretary Emeritus, Seventh Day Baptist World Federation:** Jonas Sommer was a Baptist Bible college student when I first met him in Brazil in 2001 during preparations for the SDB World Federation to meet there in 2003. For the next two years, he translated hundreds of email and airmail communications (English to Portuguese; Portuguese to English) between the Brazil Conference and World Federation leaders. It was a task crucial to the success of the 2003 sessions. Two strong themes emerge as I reflect on the all-too-short friendship we shared over the next seventeen years: Jonas's vision and commitment to education for pastoral ministry and his development of his own gift for bilingual communication as a key to that education in his own Conference and in the larger SDB world. One measurable result is the training of over 100 Brazil pastors in the three-year TIME (Training in Ministry and Extension) program he adapted and conducted for the Brazil Conference. The Brazil SDB Conference and SDBs around the world have lost a dear friend, a masterful ministerial leader, and, in Clarice, a significant woman of loving ministerial vision. The loss of his whole family at once is a tremendous blow to me personally and to Seventh Day Baptists everywhere. Their legacy will bless us for a long time.



**Janet Thorngate, Editor Emeritus, Seventh Day Baptist World; tribute to Clarice:** Within hours after I met Clarice Kollenberg Sommer, we recognized laughingly that we were both "bag ladies." I was armed with "hostess gifts" for our time in Brazil, a pile of easily packable cloth bags with Seventh Day Baptist logos on them. Clarice was ecstatic to discover a bright green one and immediately incorporated it into the several bags being packed for an all-day Sabbath at church: bags for music, Sabbath School materials, lunch (two or three), things for the children (not her own children; they were yet unborn). "Bags, bags, bags!" she quipped in English, and I recognized my own pattern of preparations for Sabbath. It became our mantra as we traveled with our husbands the next three weeks visiting churches, attending their Conference, sightseeing, renewing friendships and making new ones. That first week in her home, and in mine a year later, we went through kitchen cupboards and drawers naming forks, knives, sugar, flour--in English and Portuguese--supposedly teaching each other our language. She was the one who learned, and when we spent a week in her home nine years later (a year ago) she was teaching English classes and teaching her own young children, two of the many additional roles for which she packed "bags, bags, bags." Her big bags were suitcases for travel as leader of their Conference Women's Federation, part of the team she had marshaled to conduct women's regional weekend retreats in churches around the country. Perhaps her most dramatic "bag project" was their making clothes and collecting clothes to fill suitcases that the World Federation African delegates could take home for distribution in their churches and outreach ministries. Clarice's bags were always filled for other people.

**Unforgettable. by Kevin Butler, former Sabbath Recorder Editor:** Jonas was one of the first Brazilian SDBs we met at the Curitiba airport, and one of the hardest to say goodbye to. He was quiet and thoughtful, which I interpreted as Jonas not being confident with his English skills. That was partly true. As his English got better, so did our friendship. We will never forget his permanent grin and rapid-fire laugh. Jonas helped to teach me some Portuguese, and thanks to the nickname he bestowed on me, we taught his friends some English. It was so hot there. I was known to carry a battery-operated fan, like everywhere. The Brazilians would point to me and exclaim, "Fan Man!"



**Pastor Frits Nieuwstraten; Pastor, Conference of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in the Netherlands:** What sad and bitter news! And what a great loss to our congregations in Brazil and the SDB community worldwide! Manola and I met Jonas during the World Federation Summit in Brazil in 2003. We found him to be a very pleasant and God-fearing man. We pray to God that He will comfort the relatives and the SDB congregations in Brazil. May the Lord grant the leaders of World Federation wisdom in finding and choosing a new president of the SDBWF.

**Brother Jean De Dieu Karimutmye; Legal Representative, Seventh Day Baptist Conference of Rwanda:** Dear Sister, Jonas's wife, your family, your friends, your colleagues: We are all here to say goodbye and pay you a last tribute. You leave before us, much too soon, too fast before we meet face to face, but we hope that one day we will meet in heaven. The woman, who knew how to do so much with so little, you who knew how to cultivate love and friendship, you made these rare moments, How do we forget them? How do we forget you, the faithful and generous friend, the valued colleague, the caring mother, the loving woman that you have always been? Impossible. For us, the women of the SDB Conference in Rwanda, your memory will always be engraved in our hearts. There is no word to tell you how much we are affected by the disappearance of Clarice Sommer, her husband Jonas and her children: Marcos and Paula. We share with the immediate family the pain and the sadness, she was a kind and loving woman, appreciated by all. The emptiness she leaves is immense. She will be missed by all and deserves a place in our hearts forever. May you rest in peace with all your family.

Dear Jonas: Your family, your friends, your colleagues, your brothers and everyone who knew you; everyone is here. We are all here to say goodbye and pay you a last tribute. You're leaving before us, too soon, too fast. And your disappearance reminds us as a matter of course that we must take advantage of every second, every minute here below. We were very happy that you gave me some of them. You, who knew how to do so much with so little, you who knew how



to cultivate love and friendship; you made these rare moments. How do we forget them? How do we forget the appreciated family, the faithful and generous friend, the valued colleague, the loving parent that you have always been? Impossible. Your memory will always be engraved in our hearts.

Jonas' family is unforgettable in the memory of the SDB Rwanda believers. How can we forget the love that Mrs. Clarice Sommer manifested during the SDB WF session in Brazil. The Brazilian conference gathered clothes for Africa and we know her in Rwanda and the clothes she sent are still being used by women and children. We remind the children to maintain relationship that she established between Rwanda and Brazil. You leave an immense void behind you. And it is with great sadness and compassion that we offer our deepest condolences to your brothers and sisters, your parents and your SDB family to show them our support in this painful moment. And to better overcome it, we will only have to remember your laughter, your good humor, your kindness and your eternal optimism. May Brother Jonas, his wife, and their two children rest in peace.

**Pastor Daniel Nsubuga; General Secretary, Uganda Seventh Day Baptist Conference:** It's very sad to hear the news of the passing of our beloved leader Jonas and his entire family. It's so sad. At such a time of grieving, may the words of Psalm 116:15 remind us of the assurance we need today that "precious in the sight of God is the passing of His saint." Please deliver my sympathies and condolences and from the entire Uganda Conference of SDB churches. Mrs. Clarice Sommer together with the women of the Brazil conference, gathered clothes for Africa, so we know her in Uganda and the clothes she sent are still being used by women and children. Pastor Sommer was arranging for my return visit to Brazil. I feel so sorry and sad; so saddened because I knew the family personally. Pastor Sommer and His church through Clinton Brown, also sent us seeds during the last rainy season, and we planted maize and beans which saved many from starvation, so we have equally lost a friend and a supporter of missionary work, and a supporter of Uganda Conference of SDB's. May the good Lord give the needed comfort to the people of Brazil and the close families.



**Pastor John Pethel; Seventh Day Baptist World Federation Vice President for North America:** "Please tell me this is not true." This is what I said to a Brazilian friend when he tried to contact me after I had read a story on Facebook about the tragic death of the Sommers family. While physical death on this side of eternity is part of the curse of sin, we expect it to happen to our 90 year old grandpa; not a young vibrant family. Jonas was a loyal and caring friend. He loved and did everything he could to provide for his family. He was a wise and knowledgeable pastor who served as a role model for all ages. Even in his frustration with an imperfect world, he showed commitment to the people and causes that came into his path. Jonas' legacy will be that he made people care more. More about God. More about their church. More about their family. His passing will lead me to care more too. More about my short time here on Earth and how to leverage it for Kingdom impact.



**Pastor Benard Mose; President, Seventh Day Baptist Conference of Kenya:** Dear loved brethren of the Brazilian church family and the whole Conference where brother Jonas Sommer was serving: On behalf of the Kenyan church family and the whole Conference, we send our hearty sympathies and we grieve about the loss of Pastor Jonas and family. This really has been affecting us for sure; not only the day we heard and read about it, but till now we don't and can't imagine how this happened. But we are accepting and agreeing that the righteous rest in death as it is a divine promotion to Glory. Take heart all brethren around the world of SDB families. Let's trust God and know that Jonas and his family will never come to us; it is for us to get there. Amen! We are wishing the best for all who are attending his memorial celebration. Amen!

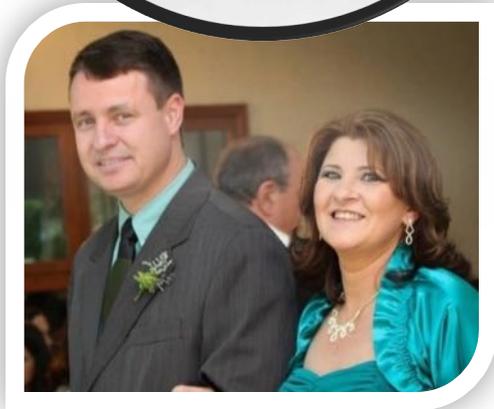
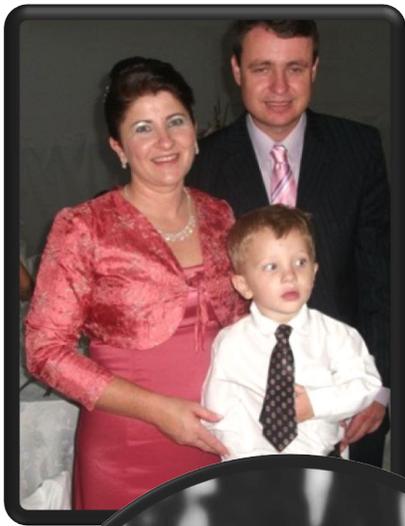
**AFRICA MOURNS THE WORLD FEDERATION PRESIDENT – by Pastor Canaan Phiri, Seventh Day Baptist World Federation**



**Vice President for Africa:** On behalf of all SDBs in Africa, I would like to express our profound shock at the tragic and untimely death of Jonas Sommer, the President of SDBWF, and his entire family. I personally first met Jonas in 2003 at an SDB World Federation conference in Curitiba, Brazil as a youthful, but hardworking Pastor. In 2004, he visited Malawi on a mission to assist in de-linking and registering the Mozambican Conference. I had the privilege of meeting Jonas again at the SDBWF sessions hosted by Brazil again in 2017, this time, married to a fair lady Clarice and blessed with two cute children. Jonas and Clarice, were a perfect match, both committed to serving the Lord. Jonas' maturity surpassed his age. He was a man of few words but ever smiling, friendly and accommodating. No wonder the entire Conference unanimously elected him to the highest office in SDBWF. We, in Africa, join the rest of the SDB fraternity worldwide and the Brazilian Conference in mourning this great couple and their two children whom death has deprived us of. We will miss Jonas' commitment and the budding vision he had for the world body.

**Pastor Charles Stima; General Secretary, Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists:** The Lord gave us the Sommers and the Lord has taken them; 'Blessed be His name!' We at the Central Africa Conference (CAC) learned with great shock of the untimely demise of Pastor Jonas Sommer, his wife Clarice, and their two children, Marcos and Paula. In the CAC, Pastor Jonas Sommer was not just someone known on paper. We in this Conference knew Pastor Sommer personally because he once visited our offices and our conference a few years ago. He left a positive and indelible mark. Those who had interacted with him described him as a jovial and very cheerful man. The Malawi delegation to the World Federation Sessions of 2017 held in Curitiba, Brazil, Pastors Fred Maduka, and Canaan Phiri, shared with the Conference their fond memories of the Sommer family. They shared how they had spent good times with Pastor Jonas and his wife Clarice. They can testify that they also had the rare opportunity of meeting the Sommers' two little cute off-springs. As a Conference, we were privileged to receive two bags of clothing meant for underprivileged children in our Conference donated by the Brazilian Conference's women and their children. Pastors Fred and Canaan have testified that amongst the key organizers of those gifts was Mrs. Clarice Sommer, and it is likely that their two children were amongst the children who donated the clothes. Upon hearing that Pastor Jonas had taken over the mantle of the World Federation leadership as its new President, we of the CAC received the news with much excitement and high hopes. Though youthful as he was, we did not doubt his capabilities to deliver. Just to prove the point, we started seeing correspondences from his office, clearly stipulating his vision for the world body and that even enhanced our hopes. We looked forward to his term of office with much expectation. All crumbled into ashes when we all of a sudden learnt of him and his entire family's demise in that fatal accident. Job, as we read in the scriptures, after learning of the complete loss of his off-springs and property, contrary to the expectations of the Devil and the friends whose thinking represented the mentality of the society at large, that he would not just forsake God, but even curse Him, Job could manage to say, "Glory be to His Holy Name for it's Him who gave and the same who has taken". Likewise Horacio Spafford, the composer of one of the greatest hymns of our times, had the same attitude. The story has it that when Horacio's faith was tested beyond measure following the collapse of his business empire and the tragic loss of all his children due to the sinking of the ship in which they were travelling on 22 Nov 1873, he could still say, "... It is well, yes, it is well with my soul". These are the words that later became the popular hymn, "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul." Today as we remember the big loss of a great servant of God and a committed son of the SDB Church, Jonas Sommer and his entire family lost at the same time, a lot of questions remain without answers. With our carnal human minds we fail to conceptualize why God has allowed this great servant, Jonas, to depart at such a tender age. And why at such a time when he had just taken over the mantle and great challenge of leading the world body, the SDBWF? And why perish together with his entire family? Having no capacity to read behind the curtains, we can only join Job in saying, 'God gave us this great family and the same has taken, Blessed be His Name!' Despite the test to our faith, this tragedy has subjected us so, we, like Horacio Spafford, are able to say, "It is still well with our souls." The Conference President, Pastor Fred Maduka, the Board and the entire Central Africa Conference join the world in conveying our heartfelt condolences to the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation and its entire fraternity at the loss of its President, the Brazilian Conference and the local Church which he used to lead. Let the words of Job comfort us all and the words of Horacio Spafford strengthen our tested faith, "It is well, yes it is well with our souls, God gave and God has taken, blessed be His Holy Name!"

*And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts, your minds through Christ Jesus. - Philipians 4:7*



*Thank you, Lord, for the lives of Jonas, Clarice, Marcos Paulo and Paula Hadassa Sommer*