



Seventh Day Baptist World

February 2014

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Andrew Samuels Elected New Federation General Secretary



Andrew Samuels began work as World Federation executive in January 2014

Pastor Andrew Samuels, WF Vice President for North America and Pastor of the Miami, Florida, USA Seventh Day Baptist Church was elected General Secretary by majority vote of the World Federation member conferences in December 2013. As required by WF bylaws, the vote was by mail/email ballot following recommendation of the full executive committee.

In October the executive committee accepted with regret the resignation of General Secretary Jan Lek who had served in the office since election at the 2008 sessions. His resignation, mainly for health reasons, was effective January 1.

“We have been fortunate,” says President Dale Thorngate, in having Pastor Lek’s service for the past five years because of his long-term relationship with the Federation and his international experience. We are equally fortunate to secure the commitment of Pastor Samuels, who brings Federation experience and valuable cross-cultural skills to our work. *(See Samuels, page 2)*

Brazil Conference to Host World Federation Sessions in 2017



Brazil WF Delegates, 2003, Pastors J. dos Santos, S. da Silva, L. de Moura, Leonildo Lebkuchen

In October the Executive Committee accepted the invitation of the Brazil Seventh Day Baptists to host the next sessions of the World Federation. Their invitation came soon after communication from the Phillipines Churches that they could not host the sessions originally scheduled to be there in 2013, later postponed to 2015.

In 2017, it will be fourteen years since the Brazil Conference hosted the 2003 sessions there. “It will not be the first time we’ve had an extended delay between our goal of sessions every five years,” President Thorngate notes. “It requires two to three years of preparation in the host country and in those sending delegates. Brazil’s experience in hosting before will help smooth the way this time. We look forward to working with President Leonildo Lebkuchen and the host committee they will choose.”

Brazil’s First Time Students to Graduate Feb 1

Among the earliest World Federation program requests were various pastoral training initiatives of the Brazil Conference. Plans brewed for many years before Brazil’s version of TIME (Training in Ministry by Extension) --used now in many countries--began under the direction of Pastor Jonas Sommer with full support from their Conference and start-up help from others. Work is online and in regional seminars. This month the first class graduates with recognized Bachelor’s Degrees. Three other classes are in the process.



First Graduates of Brazil TIME. Congratulations!

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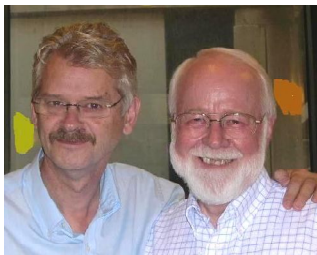
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Seventh Day Baptist WORLD is published periodically to help accomplish the purposes of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation: to provide increased communication among Seventh Day Baptist groups around the world, to promote projects of mutual interest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

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President's Message: Thank you, General Secretary Lek!



Pastors Lek and Thorngate, 2009

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."

(Philippians 1: 3-5) NIV

I first met Jan Lek when he attended the World Federation Sessions as a delegate from the Netherlands in 1978; I was attending as an observer. He was elected a Vice President and in that role published a newsletter called *The Link* in three languages: Dutch, English, and German.

The Federation later helped support his relief work in Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and the Czech Republic. It was my privilege in 1984, as Federation executive, to travel with the Leks to Poland to welcome the Polish Conference into the Federation.

During his term as General Secretary this past five years, we have shared many dreams and frustrations in the work. I have valued most his moving us into the digital age with a presence now on the World Wide Web through sdbwf.org and even Facebook. We met "face-to-face," sometimes weekly, by Skype and moved from mainly airmail to mainly email communication with SDBs on six continents. He has had opportunity to travel to Malawi, the Philippines, Jamaica, and Brazil in addition to his continuing work in Eastern Europe and his pastoring in The Netherlands and England--while working a full-time job with an understanding employer. One thing we know, Jan and Ruth Lek will continue their international ministry. We pray for their health and many wide-ranging activities, and we praise God for our "partnership in the gospel."

Pastor Dale

Meet the New General Secretary



Pastor Samuels

Pastor Andrew Samuels has been serving as the Pastor of the Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church in Florida in the United States since June, 1988. Born on the island of Jamaica in the Caribbean, he grew up as a third-generation Seventh Day Baptist and migrated to the United States when he was 20 years old. He made his first public profession of faith at age 11 and was baptized a few months later at his home church, Mountain View SDB.

His very first personal experience with the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation was in 1986 when the Sessions were held in Rhode Island in the United States. He was living then in New York City and working as part of the diplomatic delegation of the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations. He remembers being asked by then World Federation General Secretary, Pastor Dale Thorngate, to obtain flags for each of the countries represented by the World Federation membership. He was able to borrow a flag from each country's Mission located in New York City and that enhanced a beautiful parade of flags at both World Federation and the USA and Canada General Conference in Massachusetts that year.

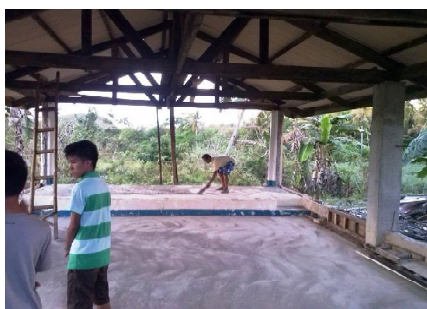
He also attended the World Federation Sessions in 1997 as an Observer, in his native land of Jamaica. Three years prior to that, his local Church in Miami, seized the opportunity to nurture a Church in Haiti which had recently decided to become Seventh Day Baptist. Since then, he has made about 10 trips to that country as a natural outcome of the establishment of that relationship. In 2003, he regards it as an absolute privilege to

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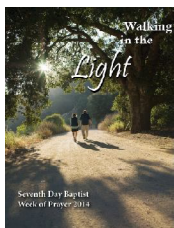
SDBs Respond to Philippine Emergencies



Most of our communication from the Philippines comes through the churches in the Cebu City area though our churches are scattered over many islands, mostly in the Central Philippines. Those churches (Cebu City, Banawa, and Lapu-Lapu City) were not directly affected by the October earthquake and the later super typhoon Yolanda so they became immediately involved in relaying news and distributing relief to others. **They are still involved** in distributing food (top photos; right, through the bus window) and building supplies (right), particularly in areas on the northern part of Cebu, very hard hit. SDB churches on Bohol (left) and Comotes were seriously damaged. SDBs in several countries have sent funds to help in this disaster.



47th Week of Prayer Observed to Begin 2014



Seventh Day Baptists around the world again began the new year with prayer--the 47th year of this custom. Thanks to former WF Recording Secretary, Bethany Chroniger, recently returned from a year-long, around-the-world mission trip, for writing the 2014 meditations, "Walking in the Light." The text is sent to member conferences to translate, if necessary, and publish for use in their churches.



Meet the General Secretary *Continued from page 2*

travel to Brazil for the World Federation Sessions there, and his passion to become a world-class Seventh Day Baptist was greatly enriched. At that World Federation Session, he was elected as Vice-President for North America. He was re-elected to that office in 2008, the year when he also served as President for the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of USA and Canada. In addition to 25 years of pastoring the Miami SDB Church, he has done a short-term Pastorate at the Mill Yard SDB Church in London, England, as well as pastoring SDB Churches in New York City, New York and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Pastor Andy's desire to fulfill the Great Commission has led him to engage in mission trips to Malawi, Brazil, Haiti, England, and Jamaica. He lists his primary spiritual gifts as Leadership, Teaching, and Shepherding, with a secondary gift of Evangelism.

He believes that his international experience at the United Nations community in New York City, his relationships with the SDB Churches in the United States & Canada, England, Brazil, Malawi, Jamaica, and Haiti, plus his attendance at the past three consecutive Sessions of the SDB World Federation, have prepared him well to serve as General Secretary for this fraternal organization of God's people called Seventh Day Baptists. He aims to play his role in helping the Federation to achieve among member Conferences, its vision of quality communication services, meaningful fellowship, the coordination of mutual endeavors, and the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Samuels has a Bachelor's degree from Miami Christian College, and has done graduate studies at Knox Theological Seminary. He is also a graduate of the SDB TIME Program, and has served as an Instructor at both the Florida Leadership Training Institute and the South Atlantic Leadership Training (SALT) Institute, ministries of the South Atlantic Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in the United States of America. He was the author of the 2007 World-Federation sponsored SDB Week Of Prayer booklet, and has also authored one book, "From The Foundation To The Pinnacle", which is a chronicling of three decades of history of the Miami Seventh Day Baptist Church (1981-2011).

He has been married to Kay, an Educator, for 30 years, and they have two daughters, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

In Memorium: Rev. Joseph Alphonso Samuels, 1936-2013



Pastor Samuels as President of the SDB World Federation in 2008

Photo by Vivian Looper

We are sad to note the death on 24 December 2013 of a truly international Seventh Day Baptist. When CoWoCo (First Consultation of World Conferences) met in the United States in 1964 to consider the idea of an international organization of Seventh Day Baptists, Joe A. Samuels, as a delegate from Jamaica, was one of the 11 who signed the proposed constitution. He was 28 years old. When 11 conferences became charter members in 1965, he was elected one of two vice presidents. Re-elected to that office several times, he became Vice President for North America when the executive committee was expanded to include vice presidents from each region. He was much involved in hosting the 1997 sessions in his native Jamaica, then was elected President at the Brazil sessions in 2003 and in that role hosted the first full executive committee to be held between sessions, in 2005.

Following the sessions he conducted as president in 2008, he was honored for 45 years in the organization. President Thorngate again presented a tribute on behalf of the Federation at the memorial service held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA on 5 January. It was conducted by his nephew, Andrew Samuels. Services will be held later in other locations since "Pastor Joe" served churches in Jamaica, Canada, and the USA.

World Federation Member Groups

Australia Association of SDBs

Karl Rudd, Secretary

Brazil SDB Conference

Leonildo Lebkuken, President

British Conference of SDBs

Owen Lynch, Pastor

Burundi SDB Conference

Gilbert Nduwayo, General Secretary

Guyana SDB Conference

Bernice Trotz, General Secretary

India SDB Conf. (Andhra Pradesh)

B. Kishor Kumar, Secretary/Treas

India: Malankara SDB Conf. Kerala

K. S. Thankachan, President

Jamaica SDB Conference

Selvin Campbell, President

Kenya SDB Conference

Benard Nyauerebere Mose, Bishop

Central Africa Conference (Malawi)

Peter Mwengo, Acting General Secretary

Netherlands Conf. of SDB Churches

Frits Nieuwstraten, Pastor

New Zealand SDB Churches

Nigeria Conference of SDBs

Godfrey Achor, Contact Person

Philippines United SDB Churches

Al Paypa, President

Poland, Sabbath Day Christian Ch.

Roman Witek, President

South Africa SDB Conference

Nyaniso James Siwani, President

USA & Canada SDB Conference

Robert Appel, Executive Director

Zambia SDB Conference

Questin Chalwe, Gen. Secretary

Addresses may be requested from the 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 special projects in member Conferences or for operating costs.

Contributions may be mailed to

WF Treasurer, Gavin Fox

2211 Fairland Rd.

Silver Spring MD 20904 USA

or

by Pay Pal on our Web site:

<http://www.sdbwf.org>