



Seventh Day Baptist World

July 2014

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Guyana SDB Conference Celebrates 100th Anniversary

by Claudia Ferguson, WF Vice President for the Carribean



Guyana Conference Session in Kitty Church, Georgetown, Feb. 2014



Traveling to Conference on the Pomeroon River--100th Anniversary Sessions in several churches.

The Guyana SDB Conference achieved the significant milestone of 100 years of Ministry in Guyana. Special centennial activities to mark this event were held during the week of February 16-22, 2014. The 100th anniversary programme commenced on Sunday the 16th February with a rally and parade leading up to the Launching Service at Parika, East Bank Essequibo, and culminated with a special anniversary Sabbath Service on February 22 at Bona Ventura, Pomeroon.

The Parika Launching Ceremony was graced with the presence of Pastor Paul Andries son of the soil, who gave the feature address. Greetings were received from sister churches and well wishers and presentations of the history of the Uitvlugt SDB Church, the Faith SDB Church, and the Peter's memorial SDB Church were made. A highlight of this launching service was the unveiling of a Commemorative Plaque. Leading up to the final event on Sabbath were special events in local churches including gospel crusade at the Uitvlugt SDB Church pastored by President Sherlock Caesar, and a special healing and deliverance service at the Kitty SDB Church in Georgetown.

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Samuels & Thorngate to Visit Brazil & Chile in September 2014



Since the Brazil Conference will be hosting the World Federation sessions there in 2017, they have identified potential sites for the meetings and invited General Secretary Samuels and President Thorngate to come check them out. While there they will also teach a combined seminar on Sabbath Theology for all three of the current TIME classes (over 100 students) who will come together from the various regions to Curitiba, Parana. From there they will travel with Brazil Conference President Leonildo Lebkuchen, Missions Coordinator Daniel Gomes, and TIME Director Jonas Sommer, to visit the new SDB Churches in Chile, a mission of the Brazil Conference. World Federation officers were initially involved two years ago in forwarding correspondence from Chileans interested in Seventh Day Baptists to those responsible for missions in the Brazil and USA & Canada conferences and the work has grown through cooperative arrangements since. Samuels and Thorngate will leave September 10 and return the 19th and 22nd respectively.

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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.

Editor: Janet Thorngate, editor.sdbworld@sdbwf.org

General Secretary's Message: What is a World Class SDB?



Andrew Samuels

good
leadership,
good
stewardship,
good
discipleship

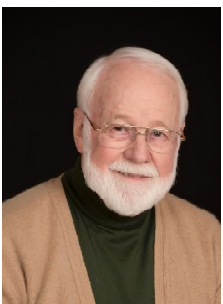
What is a world-class Seventh Day Baptist? I will return to that question later in this message.

Let me first of all take this opportunity to thank the SDB World Federation Executive Committee and the SDB World Federation member Conferences for the vote of confidence placed in me by electing me to the office of General Secretary for our organization. I am thrilled to be serving in this capacity at such an exciting time for us as a people. The World Federation is almost 50 years old and there are 18 member Conferences; 6 on the African continent, 3 in Europe, 3 in Asia, 2 in the Caribbean, 2 in the South Pacific, and 1 each in South and North America. I envision the Federation continuing to be enlarged and covering more of the world. For that to happen, I believe there needs to be good leadership, good stewardship, and good discipleship within our Conferences. It is my commitment to do my very best, the Lord being my helper, to play my part in steering our fraternal organization towards God's best for us.

Good Leadership – Everything rises and falls on leadership. Most people love to be led, and they love to be well led. Our Conferences deserve to have good leaders who exemplify leadership based on the servant-leadership model of our Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is a free gift, but as leaders we must earn our right to lead, and then we must submit ourselves to the accountability systems of those who appoint or elect us. So we must be held accountable. Good leaders communicate consistently, they communicate often, and they communicate well.

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President's Message: How Wide, Long, High, and Deep!



Dale Thorngate

the love
of God

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know his love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3: 18b-19, NIV)

This past Sabbath, my pastor, Brent Hannah preached from this passage in the book of Ephesians. He helped me imagine the dimensions of God's love in a fresh way: his love is wide enough to include all people, not just those like me; it is long enough to stretch from ancient Israel to us in the 21st century; it is high enough to include our loftiest of thoughts and can influence our highest ambitions; and deep enough to lift us when we are in the depths of depression or lethargy.

Then I saw that love in relationship to Pastor Andy Samuel's article above—his challenge to World Federation and world Conference leaders to do our "very best" at providing Good

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Guyana 100th Anniversary, *continued from page 1*



Bona Ventura, Pomeroon, Guyana Church where special anniversary Sabbath service was held Feb, 22.

Specially invited guests included Pastor Paul Andries, Brother Clinton Brown, Executive Director of the American Missionary Society, and Minister Claudia Ferguson, from Jamaica representing the SDB World Federation. These international guests participated fully in the various activities, as crusade speakers at Uitvlugt bringing greetings at the culminating anniversary Sabbath. The anniversary Sabbath service was moderated by Rev. Ewart Caesar former Vice President of the SDB World Federation with the President of the Guyana SDB Conference, Pastor Sherlock Caesar delivering the sermon.

Bro. Clinton Brown in his greetings pledged the continued support of the American Missionary Society while Vice President Claudia Ferguson in her

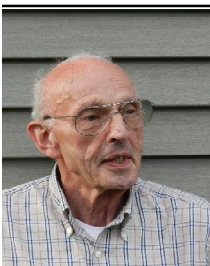
greetings expressed commendations and congratulations on behalf of President Thorngate and the entire Executive Committee, including newly elected General Secretary Rev. Andrew Samuels. Pastor Selvin Campbell of the Jamaican Conference also mentioned particularly their wish that both conferences would continue to work together to build God's Kingdom in the Caribbean.

WF Vice President Ferguson also highlighted the three stated purposes of the SDBWF, and noted that "the Guyana Conference has been an important member Conference of the SDBWF with your own Rev. Jacob Tyrell being regarded as one of the founding fathers having been involved in the 1964 meetings convened to discuss the establishing of the SDBWF and having signed the charter in 1965 when the SDBWF was officially launched....As the SDBWF congratulates you we also laud your contribution to the Federation. But more importantly we wish to recognize the pioneers of this great movement, the work and labour of love of the succeeding generations who have carried the torch, and have sowed the seed of the gospel in Guyana."

The greeting closed with a challenge to the Guyana conference to seek to double their membership and churches in each decade. So we returned from whence we came, all by boats, and those of us from Georgetown by boats, then by road, then by boats again....oh boy, we needed the master to still the waves..., then finally the last leg by road. Tired, yes, but pleased and fulfilled.

Pastors and Leaders at the Guyana Anniversary Conference:

Front row, left to right: Pastor Ewart Caesar, Pastor Jacob Tyrrell, Conference President Sherlock Caesar, Pastor Paul Andries (USA), WF Vice President Claudia Ferguson (Jamaica), General Secretary Bernice Trotz, Treasurer Kharlyn Henry, Pastor Earl Thomas.
Back row: Pastor Rudolph Wilson, Pastor Abel Caesar, Missionary Society Executive Clint Brown (USA), Pastor Denham Garraway, Pastor Eugene Joseph, Pastor Amar Dwarka.



2015 Week of Prayer Theme Announced by Writer Justin Camenga

WF Assistant General Secretary, Rev. Justin Camenga, is writing the daily meditation booklet for the 2015 Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer. He has selected the theme "...that they may be one..." from Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John 17:11b. Digital copies of the text and photos will be sent to Executive Committee members and WF Conference leaders for translation and printing in languages other than English. Week of Prayer will be January 4-10, 2015.

World Federation CALENDAR: 2014-2015

July 13-20 -- **Jamaica Annual Conference**, Maiden Hall Conference Center. St. Mary, Jamaica
 July 26 -- **British Conference** annual meeting
 July 27 -- August 3, 2014 -- **USA & Canada Annual Conference**, St. Paul Minnesota, USA
 July 30 -- **WF Core Executive Committee Meeting**, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA
 August 5-9 -- **Kenya Conference Leaders' Meeting**
 August 6-9 -- **Guyana Conference** meetings
 August 26-31-- **Zambia Conference** meetings
 September 26-29, 2014 -- **Australia Association Family Camp**, Sydney, NSW, Australia
 including Pastors' & Leaders' Meeting: "Strategies for Growth"
 September 15-21 -- **Central Africa Conference** annual meeting
 September 7-22, 2014 -- **General Secretary Samuels & President Thorngate in Brazil and Chile**
 September -- **Missionary Society Executive Clint Brown visiting in India** (Kerala & Andhra Pradesh)
 December 3-8-- **East Africa SDB Joint Conference in Uganda**, General Secretary Samuels attending.
 January 4-10, 2014 -- **Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer--** *(in all member Conferences)*
 January 10, 2015 -- **World Federation Sabbath** *(in many member Conferences)*
 2017 -- **World Federation Sessions in Brazil**

Note: Please send dates for your Conference sessions to General Secretary Samuels or the editor for inclusion on the calendar here and on the WF website. This helps those traveling, desiring to send greetings, or praying for your work.

General Secretary's Message: **What is a World Class SDB?** *Continued from page 2*

Good Stewardship – Our Conferences have been entrusted with much, and the Bible declares that to whom much is given, much is required. As managers of the resources we have been asked to oversee, we are called to be faithful and diligent. We cannot afford to squander, misuse, or be less than grateful for what we have been given. That includes the stewardship of our people. I am calling on us to be generous in all the ways we are provided with opportunities to demonstrate generosity.

Good Discipleship – All of our Conferences must be engaged in making disciples. That is the fulfillment of the Great Commission, as mandated to us by our Lord Jesus. A huge part of that process is the development of Christlikeness as we balance grace and truth in the way we conduct our relationships. I want the beauty of Jesus to be seen in every Seventh Day Baptist around the world.

If we can have good leadership, good stewardship, and good discipleship in our Conferences, I believe we will then be in a position to be world class Seventh Day Baptists. So, back to our original question. What exactly does it mean to be a world-class Seventh Day Baptist? It means we change from local thinking to global thinking. Our world is no longer simply our own little corners, although we always begin there. Our world is now of international scope and inclusiveness. We have brothers and sisters all over the world. Let us spur each other on to becoming world-class Seventh Day Baptists, and by so doing we will be extending the kingdom of God.

Pastor Samuels

President's Message: **How Wide, Long, High, and Deep!** *Continued from page 2*

Leadership, Good Stewardship and Good Discipleship, so that we could be "world class Seventh Day Baptists." That would require us to have the love of God that is wide, long, high and deep.

This passage from, Ephesians, was written by Paul, the Apostle, back in the first century CE. But it is every bit as important for us today. My prayer for all Seventh Day Baptists in the summer of 2014 is that we will seek to be "world class" by daily praying to God: *"who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."* (Ephesians: 3: 20-21, NIV)

Pastor Dale

Caribbean Update: Cayman Crusade, Jamaica Bible Institute



Several from the new Cayman SDB Group along with the crusade team from Jamaica.

Fresh back from Grand Cayman for a six day Crusade, June 15-30 is a team comprising Evangelist Hurley Taylor, Chairman of the National Evangelism Committee in Jamaica, Pastor Selvin Campbell, Rev. Carlton Ferguson and Minister Claudia Ferguson. The Crusade is part of the strategy being employed to grow the Cayman SDB Group which was officially launched in June 2011, as part of the mission to plant additional SDB churches in the Caribbean. The crusade was a success as it strengthened the believers there and resulted in persons making decisions for Christ. The follow up work looms, and requires the support of all in terms of personnel, prayers and funds.

Thanks to those who have supported, including the conference in Brazil, Bro. William Robinson and Family (Canada) and our local SDB Churches. The brethren in Cayman led by Deacons Morris Copeland and Fitzroy Hines are hoping to attain church status by 2016. Tall order? Not if you chip in.

For further information on how you can support the work in the Cayman Islands, contact the coordinator claudiaferguson2000@yahoo.com. Of course self sponsored missionaries for the short or medium term would (Praise the Lord!!) be an answer to our prayers.



Jamaica Bible Institute students at work (above) and with their teachers (below).

The Jamaica SDB Bible Institute (JBI), which is the official training arm of the Jamaica Conference, embarked on a two-year training programme in March of 2013. The programme which trains Seventh Day Baptists for the Christian Ministry covers some 20 modules including: Church Administration, Bible Interpretation, Old and New Testament Survey, SDB History, Polity and Sabbath Theology, Preaching, Evangelism, and Missions. Participants are expected to graduate to serve in the Pastoral, Teaching, and Evangelism Ministries. The staff of the Bible Institute is headed by Principal Rev. Carlton Ferguson and includes Rev. Basil Clarke, Rev. Naval Harley, and Minister Claudia Ferguson. The Training Programme has been extended to Guyana and the Cayman Islands.

Thanks to the American Missionary Society for assisting with the provision of books for the SDB History, Polity, and Sabbath Theology Module.

The Annual Jamaica Conference will be convened July 13 – 20, 2014, at the SDB Conference Centre and Camp Site, Maiden Hall, St. Mary under the theme “Facing the Future, Changing the Focus, Reliving our Dreams.” The Conference has declared 2013/2014 the year of Evangelism with spot meetings in four different communities in St. Mary, Monday night to Thursday night. The Conference sessions will focus on the discussion and adoption of a five year plan.

by Claudia Ferguson

East African Seventh Day Baptists Plan Joint Conference



World Federation General Secretary Samuels plans a trip to Uganda in December to attend a joint conference of East African Seventh Day Baptists. Pastor Daniel Nsubuga, General Secretary of the Uganda Conference, extended the invitation after a meeting of East African conference leaders in Rwanda in February. At left, General Secretaries of the four conferences, left to right: Gilbert Nduwayo of Burundi, Jean of Rwanda, Makuza of Eastern Congo, and Daniel Nsubuga of Uganda. Burundi and Kenya Conferences are currently World Federation members.



People at the East Africa Conference in Rwanda in February.

From the Archives: Federation Sessions in Brazil, 2003



World Federation Member Groups

Australia Association of SDBs

Karl Rudd, Secretary

Brazil SDB Conference

Leonildo Lebkuken, President

British Conference of SDBs

Owen Lynch, Executive Secretary

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

Devon Levy, President

Kenya SDB Conference

Benard Nyauebere Mose, Bishop

Central Africa Conference (Malawi)

Peter Mwango, 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

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or

by Pay Pal on our Web site:

<http://www.sdbwf.org>