



Seventh Day Baptist World

August 2016

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Seventh Day Baptists from Sixteen Countries Expected in Brazil Six months until Federation's 8th Session begins in Curitiba, January 22-28



Chácara Esperança
Hope Farm

Brazil Conference President João Teles and Host Committee Chairman Douglas Machado assure us that arrangements are in place to welcome World Federation delegates and observes to Curitiba, Paraná, for the 8th Session of the SDB World Federation. Over fifty have pre-registered to attend according to WF General Secretary Andrew Samuels. Building on his theme, "The Kingdom of God is Like....," Federation President Dale Thorngate completed the week-long program and confirmed all the presenters (preachers, Bible study and worship leaders, workshop teachers, and committee chairmen).



Teles



Machado

Observers are welcome and may contact Samuels for pre-registration forms and information. Daily cost for them for food and lodging at the sessions venue will be about US\$50.00. Hotels are also available in the area. Machado continues to place additional information on the sessions web site (2017.sdbwf.org). Included already is information on Curitiba, travel, visas, and the sessions venue, Chácara Esperança, in Bonda do Campo, 30 km (19 miles) from downtown Curitiba. Also on the Website is a copy of the week's program plus photos and biographical sketches of presenters as they become available.

Uganda SDB Conference Accepted as Federation Member



Samuels & Nsubuga

Following recommendation of the WF Executive Committee last January, Federation member groups returned their mail and e-mail ballots so that in May General Secretary Samuels announced "with an immeasurable sense of joy" that "by an affirmative vote of 15 of our 18 member Conferences" the Uganda SDB Conference was accepted into membership in the Federation. He noted that their General Secretary, Rev. Daniel Nsubuga, is planning to be with us in Brazil for the sessions.

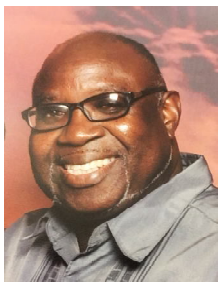
Uganda's application reports 11 churches and 10 cell groups, 6 ordained ministers and 3 unordained, 239 members plus many children, and three schools (a junior school, an orphanage/elementary school, and a vocational and high school.) In 2014, Uganda hosted a conference of East Africa SDB leaders from Kenya, Rwanda, and Burundi. The photo of Pastor Nsubuga with Pastor Samuels (left) was taken at that time. Following his November 2015 visit, Missionary Society Executive Clinton Brown noted that "Uganda SDBs struggle mightily ministering to orphans of HIV and war, and also trying to bring education and the gospel to their communities."



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: SDB World Federation--A Foretaste of Eternity



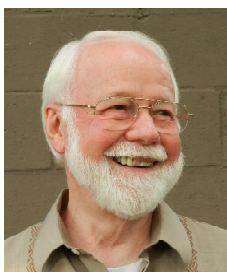
Andrew Samuels

We are now just about six months away from the eighth Session of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, scheduled for Curitiba, Brazil, January 22-28, 2017. Delegates have been named by most of the member Conferences, Observers have indicated their intent to attend, the applicable visa process for traveling to Brazil is being undertaken by those who need it, President Rev. Dr. Dale Thorngate has outlined an exciting program for the week, and we are full of anticipation for the deepening and broadening of our understanding of what "The Kingdom Of God Is Like."

The prospect of assembling in Brazil from six of the seven continents of the world reminds me that throughout Scripture we are confronted with the undeniable truth that the world (place) is God's parish, and the world (people) are His family. His mission is to reconcile His estranged family back to Himself. At the beginning of the Bible (Genesis 12:2-3), God promises to make of Abraham a great nation and bless all the families of the earth through him. In the middle of the Bible (Psalm 67:2-4), the nations of the earth are exhorted to be glad and sing for joy that His salvation may be known among all nations, and at the end of the Bible

Continued, page 3

President's Message: The Kingdom of God is like...



Dale Thorngate

"Again, the kingdom of heaven [God] is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. (Matthew 13: 45-46) NIV

As many of us prepare for the Federation sessions next January in Curitiba, Brazil, I am challenging all Seventh Day Baptists to reflect on our sessions theme, "The kingdom of God is like..." Jesus told many parables to describe God's Kingdom. The Gospels sometimes refer to it as the kingdom of heaven, sometimes as the kingdom of God. I believe that Jesus understood God had sent him to bring God's kingdom to earth, to share with his disciples and they with all people.

In the precious pearl parable, Jesus talked about the most important thing for us to seek in our lives. If our focus, as disciples of Jesus, is to "seek God's kingdom first," then we should be seeking for the finest of pearls every day as we serve him. When I reflect on my own life, I realize I have received many pearls, both in my ministry and my family life. Too often I was unaware that I was already present in God's kingdom. So this year I am challenged to consciously be seeking the pearls of greatest value every day. And as we approach the coming SDB World Federation Sessions, I challenge you to seek and find and name and value the pearls that God intends for you, each day, as you serve him.

Pastor Dale

World Federation CALENDAR: 2016-2017

July 10-16, 2016 -- **Jamaica Annual Conference**, Maiden Hall Conference Center, St. Mary, Jamaica

July 28-30, 2016 -- **Guyana SDB Annual Conference**

July 31 - August 6 -- **USA & Canada Annual Conference**, Houghton College, Houghton, New York

September 23-25 -- **Australia Association Family Camp**

January 20-22, 2017 -- **Brazil Family Conference Bi-Annual Sessions**, Curitiba, Parana, Brazil

January 22-28, 2017 -- **World Federation Sessions in Curitiba, Parana, Brazil**

Treasurer Reports Good Response to Fund Raising. More Needed!

Federation Treasurer Gavin Fox's July report at the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year shows annual contributions of \$23,400 compared to \$11,400 last year. Thank you to all who have contributed! Expenses have been kept to a minimum, with no officers' travel this past year. The current balance of \$73,000 is in line with projected budget needs to date with six months remaining for the final push to assure that funds are available for delegate travel. Sessions costs are covered by the WF budget. If member Conferences are able, they pay for their delegates' travel. Many are unable to cover that full cost; some must travel long, costly distances. Thus, extra contributions are solicited to help assure that each member conference will have at least one delegate in attendance--the Semi-Centennial Fund remains open! See below and back page.



Gavin Fox



50th Anniversary

Become a Global Semi-Centennial Partner!

Contribute US\$50 to the Centennial Fund and receive an inflatable globe. Hold the world in your hands--to locate the countries of our member groups and remind you to pray for them and the 50th Anniversary Sessions.



A Foretaste of Eternity, *continued from page 2*

(Revelation 7:9-10), John saw a vision of the future where a multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, were shouting, "Salvation to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

I see the SDB World Federation gathering as a foretaste of that future kingdom event. We'll be privileged to be part of a multiplicity of nationalities, ethnicities, and languages, converging to give unanimous praise to our great and mighty God. In eternity, through Jesus Christ we will be with each other in worship and fellowship. The establishing, developing, and nurturing of relationships across the globe is therefore vital to the kingdom work to which we are called. And it prepares us for how we will be in the world to come. So, let's get a head start and get ready for that reality now. To do that, it means celebrating our unity, embracing our liberty, and valuing our diversity. We can't do that without spending time with each other.

Please pray for the success of the Sessions in Brazil. Please give a financial gift if you are able. Please visit our website at www.sdbwf.org and the Sessions website at <http://2017.sdbwf.org> and our Sessions Facebook page at [www.fb.com/events/1186844428010714/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1186844428010714/)

Nos vemos en Brasil (See you in Brazil).

Pastor Samuels

Happy Golden Anniversary

by Rev. Naval Harley, ISP (International Society of Poets), Poet of Merit 2002

It was August 1964,
Delegates through the door,
On that beautiful summer day,
COWOCO¹ was our nick name,
Coined to fashion what we became,
SDB World Federation alive
In 1965.
Voices of Zilstra, Bahlke, McGeachy²
Left lasting memories for many.
Consultant George had no thorn in the gate³
Would have us talk, listen, and wait,
For his famous phrase, "our old friend HOW."
Secretary Harris⁴ always on hand,
Helped with what we didn't understand.
Jacob and Joseph⁵ whose names rang a bell,
Gave speeches and sermons, taken so well.
By then, my tag "COWOCO kid"⁶
Had nothing to do with what I did.
My task to write COWOCO's impression.⁷
To be guest speaker at a youth session,
Gave me a place in our federation.
Observer at Westerly,⁸ doing the summary,
Representing visitors from the gallery.
My opening sentence, I recall,
"From speechless, motionless, participants all,"
To the roar and laughter resonating,
From every delegate, there attending.
Apartheid committee I then chaired,
To fashion what was to be aired.⁹
The passage of time has much to show,
How our federation grow.
In Europe, the Americas and Asia,
In Caribbean, Africa, Australasia,
The seeds were sown,
The federation grown.
Brazil, *Brasil*,¹⁰ here we come
In two thousand seventeen,
Half century between.
Bom dia or bum gia,¹¹
Igreja baptista do setimo dia.¹²
Testimony to our worthy presidents,

Six in number two in slumber.¹³
Gracias to secretaries six in all.¹⁴
Thanks for accepting this heavenly call.
Reaching people in many lands,
Developing Fellowships, making plans.
Maintaining the global mission tour,
Should we really ask for more.

We say thanks today,
To our God who led us all the way.
To the fiftieth anniversary date,
We now come to celebrate.
HAPPY GOLDEN Anniversary,
FELIZ DOURADO ANIVERSÁRIO.¹⁵ 2015



1964



2003

Editor's Footnotes:

- ¹ Council of World Conferences. Pastor Harley, one of two Jamaica delegates, was one of the nine to sign the proposed constitution.
- ² Delegates Gerben Zilstra (Netherlands), Johannes Bahlke (Germany), James McGeachy (England)
- ³ Dr. George Thorngate, former medical missionary in SDB China mission, Keynote Speaker at CoWoCo
- ⁴ Rev. Everet T. Harris, SDB Missionary Society Executive, later credited (with Gerben Zilstra) for the idea of the SDBWF and its earliest promotion.
- ⁵ Delegates Jacob Tyrrell (Guyana) and Joseph Samuels (Jamaica)
- ⁶ Were you the youngest delegate, Pastor Harley?⁷ Pastor Harley's "Thoughts on CoWoCo" were published in the *Sabbath Recorder* (177:18 p. 9)
- ⁸ He attended the 3rd Federation Session in Westerly, Rhode Island, USA, in 1986.⁹ Delegates to the 1986 session adopted a statement in opposition to Apartheid, at that time the political policy in South Africa demanding segregation of the nation's white and non-white populations. SDBWF had that year accepted the South Africa Conference into membership, and two South Africa delegates attended that session.
- ¹⁰ Spelling of "Brazil" in Portuguese.
- ¹¹ Spelling vs. pronunciation of "Good Day" or "Good Morning" in Portuguese.
- ¹² "Seventh Day Baptist Church" in Portuguese.
- ¹³ WF Presidents Loren Osborn, David Pearson, Thomas Merchant (1 year), James Skaggs, Gabriel Bejjani, Joe Samuels, Dale Thorngate. Three have passed away: Osborn, Samuels, and (since the poem was written), Pearson.
- ¹⁴ Executive/General Secretaries: Alton Wheeler, K. Duane Hurley, Dale Thorngate, Joe Samuels, Jan Lek, Andrew Samuels
- ¹⁵ "Happy Golden Birthday" in Portuguese.

Editor's Note

Pastor Harley, venerable sage, CoWoCo kid, is now "of age."
We honor you for 50 years, times of joy, times of tears.
And please forgive the footnotes spree, attempt to translate
history that, no doubt, spoiled your poetry. JT

Philippines Churches Report Leadership Meetings, National Meetings of United Churches, Unity Meeting of 2 Groups



Pastor Zusimo Marcelo, USDB President, at his home church in Tabuan, Philippines



Unity meeting prayer circle in Cebu City, including Presidents Marcelo & Sanchez

Pastor Maryjane Pacong, Secretary, of the United SDB Churches in the Philippines (USDB), reports on the Conference's national meetings in Zamboanga, Mindanao, January 22-24. It included three-day seminars for church leaders and church family members, anointing of "leaders for the beginning of USDB Philippines restoration," and acceptance of Pastor Teogenes Pestolante of Manila as an affiliated pastor of the conference, thus connecting the new work in the northern island with the conference.

In April, Rev. Michael Spearl, Pastor of the Bradenton, Florida, USA, Church attended a USDB pastor's conference in Negros Oriental, home province of Pastor Zusimo Marcelo, the USDB President. He reports that "After the pastor's conference, the USDB Conference leadership traveled to Cebu City, Cebu Province, to meet with the leadership of the SDB Philippine Conference, including their Conference President Sanchez. There, a "resolution was agreed upon to build a relationship between the conferences and to foster fellowship with the objective of forming an umbrella association under which both conferences can work together." President Marcelo and WF Vice President Al Paypa will be delegates in Brazil from USDB, and a fraternal delegate from the Philippine Conference will also attend. Photo's are from Pastor Spearl's April visit.



President Marcelo

Zambia TIME Program Finishes Modules in November

The two-year TIME program in Zambia, six sets of two modules each, will be finished by the end of 2016 when WF General Secretary Andrew Samuels and Pastor Ericessen Cooper of the New York City, NY, SDB Church will be the teachers for the final classes.

The program is a cooperative effort between the SDB Missionary Society and the Zambia SDB Conference. Nicholas Kersten, USA, and Garfield Miller, Jamaica, taught the 4th set of modules on SDB History, Polity, and Christian Education in April. Dustin and Jonathan Mackintosh, USA, taught preaching, worship, and pastoral theology in July. The plan is for pastors and church leaders taking these courses in English to then teach leaders in their own regions.



*Zambia Conference
General Secretary
Quistin Chalwe
TIME program
coordinator in
Zambia*

Visit with Burundi SDBs

"Burundi SDBs face a continuing crisis of civil unrest and the leaders of this WF conference are subject to persecution by a corrupt and blood-thirsty political regime. The challenges with their government have forced many SDBs to become refugees in the neighboring countries and created an economic downturn that impacts the whole society." From Oct. 2015 trip report by Missionary Society Executive Clinton Brown.



South Africa Conference

In April, Missionary Society Executive Director Clinton Brown visited SDBs in South Africa accompanied by Douglas Machado of the Brazil Conference. They were taken into the home of the family of James Siwani near Port Elizabeth. They visited the facilities in Port Elizabeth and with members in the suburb of Uitenhage. Pastor Siwani continues as President and the General Secretary of the South Africa Conference is Mazaleni Mfundisi-Schaap.

In Memorium: Rev. David C. Pearson 1931-2016



David Pearson served as President of the SDB World Federation from 1977-1979, chairing the 1978 sessions in Alfred, NY, USA. He and his wife Bettie, who served the mission in Malawi for a total of 28 years between 1954 and 2001, were accompanied by Delegate Watson Mataka to the 1978 session, by A. K. Harawa, left, to the 1986 session, and, after their retirement, by WF Vice President Nedd Lozani and his wife Alefa, Malawi delegates, in 2008 (right). Obituaries for both David and Bettie (1931-2015) are in the *Sabbath Recorder*, Jan. & July-Aug. 2016. David wrote a history of the work in Malawi, *Seventh Day Baptists in Central Africa* (2003), from its origins in 1898. Bettie wrote her own book, *A Hundredfold: Memories of Missionary Life in Africa* (2010). We are grateful to God for their service.



Presenters at the 2017 WF Sessions include **Preachers:** Jonas & Clarice Sommer (Brazil), Devon Levy (Jamaica), Al Paypa (Philippines), Gabriel Bejjani (USA), Jacob Tyrrell (Guyana), Andrew Samuels (USA); **Bible Study Leaders:** Patrick Wella (Malawi), Claudia Ferguson (Jamaica), Canaan Phiri (Malawi), Bernardino de Vargas (Brazil), Naval Harley (Jamaica); **Seminar Leaders:** John Pethtel (Leadership & Administration), Janet Thorngate (SDB History), Claudir Oliveira (Youth & Young Adults), Dale Thorngate (Covenant), Clinton Brown (Century Missions); **Panel Discussion on Leadership Training** (each Conference represented), moderators Brown & Samuels.

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 Conf. (Andhra Pradesh)

Paul Chukka, President

Jamaica SDB Conference

Devon Levy, President

Kenya SDB Conference

Benard Nyakebere Mose, Bishop

Central Africa Conference (Malawi)

Patrick Wella, General 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

Zusimo Marcelo, President

Poland, Sabbath Day Christian Ch.

Robert Cyganik, Contact Person

South Africa SDB Conference

Nyaniso James Siwani, President

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 currently sought to fund the 2017 sessions in Brazil but are welcome for country projects or general 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>