



UT OMNES  
UNUM SINT

## Assembly affirms prophetic role for students

WSCF's 34th General Assembly has set out strong new directions for the global Student Christian Movement, embodying the Assembly theme, 'Your sons and daughters shall prophesy'. The Assembly resoundingly affirmed the responsibility of Christian students to work for global justice, peace and reconciliation with the reign of God's love as their hope and their calling.

High on the agenda for the next four years are building up solidarity and advocacy work, increasing communications and networking between movements, strengthening capacity at all levels of the Federation and enhancing Biblical and theological foundations for action in the world. Key areas for attention include gender justice and leadership audits and training in dialogue skills for global conversations and interfaith contexts.

Meeting from August 1-9, the Assembly gathered more than 160 Christian student leaders from around the globe at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf in Montreal, Canada, to review the Federation's work, share their movements' stories and plan for the future. The Assembly's opening worship offered a stirring and impassioned call to prophetic action, given by preacher Rev. Dr James Forbes who challenged SCMs to go out and be catalysts for change like those who had attended WSCF's 1959 meeting in Athens, Ohio, USA.

**"Because of justice - that had been preached, and strategies that had been brought together - at the World Student Christian Federation (in 1959); students went back to Greensboro. They decided that segregation was wrong. So they went down to the Five and Dime (the Woolworths Five and Dime), and they sat down and insisted that, "Although we are of a different colour, all God's children have a place at the table of brotherly love".**



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That now-famous 1960 Greensboro anti-segregation sit-in helped to spark off the US Civil Rights movement. Dr Forbes' message was loud and clear. Students going out from a WSCF Assembly, acting in the power of the Holy Spirit, will surely change the world.

Moving testimonies from SCMs Burma, Timor Leste, Zimbabwe, Belarus, Iraq and the Philippines underlined the urgency of change the Federation is called to make. Each testimony revealed the struggles of SCMs who operate under constant threat to their existence, or who suffer from outright persecution. Their stories offered a stark reminder that for some of the Federation's 105 national movements, the choice to stand up for God's justice against the status quo places them directly in the firing line. Later in the week, substantial resolutions on political situations committed SCMs to solidarity and advocacy for countries where Christians and those striving for justice face the spectre of political repression, military suppression and environments of poverty and desperation.

The Assembly heard keynote speeches from Dr. Rubem Alves, Dr. Gregory Baum, Senator Nancy Ruth, Rev. Dr. Patricia Kirkpatrick and Dr. John Coleman, who shared their analysis, wisdom and experience. Poetic imagination, prophetic religion, political engagement, the insights of Biblical prophetic traditions, drawing on the Federation's rich history and building up the Student Christian Movement came through key ways to work for a better world. An indigenous welcome to Canada from the Cree Nation and local church leaders connected the Assembly with its Canadian hosts and the city of Montreal. Worship with local churches and exposure visits to local communities and organisations strengthened the delegates' sense of the Montreal context; its Christian and indigenous communities and those carrying out prophetic work amongst the poor and marginalised. The Assembly was preceded by Women's and Men's Assemblies, which engaged delegates in discussion of gender justice issues. The Men's Pre-Assembly studied male identities and role models and was resourced by the White Ribbon campaign, a global men's programme to prevent violence against women. The Women's Pre-Assembly heard reports on WSCF women's activities, studied Biblical texts and worked on meeting participation strategies. Its second day was held at Canada's Parliament in Ottawa, where senior friend Senator Nancy Ruth spoke on her work for women's rights in national politics.

Common worship framed the Assembly's days, with morning worship led by students from different regions, the midday Eucharist celebrated by local church leaders and ecumenical evening prayer led by an international array of women and men, students, staff and resource people.

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# Assembly affiliates four national movements



Delegates of the newly affiliated movements are from left: Mr. Juan Luis Loza León (Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano por la Equidad México), Ms. Helivete Bezerra (Movimento Ecumenico de Estudantes de Teologia Brasil), Mr. Francisco Soares (Movimento Estudante Cristao Timor Leste) and Mr. Fady Fouad Amin (Iraqi Christian Youth Committee).

Photo: ©WSCF / J. Clarke-Morris

WSCF's 2008 General Assembly has newly affiliated four national movements to the Federation. Student Christian Movements in Timor Leste, Iraq, Mexico and Brazil were warmly welcomed into full WSCF membership on 5 August. Both the Iraqi and Timorese SCMs are new movements that have been in formation since the previous General Assembly in 2004. For Iraq Christian Youth Committee Chairperson, Mr. Fady Fouad Amin it was a great opportunity to come to the first Assembly attended by

the Iraqi movement, "We are very happy to achieve this affiliation, to meet our brothers and sisters from WSCF, to learn from their experience and to contribute to the life of the Movement. It is also an important opportunity to share our movement's stories and problems - especially of how we live in this terrible situation where Christians are really suffering. Churches become targets for car bombings and our priests and leaders are kidnapped and killed. This is our chance to let our voice reach to everywhere in this

world," he said. Well-established Latin American movements (Movimiento Estudiantil Cristiano por la Equidad México and Movimento Ecumenico de Estudantes de Teologia Brasil - MEET) were upgraded from associate to affiliate membership by the Assembly. Mr. Juan Luis Loza León reported that since becoming an associate WSCF member, the MEC por la Equidad has worked in three Mexican universities. It organises its life around programmes and projects on themes such as migration and globalisation, engaging in written and multimedia communications, theological study and work with civil society and social movements.

Nominations committee Chair, Prof. Wong Wai Ching (Hong Kong) explained how the four movements had fulfilled all the requirements for affiliation to the Federation. Each national movement had shown that its aims, work and nature were in full harmony with the Federation's aim of calling students to witness to God and God's coming reign of justice and peace within the academic community and beyond. The four movements had each proven sufficient in size, numbers of branches per country and presence in institutions of higher education. In addition, each movement had met the final important qualification of demonstrating suitable stability, strength and growth. On August 5 the General Assembly plenary confirmed WSCF's acceptance of the four new affiliations with a standing ovation.

# WSCF establishes Zimbabwe advocacy office

WSCF has established a Zimbabwe human rights office at the Federation's headquarters in Geneva, to advocate for the people of Zimbabwe at the UN, in NGO forums and in the ecumenical movement.

The new Zimbabwe Advocacy Office (ZAO) was set up in partnership with the Swiss agency, Foundation for Development and Partnership in Africa (FEPA) as a response to calls for WSCF action from the Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe and senior friends in the Zimbabwean diaspora. Zimbabwean SCMs expressed the urgent need for independent global action on human rights abuses being carried out by the Mugabe regime.

The Zimbabwe Advocacy Office's work builds on the advocacy efforts started earlier this year by WSCF and the World YWCA. Since March the two organisations have established a Zimbabwe information-sharing and action forum in the Ecumenical Centre and successfully kept the case of Zimbabwe before the Ecumenical Movement. Vigils have been held in front of the UN

and letters have been sent to the African Union, SADC and the UN. The ZAO has made urgent interventions with the UN Human Rights Council's special procedures and humanitarian agencies based in Geneva to mobilise protection for frontline activists under threat, as well as emergency humanitarian relief. This year the ZAO brought Zimbabwean activists Bishop Levee Kadenge of the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance and SCMZ General Secretary Prosper Munatsi to Geneva to brief UN, NGO and ecumenical organisations.

Human rights lawyer and former SCM Zimbabwe General Secretary Mr. Marlon Zakeyo (28) has been appointed to staff the Zimbabwe Advocacy Office. Overseen by WSCF and a Zimbabwe Reference Group, Mr. Zakeyo works closely with WSCF, the World Council of Churches and the World YWCA. He co-ordinates advocacy actions with other international ecumenical organisations, as well as maintaining links with SCMZ and human rights organisations in Zimbabwe. Recently the Zimbabwe Advocacy Office has launched a blogspot to keep SCMs and

other interested parties informed of developments in the humanitarian and political situation and to provide suggested strategies for action on human rights issues. Primary concerns of the ZAO at the close of 2008 are

stepping up advocacy on the humanitarian crisis and building contacts with African embassies in Geneva. According to SCMZ senior friend and Save Zimbabwe Campaign New Zealand Co-ordinator Mr. Mandla Akhe Dube, the establishment of the office is a very appropriate form of active solidarity for the Federation to take, "This office has brought the plight of millions of Zimbabweans to the forefront - it shows great vision by WSCF to build on public awareness against Mugabe's excesses at this time," he said. The ZAO blog can be found at <http://zimbabwenevra.blogspot.com/>



Marlon Zakeyo | ©WSCF / A. Lapéz



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Delegates met daily in small groups drawn from across the cultural, linguistic, confessional and theological spectrum, where they engaged with Scripture through Biblical studies prepared by Canadian scholars. Each day, four Assembly Commissions met to define and refine priorities for the Federation's work in Ecumenical Leadership formation, Solidarity and advocacy, Biblical and theological study and Capacity Building. Common issues that emerged from the commissions as WSCF's priorities for the next four years were; economic justice (poverty, the food crisis, fuel), interfaith dialogue, environmental sustainability in the light of climate change, diversity and discrimination (ethnic, indigenous, sexual, religious). The Assembly encountered challenges when discussion arose on human sexuality, a subject that drew out widely different beliefs throughout the cultural and theological strands of the Federation. WSCF has committed itself to dialogue training and to finding considered, careful ways of respectfully addressing this issue. Assembly participants affirmed the value of annual themes as a way to effectively create common programmes and discourse, and emphasised the need to build up direct communications between national movements through web-based interactive forums, online issues networking, joint programmes and exchanges.

The Assembly heard reports of the Federation's work from the six Regional Secretaries, which demonstrated the diversity, vitality and ongoing importance of WSCF's work at local, national and regional levels. The global life of the

Federation was presented in reports from outgoing Chairperson Dr. Kenneth Guest, while Honorary Treasurer Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky explained the stabilised financial situation of the 2004-2008 quadrennium. General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace gave an overview of Inter-Regional programmes and developments in Inter-Regional advocacy, staffing and fundraising. As well as electing new leaders for the quadrennium (see separate story) the Assembly thanked outgoing officers and members of the 2004-8 Executive Committee for their service to the Federation over the last four years. The Ecumenical Assistance Programme's vital role in WSCF life and insights from its current evaluation were presented to the Assembly, which also heard a report from the Centennial Fund on developments in WSCF's endowment. A highlight of the Assembly was the interaction and input of 50 senior friends of WSCF, meeting alongside the GA at Assembly venue Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf. Senior friends joined the GA on August 7, to meet the current student generation and to share their insights and experience from more than seven decades of ecumenical endeavour. The collective memory brought by the senior friends gave a depth to the event that was warmly welcomed by many, including Lebanese student Ms. Asdghig Jamboulian, "The senior friends contributed so much. Their SCM and WSCF stories showed us different paths of being Christian than many of us would have thought of." Senior friends, church and ecumenical leaders sent greetings to the Assembly, including WCC General Secretary Rev.

Dr. Sam Kobia, the General Secretaries of YWCA, YMCA, WARC and NCCUSA, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Cardinal Walter Casper, Brother Alois of the Taizé community, Very Rev. Hon. Dr. Lois Wilson and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Assembly was supported by the Canadian Host Committee convened by former WSCF Vice-chair, Dr. Mario DeGiglio Bellemare. Conference co-ordination was carried out by Ms. Jane Sorensen and Ms. Catherine Johansson, with the support of a team of North American stewards, co-ordinated by Montreal SCMer, Ms. Emily Carr. Delegates were accompanied throughout the event by local UCC and Anglican chaplains. The Assembly's inspiring impact on this generation would not have been possible without the support of its able team of interpreters, technicians and the generosity of WSCF's funding partners and friends. Kenyan SCMer Edwin Opiyo summed up his feelings on the power of the event for the Assembly's closing worship,

"We have finished, but we have just begun the journey of the 34th General Assembly - as we go out we have been renewed, regenerated and recalled to a new prophecy, to rejoice and become the new Apostles, that we ourselves should be the change that we want to see".

Photo: GA participants pictured on the steps of Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf.  
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For more reflections and pictures from the General Assembly, see its website: <http://ga.wscfglobal.org>



# Federation commissions leaders for new quadrennium

The 34th General Assembly has commissioned new leaders for the global Student Christian Movement. Two new officers and a new Executive Committee will guide the Federation as it carries out its newly-articulated prophetic mission over the next four years.

Mr. Horacio Mesones (Uruguay) has been elected Chairperson and Ms. Janejinda Pawadee (Thailand) Vice-Chairperson, while Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky (Egypt) and Rev. Michael Wallace (Aotearoa New Zealand) have been returned to the roles of Honorary Treasurer and General Secretary respectively. The Federation's new Executive Committee (ExCo) is made up of officers, partner representatives and two members each from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East and North America regions.

Newly-elected Chair Horacio Mesones (43), is a former WSCF Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region Chairperson and served as LAC Regional Secretary from 2000-2005. A member of the Methodist Church of Uruguay, he was previously a WSCF Executive Committee member. Horacio is currently Director of Advisory Services for CREAS, a regional ecumenical organisation based in Buenos Aires that provides capacity building for the ecumenical movement in eight Latin American countries. Elected by a two-thirds majority, Mr Mesones is enthusiastic about his new role. He has identified four key goals for this quadrennium:

- To promote learning and capacity building in SCMs by strengthening critical Biblical, theological and political reflection and deepening the reflection on diversity
- To build alliances with ecumenical, interfaith

and university networks and UN agencies for deeper learning and effective social action

- To promote local resource mobilisation and diversification at SCM level and sharing resources among regions and with other organisations

- To promote a committed spirituality among students, to encourage advocacy of peace and justice in communities and societies around the world.

Mr Mesones is the second Latin American Chairperson in the Federation's 113-year history and third Latin American officer. Prof. Juan Antonio Franco (Puerto Rico) was Chairperson from 1981-86, while Rev. Paulo Pena Schutz (Brazil) served as Vice-chair from 1990-95. Horacio is the second Uruguayan to serve WSCF at the global level, compatriot Rev. Valdo Galland was General Secretary from 1961-68.

Ms. Janejinda Pawadee (43) was elected Vice-Chairperson by an overwhelming majority. A member of the Church of Christ in Thailand, Ms. Pawadee was an SCM leader as a student. From 1986-9 she was an Asia-Pacific Regional Women's Committee member and later served on the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) Urban Rural Mission Board. Janejinda is presently Co-ordinator of CCA's Mekong Ecumenical Partnership Programme. In her current role, she works in capacity building, human rights advocacy, HIV and AIDS education and sustainable development.

Ms. Pawadee looks forward to supporting solidarity building between SCMs as well as within and between societies at the local, national, regional and global levels. "I would like to see SCMs become more compassionate, so that they in turn can move the hearts of other students and

their broader communities to care for those who are marginalised and in need," she said. Ms. Pawadee hopes that through her role as Vice-Chair she can empower SCMs to be communities of change, for the ongoing transformation of both the students and their societies.

Janejinda is the first person from Thailand to be elected officer in the Federation's history.

Two leaders from the previous quadrennium were unanimously re-elected by the Assembly. Mr Kamal Shawky is a professional accountant, a member of the Coptic Orthodox Church and Co-ordinator of Cairo's University Student Christian Association. Michael Wallace (38) was returned as General Secretary.

A member of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Youhanna is Co-ordinator of the University Student Christian Association in Cairo and a professional accountant. Since his election as Treasurer in 2004, Youhanna has ably supported WSCF's global budgeting and financial management. In this term he would like to help WSCF build up its resources and increase support to SCMs, through investing in relationships with senior friends, proactive fundraising and developing new funding partners.

Michael Wallace is a deacon of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia and former staff of SCM Aotearoa. The Federation's Search Committee recommended Mr Wallace for another term, after positively assessing his work on global programmes, administration and management over the last four years and taking into account a thorough performance review of his work conducted this year.

WSCF's constitution requires that a student be elected to the position of officer, but this year's Assembly did not select a student for the role. At the Assembly's request the Executive Committee has re-opened the search process and will elect a student Vice-chair in December 2008.



Photo: ©WSCF/J. Clarke-Morris

**Executive Committee members and staff are pictured at the first meeting of the new ExCo, immediately following the 34th Assembly.**

**Back row from left:** Noah Gillespie (USA), Michael Wallace (Aotearoa New Zealand, General Secretary), Andrés López (Uruguay, Communications Intern), Sameh Effat Fahmy (Egypt), Dan Gonzalez Ortega (Mexico, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Secretary), Horacio Mesones (Uruguay, Chairperson).

**Middle row:** Georgine Kengne Djeutane (Cameroon, Africa Regional Secretary), Youhanna Kamal Shawky (Egypt, Honorary Treasurer), Janejinda Pawadee (Thailand, Vice-Chairperson), Jooa Vuorinen (Finland, Europe Regional Secretary), Sarahí Garcia Gomez (Cuba), Lydia Nabunya (Uganda), Elsy Wakil (Lebanon, Middle East Regional Secretary), Christine Housel (USA, Project Manager), Luciano Kovacs (Italy, North America Regional Secretary).

**Front row:** Leni Valeriano (Philippines), Necta Montes Rocas (Philippines, Asia-Pacific Regional Secretary), Verónica Biech (Argentina), Hannah Satlow (Austria), Colette Salem (Lebanon), Alice Glaze (Canada), Ruth Ngotty (Cameroon).

# Senior Friends rejoice in WSCF renewal

A global Senior Friends Gathering held in tandem with WSCF's General Assembly has reconnected, inspired and energised friends of the Federation. For Finnish senior friend Ilari Rantakari the gathering was a "wonderful and historic event. It gave a lot of joy and convinced (at least me) that the WSCF work continues and is supported by the earlier generations".

The August 4-8 gathering brought 50 senior friends ranging in age from under 30 to over 90, from 19 countries. For former SCM UK and Ireland staff Dr. Salters Sterling, it was impressive to meet SCMs spanning all the decades from the 1930s to 2000s,

"It was deeply moving to both witness and be a part of such a congregation of ecumenical saints. Across the years and from around the world we had come because of what we believed and tried to live. Our memory chain had a completeness of links taking us back to our original visionaries, even to John R. Mott himself. We had been convened not a moment too soon."

With its theme from Acts 2:17, "your sons and daughters shall prophesy and your elders shall dream dreams," the gathering included reflection on "Forty years since Turku 1968" with a panel discussion on the watershed WSCF conference held at the height of the student revolution. Organised by Rev. Alice Hageman (USA) and Dr. Christine Ledger (Australia), the programme of worship, Bible study, panel discussions and keynote addresses was described by Dr. Sterling as "vintage SCM". Former WSCF Chair Prof. Wong Wai Ching (Hong Kong), current Africa Regional Secretary Ms. Georgine Kengne Djeutane and Rev. Dr Paul Oestreicher (New Zealand/UK) who was a resource person at Turku 1968,



Photo: © WSCF / J. Clarke-Morris

offered challenging Bible studies on dreams, visions, radicalism and prophecy. Worship throughout the event was organised by Presbyterian minister Rev. Ann Owens Brunger (USA). Brazilian theo-poet Dr. Rubem Alves' keynote speech took the group on a journey of discovery, into the power and promise of poetry - as a form of transformation and of breaking open the limits of the possible.

The address of Dr. Gregory Baum (Canada) introduced both students and senior friends to the vital roles of priestly and prophetic religion, claiming the prophetic task for SCMs and all those who believe in striving for justice in the world.

A highlight of the gathering was the interaction with the General Assembly delegates; during mealtimes, through WSCF staff reports, in welcomes from SCM Canada and the stewards and in the day shared with the Assembly on August 7. Many senior friends recalled the time when students had made a wholesale rejection of their elders and wondered whether any meaningful meeting with this student generation would

be possible. For Dr. Sterling and many others, the day the senior friends joined the Assembly confirmed that the student attitude has "changed utterly",

"That day was a transfiguring experience, convincing all of us that whatever else, a new day had dawned. Remembrance, worship, keynote address, bible study, panel presentation and Commission discussions were all shared. We were overwhelmed with friendship, love-bombed with graciousness, listened to with interest and delight. Words are inadequate vehicles by which to convey the genuineness of the fellowship that was created"

The senior friends who gathered in Montreal were so enthusiastic about the experience that they have recommended that a similar meeting take place during the next General Assembly in 2012.

The full Senior Friends' Gathering report can be found on the GA website, <http://ga.wscfglobal.org>

## Former WSCF Secretary attends general meetings - 70 years apart



John Coleman © WSCF / J. Clarke-Morris

An extraordinary story from this year's General Assembly is that of Canadian senior friend, Dr John Coleman, who attended this year's Assembly exactly seventy years after attending his first WSCF General Meeting in 1938.

The 20-year old John Coleman represented Canadian SCM at WSCF's 18th General Committee (as the Assembly was then known) in Bievres, France, from 8-18 August, 1938. This August 7-9, 90-year old John Coleman attended the 34th Assembly in Montreal, making it 70 years to the day between the two meetings.

In 1938, Christian students were present from 36

countries, but the majority of voting delegates were European and North American. In his address to this year's Assembly, Dr. Coleman was pleased to see changes in the make-up of WSCF,

"One of the interesting things about this conference is that there is such a large proportion of people from outside Europe and North America. That's a great step forward. It's a realisation of an ambition that's been going on a long time amongst the Federation secretaries since Robert Mackie (Gen. Sec. 1938-48)," he said.

In 1938, emerging movements in Brazil, Belgium, Poland, Yugoslavia and West Africa appear, while affiliated movements report from China and Bulgaria, and SCM Iran is recommended for future affiliation.

1938's outgoing General Secretary Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft noted that the political situation was impinging more directly on WSCF, which was "no longer an organisation that governments would naturally or normally tolerate". Lithuanian and German SCMs had recently been closed down by political forces - in Germany, by the head of the police. The 1938 Committee wrote to Japan's student YMCA requesting the continued participation of Korean students in WSCF life, after the incorporation of Korean YMCA into the Japanese YMCA.

Visser 't Hooft reported on 1935-38 saying it had focused on building up the "Christian Community" that was strong in service to the Gospel, open to all and radically Christian in its political independence. In one of the opening keynote speeches, Vice-Chair Mr. Kiang Wen-Han (China) described the world's "glorification of dictatorship, military power and the "realism" of power politics", as the antithesis of Christian community. The 1938 meeting produced a three-year plan, published for use and adaptation by the SCMs.

After WWII, John went to Geneva as WSCF's University Secretary, to engage teaching staff and students on the Christian's contribution to university life. John's book, 'The Christian in the University' was translated into German, French and was said to have been the first foreign Christian writing published in Japanese after WWII. While working for WSCF, John met his future wife Marie-Jeanne de Haller, WSCF's Bible Secretary.

John was WSCF staff during the 19th General Committee (Bossey, 1946) and finished in Geneva after the 20th General Committee in Whitby, Canada. He went on to become Professor of Physics at Queen's University, Kingston Ontario. Ending his address to the 34th General Assembly, Dr Coleman commented positively on today's Federation,

"What is particularly characteristic of this meeting, which pleases me so much, is the fact that on the one hand you are making this very clear political, economic statement, a critique of our society, and with that I completely agree - but, instead of making that the whole thing - your prayers, and your singing together, impressed me very much. The whole feeling of the meeting has rekindled my faith in the Federation".



# Trustees set new goals for WSCF endowment



**Centennial Fund Board of Trustees in May 2008.** Back row from left: Prof. Bungaran Saragih (Indonesia), Rev. Werner Gebert (Germany), Ms. Marsha Loughheed Paige (Trinidad & Tobago), Ms. Betsy Anderson (Canada), Ms Inger-Lise Olsen (Norway). Front row from left: Rev. Jorges Domingues (Brazil), Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky (Egypt).

Photo: ©WSCF / Clarke-Morris

The Board revised its ethical investment policy to specify bans on companies profiting from involvement in armaments, gambling, prostitution, distilled alcohol, vivisection or repressive political regimes.

The Fund's Investment Advisory Group reported on the balance of the Fund's investment portfolio, while the US Trustees and WSCF Canada reported on recent fundraising work amongst senior friends.

Trustees welcomed new Fund Development Officer Ms. Marsha Loughheed Paige (Trinidad & Tobago) to the meeting for the first time.

Marsha will spearhead fundraising for the endowment, work on long term

(Philippines). Trustees elected two experienced global ecumenists to the Board. Newly-elected President of the Board, Dr. Martin Conway (UK) has a long ecumenical career as social justice activist, interpreter, editor and was three times a member of WSCF's staff. WSCF Study Secretary from 1961, he later served as WSCF Europe Secretary and then as Publications and Editorial Secretary. British Council of Churches Ecumenical Affairs Secretary from 1974-83, he then spent ten years as President of the Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham.

The Fund has appointed ecumenist and social justice activist Ms. Alice-Jean (AJ) Finlay (Canada) to its Board. An Anglican Church of Canada member, Ms. Finlay is a former member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee, the International Executive Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin and has served as the World Day of Prayer International Committee Chair. Since 2004 she has been a Board member of the Canadian churches' social justice advocacy organisation KAIROS.

Recognising the importance of WSCF's 34th General Assembly, the Board sent Ms. Inger-Lise Olsen (Vice-President), Rev. Jorge Domingues (Secretary) and FDO Marsha Loughheed Paige to join Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky (WSCF Treasurer) in reporting to the GA and Senior Friend's gathering. The Board made a grant of US\$90,000 to support the General Assembly.

WSCF's Centennial Fund Board of Trustees has identified ambitious new fundraising targets for the Federation's endowment.

At its annual meeting this May, the Board adopted a new fundraising plan with targets of US\$3 million by May 2009, US\$5 million by 2011 and US\$10 million by 2014. The Fund currently stands at around US\$2 million.

strategies for building up the Fund and will manage the work of the Board between meetings. She will work with WSCF staff in Geneva and regional offices and will be supported by an administrative assistant and a Development Advisory Group established by the Board. The Board thanked and farewelled outgoing President Rev. Werner Gebert (Germany) and Secretary Ms. Clarissa Balan

## News from [www.wscfglobal.org](http://www.wscfglobal.org)

The following news briefs introduce longer articles from [www.wscfglobal.org](http://www.wscfglobal.org)

### Call to prayer for Congo

WSCF's Africa Region issued an urgent call for prayer and intercession for the people of North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo this November. The call to prayer names the headlong rush to exploit North Kivu's mineral resources as the cause of the ongoing atrocities being inflicted on the people of the region.

### Indonesian SCM attacked

On 26 August 2008, WSCF was shocked to learn that the national headquarters of WSCF's member movement in Indonesia - Gerakan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia (GMKI), had been raided and GMKI staff had suffered violent police harassment following the movement's public advocacy for freedom of speech in Indonesia.

### SCM India responds to Orissa violence

In September this year WSCF and SCM India joined human rights organisations calling for an end to the communal violence in Orissa and other parts of India, as well as

to demand the perpetrators be brought to justice. SCM India joined protests for a return to freedom of religious affiliation and the practice of inter-religious coexistence and tolerance in India.

### 2007 Red Book and Student World available

The 2007 editions of WSCF's Annual Report - The Red Book and journal Student World are available online, and in hard copy from WSCF's Geneva office.

### SCM Philippines lead WSCF in action against UN GFMD

SCM Philippines (SCMP), appealed to SCMs to take action on the phenomenon of forced migration, to critique and make practical responses to the system described as a modern-day form of slavery. SCMP made its appeal from the WSCF Asia-Pacific women's programme on Migration this October, following the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Manila.

### WSCF calls for democratic resolution of Zimbabwe crisis

WSCF issued a statement affirming Zimbabweans' right to life and calling for an

urgent resolution to the country's political and economic meltdown. The statement was issued alongside WCC, LWF, WARC and the World YWCA this November 14.

### WSCF joins DoV Living Letters

WSCF leaders have joined WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence Living Letters teams on visits to Uganda, South Africa and Haiti this November. Vice-Chair Janejinda Pawadee, Gen. Sec. Michael Wallace and Middle East Regional Secretary Ely Wakil all joined teams to hear stories of violence and reconciliation in each local context. Findings will contribute to WSCF's future programmes and to the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Jamaica in 2011.

### Universal Day of Prayer for Students 2009

The 2009 Universal Day of Prayer for Students will be celebrated on Sunday February 15th. The liturgy will be sent to movements and will be available in French, Spanish and English on WSCF's website from January.

<http://www.wscfglobal.org/universalDayOfPrayerForStudents.php>

# Evaluators highlight EAP potential

An external evaluation of WSCF's Ecumenical Assistance Programme (EAP) has highlighted its potential as a source of development training for SCMs and their communities.

In 2007 an external evaluation of the EAP was called for by principal funder, German Protestant churches' development agency, EED. In November 2008, an interim report by external evaluators TW Welch & Partners outlined findings thus far, making an analysis of the EAP's strengths, challenges and future possibilities. TWWP have assessed the EAP through analysing documents, workshops with WSCF staff and officers and via training and hearing from SCMs at WSCF's General Assembly this August. The report recommends a shift to performance evaluation and an operational mode of continuous improvement at every level of the EAP. At the same time, the recommendations take into consideration the mostly voluntary and often under-resourced context of SCM work and suggest the changes be made "at a realistic pace".

A key issue for EAP is the difference between how projects appear on paper, in comparison to their value and impact in the local settings, "there is much more going on that's positive in terms of EAP, than can be gathered from WSCF's reporting of it to date;...in particular, the

energy and activity evident within the SCMs is striking and impressive", the report states. According to the evaluators, WSCF ideally will move to put in place a 'robust Continuous Performance Improvement (CPI) programme that is well thought out and fully integrated into organisational strategy and resource allocation, for the enhancement of EAP's work in the future".

Two methods are suggested to bring about this change, the first is to build a culture of striving for excellence in the EAP, and the second is to provide an integrated training and evaluation component into the Programme. Proposed training would provide skills in sound project cycle management, proposal writing and reporting, as well as schooling SCMs in the terminology and standards followed by development organisations. The report is enthusiastic about the broader social and developmental impact that could flow on from this upgrade in SCMs' skills.

TWWP's suggestions for ongoing capacity building stretch into the future long after this evaluation is finished and according to WSCF project manager Ms. Christine Housel, have the potential to help SCMs articulate and achieve their own goals more effectively.

Capacity building ideas include an EAP "excellence team" made up of SCMs, ExCo members and development special-

ists, which could make field visits to SCM projects and offer on-site training. Other possibilities include the addition of a capacity-building component to WSCF's leadership training programmes, or specific global EAP training events. Recommendations from the evaluation will be assessed by WSCF's EAP Commission and ExCo, following a preliminary excellence team visit to an EAP project in 2009.

Initial EAP training carried out at this year's Assembly was well received by SCMs. TWWP's Ms. Cathy Williams offered practical training in the Capacity Building Commission, which Indonesian delegate, Rev. Goklas Nababan found a helpful learning experience,

"I was surprised to come to a General Assembly and receive such practical training on how to improve our programmes in Indonesia. I will be able take home what I have learned about project planning, monitoring and evaluation for the use of GMKI (Indonesian SCM) and our ecumenical networks," she said.

According to TWWP's latest report, WSCF demonstrates exactly the attitude needed for EAP to grow, strengthen and thrive, namely a "tremendous enthusiasm, interest and eagerness to learn amongst WSCF activists at all levels of seniority and experience within the organisation."

# Federation supports Myanmar SCM relief work



Photo: ©WSCF/MSCM

Myanmar SCMs distribute clothing to villagers in a cyclone devastated region of Burma, May 2008. WSCF's Cyclone Nargis appeal for MSCM was also supported by an EAP emergency grant.

One of the deadliest cyclones ever recorded hit Myanmar (Burma) on May 2 this year, leaving at least 160,000 people dead and the country devastated.

The Myanmar Student Christian Movement (MSCM) responded rapidly and effectively to the disaster, mobilising SCMs to provide emergency relief and transforming the SCM centre in Yangon into emergency housing. MSCM staff travelled to stricken areas to distribute drinking water, food, salts, medicine, clothing and mosquito nets and provided crisis counselling. SCMs collected money from students and senior friends in Myanmar to provide for those in need. In response to calls for help from MSCM, WSCF launched a global appeal, asking for prayer, and for funds and messages of encouragement to be sent to MSCM. Solidarity messages and financial contributions flowed in from WSCF offices, national movements, students and senior friends. In June Myanmar SCM General Secretary Ms. Kaythi Din Min reported that "MSCM is still doing our best to serve the people, please pray for us. On behalf of MSCM, I'd like to extend my gratitude towards WSCF and all of the SCMs around the world who have expressed their solidarity spirit in various ways."



# In Memoriam

WSCF's 34th General Assembly remembered a number of people close to the Federation's life who had passed away since the 33rd General Assembly in 2004. WSCF members gave thanks and glory to God for all that the following people have offered to WSCF, the church, the ecumenical movement and the world.

**Roderick Aspili** Philippines (24), killed by military operatives, 2006. SCMP regional secretary and chairperson.

**Audrey Abrecht** Canada (88), died 2006. WSCF publications editor, 1949-1973.

**Paul Abrecht** USA (87), died 2005. Christian social ethicist, WCC church & society staff.

**André Appel** France (85), died 2007.

Lutheran World Federation Gen. Sec.

**Charles W. Arbutnot** USA (90), died 2004. Presbyterian minister, WCC staff, helped form Geneva Convention.

**Joel Baclao** Philippines (40), died 2004. Shot by military, SCM leader & human rights activist.

**Elisabeth Behr-Sigel** Russia/France (98), died 2005. Orthodox theologian and women's ministry advocate.

**Robert Bilheimer** USA (89), died 2006. WCC Assemblies 1-3 Coordinator, US Civil Rights & anti-apartheid advocate, WCC Assoc. Gen. Sec.  
**Frederick H. Bronkema** USA (71), died 2005. Ecumenist, helped form Oikocredit, human rights advocate.

**Feliciano Cariño** Philippines (70), died 2005.

WSCF & CCA Gen. Sec., ethicist, theologian.

**Frank Engel** Australia (94), died 2006. WSCF East Asia Secretary, Aus & NZ SCM Gen. Sec.

**Rita England** Aotearoa New Zealand (73), died 2005. Theological librarian and Asian theology research guide editor.

**Tjoa Giok Tjoen** Indonesia, died 2008.

**Vince Goring** Canada (85), died 2008. Anglican priest, social justice activist.

**Marie-Jeanne de Haller Coleman**

Switzerland/Canada (86), died 2006. WSCF Bible Secretary and Acting Gen. Sec.

**Henry Hetland** USA (87), died 2006. Campus minister, WSCF Associate Treasurer.

**Francis House** England (96), died 2004. WSCF staff, WCC Assoc. Gen. Sec.

**Chirapurath I. Itty** India (78), died 2004.

Ecumenist, Youth & development specialist.

**André Jacques** France (81), died 2006. WCC

Secretary for Migration, human rights activist.

**Clement John**, Pakistan (66), died 2008. WCC

International Affairs Commission Director.

**Godfrey Raymond (Fred) Karat** India, died

2007. SCM India Gen. Sec., Ecumenical editor.

**Marianne Katoppo** Indonesia (64), died 2007.

Asian feminist theologian and author.

**Kang Won-Yong** Korea (88), died 2006.

Ecumenist and peace promoter.

**Helene Yaba Koutou** Côte d'Ivoire (26), died

2007. SCM Côte d'Ivoire National Exec. member.

**Jan Milic Lochman** Czech Republic (81), died

2004. Theology Professor, WARC Theology

Chair.

**Robert Lubwama** Uganda, died 2005. WSCF

ExCo proxy, Church of Uganda Youth Secretary.

**Davis McCaughey** Ireland/Australia (90), died 2005. Theologian, Governor of Victoria, Uniting Church of Australia President.

**Peter Musgrove** UK/Australia, died 2005.

Missionary, Australian SCM Gen. Sec.

**Beyers Naudé** South Africa (89), died 2004.

SACC Gen. Sec., anti-apartheid activist.

**Milan Opočenský** Czech Republic (75), died

2007. Theologian, Social ethicist, WSCF Europe

Secretary. WARC Gen. Sec.

**Hayzel Joyce Panganiban** Philippines (23),

killed 2007. St. Tomas University SCM chairper-

son, campaigner for justice.

**William Perkins** USA (80), died 2005. Episcopal

priest, WSCF and WCC organiser and resource

person.

**Eric R. Ram** India (71), died 2006. Public health

promoter and ecumenist, WCC staff.

**Claire Randall** USA (91), died 2007.

WSCF, NCCC USA and Presbyterian leader and

human rights promoter

**Paul Ricoeur** France (92), died 2005.

Hermeneutic philosopher.

**Letty Mandeville Russell** USA (77), died 2007.

Ecumenist, feminist & social justice theologian,

author, theology professor.

**Elizabeth Ann Salter** UK (73), died 2006. WCC

International Affairs Secretary, Ecumenical

communicator.

**Edward "Ted" Scott** Canada (85), died 2004.

Anglican Primate of Canada, WCC Central

Comm. Moderator, social justice activist.

**Brother Roger** Switzerland/France (90), died

2005. Founder of Taizé ecumenical monastic

community.

**Renuka Mukerji Somasekhar** India (86), died

2007. SCM India Chair, CSI Gen. Sec.

**Francesca Spano** Italy (57), died 2007. Protestant

feminist intellectual, author.

**Krister Stendahl** Sweden/USA (84), died 2006.

Swedish Bishop, Dean of Harvard Divinity

School.

**Masao Takenaka** Japan (81), died 2006. Christian

ethicist, WCC Urban-Rural Mission Chair, Asian

Christian arts promoter.

**Loida Marie Valencia** Philippines (19), died

2007. SCMer at Polytechnic University.

**Rein Jan van der Veen** Netherlands (83), died

2004. WCC Prog. to Combat Racism promoter,

Dutch Missionary Council Gen. Sec.

**Han Wenzao** China (83), died 2006. China

Christian Council and Amity Foundation

President.

**Marguerite Wieser** Switzerland (84), died 2006.

Language professor, ecumenical interpreter.

**Ronald Wilson** Australia (82), died 2005. High

Court Judge, Human Rights and Equal Opportu-

nity Commissioner, Aboriginal rights defender,

Uniting Church President.

**Philip Zabriskie** USA (77), died 2005. WSCF

Treasurer, Jungian psychoanalyst, Episcopalian

priest.

The full In Memoriam list as read at the General Assembly can be found at [www.wscfglobal.org](http://www.wscfglobal.org) in the News Archive.



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