

Bringing EAP to new levels of excellence

WSCF's Ecumenical Assistance Programme (EAP) took a leap forward in June when the first Excellence Team was trained to evaluate projects.

Response from evaluators, participants and funders has all been positive in terms of the future of the EAP, which assists projects of SCMs.

The training took place in Amman, Jordan, from 22 to 29 June and was hosted by the Orthodox Youth Fellowship (SCM Jordan) and the Ecumenical Study Centre whose director Archimandrite Prof. Qais Sadiq is a senior friend who supports the Jordanian SCM.

Youth and Women in Participatory Education for Development, the EAP project which was evaluated, offers training to women in the Al-Nuzha and Al-Baq'aa Palestinian refugee camps near Amman. The Palestinian women are offered courses in self knowledge, skills training and marketing for their handcrafts. Courses are led by Jordanian students or senior friends.

The field visit was the final part of an external evaluation of the EAP carried out by T. W. Welch and Partners, Ltd. (TWWP). The firm had realized that the young leaders implementing EAP projects vary widely in their knowledge of project cycle management, reporting, and evaluation. They suggested the visit as a productive way of concluding the evaluation.

The visit provided exposure to an EAP project for the evaluators and training for an Excellence Team. This team will lead the Federation in improving the knowledge of project cycle management and evaluation skills of WSCF students worldwide.

The Excellence Team in Jordan included students who are on the EAP Commission: Mr. Immanuel Kitnan (Sri Lanka), Ms. Hannah Satlow (Austria) and Mr. Brandon Cook (USA) as well as WSCF Honorary Treasurer Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky (Egypt) and WSCF staff (General Secretary, Middle East Regional Secretary and Global Project Manager). The team was reinforced by Jordanian students



▲ Participants in the EAP training programme in Jordan included: (from left) Mr. Laith Khalifah (Jordan), Mr. Mustafa Alkaylani (Jordan), Rev. Michael Wallace (Aotearoa New Zealand), Ms. Dalia Al Houseini (Jordan), Ms. Cathy Williams (UK), Mr. Fadi Wahhab (Jordan), Mr. Immanuel Kitnan (Sri Lanka), Ms. Hind Farahat (Jordan) and (in front) Mr. Brandon Cook (USA) and Ms. Hannah Satlow (Austria).

who work as trainers in the Jordan EAP project and guided by Mr. Jim Welch and Ms. Cathy Williams from TWWP.

"This is a very good move by the WSCF at this crucial time...this is another move to successfully involve the Executive Committee in the decision making process of EAP. I believe that this team can constructively contribute to the life of the movements in managing finances and projects in order to help the movements in their ministries," Mr. Kitnan said.

Ms. Hind Farahat, SCM Jordan's General Secretary, joined those who participated in the training to form an ongoing internal Excellence Team. Student leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa were unable to attend the Jordan evaluation due to visa problems but will be included in the Excellence Team.

The evaluation consisted of a desk study, interviews and internal dissemination of the evaluation's findings. The evaluation team said it was extremely impressed with the impact of

the Jordanian project.

A follow-up training programme focused on project cycle management, evaluation and the EAP is planned for the Latin America and Caribbean region for April 2010.

Funders of the EAP in 2009 are the German Protestant churches' development agency, EED; the Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation; the Waldensian Church; and WSCF's Centennial Fund.

EED, the principal EAP funder, said it was delighted with the evaluation in Jordan and the way the evaluation process is continuing for the future of the EAP.

The EAP currently supports projects in Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Côte D'Ivoire, Cuba, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lesotho, Mexico, Palestine, Philippines, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sudan, Timor Leste and Togo. ■

Endowment bounces back

The Board of Trustees of WSCF's Centennial Fund heard at its annual meeting in May in Geneva how the endowment had suffered from the worldwide financial crisis.

At the end of 2008 the fund's value had dipped by 29 percent. However, by the end of October 2009 the fund had bounced back by 23 percent.

Since its establishment in 1990 the fund has supported two General Assemblies and contributed US \$250,000 to the Federation.

Because of the crisis the usual contribution from the Centennial Fund to WSCF's global work was not available in 2009. Some churches and organisations which normally support WSCF have been unable to do so in 2009. WSCF has had to respond to the financial crisis by reducing staff and activities

As a result, the 2009 Executive Committee meeting was deferred to 2010, and there were staff cuts and reductions in spending. The 60 percent Accountant position was reduced to a 50 percent Finance and Reporting Officer position. Since September the Project Manager has worked only 60 percent and the Communications Intern has worked 50 percent. The Human Rights and Solidarity intern's contract was shortened.

The General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace said that "while the staff cuts in Geneva were painful and it was very disappointing to delay meetings or limit WSCF's participation in events, WSCF looks to be ending the year in good shape."

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Centennial Fund, trustees agreed to assist the Federation by lending US\$70,000. The board agreed to contribute \$5,000 towards the



▲ The Centennial Fund Board of Trustees met in May, including (from left) Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky (Egypt), Dr. Martin Conway (United Kingdom), Prof. Bungaran Saragih (Indonesia), Ms. Inger-Lise Olsen (Norway/Sweden), Ms. Alice-Jean Finlay (Canada), Rev. Jorge Domingues (Brazil/ USA).

Ecumenical Assistance Programme but decided not to make a larger grant to the Federation.

WSCF's Honorary Treasurer Mr. Youhanna Kamal Shawky said that while 2008-2009 had been difficult for WSCF, the financial controls put in place avoided a more serious situation. He added that the long-term financial outlook of the Federation is now secure.

Trustees strategized about how to build relationships with senior friends around the world, endorsing the idea of a global meeting in 2012.

A key fundraising strategy is the establishment of funds named in honour of WSCF luminaries. The board endorsed the launching of the Philip Potter Fund in Geneva at the end of November, continued work on development of the other

named funds and outreach to potential donors.

The fund also launched a campaign to seek support through wills and bequests. "Your gift can make a long-term impact, empowering the work of young ecumenical leaders nationally, regionally and globally," Ms. Marsha Lougheed Paige, Fund Development Officer, says. For more information on this programme, contact Ms. Lougheed Paige at mlp@wscf.ch.

In May Revenue Canada agreed that WSCF Canada can now issue tax receipts to donors there who wish to donate to WSCF. Donors should send a cheque to WSCF Canada at WSCF Canada, P.O. Box 22010, The Colonnade P.O., 131 Bloor St. W. Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3L7. WSCF Canada's business number is: BN: 81111 4610. ■

Lois Wilson passes the baton on

The Very Rev., the Hon. Dr. Lois Wilson, a central figure in WSCF Canada since its inception, has passed leadership of its Board of Trustees to former WSCF Vice-Chair Ms. Betsy Anderson. Ms. Anderson is Coordinator of Continuing Education and Recruitment at Emmanuel College in Toronto.



▲ Very Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson

Dr. Wilson, who first became involved in WSCF in the 1940s, has said WSCF and SCM have had a strong impact on her long, high-profile ministry. She was the first woman to be elected Moderator of the United Church of Canada, is a former President of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and a former member of the Canadian Senate. She currently

teaches Religious Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

"We are thankful for Dr. Wilson's tremendous efforts to get WSCF Canada up and running," said Ms. Marsha Lougheed Paige, WSCF Centennial Fund Development Officer, who met with WSCF Canada leaders in April.

"I was first involved with WSCF in my student days in the 1940s in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It was through interchange with people like K.H. Ting, T.Z. Koo, Philippe Maury, John and Marie-Jean Coleman, and Hilda Benson that I became aware of the world Christian community, and proudly wore the small WSCF cross on my

lapel," Dr. Wilson told Federation News.

"Ted Scott was our Secretary for SCM, and this movement was symbiotically intertwined with WSCF. The movements gave me a strong biblical base for my Christian commitment; a world view far beyond the West; an ecumenical posture in ministry; a healthy and rigorous critical approach to religious institutions and to all religious dogma and doctrine; a clear insight into the political and economic implications of the gospel; and an abiding demonstration of how men and women can work together as equals.

"SCM/WSCF bias for the poor and its solidarity with working people informed my later work as Moderator of the United Church of Canada, President of the WCC, and Senator in the Canadian Senate," Dr. Wilson concluded. ■

Young people must take action on climate change

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to humankind, says Ms. Ruth Aimee Ngotty Essebe of SCM Cameroon, who represented WSCF at The Road to Copenhagen, an event related to the Federation's 2010 global theme: Climate Justice.

"Climate change is the clearest example of how the lifestyles of the older and current generations of the

global North are compromising the needs of younger and future generations, and especially the livelihoods of populations in the global South," Ms. Ngotty Essebe said.

The September meeting held in Mollina, Spain, was in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December in Copenhagen (COP 15).

The event offered youth an opportunity to acknowledge the role they play in global development and to facilitate a process aimed at defining and implementing future projects on climate change.

"My specific contribution at this workshop was to share my experience on climate change, both my local experience with my SCM, where the food crisis is closely related to climate change, and my global experience with WSCF as I took part in the World Council of Churches'



▲ Ms. Ruth Aimee Ngotty Essebe of SCM Cameroon (far right) joined delegates from around the world in Mollina for the The Road to Copenhagen event.

(WCC) United Nations Advocacy Week 2008 on Climate Change, Migration and the War in Sri Lanka," Ms. Ngotty Essebe said.

Many young people have expressed interest in working together to bring Climate Justice forward as a theme and make WSCF a leading actor in preserving the environment. The Federation's new Advocacy and Solidarity Committee is developing WSCF's advocacy strategy on Climate Justice.

The Africa region is preparing the 2010 Universal Day of Prayer for Students liturgy, which will be celebrated on 21 February with Climate Justice as its theme.

WSCF will send a delegation to COP 15 as part of its commitment to Climate Justice. The WSCF representatives have been invited to join a ferry with Christian young people travelling from Oslo to Copenhagen, where signatures will be

handed over and there will be an ecumenical service.

WSCF participants will join the WCC delegation. Dr. Guillermo Kerber, Programme Executive on Climate Change for WCC, said: "No matter what will happen in Copenhagen, climate change will continue, and its consequences will continue to affect the most vulnerable communities... This is why building on an

ecumenical vision beyond Copenhagen is so relevant.

"This vision must have youth as key actors. Youth and the next generations are those who will experience the gravest consequences of climate change, but youth also have the possibility to be creative in their responses to climate change challenges. Furthermore Christian youth are expected to play a prophetic role in addressing climate change."

WSCF is also supporting the G-1 Billion, a youth press agency working to catch the conversation of COP 15. Find out more at the website: www.g-1billion.org.

An online interfaith declaration on climate change is being promoted by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance of which WSCF is a participant. To sign the declaration, go to: www.interfaithdeclaration.org. ■

WSCF continues commitment to mission

It is often said that the modern ecumenical movement started at the 1910 World Mission Conference in Edinburgh. However, ecumenical youth organisations such as WSCF had been active years before and were a driving force behind the 1910 conference.

The chair of the landmark conference was WSCF's first General Secretary Dr. John R. Mott; the Executive Secretary was British SCM leader Mr. Joseph Oldham. The 1910 conference marked the climax of earlier gatherings of Protestants committed to bringing the gospel to the world. It blazed new trails in Christian fellowship and cooperation, inspiring women and men to become ecumenical leaders.

With this history in mind, WSCF is now deeply involved in the centenary celebrations of this important ecumenical event. General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace is the Vice-Chair of

Edinburgh 2010 and former WSCF Vice-Chair Ms. Adèle Djomo Ngomedje of Cameroon is on the Events Committee for the celebrations.

The centenary celebrations will take place in June next year and will include Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Pentecostals as well as many more women and people from the South than in 1910.



There are several ways to be involved for those unable to attend. The conference and celebrations will be available as live stream on the internet. Christians all over the world are invited to set up their own events.

The Edinburgh 2010 Conference is using the

internet so that all people, especially youth, can contribute to planning and carrying out the conference. Young missiologists are welcome to take part in the Youth Writing and Multimedia Competition. There is also a Global Discussion forum on nine study themes. Anyone can get involved in any of these projects through their website or through their Facebook groups.

Ms. Djomo Ngomedje said: "I encourage all SCMerS to become involved in Edinburgh 2010, through the study process, the discussion forum or the writing and multimedia competition. It is important that young people's voices are heard in ecumenical processes and that WSCF continues the involvement we have had in global ecumenical events since 1910."

For more information, go to: <http://www.edinburgh2010.org/>. ■

New beginning for Zimbabwean churches and partners

Political anarchy in Zimbabwe continues to threaten the fledging peace attained since the signing of the Global Political Agreement by the country's main political parties, Zimbabwean churches and partners have stated.

Leaders from Zimbabwe's largest church organisations, representatives of international ecumenical bodies and church-related advocacy networks met in Geneva in September to reflect on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe one year after the signing of the agreement.

Hosted by the Zimbabwe Advocacy Office of WSCF, the meeting was called by the Ecumenical Zimbabwe Network, a group of church agencies committed to advocacy, prayer and solidarity in support of the churches and people of Zimbabwe.

Only two of the major pillars of the Global Political Agreement have been partially fulfilled, the meeting stated – unconditional access to humanitarian aid and commitment to macro-economic stabilisation.

"There has been no satisfactory progress in relation to crucial areas such as restoration of the rule of law, commitment to democratic process – freedom of assembly, speech – as evidenced by resurgent targeted arrests,

persecution and harassment of opposition politicians and civil society activists – and clear lack of commitment to constitutional reform and timely, free and fair elections," the church leaders said.

The Convenor of the Christian Alliance of Zimbabwe and senior friend of SCMZ, Bishop Levee Kadenge, said churches in Zimbabwe must not wait for politicians to lead national healing as many of them were involved in perpetrating the violence that rocked Zimbabwe in 2007 and 2008. There is an urgent need for Zimbabwean churches to seek reconciliation among themselves, he added.

Rev. Dr. Solomon Zwana, General Secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, emphasised that his organisation is committed to working with other church groups to make social change.

The General Secretary of WSCF and representatives from the World Council of Churches, the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation reiterated their support for unity and common action in Zimbabwe.

The Ecumenical Zimbabwe Network resolved to consolidate its relationships with churches in Zimbabwe and focus on the conflict diamond

campaign, implementation of the Global Political Agreement and enforcement of EU targeted measures.

In October an alliance of Christians in Zimbabwe appealed to southern African leaders to salvage the country's power-sharing government and prevent bloodshed after Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai suspended contact with President Robert Mugabe.

Since the meeting took place Mr. Marlon Zakeyo WSCF's Zimbabwe Advocacy Officer, represented the Ecumenical Zimbabwe Network at the roundtable of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches in Harare.

One of the participants in the Geneva meeting, Ms. Dadirai Chikwengo, Chairperson of the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations, was arrested on 25 October by Zimbabwean police and accused of "holding a public political meeting without approval." The charges were linked to the call by non-governmental organisations for the intervention of the Southern African Development Community and the African Union to ensure that the Global Political Agreement was honoured.

For the latest news from WSCF's Zimbabwe Advocacy Office, visit: <http://zimbabwegeneva.blogspot.com>. ■

SCM Philippines aids the flood stricken

On 26 September 33.4 cm (12 inches) of rain fell on the Metro Manila area in just 16 hours. The rains, caused by tropical storm Ketsana (Typhoon Ondoy) killed over 400 people and displaced at least 500,000.

In response to the devastation, SCM Philippines mobilised young people and senior friends to provide assistance and relief. Their first response was to set up a public information hotline for people affected by the typhoon. SCMP then offered emergency assistance to families in need.

WSCF supported SCMP's work by sending an

Ecumenical Assistance Programme emergency grant of US \$3,000. SCMP General Secretary Ms. Christine Guevarra reported that the emergency grant allowed Filipino SCMPers to provide vital assistance. "We were able to distribute some modest packages of basic needs to around 600 families," Ms. Guevarra said.

SCMP expressed gratitude for the prayers and solidarity offered by WSCF to the people of the Philippines. The Advocacy and Solidarity Committee created a liturgy so that students around the world could pray together for those who lost so much in the Philippines. European

SCMPers used the liturgy during their Regional Assembly in October. "Our heartfelt thanks for the prayers and help," Ms. Guevarra wrote to WSCF.

Because of the typhoon, the School for Ecumenical Leadership Formation, an Asia-Pacific programme of WSCF, had to be delayed by one week. Ms. Necta Montes Rocas, the Asia-Pacific Regional Secretary, said, "We needed to redo everything that we had prepared for SELF, but we did not want risk people's lives." ■

Red Book is out and online

The RedBook is now available!

Also known as *The 2008 Annual Report of the World Student Christian Federation*, it illustrates "the Federation's vitality and its continuing drive to spread the Gospel message of personal and social transformation around the world," said WSCF's Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson in the introduction.

"The wonderful work of movements, the regions and the global level shows the commitment of students to the promotion

of peace and justice," said Chairperson Mr. Horacio Mesones and Vice-Chairperson Ms. Janejinda Pawadee.

"WSCF's sons and daughters, young women and men, raised their prophetic voices in this year, denouncing the structures of injustice and commissioning their movements to promote societies where the values of the Kingdom can become a reality," they added.

The publication includes a review of worldwide events, extensive coverage of the 34th General Assembly held in Montreal,

Canada, reports on the Ecumenical Assistance Programme, women's programme, Zimbabwe advocacy office, and financial and administrative information.

The book is available online at: www.wscfglobal.org. ■



Students challenge UNESCO on higher education

W^{SCF} representatives have joined other young delegates in challenging UNESCO to include students more when considering higher education.

Ms. Charité Nkusi of Rwanda and Ms. Maryann Philbrook of the United States represented the Federation at the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education in Paris in July.

The conference, which had the theme "The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development," gathered 1,200 delegates from 150 countries to formulate a vision and international guidelines for the future of higher education.

Delegates called on governments to increase investment in higher education, encourage diversity and strengthen regional cooperation. "At no time in history has it been more important to invest in higher education as a major force in building an inclusive and diverse knowledge society and to advance research, innovation and creativity," said the final communiqué.

W^{SCF}'s representatives worked hard with their counterparts from the International Movement of Catholic Students to make sure that the viewpoint of Christian students was taken into consideration.

Mr. Christopher Derige Malano, Secretary General of the International Movement of Catholic Students was enthusiastic about the collaboration with W^{SCF}.



▲ Ms. Charité Nkusi (second from left) meets with UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koichiro Matsuura (fourth from left) and other delegates at the World Conference on Higher Education.

"It was great working with the two W^{SCF} representatives...we held meetings together to review the day, prepare for the next, and come up with our strategy, especially since we are unique student movements with a faith-based background. I think this...was a very concrete way of working together."

The student groups active at the conference are still working together to form a stronger global network to advocate in global forums like UNESCO. "W^{SCF} is taking a strong

place in the leadership of this group," Ms. Philbrook said.

In addition, said Ms. Philbrook, "Through networking with other students, student organisations and ambassadors from around the world at UNESCO, W^{SCF} continues being an important part of the global discussion about the future of higher education."

For more about the 2009 conference, go to: www.unesco.org/en/wche2009/ ■

Federation takes action for Advocacy and Solidarity

W^{SCF}'s new Advocacy and Solidarity Committee is supporting human rights in Latin America, the Middle East and Asia and reaffirming the Federation's commitment to stand in solidarity with the oppressed.

The committee had its genesis at W^{SCF}'s General Assembly held in Montreal in 2008, which reiterated the Federation's mandate to be in solidarity with students and movements around the world, especially in situations of human rights violations, conflict, oppression and natural disaster.

It also called on W^{SCF} to continue to advocate for justice and peace around the world.

The 34th General Assembly recognized a new energy around advocacy work at every level of the Federation and a need to focus and coordinate efforts to best embody that prophetic voice. The new Executive

Committee met in August 2008 and formed a provisional committee.

So far the committee has worked together online and drafted statements and prayers, which were endorsed and released by W^{SCF}'s General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace and Chairperson Mr. Horacio Mesones.

They include statements condemning the silence of the Iraqi government over attacks on Christians in Iraq during July, the coup d'état in Honduras and the persecution of Christians in Pakistan. There was also a statement of solidarity during the week of floods and typhoons in Asia in September.

The first in-person meeting of the committee is planned for November in conjunction with the United Nations Advocacy Week sponsored by the World Council of Churches in New York.

The committee's purpose is to facilitate and streamline the advocacy and solidarity work of the W^{SCF} by: assisting in discerning advocacy and solidarity priorities; helping emphasize the advocacy dimension of annual themes; connecting the advocacy and solidarity work of the different levels of the Federation; implementing advocacy and solidarity strategies; and mobilizing the whole Federation in advocacy.

Federation Vice-Chair Ms. Shantha Ready said, "The Advocacy and Solidarity Committee is amplifying student Christian activists' powerful voices and providing tools to students all over the world to show solidarity with one another in prayer, thought, and action." ■

WSCF thanks Sam Kobia for support

Outgoing World Council of Churches (WCC) General Secretary Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia has been thanked for his constant support of WSCF.

Dr. Kobia finishes his term at WCC at the end of 2009 and will be succeeded by Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations.

"During your tenure as General Secretary, WSCF has rejoiced that we have had a friend and advocate at the highest level in WCC," said WSCF General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace.

"We deeply appreciate the very practical help and guidance you have given us. You have been an excellent senior friend to the Federation and we are very grateful."

Mr. Wallace expressed gratitude for the long association that Dr. Kobia has had with the Student Christian Movement. Dr. Kobia was one of the founders of the Christian Students' Council of Kenya and served as its chair.

"We are very grateful that you credit WSCF whenever you mention your ecumenical formation. This reminds others of the ongoing role of WSCF in forming ecumenical leaders and gives support and encouragement to the current generation of SCMs," Mr. Wallace added.

The good collaboration between WCC and WSCF will continue, according to former WSCF Co-Secretary General Ms. Beate Fagerli, who works with Dr. Tveit in Oslo. She said that Dr. Tveit has good knowledge of the Student Christian Movement and will be supportive. ■



Peter Williams/WCC

▲ Rev. Dr. Sam Kobia

Two new global staff

WSCF has introduced two new members to the staff team.

The Executive Committee has appointed Mr. Gustavo Quintero Casadiego of Colombia as Regional Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean. He began work in September at WSCF's regional office in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

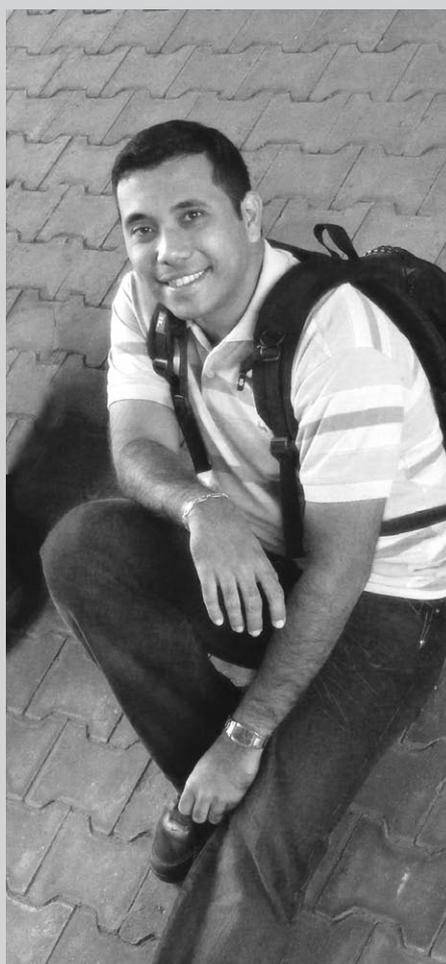
He succeeds Rev. Dan Gonzalez Ortega, who was Regional Secretary from 2005 and has taken up a position as minister in a Presbyterian congregation in Mexico City.

Mr. Quintero Casadiego, 26, had most recently been the publicist and manager of communications and publications for the Reformed University at Barranquilla, Colombia.

He has been responsible for Website management, design and production for the Presbyterian Church of Colombia and the Ecumenical Network of Colombia.

He served as director of the youth department of the Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America and as a member of the co-ordinating committee of the Youth Network of Religions for Peace.

Mr. Quintero Casadiego studied advertising and marketing at the Universidad del Litoral at Barranquilla, has a diploma in management and is completing a degree in psychology at the Reformed University.



▲ Mr. Gustavo Quintero Casadiego

WSCF General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace welcomed Mr. Quintero Casadiego to the Federation's staff. "Gustavo is a great choice for Regional Secretary. He brings much positive energy, plenty of church and ecumenical experience and many communication gifts to WSCF."

Meanwhile Ms. Henriette Brachet, WSCF Accountant since 2001, completed her time with the Federation in June.

Mr. Peter Tyler was hired as the new Finance and Reporting Officer, beginning in July. He has studied in Zambia and South Africa and has many years of experience as an accountant and administrator.

He has worked as a finance and administrative officer for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and was project coordinator for the LWF's database-driven Website MaRs, which provides information to donors, field offices and Geneva staff. Since 2004 he has been working as a database consultant for WSCF.

Mr. Wallace said: "We are very happy to welcome someone with Peter's extensive experience with finance and reporting. His skills will enhance our capacity to manage our finances and maintain excellent relations with partner organisations."

He added: "The Federation thanks Dan and Henriette for their work and wishes them all the very best for the future." ■

Solidarity project improves lives of tea workers

Christian students living worlds apart are collaborating to work alongside women tea workers in Sri Lanka for justice and equality.

The Norwegian SCM is cooperating with the Sri Lanka SCM in supporting Penn Wimochana Gnanodyam (PWG), an organisation working with women on tea plantations in the mountains of Hatton in the Central Province of Sri Lanka.

PWG is a democratic organisation run by women for women that was founded in 1976 by the former General Secretary of the Sri Lanka SCM, Annathai Abayasekera. It helps women realise their own plight and gain confidence to demand fairness.

Sri Lanka is one of the world's biggest tea producers. Indian Tamil women working at tea plantations experience suppression as women, workers and Tamils. The women, who constitute 65 percent of the workers on plantations, experience long working days, bad health care and heavy demands from the



▲ Women tea workers in Sri Lanka work hard for little compensation.

plantation administration.

For little more than 1 Euro (US \$1.50), they must harvest about 24 kilos of tea leaves a day. The men, on the other hand, work five hours for every eight hours the women work, do less strenuous labour, and still earn the same as the women, or more.

The Sri Lanka project offers leadership training programmes, workshops on workers' rights, kindergartens, scholarship funds, courses in farming and bio-gas production to increase family income.

The partnership also links PWG and FOKUS, a Norwegian forum on women and development. This connection helps find funds in Norway for the project as well as support to build offices and houses for women tea workers and staff.

Having witnessed the project for such a long period of time, the Norwegian SCM is extremely pleased to say that the project has improved the lives of many women and children. ■

Australian SCM's remarkable influence chronicled

It has nurtured future prime ministers, high court judges and distinguished educators.

Now the Australian Student Christian Movement (ASCM) is the subject of a "fascinating" new book, *A Century of Influence: Australian Student Christian Movement 1896-1996*, by historian Dr. Renate Howe.

The book was published in July 2009 by the University of New South Wales Press. A number of launches have been held, including one at the University of Melbourne where 150 Friends of the ASCM gathered for a function hosted by the Victorian History Promotion Group.

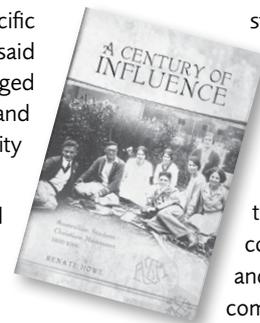
Dr. Howe notes in the history that two former prime ministers, three high court judges and several prominent educators were all members of the ASCM.

In a Review in *Praxis*, a WSCF Asia-Pacific regional publication, Avril Hannah-Jones said the story is inspiring. "The ASCM encouraged Christian involvement in Australian and international public life by relating Christianity to the issues of the day."

Dr. Howe draws on a rich range of material from libraries, private collections and oral histories to tell the story of a movement whose influence has extended well beyond its formal membership.

"Renate Howe makes a major contribution to Australia's religious, intellectual and social history through her rigorous analysis, perceptive insights and graceful writing," said Dr. John Langmore, Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne.

"She illuminates the ASCM's ambitious foundations; its theological and political



struggles and strengths; the evolution towards gender equality; the movement's remarkable influence; and reasons for its decline. She tells an inspiring story of committed discipleship; and of the search for the common good in universities, schools and churches and for

Australian and international society," Dr. Langmore added.

Dr. Howe, Honorary Fellow at Deakin University's School of History, Heritage and Society, is the author of a number of books exploring the intersection of Australia's social and religious history. To order *A Century of Influence*, go to www.ascm.org.au. ■

In Memoriam – Dorothy Nyland

Ms. Dorothy Nyland, a life-long Methodist, social justice activist and enthusiastic supporter of WSCF, died on April 4, 2008, 11 days short of her 103rd birthday.

Ms. Nyland had a long life of service in both Methodist and ecumenical programmes with university students around the world. She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1905 and completed a degree in Religious Education at Boston University in 1929.

She started her work with students at the University of Oregon during the 1930s. Her

international travels began with a group trip in 1935 to Japan and the Philippines, which she continued on her own across parts of China and Korea.

She attended the 1939 World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, where she met many church leaders. From 1940 to 1959, she was national staff for student ministries with the Methodist Board of Missions in New York, where she supported WSCF's work on international students and community projects.

Her visits and friendships extended across the

continents. In her later years, she returned to Cleveland where she worked for the Methodist Church Federation and cared for her elderly parents. She was a long-time advocate for peace and beloved by many for her pioneering work in race relations and in developing Christian student leaders.

Ms. Nyland left a significant bequest to WSCF, one eighth of her entire estate. General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace expressed the Federation's deep gratitude for the generosity she showed WSCF over many years. ■

In Memoriam

Margaret Flory

Ms. Margaret Flory, a strong supporter of WSCF over many decades, died in October in the United States, aged 95.

Rubem Alves, Brazilian theologian and poet, described her as "one of the most outstanding leaders of the ecumenical movement of the 20th century, because her eyes had the power to see trees when they were only seeds."

Born in Wauseon, Ohio, in 1914, she attended Ohio University, where she earned a BA and MA. There she began her student ministry as the director of the Westminster Foundation.

After studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, she was commissioned in 1944 by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions and taught at the Tokyo Christian Women's University.

In 1951 she was appointed director of the Presbyterian Office of Student World Relations, where she began shaping the church's understanding of its role in a global community of celebration and suffering. Her mission was to "push out the walls of the church so that people of every race and nationality could sit side-by-side and believe in Christ as our eternal hope."

During this period she was an organiser of the historic Student Volunteer Movement quadrennial conferences.

Ms. Flory worked for 36 years at the Presbyterian Church (USA) developing programmes such as the Junior Year Abroad, Frontier Internship in Mission, the Overseas Scholarship Programme and the Bi-National Servants Programme. She attended 10 WSCF assemblies and in 1995 she helped mark the Federation's 100th anniversary, attending the senior friends meeting in Berlin and the 31st General Assembly in Côte D'Ivoire.

In 1980 Ms. Flory retired, calling it "restyling" and wrote three books, travelled extensively, connecting with former students and associates around the world.



▲ Ms. Margaret Flory

She journeyed to Geneva for the dedication of the Margaret Flory Conference Center at the John Knox International Reformed Center, an organization she supported over many years.

In his condolence message WSCF's General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace said, "While we mourn her passing we also give thanks for Margaret's wonderful life. WSCF pledges to continue her work and vision through the Margaret Flory Fund to support students in new frontiers of ecumenical study and service." The Federation was represented at Ms. Flory's funeral by US Trustees Rev. Alice Hageman and Rev. Dr. Bruce Rigdon.

Contributions to the Margaret Flory Fund of the WSCF can be sent to: Trustees of the WSCF USA, Inc., Rev. Jorge Domingues, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1340, New York, NY, 10115, USA. ■

World Student Christian Federation Contact information

Inter-Regional Office

Ecumenical Centre, 5 Route des Morillons,
PO Box 2100, CH-1211
Geneva 2, Switzerland.
Tel: +41 22 791 63 58
Fax: + 41 22 791 61 52
Email: wscf@wscf.ch
Website: www.wscfglobal.org

Africa Regional Office

PO Box 14782, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: +254 20 2730220
Fax: + 254 20 2730223
Email: wscf@wscf-africa.org

Asia-Pacific Regional Office

18/F, Room 1&2, 280 Portland Street
Commercial Building, Mongkok,
Kowloon, Hong Kong.
Tel: + 852 238 525 50
Fax: + 852 278 239 80
Email: wscfap@netvigator.com

Europe Regional Office

Kálvin Tér 8, 1091 Budapest, Hungary.
Tel: + 36 1219 5166
Fax: + 36 1216 5115
Email: regionaloffice@wscf-europe.org

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office

Camacua 238, 1406 DOF, Capital Federal,
Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Tel: + 54 11 4631 219
Email: fumec@fumec-alc.org

Middle East Regional Office

PO Box 11-1375, Beirut, Lebanon.
Tel: + 9611 341 903
Fax: + 9611 341 902
Email: wscf-me@inco.com.lb

North America Regional Office

Inter Church Center
475 Riverside Drive Suite 1370
New York, NY 10115
Tel: + 1 212 870 2470
Fax: + 1 212 870 2528
Email: wscfna@gmail.com

Support WSCF

Dear WSCF Supporter, thank you for your interest in, and support for, the Federation and its work! If you would like to support the Federation financially please either:

- Send us a cheque made out to the World Student Christian Federation and post it to us at the Inter-Regional Office address above or;
- Make an electronic bank or wire transfer to our bank account in Geneva - Banque Cantonale de Genève, Case Postale 2251, CH-1211 Genève 2, Switzerland (BIC/SWIFT BCGECHGGXXX) as follows:

World Student Christian Federation - US Dollars -
Account # L 0790.08.11 - IBAN CH95 0078 8000
L079 0081 1

World Student Christian Federation - Euros - Account #
U 3226.54.80 - IBAN CH86 0078 8000 U322 6548 0

Alternatively, if you would like to contribute towards the longer-term movement building fund of the WSCF, please replace the account name with "WSCF Centennial Fund".

Thank you.

Subscribe to Federation News

To subscribe to *Federation News* please email wscf@wscf.ch with the subject line Federation News subscribe. Please provide your name and postal address including postal code. Subscriptions to *Federation News* are free. If you do not have access to email please post the same information to the Inter-Regional Office in Geneva, address below.

Federation News is published twice a year by the WSCF Inter-Regional Office in Geneva. // Editor: The General Secretary, wscf@wscf.ch // Managing Editor: John P. Asling, jageneva2004@yahoo.ca // Communications Intern: Maryann Philbrook, wscfcommunications@gmail.com // Designer: Marcus Thomas, marcust@orcon.net.nz

WSCF Inter-Regional Office

Ecumenical Centre, 5 Route des Morillons, PO Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland :: Tel: + 41 22 791 63 58 :: Fax: + 41 22 791 61 52 :: Email: wscf@wscf.ch