



# FEDERATION NEWS

World Student Christian Federation

2nd Edition, December 2014 eNewsletter

## Christmas and Year-end Message from the General Secretary

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace....” - Luke 2:14*

Dear friends,

At the very outset, I would like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the Staff Team and Volunteers of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), without whose dedication and untiring work we would not have had such a challenging and meaningful year in our ministry of proclaiming and demonstrating God’s Love, all the more to be reaffirmed at the celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ!

As we are reunited with family and friends, and taking a pause in our work or study, let us take a moment to reflect as to what it means today to celebrate the birth of the one we call Saviour -- the Prince of Peace!

Such a reflection process is all the more significant in the WSCF, as we prepare ourselves both spiritually and physically for the forthcoming General Assembly in Bogota, Colombia in February/March 2015. It is with much thought that we chose the theme: **“We are Many, We are One – Sent out to Build God’s Peace”**.

God’s creation of this beautiful world we live in is being torn apart today with wars, conflicts, and violence in many parts of this world. For us all, including students and youth, we have a collective responsibility to ensure that we play our respective roles to challenge and mitigate the dangers that threaten the realization of our vision to create a just and peaceful world not just for us, but also for our children and future generations. Through this General Assembly, the Federation is calling on the students to become the forerunners for peace based on biblical foundations and understanding of God’s Peace that was offered as a gift to all peoples of the world and established in the life and works of Jesus Christ – announced and inaugurated at his birth!

At this time of year we remember those who are victims of human-made and natural disasters. We are living in unprecedented times with global poverty on the rise, killer diseases such as Ebola, Malaria, HIV and Aids taking the lives of millions of people. We are sadly also seeing the devastating effects of climate change, continuing racial discrimination, gender-based violence, domestic violence, and all forms of brutal killings and crimes committed against innocent people and children in conflict situations, all of which are impacting the social fabric and unity of families, communities, and nations themselves leading to the degradation of the earth itself that was created by God for humankind to live in and preserve and not to destroy. Thus, at this time of celebration of life in its fullness, we must renew our resolve to bring Good News and hope to those who are victims of poverty, conflict, violence, and injustice.

As children of peace, we have no option but to rededicate ourselves to make a difference to the raging destructiveness in the world. Against all our fears, our efforts should pave the way for building models of lasting peace, as true followers of Jesus, who embodied truth and love, and opened the path for cycles of violence to change into paths of truth-telling, forgiveness, healing, and self-renewal for the transformation of individuals, communities, nations and the world at large of which we are part of, for the Glory of the Kingdom of God.

WSCF has had many challenging years in its history of enabling the students and youth in their resolve to make this a better world. One of these challenges has been to mobilize resources -- both human and material – to realize the Federation’s Vision and Mission, to which it stands committed despite falling short of meeting its resource requirements and financial goals. Let us recommit ourselves to realize our goals and aspirations to live in a world in which peace and justice prevails.

In order to meet this challenge, we launched the Campaign: **Give One, Be One** to mobilize resources we need, and at the same time unfolded a process of evaluation and recommendation led by the **“Future of the Federation” Task Group** to assist the Federation to clarify and re-define its Vision, and refine its structures to respond more effectively to the changing and challenging global environment we live and work in.

In WSCF, the students and Senior Friends are not only waiting but are also preparing their hearts, souls, and minds to come together in a community of faith at the General Assembly, not merely for revitalizing organisation and structure to carry on God’s Mission, but also with a sense of commitment to rise up to be called the peacemakers in this world!

At this crucial juncture in the history of WSCF, I invite our students, senior friends, partners, and all well-wishers to contribute in this process. We encourage everyone to contribute financially what you can to the Give One, Be One Campaign. ( [Click here](#) ). We also welcome any in-kind contribution such as lending your expertise, accompanying our students, and with your prayers. Please join the journey to revitalizing the Federation, ensuring that together we take the right path, in unity and witness to the Lord – our Saviour, and our Liberator!

At this Christmas, I celebrate the signs we see of a desire among many in every country, of every age, of every faith and community, to come together in our purposeful journey and great pilgrimage of peace and justice and joining hands with all peace-loving people in the world. To each one of you and your respective families, I wish you Christmas Greetings and best wishes for a Happy and Blessed New Year!

“Peace is not real peace without justice!”

Christine Housel

**General Secretary,  
World Student Christian Federation**

### Give One Be One Campaign

The WSCF is the only international ecumenical student movement in the world. WSCF continues its work of engaging students and youth in their faith and the world around them- with “the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other”. Recently, the WSCF has joined in the solidarity of the missing Mexican students and all the disappeared in Mexico; has gathered international students with Middle East students and young adults to hear testimony of the situation across the Middle East and mobilize our efforts together to overcome violence in the Middle East; and is now preparing to lend our voice to the peace process in Colombia.

At this juncture, the WSCF realizes that to continue this legacy we need to re-new our vision and operations to be better situated in the world today. As we gather ourselves to do just this at our General Assembly, we need funds to continue our operations as normal through the end the Assembly.

<b>Give one, Be one Campaign</b>	
Launched 31 October 2014	
Funds collected to date: Dec 25th	
Africa	\$0
Asia Pacific	\$1,171.00
Europe	\$1,933.00
Latin America and the Caribbean	\$0
North America	\$11,969.52
Middle East	\$200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,273.85</b>

We have set USD 700,000 as the goal for 2015, which would make us self-sufficient. This is our ultimate goal, which would not only allow us to continue operations, but also allow us to direct funding to the most pressing priorities and projects, from supporting SCMs in the diaconia and movement-building they wish to do, to supporting the life and well-being of regional offices and activities, to enabling the Inter-Regional Office to facilitate more exchange between SCMs and regions.

The Give One, Be One Campaign sets itself apart from the efforts of previous months and years because it has the potential to become a strong part of the WSCF’s sustainability strategy as it becomes a regular part of SCM and Senior Friend life.

**The shorter-term goal in the first quarter of 2015 is USD 200,000** and will enable our operations to continue as normal through the end of the General Assembly. With a combination of support from students, Senior Friends, and partners, we can reach this goal; if we do not, we will be forced to make some difficult decisions regarding staffing. We need all staff to make the General Assembly successful and to continue the WSCF work.

In the short term, we need students, SCMs, Senior Friends, and partners of the WSCF who can, to make significant contributions of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000, or even more to help us reach our goal. Click [here](#) to contribute, or be free to contribute through your national SCM or region if more convenient or better for tax relief purposes.

### Federation Finances

Please click the YouTube link below to view Senior Friend Jorge Domingues video giving insights about why the WSCF is facing its current financial challenge. If you would like more detailed explanations please do not hesitate to contact the Inter-Regional Office. The WSCF has faced financial challenges incrementally over the past three decades, and today, with the changing external environment, is now meeting the challenge head on.

### Future of the Federation Task Group

For the first time in 25 years the World Student Christian Federation is calling for an organisational evaluation process with the recognition that organizational change is required to move into the future.

The World Student Christian Federation was founded in 1895 and is the oldest international student movement in the world. WSCF’s heritage is one of motivating and training students and youth in its unique international, ecumenical, socially-engaged, rooted-in-faith community and mobilizing them as justice advocates and ecumenical leaders for the church and world today. The WSCF continues to inspire young people to spend their lives in the service of others, in the service of co-creating a world filled with just peace. The WSCF continues to facilitate life-changing interactions between students and emerging young leaders from each corner of the earth to form friendships and projects that make a life-long difference.

The WSCF has been confronting the situation of declining funds for ecumenical organizations for years and has been initiating new strategies to solve this problem. Realizing that the steps already taken are not far-reaching enough, the Executive Committee prepared a recommendation to the General Assembly planned for August 2014 to begin a Federation-wide examination of WSCF’s vision and functioning with the understanding that a process of development and change would be initiated at the GA.

The WSCF Executive Committee postponed the General Assembly scheduled for August 2014 due to a lack of full funding for the Assembly on top of the ongoing deficit the WSCF has been carrying since 2009. With this change, the Executive Committee of the Federation has appointed a Task Group to review its vision and propose governance, organisational, and management arrangements which will equip it to be an efficient, effective, and sustainable movement fit for purpose in the 21st century.

The consideration and agreement of these proposals will be the fundamental activity of the General Assembly meeting in Bogota in February and March 2015.

The Executive Committee appointed the following members of the Task Group:

- Jorge Domingues, Brazil/USA
- Chris Ferguson, Canada
- Dalia Lakis, Lebanon
- Pretty Mubaiwa, Zimbabwe
- Salters Sterling, Ireland
- Ting Jin Yong, Malaysia
- Shantha Ready Alonso will serve as liaison between the WSCF Officers.

WSCF thanks the Council for World Mission, which has generously agreed to fund an in-person meeting of this core group, together with colleagues from partner organizations who may provide helpful perspectives, as well as professional staff, to help the group accomplish the goals within a short timeframe.

The first online meeting was held Monday, 22 December 2014 and the group will be working up until the General Assembly and will bring analysis and recommendations to the General Assembly as well as help develop the Assembly process to best enable the delegates in the learning, problem solving, envisioning, and decision-making needed.

From all the staff and officers of the WSCF, warm wishes for a blessed Christmas with family and friends, and for a 2015 of inspirational growth and change.



Bogotá, Colombia  
February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup> 2015  
« We Are Many, We Are One – Sent Out to Build God’s Peace »

- Through the PayPal on the WSCF website.
- Through bank transfer to the WSCF Inter-Regional Office
- Through bank transfer to your regional office
- Through the national SCM in your country

All contributions are tax deductible and you will receive a tax receipt.

(United States and Canada friends may wish to contribute through the US Trustees or WSCF Canada for tax relief.)

WSCF wants to stay in touch with you and make sure you receive news from the global, regional, and national life of the movement closest to you. Please take the time to fill in the Campaign form on the website, so that we can keep accurate records of your contribution, publish your name on our website and stay in touch.

**BANK DETAILS :**  
World Student Christian Federation

IBAN / USD : CH95 0078 8000 L079 0081 1  
IBAN / EUR : CH86 0078 8000 U322 6548 0  
IBAN / CHF : CH03 0078 8000 U077 5827 5  
BIC : BCGECHGG

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Message from Senior Friend:  
**Jorge Domingues**  
Trustee of WSCF Centennial Fund and US Trustees

