

## Students worldwide celebrate WSCF Day of Prayer



▲ Congo students observe the Universal Day of Prayer for Students.

Student Christian Movements around the world celebrated the 111th Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS) on or around February 15 with calls for peace, justice and tolerance.

They gathered in many parts of the globe in churches, halls and in the open air to pray for the lives and work of the world's students under the banner, "Identity, Diversity and Dialogue," which is WSCF's global theme of study for 2009.

The 2009 UDPS liturgy and Bible Study on the Good Samaritan, prepared by WSCF's Middle East Regional Office, drew on the spiritual resources of a variety of cultures and traditions, including the Orthodox churches strongly represented in the Middle East Region of the Federation.

The Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe issued a plea for peace, calling for sister movements to pray and fast for the coming of a new Zimbabwe. "On this day, as we

commemorate the 111th Universal Day of Prayer for Students with millions of our fellow brothers and sisters, we pray that the good Lord, our God, may restore peace in our country."

In Geneva, Switzerland, where WSCF's officers and staff had been meeting, students and senior friends led the service at the Ecumenical Centre chapel. Staff of the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Alliance of Reformed Churches and other ecumenical organisations joined in the UDPS service.

Ms. Elsy Wakil, WSCF Middle East Regional Secretary, preached during the Geneva service on the importance of dialogue. "This is our mission; to follow Jesus and engage ourselves, our churches, our families, our enemies in dialogue," she said.

"As Jesus has shown how to speak with the other across so many boundaries, so we must also invite others into relationship and communication until the whole world is engaged with the other in love and dialogue."

In Vanadzor, Armenia, where the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrated the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple on 14 February, worship leaders incorporated the focus of the UDPS into the blessing of newly married couples.

Young activists of the Bolor Sar non-governmental organisation of Armenia led with singing and dancing while worship leaders drew the attention of those present to the Universal Day of Prayer for Students. The clergy led prayers for the prosperity and peaceful futures of youth all over the world.

Lebanese Christian youth movements gathered on 23 January at the Sin el Fil-Sayde Church. There were several presentations and then students were given an opportunity to reflect on youth and the ecumenical movement during the seminars, the workshops and the conference as well as through prayer.

Ms. Wakil told the students that unity was a key  
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to building a peaceful world. "In a world where wars and violence are spreading quickly, the churches have a major role in gathering young Christians in order to educate them on how they can share and work together to build a peaceful world."

The UDPS was celebrated in Trieste, Italy, by the European Regional Committee with a group of local youth in a 12th century church which used to be Roman Catholic but today belongs to the Waldensians.

In Congo, hundreds of young people from the National Federation of Young Protestants, the Scouts, the Guides and the United Protestant Youth joined to observe the UDPS. Participants included leaders of the Church of Christ in Congo, political leaders as well as Roman Catholic, Muslim, Orthodox and revivalist youth. Students from a number of schools were in attendance.

The Argentine SCM met in the Mennonite Church of Floresta in Buenos Aires. The event was attended by WSCF Chairperson Mr. Horacio Mesones. Participants took part in discussions that looked at the parallels between the conflict involving Samaritans and Jews at the time of Jesus, and the Arabs and Jews today, noting that both offer examples of fear and ethnic hatred.

In Tiblisi, Georgia, participants included Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Baptists. The General Secretary of the Georgia Student Christian Movement presented an overview of the history of ecumenical development in Georgia, emphasising the relationship between WSCF and the Georgia SCM.

In Rwanda, services focused on the Parable of the Good Samaritan, with several students offering reflections and then engaging fellow students in discussing its relevance to the



▲ Lebanese students participate in the UDPS service.

1994 genocide and the current situation in the country.

"We found that what happened was very cruel and this parable is challenging everyone to accept and respect the identity of others and also to consider each one as our neighbour so

that we may have the spirit of pluralism and tolerance," said a report from the Rwandan student group MESSORWA.

The 2009 liturgy can be found at: <http://www.wscfglobal.org/allUDPS.php?id=2009&english> ■

## New Managing Editor for *Federation News*

WSCF General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace, Editor of *Federation News*, has welcomed freelance writer and editor, John Asling of London, England, as Managing Editor of the publication, and thanked Julianne Clarke-Morris of Geneva, Switzerland, the former Managing Editor.

Mr. Asling has worked in the church in an executive capacity for more than 20 years, with stints at the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the United Church of Canada. Prior to that, he worked as a daily print journalist in Canada for 13 years, specialising in religion coverage.

Ms. Clarke-Morris, a freelance editor, is a

former National Secretary of SCM Aotearoa. She was Managing Editor of *Federation News* from 2005 to 2008 and previously served as Media Officer of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia.

She started her communications work in the 1990s writing for, editing and illustrating publications for SCM Aotearoa and WSCF's Asia-Pacific Region.

"I am deeply grateful for Julianne's dedication to WSCF. She brought the Federation's communications to a new level of excellence; her work has been very highly appreciated throughout the Federation.

"With the April 2009 edition of the newsletter



▲ Mr. John Asling

we are delighted to welcome John with all his expertise to the fold and wish him the very best as Managing Editor." ■

# SCM on the rise in North America

More than 80 students from the United States and Canada gathered in San Francisco in January to reinvigorate the Student Christian Movement throughout North America. Plans for the new SCM United States were also adopted.

Meeting under the theme "Raising New Prophets: Arising of a Movement" the North American Region of WSCF formed a steering committee to build the movement, named fundraising as a key and gained support for SCM USA from the U.S. Trustees, the North American Region and the Inter-Regional Office.

The San Francisco Conference marked the 40th anniversary of the U.S. civil rights movement. Themes at the conference included student engagement in social issues through WSCF, leadership training and the role of students in promoting social change.

North American participants, along with WSCF representatives from the Philippines, Colombia, Denmark, India, Cameroon and Hong Kong met amid lively worship, music and biblical reflection.

Mr. Luciano Kovacs, WSCF North America Regional Secretary, warned of the challenges but reminded delegates of the rich history on



▲ The San Francisco meeting marked a new stage in the revival of the Student Christian Movement in North America.

which they could draw as they revitalise the SCM in the United States.

"The WSCF has inspired generations of students to be critical voices within the church, within society and within the wider ecumenical movement. It has formed countless ecumenical, social, political and educational leaders," Mr. Kovacs said.

Students heard a historical retrospective on the WSCF by Rev. Alice Hageman, Chair of the U.S. Trustees of the WSCF. Professor Rita Nakashima Brock presented the keynote speech on resurrection-centred Christology.

The local senior friends of the SCM held a banquet to which 30 additional participants came. Most have had a long involvement in campus ministry and they expressed interest in

finding ways to get more students involved in ecumenical and global programmes.

Students spoke enthusiastically about the impact of the meeting.

"Being at the San Francisco Conference, I was able to not only experience the grace and love of God tangibly, but I was able to connect with a community that I have been searching for most of my life," said Ms. Nickie Moreno of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Geoffrey Dice of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, added, "The SCM Canada delegation is thrilled to have partners in the United States who we will be able to work with in bringing the revolutionary gospel of Christ the liberator to the world." ■

## Vice-Chair wants WSCF to continue to empower students

Ms. Shantha Ready, the recently elected student Vice-Chair of the Federation, is passionate about the importance of WSCF's influence in the lives of Christian students worldwide.

Ms. Ready, a 25 year-old Roman Catholic studying at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, was elected by the Executive Committee in January following an extensive selection process initiated by WSCF's 34th General Assembly in August 2008.

"I want the WSCF to continue to be a powerful force for student empowerment, international reconciliation work, critical thinking about theological issues, and a breeding ground for life-long committed and educated ecumenists," Ms. Ready said.



Ms. Shantha Ready

A participant at the 2008 WSCF General Assembly, member of the Ecumenical Leadership Formation Commission, and former intern with the National Council of Churches USA, Ms. Ready brings extensive experience in the ecumenical movement to her role as Vice-Chair.

Ms. Ready has trained as a social worker and worked as a community organizer. She studied Social Work, Combined Social and Economic Development and Mental Health at Washington University in St. Louis.

She is a dual degree student in Eden's

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies and Washington University's Master of Social Work programmes, and is set to graduate from Eden this May.

Her call to ecumenism began when she served as an exchange student in Santiago, Chile, where she was exposed to Liberation Theology.

As Vice Chair, Ms. Ready has taken part in a meeting of staff and officers and visited the WSCF delegation at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

"Like generations before us, we continue to struggle to embody an inclusive Christian community that rejects the counter-gospel hierarchies of privilege that exist in our world," she told *Federation News*. ■



# Jordan to be site of EAP training exercise

W<sup>SCF</sup>'s Ecumenical Assistance Programme (EAP) continues to move forward on a number of fronts in its goal of training young Christian leaders to make a difference in a fractured world.

Ms. Christine Housel, WSCF Global Project Manager, said that the latest report from external evaluators offers positive feedback on EAP and she added that there are plans for a training exercise involving the Jordan EAP project which will benefit others.

An external evaluation of EAP was called for by the German Protestant churches' development agency, EED, in 2007. EED is a principal funder of the EAP.

"There exists tremendous enthusiasm, interest and eagerness to learn amongst WSCF activists at all levels of 'seniority' and experience within the organisation," the evaluators noted.

"Improving our project cycle management skills, funding applications and reporting skills is essential in the current competitive donor climate. Though we are being a bit motivated

by the financial realities, it is also an opportunity for us." Ms. Housel said.

"They (the evaluators) have taken a capacity building approach and have developed an idea that will both allow them to finish their assessment and to provide invaluable training for the WSCF leadership so that we can begin to do more work to train our SCM and EAP project leaders and monitor, evaluate and report on our work more consistently, professionally and intentionally," commented Ms. Housel.

Mr. Jim Welch and Ms. Cathy Williams of TWWP evaluators will lead and train a group of WSCF leaders (the members of the EAP Commission of the Executive Committee) in this process of evaluation in June in Jordan.

"Developing internal processes to continuously train young people in these skills will help the EAP projects run better and this training itself will fulfil WSCF's overall mission of developing leaders. Also, this training will influence not only the EAP but all aspects of SCM and WSCF life," Ms. Housel said.



J. Clarke-Morris

▲ Rev. Goklas Nababan shares the Indonesian perspective on the EAP during discussions at the General Assembly in Montreal.

Meanwhile the global project manager announced that 27 EAP projects around the world are underway. They include projects focused on leadership training, advocacy, media training, ecumenical relations, globalisation and gender justice in countries throughout Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Latin America and the Caribbean, and which are supported by funding of more than US\$365,000. ■

## Senior friends release report

W<sup>SCF</sup>'s senior friends' committee has released a comprehensive report that covers the gathering of senior friends alongside the 34th General Assembly in Montreal last year.

Edited by Rev. Alice Hageman and Dr. Christine Ledger, with layout by Mr. Geoff Alves, the report was published by the WSCF Inter-Regional Office and is available in hard copy ([wscf@wscf.ch](mailto:wscf@wscf.ch)) and for downloading from the WSCF website ([www.wscfglobal.org](http://www.wscfglobal.org)).

In an introduction, the editors and WSCF General Secretary Michael Wallace say the report, published in March, offers a glimpse of an important development in the history of WSCF: "In August 2008 in Montreal, alongside the General Assembly, a group of senior friends of WSCF gathered for their own discussions and reflections. As the current generation of student Christian leaders worshipped, sang, discussed, debated and planned, about 60 people whose lives have been profoundly shaped by their own involvement in WSCF, met just around the corner and down the corridor in a spirit of keeping company and solidarity"

Sixty senior friends aged 30 to 90, from 19 countries, gathered in August 2008. Plans are already afoot for a similar gathering in conjunction with the next General Assembly to be held in 2012 in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.



The gathering was an initiative of the WSCF Centennial Fund, whose goal is to support the work of WSCF into the future. The Centennial Fund was established in 1990 in preparation for the centennial celebrations of WSCF. It has since supported two assemblies and contributed in excess of US\$250,000 to the work of WSCF.

Get your copy of this important report now from the Geneva office. ■

## In Memoriam

### Tafadzwa Mukandi

W<sup>SCF</sup> General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace and staff expressed their sincere condolences to the Mukandi family and the Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe (SCMZ) following the recent death of Mr. Tafadzwa Mukandi, 30.

Mr. Mukandi joined the SCM in 1996 as a member of the Sandringham High School branch. After joining the staff of SCMZ as Programmes Officer in 2006, Mr. Mukandi played a pivotal role in the re-launching of *SCMZ Speaks*, the much loved monthly newsletter. He will be remembered as a passionate and brave human rights activist, who championed the role of young people in the struggle for peace, participation and justice. ■

# Staff and officers move Assembly vision forward



J. Clarke-Morris

▲ Officers and staff gathered in Geneva in February.

WSCF's officers and Executive Staff gathered in Geneva in February for an intense six-day strategic meeting to help shape the organisation's work over the coming months.

This was the first meeting of the new group of officers following the 2008 General Assembly as well as the first official event for Vice-Chair Ms. Shantha Ready, who was elected by the Executive Committee in January.

The staff and officers shared with each other about global and regional activities since the General Assembly in August and continued the work started then. Developing the 2009 budget and strategic plan for the quadrennium (to be approved by the Executive Committee) were top priorities of the meeting.

Chairperson Mr. Horacio Mesones led the officers and staff in developing the strategic plan. The officers and staff used the structure of the General Assembly's four commissions for the plan. The four sections are: Ecumenical Leadership Formation, Advocacy and Solidarity, Bible Study and Theology and Capacity Building.

Major points of the plan call for the Federation to:

- draw attention to injustice from a global

student Christian perspective, aimed at changing policies to promote justice and peace;

- encourage SCMs to radically renew their biblical study, theological reflection and spiritual lives;
- strengthen the Federation's finances;
- provide opportunities for SCMs to take part in exchanges, encounters and mutual learning opportunities so they can renew their movements.

Staff and officers spent significant time discussing the Ecumenical Assistance Programme and WSCF's human rights and advocacy work.

The officers and staff were led in Bible study by Indian senior friend Rev. Priscilla Singh (Lutheran World Federation), Rev. Jane Stranz (UK), Rev. Theo Gill (USA) and Dr. Guillermo Kerber (Uruguay) of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Bible studies were all on WSCF's study theme for 2009, Identity, Diversity and Dialogue.

Training sessions were led by WCC staffperson Rev. Martin Robra (Germany) on ecumenism in the 21st Century and by Mr. Foster Murphy, former SCM Ireland Secretary, on organisational development, effective

governance, organisational behaviours and vision and scenario building.

Ms. Ready and Rev. Nassouh Toutoungi, a priest in the Swiss Old Catholic Church, led sessions on dialogue training. This training was held as a result of the call at the General Assembly to develop skills in the Federation for managing conflict around sexual identity, as well as in response to the Federation's theme for 2009.

## Annual themes

Before the February meeting the Officers and staff worked together to clarify the annual themes for the Federation for the quadrennium. The themes are:

- 2009 Identity, Dialogue and Diversity;
- 2010 Climate Justice;
- 2011 Overcoming Violence;
- 2012 Economic Justice.

The Federation's work for the next four years will be informed by these themes. The officers and staff decided that the Federation will produce resources to enable SCMs to engage with these themes. ■



# WSCF makes significant contribution on gender justice

WSCF is playing a unique role in the ecumenical movement's gender justice efforts, says Ms. Christine Housel, Global Project Manager at the Inter-Regional Office in Geneva.

"WSCF's participants have made a significant contribution on a number of different fronts in the past few months, Ms. Housel added. "This is also an important part of our leadership training."

Two recent events showcased this leadership: the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN and a consultation of 34 women theologians and educators at Bossey, Switzerland, on mission and theology.

WSCF participants from Canada, the Ukraine, Korea and Egypt attended the Bossey meeting in November 2008 with Ms. Housel. Three made significant interventions at the gathering.

The Bossey document, "Women's Perspective on Mission and Theological Education in the 21st Century," presses for the full inclusion of women and women's perspectives at the Edinburgh 2010 ecumenical conference on mission. It stated that women were underrepresented at Edinburgh in 1910 and remain undervalued in church and society today.

"It has become clear to us that Christian mission must engage with economic, ecological and gender realities," said the statement. "Our work as stewards of God's mission must, therefore, integrate concrete action to work for justice, inclusion, and transformation of our suffering world."

The theme for the Commission on the Status of Women meeting at the UN in New York in March was "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men



▲ The WSCF delegation played a key role at UN Status of Women Commission.

in the context of HIV/AIDS." WSCF's delegation included women and men, staff and delegates from SCMs in Liberia, Norway, India, Canada and Argentina. The WSCF representatives worked in a delegation with the WCC and a coalition called Ecumenical Women ([www.ecumenicalwomen.org](http://www.ecumenicalwomen.org)).

"This was our third year at the CSW and the third year we've worked with the Ecumenical Women," Ms. Housel said. "Each year we are developing further our own skills and each year Ecumenical Women is growing and strengthening."

Canadian participant Ms. Bre Woligroski said the connection with the ecumenical women's group was essential. "This group has very strong leadership and a strong understanding of purpose."

Mr. Chaitanya Motupalli, a participant from India at the commission meeting, indicated after participation in this event, WSCF representatives are even better prepared to make a difference. "My commitments for gender justice have taken deeper roots," he concluded. ■

## Bringing the youth perspective to the UN

Seven men and women from WSCF took part in the Ecumenical Advocacy Week in New York organised by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in November 2008.

The week focused on analysing the opportunities for ecumenical advocacy within the UN, coming up with common advocacy strategies and doing direct advocacy.

Ms. Christine Housel, WSCF Global Project Manager, preached at the opening worship service and WSCF had a significant impact throughout the week. WSCF representatives

contributed to the debate and the youth perspective offered was valued by many, according to Ms. Housel.

"Because of our participation in events such as the United Nations Ecumenical Advocacy Week, we are getting better at international advocacy. Strengthening our partnership with others in the ecumenical community is an integral part of this growth."

The UN Ecumenical Advocacy Week helped focus some important questions that WSCF and others in the ecumenical community

continue to ask, Ms. Housel said. "Why and how should the church be involved in advocacy? How does our theology propel our actions? How do we motivate Christians and churches? How do we train them? How does our theological perspective make a difference in our advocacy?"

"These are just the kinds of questions WSCF addresses and always has, so we make a good contribution in these debates and communities," Ms. Housel concluded. ■

## Two new interns welcomed to Geneva

WSCF's Geneva team has been bolstered by the addition of two new interns who began work assignments early in 2009.

Ms. Charité Nkusi, a 25 year old from Rwanda, is serving as the Human Rights and Solidarity Intern. She has a Diploma in Higher Education Studies (equivalent to a BA in International Studies) and has worked as an interpreter and translator, teaching assistant and teacher.

An Anglican, she has worked across denominational lines in partnership with mainline and charismatic churches.

In 2006 Ms. Nkusi began work as a core team leader of a youth organisation called Souls in the City of London, an initiative that brings local churches, youth and regional agencies together in an effort to transform the community.

"Through this experience, I saw young people becoming more and more aware of their

communities. They had been awakening to their challenges through different projects that we had put together in partnership with the authorities and the churches," Ms. Nkusi said.

The new Communications Intern is Ms. Maryann Philbrook, a 25 year old from the United States. She has a BA in Political Science with a minor in French and years of experience as a youth leader in the Episcopal Church.

Ms. Philbrook has worked as a community organiser with the Peninsula Interfaith Action in San Carlos, California. In that capacity she organised faith-based leaders dealing with health care, youth violence and food access.

A founder and co-president of Progressive Christians Uniting at Occidental College at her alma mater in Los Angeles, she organised weekly prayer meetings, planned an awareness day on Darfur and brought together students



Ms. Charité Nkusi



Ms. Maryann Philbrook

to help with rebuilding projects following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"The world badly needs the church. The church badly needs the world," Ms. Philbrook told *Federation News*. "Faith without actions in this world is meaningless. We are called as Christians to live in the kingdom of God, a society that is at once both present and not yet here." ■

## New Executive Assistant begins work in Geneva



Ms. Monika Rawcliffe

Ms. Monika Rawcliffe joined the Inter-Regional Office as Executive Assistant in late 2008, General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace has announced.

To better support the work of the Federation and the Centennial Fund, the existing part-time Administrative Assistant position was re-structured into an Executive Assistant position in 2008. The new full-time position is half funded by WSCF's endowment.

Ms. Rawcliffe, originally from Germany, is a translator and has worked as a language teacher. She speaks German, English, French and Dutch and is planning to study Spanish in the near future.

A Roman Catholic, she has a strong ecumenical commitment dating back to her student days in the Netherlands.

"WSCF is so fortunate to have someone of Monika's calibre in this position," Mr. Wallace said. "She brings many excellent qualities to the job and is having a very positive impact on the functioning of the office." ■

## Zimbabwe activists call for urgent action on human rights

A strong Zimbabwean civil society delegation to the 10th Session of the UN Human Rights Council has said it is urgent that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights undertake a fact finding visit to the southern African country.

The 10 activists, hosted in Geneva by WSCF's Zimbabwe Advocacy Office, also asked for the deployment of a UN Human Rights mechanism in Zimbabwe to help provide technical assistance and capacity-building for human rights defenders and state institutions such as the police and the judiciary, as well as provide expertise on constitutional processes and transitional justice.

The Zimbabwean activists met with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Judge Navanethem Pillay, staff from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, several independent UN experts and international nongovernmental organisations concerned with the situation in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe civil society delegation held a public meeting on the humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva.

There was also time for what is thought to be the first-ever meeting between a civil society delegation to the Human Rights Council and the Zimbabwean Permanent Mission to the UN. Civil society representatives reiterated

the desire to engage with the government on the restoration of Zimbabwe to the community of nations, and to the rule of law, self-sufficiency and prosperity.

"Working together with a large delegation of Zimbabwean front-line human rights defenders at the UN over these two weeks was not only inspiring and energising but also reiterated the importance of having the Zimbabwe Advocacy Office in Geneva as a hub facilitating much needed advocacy," said Mr. Marlon Zayeko, WSCF's Zimbabwe Advocacy Officer.

For further information, go to: [www.zimbabwegeneva.blogspot.com](http://www.zimbabwegeneva.blogspot.com) ■

# In Memoriam

## Albert Moore

Professor Albert Moore, Presbyterian minister, historian, theologian and a founder of religious studies in New Zealand, has died at 82.

Born in Wellington, NZ, he studied history at Wellington's Victoria University and became enmeshed in the Student Christian Movement there. Later he was President of the SCM at Otago University, Dunedin.

He earned his doctorate in New Testament in Manchester, United Kingdom, and did post-doctoral work in Germany. He continued studies in Chicago and taught religions of the world at the University of Southern Indiana, Bloomington.

In 1967 he founded the Phenomenology of Religion discipline at the University of Otago, overseeing its growth into a thriving corner of intellectual endeavour for the next 25 years.

He became a world authority on iconography with the publication of the comprehensive and widely used *Iconography of Religion: An*

*Introduction* in 1977. Another major book, *Arts in the Religions of the Pacific*, appeared in 1995.

An inspiring teacher, he saw his task as being to help students see, appreciate and empathise with the religious experience of others without rushing in, labelling or engaging in territorial arguments.

Prof. Moore was an active supporter of SCM and WSCF and a generous senior friend and resource person for SCM Aotearoa for many decades. In 1995 he participated in the meeting of senior friends of WSCF in Berlin.

General Secretary Rev. Michael Wallace said, "His capacity to encourage and inspire students, especially young SCMs, was tremendous. He was passionate about engaging young people in religious and cultural exploration; he was also passionate about the role of the SCM in transforming students and the world."

*The obituary contains material published in the Otago Daily Times, with permission.* ■

## Marcella Althaus-Reid

Dr. Marcella Althaus-Reid, Professor of Contextual Theology at New College, University of Edinburgh, died on 20 February. The theologian, educator and activist had a long relationship with WSCF.

Originally from Argentina, her association with WSCF began in Buenos Aires when she studied theology at Instituto Superior Evangelico de Estudios Teologicos.

In 1984-85 she took part in a WSCF leadership training programme where she met her future husband Gordon Reid from the Scottish SCM.

Professor Althaus-Reid moved to Scotland, where she ran a project inspired by Paulo Freire's methods of conscientisation, and embarked on doctoral studies in theology at St. Andrews University, focusing on the influence of Paul Riceour on Liberation Theology.

An inspiring and challenging teacher, Professor Althaus-Reid later became the first woman in Edinburgh University's 400-year history to be appointed to a Chair in the Faculty of Divinity.

A member of St. George's West Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, she never really abandoned her Roman Catholic heritage or her Methodist background, was involved in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and maintained links with the Metropolitan Community Church. Her spirituality was also deeply influenced by Buddhism.

"Marcella was warm, wise and generous," said former WSCF Vice-Chair Dr. Eilidh Whiteford. "Her emotional honesty, sense of humour, and unwillingness to make concessions to oppressive institutions, structures and practices made her outspoken, and sometimes a bit outrageous." ■

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Correction: The November 2008 issue of *Federation News* incorrectly referred to a gathering in Athens, Ohio, in 1959 as being a WSCF meeting. It was, in fact, the 18th Quadrennial Ecumenical Student Conference on Christian World Mission. The event had strong WSCF input but was an event of the National Student Christian Federation in the U.S., the U.S. affiliate of the WSCF.

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