

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2009

WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION – AFRICA REGION:

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1. FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ and Partners,

With humility, gratitude and consideration we present you with the World Student Christian Federation's Africa Region 2009 annual report.

This report reflects the result and the impact of a joint work from numerous people and partners with a common goal to make the message of Christ real and concrete by bringing in healing, salvation and restoration of lives to many young people, mainly students.

We are aware and recognise that our Africa continent is suffering from the consequences of a global economic crisis and the failure of the COP 15 Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. These humiliating incidents add problems to the long list of African challenges, namely ignorance, wars, hunger, poverty, injustices, corrupt leadership, bad governance, domestic violence, epidemic diseases, manmade disasters, etc.

Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Uganda, just to name but a few, are still struggling with civil wars, fragile peace building, religious conflicts, all of which lead often to bloodshed. In other countries, democratic values, rule of law, human rights and development initiatives are threatened by greed for power of corrupt leaders in complicity with imperialist forces.

As WSCF Africa Region, we are strongly convinced that the Bible provides an answer and gives wisdom, guidance and good advice in addressing all those ills or issues. This prompts us to equip young people and students with new skills and determination through workshops, bible studies, visits exchange and testimonies or storytelling in communities and Churches as highlighted in our 2009 annual report. We all know that the future of Africa lays in the dynamism and commitment of young people in general and Christians in particular.

We extend our gratitude to all those who joined their efforts to ours and gave their time, their skills, their resources as instruments in God's hands to bring about change in Africa.

May the Staff, the Executive Committee members, the SCMs and all our Partners find in this report the expression of their remarkable contributions in 2009. We ensure you that we value both your inputs and prayers.

May your work, words, deeds and thoughts be acceptable to God Almighty!

Mr. Normand Ndayizeye

WSCF Africa Chairperson

2. INTRODUCTION AND YEAR REVIEW

Young people in Africa are still facing many challenges in terms of leadership crisis, unemployment, HIV and AIDS pandemic, lack of education (formal and informal), identity crisis, social injustice and lack of participation at the decision-making level, among others. As a result of this critical situation, room is therefore given to prostitution, migration, violence, dependency syndrome, brain drain, substance abuse, just to mention but a few.

Working with young Christian since 1895 in order to promote peace and justice in and among nations, we continuously endeavour to curb the growing trend of those social ills and to make Africa a better place to live in. Our goal is to bring change where we want real transformation to take root. This can only happen when we satisfactorily implement our activities of empowering young people through training sessions, capacity building workshops, working camps and social actions.

In this regard, we seek to empower leaders from our Christian youth constituencies with life skills, purpose of action, and youth self-esteem with both a view and a hope to make a difference in the society. We believe like other stakeholders that young people are basically seen as change catalysts. Based on this strong belief and leaning on our biblical foundation, WSCF-Africa's activities in 2009 targeted four major issues: Spirituality, HIV and AIDS as linked to economic justice, gender and women empowerment, capacity building and food security and right to food in Africa.

In collaboration with other faith-based organizations we were able to participate in some advocacy efforts and in the YMCA-Africa Alliance capacity building programme on the theme "***From subjects to citizens***". We also visited some national movements and built our common vision for the next years. Last but not least we took part in some continental gatherings and regional meetings.

It is only by God's grace that we were able to achieve all what we achieved. All glory to our Lord and Saviour for His mercy, protection, security, provision, and consolation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To our funding partners KAIROS, ICCO AND KERKINACTIE, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WYP) AND ECUMENICAL SOLIDARITY FUND, ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (GBGM) we express our deepest gratitude for your unfailing and valuable support without which we couldn't carry out our work and impact our targeted groups.

To the World Executive Committee, the Africa Regional Committee, WSCF Senior Friends and our SCMs, receive my sincere appreciation for your prayers, cooperation and guidance.

To my colleague at the Regional Office, namely Mr. Maxwell Omondi, thank you for your hard work, your commitment and your collaboration.

To my mentor and my hero Rev. Phyllis Byrd-Ochilo, thanks for your support, your prayers and your availability in time of need. Without you, I don't really know how I could have made it in Nairobi, Kenya. May God bless you abundantly!!

Let me close these few remarks with the inspirational quote I like very much: ***“The life you live will soon be past, but the things you do for love will last.”***

GLORY BE TO GOD

Georgine Kengne Djeutane
Regional Secretary
WSCF – Africa Region

3. BIBLE STUDY AND THEOLOGY

Bible Study and Theology remain the backbone of all WSCF activities. Since the WSCF is called to be a prophetic witness in Church and Society through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to study the bible and to develop more theological reflection on those issues affecting young people's life. We believe this is one of the most effective ways to provide a forum for Christian formation. In this report of activities for 2009, we are indeed happy to share with you part of our theological reflection on the theme of the year: ***“Identity, Diversity and Dialogue”*** as prepared by Prof Kabiru Kinyanjui, WSCF Africa Senior Friend.

Transcending Identity and Celebrating: A Biblical Reflection on Encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman: John 4:4-10 and Galatians 4: 26-28.

In life we encounter each other at the point of our needs. Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman after a long journey when he was hungry and thirsty. He was alone in the countryside. His disciples had gone into the city.

The Samaritan woman had travelled a long journey in her life. She was searching for love, but often finding rejection. Even at the moment of encounter with Jesus she was not sure of her status as a wife. At the time of meeting with Jesus she needed water for her household. Jesus needed water to drink. A human need brought them together. However, it turned out to be a divine encounter. She was a Samaritan and Jesus was a Jew. There was a history of differences and hostility between them. However, human need brought them together.

Often we encounter each other at the point of human need: food, shelter, peace, education, water, love, etc. At this point our identity is not so critical but our need is supreme and urgent. In Africa, we are encountering each other at the point of meeting basic needs such as food, shelter, water, education, employment and security. Yet as we encounter each other, we often fail to see the humanity in the other. Like the Samaritan woman (verse 9), we see the other in terms of his or her ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation, social status, nationality or race. In attempts to meet these

human needs in the midst of encounter with the other, we are often engaged therefore into ethnic or religious conflicts, gender confrontation, tensions between the youth and aged and other forms of negative exchange.

In such circumstances, we often move back to the comfort of our identity. In emphasizing the contrasts with others, we deny the humanity of the other. We celebrate our uniqueness instead of the diversity that God has bestowed on our continent.

The encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan woman offers many lessons for us in Africa to reflect upon. First, Jesus breaks away from his Jewishness to embrace the Samaritan woman by asking her for water to drink (John 4:7). Here Jesus teaches us to embrace the other, despite historical and religious differences (Jesus' human ancestry was embodiment of diversity- Tamar a Canaanite and Ruth a Moabite). Secondly, the Samaritan woman gave a typical human response by emphasizing the differences between them "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman..." She emphasized her identity rather than a shared common humanity. Is this not how we respond when we encounter our brothers and sisters in need? We often emphasize our ethnicity. You are a Kikuyu and I am a Kalenjin! You are a Hutu and I am a Tutsi! You are an Ibo and I am a Fulani! In face of diversity and human needs, we often fall into the trap and comfort of narrow self interests.

Thirdly, Jesus answer to this (Verse 10), was to point to us the gift of God and who He is.

The challenge of any encounter is therefore to see the gifts which come to us when we transcend ethnicity, gender, religious differences, race or nationality etc. In our circumstances Jesus is directing us to the gifts which come to us by embracing the other. Here we are being asked to draw and drink from the vast waters that God provides to all of us in the creation of diversity and life eternal.

Hence Jesus is inviting us to celebrate diversity that comes with his Kingdom. There, personal identity does not become a limitation to the appreciation and celebration of the gifts of others. These could be gifts of music, food, language, education, genetic diversity and multiplicity of talents.

In celebrating diversity, we need to ask ourselves whether this entails the death of identity. Or, is it a challenge for us to transcend the negative elements of identity to embrace the richness that differences bring to our societies. Where this happens, the strength of our identities enables us to build the necessary confidence, skills and knowledge to embrace and celebrate the richness which comes with involvement with others. They become part of us. So we dance to their dances with our feet firmly on a sure ground, as we learn new steps in the enlarged stage.

In transcending identity and embracing diversity, Africa needs to learn from Apostle Paul. Here, is a Jew of tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee, a Roman citizen and a learned person who upon encountering Christ, his identity was transformed in a radical manner to embrace the diversity which the Roman Empire offered. As a result, Paul became an ardent apostle to the Gentiles, his roots, culture and education, notwithstanding. He did not deny it, but utilized the strength that comes with it to reach out to the Gentiles and counter religious bigotry. In Christ, he emphasized in context of many challenges, among fellow apostles and diverse audiences, that there was "no difference between Jew and Gentile..." (Romans 10: 12). To Galatians, Paul was emphatic that "there is neither Jew nor

Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28. This is a fervent call to celebrate common humanity with all its diversity.

Today we are called upon not to deny our identity, but to utilize it to learn, to reach out and to share in God’s abundant love. We are called into this feast of God’s love regardless of our race, ethnicity, gender, social class, age, geographical location or nationality. In the celebration of this life with all its diversity, we can affirm with Paul that, in Christ we can transcend ethnic and social differences to celebrate the blessings that come with the vast diversity that Africa represents.

“In our interconnected world, we must learn to feel enlarged and not threatened by difference”. Jonathan Sacks, ***The Dignity with Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations.*** London, 2003

- 1) What lessons do we learn from the encounter of a Samaritan woman with Jesus at the well?
- 2) How do we overcome the tendencies to retreat to ethnic, racial, gender, and cultural identity when encountering others in search of economic opportunities and basic needs?
- 3) How can we recognize God’s gifts which come with embracing the diversity in Africa? How do we overcome the limitations of identity to celebrate diversity?
- 4) What transformation is required in us (attitudes, behaviour, outlook etc) to enable us to affirm and celebrate with Paul that in God’s Kingdom there are no differences based on race, ethnicity, gender or social class?

These other activities took place during the year 2009:

- The Universal Day of Prayer for Students was celebrated this year worldwide on the 15th of February. The theme of the UDPS 2009 was “***Identity, Diversity and Dialogue***”.
- The Daily Scripture Reading 2009 “*Maramatha*” was published by the Student Christian Movement of Nigeria. The Regional Office as usual disseminated copies to our members in Africa. We aimed to nurture and strengthen SCMs’ faith and work toward the spiritual growth.

4. GOVERNANCE

- **Officers and Staff Meeting**

From the 12th to the 19th of February 2009, Officers and Staff met in Geneva to share experience and to provide training opportunity on Dialogue facilitated by the WSCF Vice Chairperson Ms Shanta Ready from the USA.

5. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND TRAININGS

5.1. Food Security and Right to Food

The aim of the project is to enhance the knowledge of participants in the field of Food Security and Right to Food. It’s also aimed at providing tools and adequate information on the causes of food crises, helping thus participants to overcome hunger, to ensure food security, and to fight against corruption and mismanagement of resources in the African continent.

29 participants attended the meeting from ACEEPCI Côte d'Ivoire, ACEET Togo, JCUSB Benin, RAJEPRWA Rwanda, MESSORWA Rwanda, AJEC DR Congo, FNJP Congo and MEPC Cameroon. Students were trained on the root causes (situational and structural) of food crises in Africa. They resolve at the end of the meeting:

- to lobby public authorities in a bid to have them value agricultural and pastoral activities
- to bring youth leaders to network with a view to promote sharing of experience and flow of ideas in searching solutions to the food crisis
- to promote good governance

They worked on their respective national action plans and resolve to disseminate the information at the national level.

Final Statement by Participants to The Leaders' Training Seminar on Food Security

We, undersigned delegates representing

- *L'Association Chrétienne des Elèves et Etudiants Protestants de la Côte d'Ivoire (ACEEPCI) ;*
- *L'Association Chrétienne des Elèves et Etudiants du Togo (ACEET) ;*
- *La Fédération Nationale de la Jeunesse Protestante de l'Eglise du Christ au Congo (FNJP/RDC) ;*
- *La Jeunesse Chrétienne Universitaire et Scolaire du Bénin (JCUSB) ;*
- *Le Mouvement des Etudiants Protestants du Cameroun (MEPC) ;*
- *Le Mouvements des Etudiants au Service Social du Rwanda (MESSORWA) ;*
- *Le Rassemblement de la Jeunesse Estudiantine Protestante Chrétienne à l'Action (RAJEPRWA) ;*
- *L'Association des Jeunes et des Etudiants Chrétiens de la RDC (AJEC),*

At the session held from 30th May to 5th June 2009 at the *Hôtel Azur*, Yaoundé (Cameroon), focusing on the *Leaders' training seminar on food security*, and sponsored by the WSCF (Africa Region),

Bearing in mind that people, for some time, have been demonstrating and rioting in many countries (mostly in Africa) in order to protest against the increasing cost of living and hunger,

Since food crisis – as a cause of those demonstrations – remains a global issue which should attract the attention of all social, political and economic stakeholders,

Noting that governments have indeed taken action to curb and control this food crisis issue, even though a lot still needs to be done,

Whereas, from the proceedings of this training seminar, it came out clearly that the root causes of the food crisis are both structural and situational, and result in:

- Inadequate agricultural policies and production
- Decline and destruction of arable lands
- Increasing cost of petrol products
- Extroversion of our food habits
- Bad governance
- Difficulties in reaching out for land and funding

- Recourse to biofuels
- etc.

Recognizing that, as Christian young leaders, it is a biblical and civic duty for us to fully contribute in the search for solutions to social issues, mainly those related to the food crisis,

We resolve to do the following:

- lobbying public authorities in a bid to have them value agricultural and pastoral activities,
- bringing youth leaders to network with a view to promote the sharing of experience and the flow of ideas in searching solutions to the food crisis,
- Promoting good governance

We recommend to public authorities

- to value and boost agricultural and pastoral activities/initiatives in order to attain sustainable food security;
- to regulate the farmers' market
- to channel the foreign aid towards agricultural sector
- to enhance consultations at the regional and sub-regional levels ;

We further recommend

- to the Churches : to get more involved in efforts geared towards solving the socio-economic problems related to the food crisis ;
- to the youths : to further emphasize agricultural and pastoral activities, since the latter constitute potential income generating sectors.

Done in Yaoundé, the 3rd June 2009

5.2. Training on HIV and AIDS link to Economic Justice

In this training we intend to put into place an effective Economic Justice Advocacy Framework for East Africa sub regional network so as to scale up our response to HIV & AIDS. Taking stock on the identification of key HIV & AIDS challenges linked to Economic Justice in East Africa our Advocacy will focus on providing a venue for students to establish a national advocacy plan to fight against HIV and AIDS.

From 4th to 09th August 2009, 34 (18 female & 16 male) delegates from the SCMs of Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda attended the training.

We regretted that after 25 years of HIV/AIDS pandemic there was no breakthrough in reduction rate of spread of HIV/AIDS due to the weakness of behaviour change, failure to become familiar with the scourge, complacency, ignorance, lack of self control and self esteem.

We recommit ourselves to lobby our Governments, NGOs, Faith Based Organizations, CBOs, and Individuals in order for them to implement policies and measures that allow and support safe practices in fighting against HIV/AIDS; access to treatment for opportunistic infections, sexual transmissible infections, ARV and to nutrition; the value of voluntary testing and counseling and empowerment of children, young people, women, men, families and communities living with or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. This should include the pastoral, spiritual, social, economic, educational and political aspects.

We call for anti- Stigma-Shame-Deny-Discrimination-Inaction and Mis-action [SSDDIM] policies and practices for People living with HIV/AIDS in our countries, churches and communities.

We reaffirm our commitment to awareness-raising, compassion, faith, hope, perseverance and determination among young people to pursue godliness, youthfulness, usefulness, faithfulness and devise strategies of fighting the increasing moral decay.

EAST AFRICAN SUB REGIONAL TRAINING ON HIV/AIDS LINK TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE, KAMPALA, UGANDA, AUGUST 04-09, 2009 – KAMPALA STATEMENT

The World Student Christian Federation, Africa Region, organized an East African Sub Regional Training on HIV/AIDS link to Economic Justice at Lweza Training and Conference Centre in Kampala, Uganda, from 04th to 09th August 2009.

Participants came from the respective Student Christian Movements:

1. Département de la Jeunesse, Eglise Anglicane du Burundi, Diocèse de Bujumbura
2. Student Christian Movement of Kenya
3. SCM Rwanda, Rassemblement de la Jeunesse Protestante en Action
4. SCM Rwanda, Mouvement des Etudiants au Service Social au Rwanda
5. Tanzanian Students Christian Fellowship
6. Provincial Youth and Students Unit, Church of the Province of Uganda

During the three-day meeting, participants listened to presentations from skilled Resource Persons, shared testimonies and experiences, prayed, had rich discussions on HIV/AIDS link to economic justice and they challenge one another.

At the end of the Training, the participants made the following statement:

1. HIV/AIDS is acquired, not inherited in genes from one's parents. For this reason, we were reassured that the HIV/AIDS is a preventable disease. People Living with HIV/AIDS can postpone and reverse their premature death through care, assistance, and treatment by using Anti Retroviral Drugs (ARV).
2. HIV/AIDS pandemic is devastating our society, causing fall in incomes for families, disintegration of families, and leading people to suffer psychologically by reducing the ability of States and civil societies to provide them the essential services.

3. We regret the attitude of some faith-based organizations' leaders and members who continue to believe that HIV/AIDS is a curse or a punishment from God to immoral people. Others continue to admit that God gives life and takes it back anytime He wishes whereas here death can be prevented. Such messages reveal how ignorant and naive people still are in matters of HIV/AIDS pandemic. As Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life- life in all its fullness". HIV/AIDS is therefore a thief, a robber that takes away the development agents, the reproductive generation, and the hope of families, Africa and the whole humanity.
4. We recognize and appreciate the work already done by Governments, the Civil Society, Faith Based Organizations, CBOs, and Individuals in tackling the issue of HIV/AIDS pandemic. However, we note that prevention and care prevail over injustices which prompt the spread of HIV/AIDS. Those injustices include but are not limited to social, political, economic, educational and spiritual injustices.
5. We strongly condemn the injustices still imposed on sick people, especially those living with HIV/AIDS, with regard to stigmatization, discrimination, limited access to treatment due to high prices of drugs-ARVS, insufficient health infrastructure, lack of qualified and equitably paid Personnel, less care and assistance to orphans and other people affected by HIV/AIDS.
6. We condemn the syndromes of corruption that have led to mismanagement of HIV/AIDS funds, misallocation of government expenditures on purchasing expensive and luxurious properties, weapons, and entertaining conflicts and wars while citizens are dying from preventable diseases, postponable and reversible deaths.
7. We condemn the immoral and deplorable sexual behaviour of irresponsible adults who exploit and abuse young girls and boys by using their financial power as a trap.
8. We deeply regret that after 25 years of HIV/AIDS pandemic, there is no breakthrough in reduction rate of the spread of HIV/AIDS due to weakness of behaviour change, failure to become familiar with the scourge, complacency, ignorance, lack of self control and self esteem.
9. We call upon Governments, NGOs, Faith Based Organizations, CBOs and Individuals to implement policies and measures that allow and support safe practices in fighting against HIV/AIDS; access to treatment for opportunistic infections, sexual transmissible infections, ARVs and to nutrition; the value of voluntary testing and counseling and empowerment of children, young people, women, men, families and communities living with or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. This should emphasise the spiritual, social, economic, educational and political aspects.
10. We call for anti- Stigma-Shame-Deny-Discrimination-Inaction and Mis-action [SSDDIM] policies and practices for People living with HIV/AIDS in our countries, churches and communities.
11. We reaffirm our commitment to awareness-raising, compassion, faith, hope, perseverance and determination among young people to pursue godliness, youthfulness, usefulness, and faithfulness and devise strategies of fighting the increasing moral decay.

Released in Kampala on August 08, 2009

5.3. Gender Advocacy and Leadership Training

Violence against women is still rampant in all corners of the world. Such violence equals to the violation of human rights. Violence against women is a violation of human rights that cannot be justified by any political, religious, or cultural claim. A global culture of discrimination against women allows violence to occur daily and with impunity

In 2009, we continued to develop and disseminate the theological reflections on gender to national movements, avail relevant UN and AU instruments and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), The Beijing Platform of Action, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights on the rights of Women in Africa.

6. NATIONAL MOVEMENT VISITATION

6.1. SCM of Cameroon - MEPC

During the francophone training on Food Security and Right to food, the Regional Secretary visited the Student Christian Movement of Cameroon – Mouvement des Etudiants Protestants du Cameroun (MEPC). With participants coming from Togo, DR Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin and Rwanda we visited the Protestant University Chaplaincy in Yaoundé. We also interacted with the members of the Executive and members of other branches of the Movement from Garoua, Ngaoundere, Dschang, Bandjoun, Douala, Buea and Yaoundé.

Cameroon SCM has a membership of approximately 7,000 members and the movement is operated in 7 chaplaincies across the country. They are affiliated to the Christian Council of Churches of Cameroon (CEPCA). In addition to the National Executive Bureau (BEN), they have a Chaplain.

6.2. SCM of Uganda

The Regional Secretary visited the SCM of Uganda during the HIV and AIDS training held in Kampala and hosted by the Movement. The Youth Department of the Church of the Province of Uganda is associated to WSCF. They hosted our HIV and AIDS link to Economic Justice Training. It is also one of the strongest Movements in Africa. During our short visit to the Movement, we noticed it has strong roots and a very insightful programme for young people. Their achievement in the fight against HIV and AIDS is commendable. Members are also involved in many other activities in the country like the Bible Society programme.

6.3. Visit to the SCM of Namibia

From 3rd to 9th October 2009, the Regional Secretary visited the Student Christian Movement of Namibia. The SCM of Namibia is organized into 6 regions and has a very strong membership in the secondary schools. It is one of the strongest SCMs in Africa. Despite that they have not been in contact with the Regional Office and the IRO, they have been very steady and strong, carrying out fundraising at the national level and having very strong and committed senior friends who are successfully working hand in hand with the new generation.

The SCM has an office (a building donated by the church) which is now being renovated. Each branch of the secondary schools has its own FLAG with messages like the following:

- Ours sons in their youth will be like well matured plants ...and your daughters will be like pillars...Psalm 144:12 – from Shaanika Nashilongo SSS
- You are like light for the whole world. Mat 5:14 – from Ngendjo Senior Primary School
- How wonderful it is, how pleasant for God’s people to live together in harmony. Psalm 133:1
- Make Jesus King – from Mwaala SCM branch
- Depart from me, you evil doers, for I will keep the commandments of my God. Psalm 119 : 115 – from Shikongo – Ipinge Branch

May God continue to bless his sons and daughters in Namibia!

6.4. Visit to the SCM of Malawi

On the 28th of December 2009, the Regional Secretary had the opportunity to visit the Student Christian Movement of Malawi named Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA). CYAMA was founded in 1999 with the aim to promote the participation of Christian Youth in the spiritual, social and political and economic development of societies in Malawi through Christian teachings. CYAMA is closely working with the Malawi Council of Churches, the Episcopal Conference of Malawi, the Evangelical Association of Malawi, and the Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association and they have expressed their willingness to be an affiliate member of the World Student Christian Federation. We look forward to welcoming CYAMA as one of our strongest affiliate members and thus strengthen our networking. CYAMA is a model of Ecumenism in our context.

6.5. SCM OF LESOTHO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

During the year 2009, the Student Christian Movement in Lesotho celebrated their centennial anniversary. Below are the messages from the Regional Secretary to the movement:

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1909 – 2009 – 100 YEARS OF THE SCM IN LESOTHO

WSCF Africa Region is pleased to join you in the celebration of the 100 years of pioneering movement of the Federation. The saving power of the Lord Jesus- Christ has risen on you like the sun and today we are privileged to be among those who are celebrating the 100 years of History. When the founders planted the movement with their faith in God, they didn’t know that God will open the windows of heaven and pour out on the SCM in abundance all kinds of good things (Malachi 3:10).

During the 100 years of existence of the SCM, you’ve undergone a number of tragic events, when some of your members went through tribulations, were harassed and jailed, but the loving power of the Almighty comforted, strengthened and kept you safe from all kinds of destruction. His words were and still remain a lamp to guide you and a light for your path (Psalms 119: 105).

Looking at your file at the Regional Office and from my good memories after my two visits to your movements, you also have undergone a number of strategic changes to preserve your vitality and

keep pace with changing times. Your programs in a number of ways have been revised to sustain your tradition of excellence. The SCM in Lesotho is among the most steady and vibrant SCM in Africa. Let's rejoice and celebrate, let's sing glory to God as He has been merciful to us.

I should have loved to be with you during this memorable event, but due to some circumstances beyond my control, I didn't have a joy to travel again in your beautiful country "the kingdom in the sky". My heart and prayers are with you in the most quiet and peaceful Morija where God resides.

While celebrating, I will encourage you to continue to evaluate the needs of your young people, your country and Africa at large. We should also keep in mind that new challenges are still ahead and that we have the moral obligation to make a difference and to pass on to the next generation, as the Sowers did, a noble legacy. What are the dreams and visions of the daughters and sons of the SCM in Lesotho today? New forms of corruption, moral decay, and social challenges are destroying our world, young people who are our target in our ministry are the most vulnerable and affected.

How innovative should we bring to their attention that all the problems humanity is facing today result from the "SPIRITUAL CRISIS"? We are making all kind of efforts to leave God out of our lives, families, work places, businesses, etc.

How are we going to be the inspiration of the entire humanity? Let's magnify and celebrate our Lord and continue to pray and ask Him to renew our wisdom and knowledge for a significant renaissance with new SCM leaders blessed with the wisdom of our Senior Friends.

MY LOVE TO ALL OF YOU

6.6. TOGO: ACEET CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

In West Africa, Togo's SCM celebrated the fiftieth anniversary. The following is the message from the Regional Secretary to the ACEET Movement.

The WSCF Africa Region shares with you the joy of celebrating the fifty years of existence of your Movement during this week.

By the power, the goodness, and the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are today among the privileged people who have been entrusted with the mission to review the past fifty years and to plan ahead for the future of the ACEET history.

When the founders sowed the seed of the movement by their faith in God, little did they know that God would open the sluice gates of heaven and would bless the movement in abundance (Malachi 3: 10).

During the 50 years of ACEET's existence, young women and young men received a spiritual training and they rejoice today for having been members of ACEET and furthermore being senior Friends of the Movement.

Sometimes the movement was shaken by a certain number of unhappy events and some members went through tribulations because of their faith. Facing all these disgruntled tests you remained firm

because the loving power of our Lord relieved your pains, erected a rock of protection around you against all kinds of destructive forces.

The Word of God is and remains always a lamp to your feet and a light for your path (Psalms 119:105). When we read again the ACEET file at the regional office and the different reports from your delegates to our various meetings, we realise that you achieved many strategic changes all along your existence so as to preserve your identity, vitality, and up-to-date teachings on urgent challenges.

In most cases your programs were reviewed in order to sustain your tradition of excellence. I don't believe that when I remind you that your movement is among the steadiest and most vibrant of Africa I give you thus any cause to boast. In the past you also had leaders who served at the Africa regional level, e.g. Mrs. Claudine Ahianhou, Vice Chairwoman of the Region and Head of the Student Feminine Commission, and of late Mr Félix Aklavon as Treasurer. Please forgive me if I forget some others.

Rejoice and praise the Eternal Lord, sing the songs of joy for the glory of our compassionate God rich in goodness. From the bottom of my heart I wished to join you during these memorable moments, but due to circumstances beyond my control, I could not travel. My heart, thoughts and prayers are with you at all levels of life and during the high moments of this God-centered event.

While celebrating and uplifting your actions of thanksgiving to Almighty, I exhort you to keep on assessing the needs that your young people, your country Togo and the whole Africa have. We must keep in mind the new challenges facing today the young. Our moral obligation requires us to make a difference and give to the next generation a worthy legacy.

Do you constantly ask yourselves what are today the dreams and visions of the girls and the sons of the ACEET? The new ways of corruption, the moral decay and other social challenges destroy pitilessly our world, and our target young are the most vulnerable and most affected.

It's my persuasion and my conviction that SPIRITUAL CRISIS can sum up the problems facing our humanity. The humanity is trying everything possible to let God out of its life, its family, its workplaces, its enterprises, etc.

What can be done to inspire the whole humanity and to spread the signs of God's kingdom on earth? Let's keep on magnifying and celebrating our Lord, let's pray constantly and let's ask God to remove our hearts of stone and give us the hearts of flesh. In front of all problems and challenges that continue to affect our country and continent, let's say all together with our senior friends « Yet, I want to rejoice in Eternal God, I want to rejoice in God of my Salvation, the Eternal, the Lord, is my strength. He makes my feet similar to those of the doe, and He makes me walk on my high places ».

Good celebration!!!!

MY LOVE TO ALL OF YOU

7. NETWORK AND COLLABORATION

7.1. Global Citizens Summit on Social Mobilization to End AIDS, Nairobi - Kenya

From 27th to 29th May 2009, 4 delegates from the Nigeria SCM (Mr. Okey Godfrey), the Uganda SCM (Mr. Allan Lutete) and Kenya (Mr. Mbutu Kariuki and the Regional Secretary) attended, on behalf of WSCF Africa Region, the Global citizen's Summit for Social Mobilization to End AIDS. The aim of the Global Citizen's Summit was to create a new momentum on Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support through scaling up social mobilization to end HIV and AIDS.

We joined the effort of ACTION AID in mobilizing the Nations and Stop HIV infection spread.

Photo

7.2. Faith and Development Leaders Meeting of the World Bank, Accra - Ghana

On the 1st and 2nd of July 2009, we took part in the meeting for Faith and Development Leaders hosted by the World Bank in Accra. The purpose of the meeting was to explore immediate issues arising from the current economic crisis and, therefore, highlight more broadly roles that faith leaders and faith-inspired networks and organizations can play in enhancing the outreach and quality of development programs and policies. Participants and the World Bank representatives took stock on the extensive and rich experience on the ground by faith-inspired networks in implementing development issues at regional and global levels. We acknowledged the very important role of religious leaders as advocates for strategic development issues. Bold ways and means of expanding faith-based analytical work and their service delivery in education, health and social welfare were identified.

Photo

7.3. Annual Review and Strategy Conference by the Africa Trade Network, Accra - Ghana

The Third World Network based in Accra, Ghana, organized an annual review and strategy conference for Africa movements working on trade, from the 10th -14th of 2009. This meeting aimed at sharing analysis on the impact of the global crisis on Africa and discuss reforms to address the crisis issues in Africa as well as adopting the collective civil society strategic advocacy positions on Africa's proactive response to the global economic crisis.

7.4. YMCA meeting on the theme "From Subject to Citizen", Addis Ababa - Ethiopia

From the 28th October to the 2nd November 2009, the Regional Secretary attended the Youth Summit organized by the Africa Alliance of the YMCA with a view to build the civic competence of Young people in Africa. The YMCA intended to address the crisis of the voiceless, the lack of space in leadership and decision-making for young people. This has relegated the youth in Africa to a place where they are more of "subjects" and less of "citizens". The primary focus of YMCA is to fight against the political and economic exploitation and its program of activities aims at giving young people opportunities to explore their potential and capacity by participating in the wider societal decision making processes. To some extent WSCF and YMCA have the same objectives and are both working with young people for their empowerment. Our participation to the Summit was

meant to find out new ways of partnership and assure the YMCA of our continued cooperation, support, and collaboration.

7.5. Global Christian Forum – 2nd Africa Regional Meeting in Accra – Ghana

From the 16th to the 20th of November 2009, I attended the second African Regional Meeting of the Global Christian Forum, held in Accra, Ghana. The Global Christian Forum seeks to create an open space wherein representatives from a broad range of Christian churches and interfaith organizations, which confess the triune God and Jesus Christ as perfect in His divinity and humanity, can come together in order to foster mutual respect, explore, understand, and address common challenges. The Global Christian Forum as a process highlighted the purposes of the meeting as following:

- To provide a follow-up to the Africa consultation on the Global Christian Forum that took place in Lusaka in August 2005 and to broaden and deepen the impact of the GCF in Africa
- To foster the organization of national Christian forums in Africa
- To establish an active GCF network in Africa
- To enhance relationships and cooperation at the continental level

Global Christian Forum African Regional Meeting Statement

Hephzibah Christian Centre – Peduase, Ghana

16 – 20 November 2009

May they be one, so that the world may believe ...' Jn. 17:21

We, being around seventy Christians from a broad range of traditions and organizations – including African Instituted, Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, Pentecostal, Reformed, Salvation Army, All Africa Conference of Churches, Association of Evangelicals in Africa, Organization of African Instituted Churches, Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, various National Councils of Churches, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, United Bible Societies, and World Student Christian Federation (Africa Region), together with some members of the International and Africa GCF Committees – came together at the Hephzibah Christian Centre, Peduase, Ghana, from 16 to 20 November, 2009. The meeting followed an earlier Africa Consultation in Lusaka in August 2005 and the Global Christian Forum Meeting in Limuru, Kenya, in November 2007.

Participants were particularly drawn from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, together with the continental organizations, with the hope that the vision, ideals and processes of the Forum might find expression within these contexts. It is also hoped that these achievements will be shared throughout the rest of Africa in due course.

We were enriched by the opening address given by Bishop S N Mensah of the Ghana Pentecostal Council, and the keynote address, *Christianity and the Unity of the Church in Africa* given by Rev Professor Kwabena Asamoah-Gyedu of Trinity Theological Seminary, Accra. We also shared our personal faith journeys and heard accounts of the relationships between Christian traditions and Churches in Africa from the continental bodies and the four represented nations. We discussed in

groups what we could learn from these and our hopes for the future; and continued to reflect upon these themes in confessional, and in national and continental groups. The reports of these reflections are attached, but the main points of our deliberations are as follows.

We have learned that:

1. The desire for Christian unity is felt across the entire continent
2. We all share much more in common than is often acknowledged
3. Our ecumenical journey needs to begin with those things that we hold in common, such as faith in Jesus Christ
4. We should be more intentional in listening to one another
5. The sharing of personal faith journeys fosters understanding of one another, and generates a generous and accommodating spirit among us
6. Christian parents have been important in shaping the faith of most of us, and therefore supporting Christian parents should be a priority
7. We can be firm in our own faith, while recognizing the confessional differences that exist among us and avoiding being judgmental
8. Unity is a priority because Christ is not divided; however, unity is not uniformity and does not require us to give up our uniqueness

Our expectations are that:

1. The GCF process can continue to develop without establishing a highly structured organization
2. The GCF will build upon the existing ecumenical processes to promote Christian unity, alongside other appropriate means
3. The GCF can be an open forum for respectful conversation, dialogue and fellowship among the whole Christian family
4. The vision of the GCF should be owned at all levels: global, continental, regional, national and local
5. Each national group, working together with the continental bodies, should be responsible for the process and means of facilitating the vision, ideals and processes of the GCF in their own contexts
6. We will be intentional in extending the achievements of this meeting to other nations of Africa in the future, including through means such as regional meetings
7. The GCF should encourage the development of new generation of leaders at all levels
8. In future we should ensure a better representation of both women and young people
9. The GCF should develop the existing website to enable sharing of experiences and the building of relationship at all levels; and to provide information on existing ecumenical resources available elsewhere
10. The International and Africa GCF Committees should coordinate in ways to strengthen ownership and leading of the GCF process, and its sharing within the Continent

We expressed the hope that the leadership of Africa’s continental ecclesial bodies (AACC, AEA, OAIC, SECAM) and other para-church organizations, might meet on a regular basis for prayers, fellowship and sharing.

We thank God for this opportunity to come together, sensing a powerful movement of the Spirit among us, and we trust ourselves to the Spirit’s leading of our future.

7.6. Leadership Training on Identity and Diversity, Chiang Mai, Bangkok

A continental Leadership training on Identity, Diversity and Dialogue was organized by the Inter Regional Office and took place from the 1st to the 12th December 2009 in Chiang Mai, Bangkok. Ms Sita Tuo from Côte d’Ivoire and Mr. Jean Marie Mboniyintwali, Rwanda, represented the Region.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

	2009 US \$
INCOME	
-Grant from Geneva	25,995
-Grant from the Anglican Church of Canada	6,424
-Grant from the United Methodist Church USA – GBGM	8,000
-Grant from ICCO – Kerkinactie	33,500
-Grant from the World Council of Churches (ESF)	12,200
-Grant from the United Church of Canada	21,275
-Grant from KAIROS	31,259
- Other Incomes	328
-Foreign currency adjustment	(2,649)
Total Grant	137,552
EXPENSES	
-Programmes	95,874
-Administrative	40,264
Total Expenses	136,138
Surplus of the Year	1,414

AFRICA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Mr. Normand Ndayizeye, Chairperson, Burundi
- Mr. Edwin Opiyo, Vice Chairperson, Kenya
- Ms. Gloria Lae Joseph, Treasurer, New Sudan
- Ms. Denise Akpei Memel, Executive Committee Member, Côte d’Ivoire
- Mr. Jules Tchede Dakpanon, Executive committee Member, Benin

Africa Exco Proxies

- Ms. Lydia Barbra Nyabuna, Uganda
- Ms. Ruth Ngotty Essebe, Cameroon

9. AFFILIATED AND ASSOCIATED MEMBER MOVEMENTS

1. Jeunesse Chrétienne Universitaire et Scolaire du Benin (JSCUB)
2. Département des Jeunes, Eglise Episcopale du Burundi
3. Mouvements des Etudiants Protestants du Cameroun (MEPC)
4. Association Chrétienne des Elèves et Etudiants Protestants de Côte d'Ivoire (ACEEPCI)
5. Ethiopian Student's Association (HAESA)
6. SCM of The Gambia
7. SCM of Ghana
8. SCM of Kenya
9. SCM of Lesotho
10. National Student Christian Council of Liberia (NSCC)
11. Mpiantra Kristiana Malagasi (MPI.KRI.MA) Madagascar
12. SCM of Namibia
13. SCM of Nigeria
14. Fédération Nationale des Jeunes Protestants (FNJP), DRC
15. Association des Jeunes et des Etudiants Chrétiens (AJEC), DRC
16. Mouvement des Etudiants au Service Social du Rwanda (MESSORWA)
17. Rassemblement de la Jeunesse Estudiantine Protestante à l'Action (RAJEPRRA), Rwanda
18. Mouvement des Jeunes de l'Eglise Protestante du Sénégal (MJPS)
19. Federation of South Africa Christian Students (FEDSACS), South Africa
20. Sudanese Student Christian Mission (SSCM), New Sudan
21. SCM of Sierra Leone
22. Tanzania Student Christian Fellowship (TSCF)
23. Association Chrétienne des Elèves et Etudiants du Togo (ACEET)
24. The Youth Department, Church of the Province of Uganda
25. SCM of Zambia
26. SCM of Zimbabwe
27. USM – Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus – Ethiopia

CONTACT POINTS

28. Christian Council of Churches in Gabon
29. Youth Department Christian Council of Churches in Congo Brazzaville

- 30. CYAMA Malawi
- 31. Christian Council of Churches in Botswana
- 32. SCM Mozambique

10. LIST OF DONORS

- ICCO & Kerkinactie, Netherlands
- Anglican Church of Canada
- Kairos – Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- GBGM – The United Methodist Church, USA
- United Church of Canada
- World Council of Churches, Geneva

11. PRESENTATION OF WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

AFRICA REGION

VISION AND MISSION

WSCF is a global community of Student Christian Movements committed to dialogue, ecumenism, social justice and peace.

Our mission is to empower students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world. We also seek to promote cooperation among young people in working and advocating for socio-economic justice, peace and human rights and responsible and accountable leadership in the world.

Founded in 1895, the WSCF serves 6 regions around the world, including 25 countries in Africa. In the past 112 years, the focus has been on promoting peace and conflict transformation, human rights education, Bible Study and Theology, Economic Justice, Leadership training. In addition to these foundational efforts, more recently in Africa there have been Initiatives to empower women, develop leadership, and generate interfaith dialogue and combat HIV and AIDS.

STATISTICS

Number of Movements: 27

Affiliated: 21

Associated: 6

Contact Point: 5

Central Africa Sub Region (7 Nationals Movements – 4 Affiliated, 3 Associated and 3 contact points)

- Burundi

- Cameroon
- Congo Brazzaville
- Democratic Republic of Congo (2)
- Gabon
- Madagascar
- Central Africa Republic
- Rwanda (2)

East Africa Sub- Region (6 National Movements – 3 Affiliated – 3 Associated)

- Ethiopia (2)
- Kenya
- Uganda
- Sudan
- Tanzania

South Africa Sub Region (5 National Movements – 5 Affiliated and 2 contact points)

- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

West Africa Sub Region (9 National Movements – 9 Affiliated)

- Bénin
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Sénégal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

MEMBERSHIP: Approximately 600,000