



World Student Christian Federation Africa Newsletter

December 2010

Dear readers

I'm pleased to share with you the December 2010 Electronic Newsletter of the World Student Christian Federation, Africa Region.

In this new edition of the E-News letter, you will be delighted by reading information from some of our national movements (SCM of Nigeria, Lesotho, Madagascar and Cote d'Ivoire); it is quite impressive to witness the leadership transition in many movements, if only our African leaders can learn from you!!!!.

The other particularity of this edition is our ability to share with you information from members of our network like the Religions for Peace; action taken by one of our Partners KAIROS on justice and finally the message of the Officers introducing the newly elected Co-General Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation.

We also believe that our SCMs should pick up the work on climate justice. That is why we are sharing with you the outcome of the training held in Benin, West Africa on Climate Justice.

We also inviting you to celebrate with Masimba Kuchera, WSCF Africa Region former Vice Chairperson his new experience as a father!!!.

"Challenges in life come in three broad categories, easy, difficult and impossible. Those who take on only the easy have a safe and boring life. Those who take on the difficult have a tough but satisfying life. Those who take on the impossible are

remembered". Which one do you want to take?

Enjoy your reading

God bless

Georgine Kengne Djeutane

Regional secretary

WSCF Africa

SCM NIGERIA HOLDS 26TH NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The 26th National Biennial Conference of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Nigeria took place between April 1-5, 2010 at Immaculate Conception College, Benin City, Edo State. The 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Movement was also marked during the Conference.

The Conference drew participants from SCM constituencies – Secondary Schools, Tertiary Branches, Christian Movement Fellowships, Senior Friends and other Friends of the Movement.

A total number of 535 persons attended the conference whose theme was "**Ebenezer**" 1 Sam 7:12. The Guest Speakers include Bishop Dr. Emmah Isong, Bishop Dr. Moses Kattey, Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Enofurho, Engineer Ayodeji Akinlosotu among others.

The conference features include exposition on the theme. Faith Clinic, Seminars, Workshops, Variety Nights, deliverance and healing Ministrations as well as Bible Studies. The opening Ceremony was held on Friday April 2, 2010 with a colourful

procession by delegates Sector by Sector amongst Features.

The Saturday of the Conference (April 3, 2010) was dedicated to the Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Movement. Goodwill Messages were received by notable SCMerS including the Regional Secretary, WSCF Africa, Ms Georgine Djeutane. The keynote address was delivered by Rev Eric Ighalo on the theme “SCM YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW.

The National Council which is the highest decision making organ of the Movement sat during the conference. The Council which was made up of representatives of SCM constituencies as well as other National Officers received the report of the activities of the Movement for the period April 2008 – February 2010 as well as the audited reports of the finances of the Movement for March 2004– 2008 and April 2008 – February 2010.

Discussions were held on the reports after which they were adopted by the House. A communiqué was issued at the end of the Council meeting as well as Resolutions. Among other decisions taken by the Council was the appointment of SCM Trustees which include the following:

1. Elder Lere Otegbade, 2. Prof. A.A Ubachukwu, 3. Dr. Philip Basse, 4. Dr. (Mrs.) Kike Odeniyi, 5. Dr. (Mrs.) Patience Isenmila, 6 Dr. G.F. Oyor, 7. Mr. Amos Balami



An Electoral Committee led by Pastor Lere Otegbade conducted the elections into the National Offices with the following emerging as follows:

Mr. Cyprian Ojum National President ; Mr. Emmanuel Ekwugha National Vice President; Mr. Banabo Ekankumo National Secretary; Mr. Adedara Adedeji National Asst. Secretary; Mrs Florence Adefolaju National Treasurer; Miss Moyosore Ajiboye National Financial Secretary; Mr. Olumide Toluwase National Project Co-ord.; Mrs Ebere Ubesie National WACAD Co-ord.; Mr. Sepiribo Erekeosima National Prayer Co-ord.; Mr. Ogbuefi Ikechukwu National Outreach Co-ord.; Dr. (Mrs.) Ngozi Ihediohanma Nat.Senior Friends' Group Co-ord.; **Mr. Leonard Ugbajah National Lit. & Pub. Co-ord.; Barr. Moses Okezie-Okafor National & Inter- Church Affairs Co-ord.;** Engr. Ayodeji Akinlosotu Ex-Officio; Mr. Harcourt-whyte Basene Ex-Officio.

The new National President, Mr. Cyprian Ojum in his acceptance speech appreciated God who found them worthy and faithful and thanked the House for electing them to serve. He noted that as servants, they will execute their duties well. He stressed that they cannot do without the support of men

and God. He finally prayed that as God helps them, they would not fail SCM. All road leads to Abuja, come 2012 for the 27th edition of the conference.

The extra-ordinary meeting of the SCM of Nigeria took place in Benin City on Saturday, June 5, 2010 with a total number of 65 participants comprising National Officers, Sectoral and Branch Presidents, staff persons as well as Sisters' Co-ordinate's and General Secretaries of some tertiary branches. Also in attendance were some members of SCM Board of Trustees and Patrons.

The National President, Mr. Cyprian Ojum presented a vision and mission statement with a 7-point outline (Cardinal Objectives) which after an exhaustive debate and modifications was adopted by the House which include the following:

VISION: Re-awakening the SCM ENTHUSIASM through active obedience to the Word of God - John 2:5

MISSION STATEMENT: Re-awakening the SCM ENTHUSIASM through active obedience to the Word of God by aggressive Discipleship, Prayer, School Visitation / Outreaches, Purposeful Leadership Trainings, Increased Senior Friends Involvement, Dedicated Personnel Base and a Robust Financial Commitment.

CARDINAL OBJECTIVES: 7-Point Outline

1. Discipleship based on the Word of God (John 2:5).
2. Purposeful Leadership Training.
3. Seamless Communication & Publicity.
4. Aggressive Evangelism: School Visitation/Outreaches.
5. Dedication to Prayer / Intercession.

6. Strong, United Senior Friends' Group / Enlarged Personnel Base.

7. Capital Development (Financial/Structural).

God bless our Movement SCM.

By Pastor Igiri Andrew, Ph.D. General Secretary

Climate Justice training in Benin action Plan

Anthropogenic climate change derives from emissions of greenhouse gases caused by human activities, changing thus the composition of the planet atmosphere. To this evolution are added the natural variations in climate. Under the Convention on the CC (Climate Change) the "changes of climate are attributed directly or indirectly to human activities that alter the composition of the global atmosphere and are in addition subject to natural climate variability as observed over comparable time periods " .

Findings

Temperatures

The temperature increased from 0.4 to 0.6 ° C since pre-industrial era.

Forecast: Temperature rise from 1.4 to 5.8 ° C in 2100

The accelerated rise in sea level

Tide gauges recorded a rise in sea level of 1 to 2 mm per year during the 20th century

- There is currently a slight increase in sea level rise

The last IPCC report provides a sea level rise (due to global warming) between 9 and 88 cm by 2100 (5 to 32 cm by 2050), being a rate of 0.09 to 8 , 8 mm per year and an average value of 48 cm

The main cause of climate change

An abnormal global warming of the planet due to greenhouse gas emissions caused by industrial activities

The IPCC (GIEC) measures the responsibility of humans at 90%

The greenhouse effect is a normal feature for the heat balance on earth

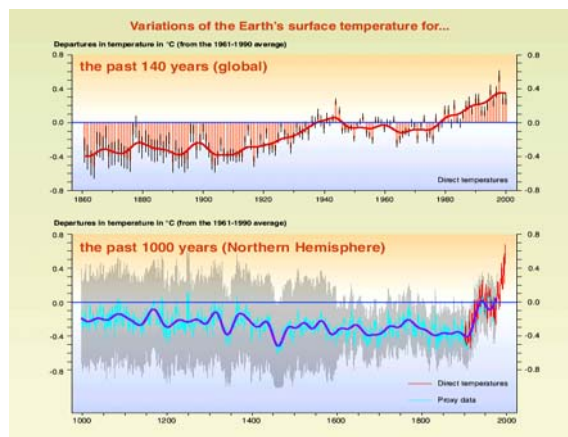
The natural greenhouse effect maintains the natural ecosystem with an average temperature of 15 ° C

Without the greenhouse effect, the earth temperature would be -18 ° C

CO₂ concentration

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ have increased nearly 30%, 15% for N₂O and 145% for CH₄

- Main activities behind the increase: production, processing, transport, end use of energy.



Snowmelt, glaciers and other ice shelves (2nd cause of rising sea levels) makes African coasts vulnerable or there is a concentration of population and economic activities. The phenomena of coastal erosion, flooding of low lying coastal areas, salinity of soil and water, degradation of some ecosystems are already a reality.

In addition, there is a long list of negative impacts on the African Continent

The average annual loss of arable land due to erosion

The phenomenon of desertification as manifested by sandbank affecting homes, agricultural lands, road and river transportation, and the water course and points.

By 2020 between 75 million and 250 million people are likely to be exposed to a growing shortage of water due to climate change.

In some countries, yields from rainfall agriculture could be reduced by up to 50%.

It is clear that climate change poses a major challenge for humanity. Our behaviors, eating habits and lifestyles will have to change and the actions taken by all segments of the population, our leaders and the international community to drive change in extreme events such as drought and flooding to name just past these which have long contributed to human migration, dislocation of population and the collapse of societies.

Convinced that the fight against the adverse effects of climate change among others passes through:

An adaptation of livelihoods

A mitigation of GHG sources

An awareness raising at all times

A more increased accountability in managing natural resources;

We therefore pledge to make our contribution.

OBJECTIVES

Work so as to mainstream climate change issues into primary, secondary, university curricula and into the catechisms

- Capacity-building of our members and people to adopt these eco-citizens behaviors
- Act towards mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions

TARGET GROUPS

Members of the MEC, forestry companies, farmers, pupils and students, members of our churches, Sunday school teachers, oil companies, government and NGOs.

ACTIVITIES

- Education and awareness on global warming
- Organizing reforestation campaigns
- Raising awareness on waste management policy (3Rs: Reduce, Recycle, Reuse)
- Environmental Education
- Encouraging young people to learn about renewable energy
- Adopting and incorporating into our everyday lives those eco-citizen behaviors
- Forming an active partnership with environmental stakeholders
- Organizing campaigns to promote public transport
- Strengthening partnerships with the Ministries of Environment
- Encouraging the development of capacity at Regional and Interregional
- Working towards promoting environmental education through the catechism



Climate Justice Training in Benin: Tree planting

Announcement from WSCF Officers

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Joel 2:28
4th November 2010

Dear students and friends of the World Student Christian Federation!

Greetings from Mount Lebanon, Lebanon, where the Executive Committee has been together sharing in witnessing from our six regions, community-building, and visioning from October 28th to November 6th, 2010.

On behalf of the Executive Committee (ExCo), we bear the good news that Ms. Christine Housel has been elected as the new General Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation! An Episcopalian Christian with an ecumenical background, Ms. Christine Housel is a native of the United States. She has spent a total of 12 years living in Germany, China, France, and Switzerland.

She studied philosophy at Wheaton College and did her Masters of Divinity (MDiv) at Yale Divinity School. Ms. Housel brings many years of experience in youth and

student ministry to her new position, as well as a strong grounding in community reconciliation and human rights advocacy work.

Ms. Housel has served as Project Manager at the Federation's international office in Geneva since 2008 and has a strong vision for the future of the WSCF. She believes students around the world can learn from each other and achieve a greater impact by strategically developing and coordinating joint work. She has been instrumental in developing new initiatives to draw out the potential of the Federation's global community of 106 national student movements. Strong examples include her work to establish and move forward our global Advocacy and Solidarity Committee (ASC), which is building the Federation's justice work, and our Development Team (DT), which is working to do leadership training and skill-building at all levels of the Federation. The ExCo has been working hard to protect, support, and strengthen the global witness of the Student Christian Movements in a time of worldwide economic and ecumenical crises. We will communicate these plans in more detail to our students and friends in the coming days. During these challenging times, we believe that it is more imperative than ever to equip our students and youth with adequate tools to be active and inspired agents of God's transformative love and justice in the world. As Ms. Housel transitions to her new position as General Secretary, she carries with her the confidence and support of the ExCo to lead our Federation in this work.

Please join us in welcoming her, accompanying her, and praying for her as she steps into the work God has called her to do.

**By Horacio Mesones, Janejinda Pawadee, Youhanna Kamal, Shantha Ready Alonso
Officers of the World Student Christian Federation**



Ms Housel Christine (left) and Ms Alice Glaze: during the World Executive Committee Meeting in Beirut.

COTE D'IVOIRE SCM

New Elected Executive Committee members of the SCM of Cote D'Ivoire (ACEEPCI)

Président du Conseil d'administration:

GNAMAN Yannick

Président National: AYE Gérard

Trésorier National: AKE Timothée

Commissaires aux comptes: AMISSAH Socrates et ADIKO Olivier



Mr. Gerard AYE, the new Chairperson of the SCM of Cote d'Ivoire

SCM OF LESOTHO

The Student Christian Movement in Lesotho remains committed to the ideals of the global ecumenical community and wishes to renew its commitment to the work of the church in the whole world.

May I take this opportunity to further inform you brothers and sisters that at the Annual General Conference of SCM in Lesotho held from the 17 to 19 September the following people were voted in to the committee.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Chairperson | Miss Mpho Sebeko |
| Deputy | Mr Dingaen Mokonyana |
| General Secretary | Mr Seabata Makoe |
| Deputy | Mr Moeketsi Mpitso |
| Treasurer | Mr Ratokelo Elisha Nkoka |

We are pleased to have hosted the General Secretary and National Coordinator of Zimbabwe SCM who participated and observed the proceedings.

By Seabata Makoe, General Secretary SCM in Lesotho

News from members

Mr. Masimba Kuchera the former Vice Chairperson of the Region is happy to share this information with the entire family of WSCF. On Friday, September 24, the lord blessed Kuda and I with Reverend and Mrs Kuchera's fourth grandchild and our first. We have decided to call him Taremekedzwa, meaning "We Have Been Honoured". At 3.5 kgs, his is a ball of energy set to give us joy and countless hours of happiness. Thank you to all for your prayers and support.



Mr. Masimba Kuchera and his Family

Religions for Peace: Update on Arms down Campaign

Dear Esteemed Youth leaders and members of the Global Youth Network, over the last 12 months, the participation and leadership of religious young people and their religious communities across the world has capture the attention of policymakers and nations with regards to advancing shared security and its link to development. Young leaders, activists, youth group and students across the globe embraced the 'Arms Down Campaign' as a way toward a safer world. On 4th October 2010, 100 youth leaders from all corners of the globe gathered in New

York for the Closing ceremony graced by H.E. Mr. Sergio Duarte the UN Under Secretary General for Disarmament, Hon. Madam Ela Gandhi (the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi), H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ulibarri the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN, Rev. Kosho Niwano President designate of the Rissoho Kowi-Kai, and Dr. William Vendley Religions for Peace Secretary General. All speakers called upon the religious youth to continue with the campaign.

Building in the momentum that the campaign has attracted, we are happy to announce that we will continue to work toward our campaign goals, especially by bringing the attention of governments and political leaders to the critical issue of arms-spending and its link to the unspeakable scandal of poverty, illness, and disease in our world.

Therefore I am happy to invite you the 2nd phase of the 'Arms Down Campaign' which will have the following priorities: continuation of intensive signatures collection until December 2010; in-country presentations of the petitions to parliamentarians and other government officials: and the implementation of future Arms Down! Projects, which will address substantive issues as well as engage youth and religious communities.

I call upon each of us to be that critical voice of peace that is required in ensuring that this campaign is translated from words into tangible actions. Youth voices do matter and, as H.E. Mr. Sergio Duarte told us in the closing ceremony, we should continue

“breaking the stones to build the Cathedrals, to be the change we want to see in the world.”With the appreciation of the work you continue to do, I remain. Yours Sincerely

**Ms Stellamaris Muleah, Global Youth Coordinator,
Religions for Peace,
On behalf of the International Youth Committee.**

PS: Thanks to those of you who have signed the petitions. WSCF Africa Region was not able to attend the closing ceremony in New York as our delegates was refused visa to the USA.

CELEBRATION OF THE 50 YEARS OF EXISTENCE OF THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT IN MADAGASCAR - MPI-KRI.MA

In November 2010, the Student Christian movement of Madagascar celebrated their 50 years of existence.

ACTION OF SOME OF OUR PARTNERS ON JUSTICE

The fight for Mining Accountability Continues in the Wake of Bill C-300 - KAIROS statement on the Bill C-300 vote, October 28, 2010

KAIROS is deeply disappointed by the defeat of Bill C-300 at its third reading in the House of Commons last night. The private member's bill, which would have created new mechanisms to hold Canadian mining, oil and gas companies accountable when they are found to be complicit in human rights and environmental violations abroad, was narrowly defeated by a vote of 140 to 134.

Heavy lobbying by the mining industry chipped away at support for the bill. In the end, 139 Conservative MPs and one independent member were enough to defeat it when not enough opposition MPs showed up for the vote.

KAIROS supported the bill since its introduction by the Hon. John McKay in February 2009. Widespread support for the bill from Canadian civil society organizations like KAIROS was matched by an equally strong outpouring of support from NGOs and mining-affected communities in developing countries. Letters of support for the legislation came in from as far away as Central America and the Philippines. Even the former environment minister for Argentina travelled to Ottawa to urge Parliamentarians to pass the bill.

“More MPs and more Canadians than ever before are aware of the desperate need for mining accountability reform in Canada,” said Ian Thomson, program coordinator for corporate accountability at KAIROS. “While the defeat of Bill C-300 is a setback and a lost opportunity, the movement to rein in destructive mining practices has only grown stronger since the bill was first introduced last year.”

KAIROS, together with our civil society partners in the global South, will continue to push for legal reforms and public policy change to ensure companies respect international human rights standards, including the rights of Indigenous peoples.

For more information, please contact Ian Thomson, KAIROS Program Coordinator for Ecological Justice and Corporate Accountability, at 613-235-9956 ext 222, or by email at ithomson@kairoscanada.org.

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