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EAC Elects New President

At its General Assembly in Jamaica October 27-28 EAC elected Rev. John Smith of Guyana to serve as President for the next four years. Rev. Smith had served as 1st Vice President for the past six years and represents EAC on World Evangelical Alliance's International Council. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his new post. He currently serves as General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Guyana and is a member of the Board of International Third World Leaders Association.

Other persons elected during the General Assembly are: Rev. Dr. Nigel Taylor (President of the Barba-



Rev. John O. Smith, EAC's new President

dos Evangelical Association) to complete Rev. Smith's unexpired term as 1st Vice President, Rev. Desmond Austin (President of the Trinidad and Tobago

Council of Evangelical Churches), and Rev. Sheila Proctor (Caribbean/ Atlantic Assembly of the Church of God) as a members-at-large. Rev. Proctor was honoured for her service over the past eight years as 2nd Vice President and is the first woman elected to serve on EAC's Executive.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Ragoonath, immediate past President, had served in the post for the past eight years and as a member of EAC's Executive for many years previously. In paying tribute to Dr. Ragoonath EAC's General Secretary, Bishop Gerry Seale, noted his years of committed service to the region.

EAC Appoints Full-Time Youth Director

EAC's General Secretary has announced the appointment of Pastor Eworth Williams as Executive Director of EAC's new Caribbean Youth Network (EAC-CYNET). Pastor Williams will take up his post on January 01, 2010. EAC-CYNET came into being in the past biennium and is committed to mobilising and empow-

ering Christian youth to transform society. In the closing plenary of the Congress of Evangelicals in the Caribbean on October 29, EAC's Executive laid hands on Pastor Williams consecrating him for his new role in building synergy among Evangelical Christian youth and young leaders throughout the Caribbean.



CONECAR 2009: Life Transforming



H.E. Sir Patrick Allen,
Governor General of
Jamaica

Gathered around the theme *The Church: Disciples in Transformation*, 125 Evangelical Christian leaders from twenty Caribbean countries and several countries from outside the region assembled for the Congress of Evangelicals in the Caribbean (CONECAR 2009) at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica October 26-29.

In the opening cere-

mony the Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen, challenged the delegates to emulate the sons of Issachar and be people who understand the times and know what the Church should do.

In ten plenaries and twenty-four workshops delegates did just that as they grappled with the implications of discipleship in lifestyle, ministry and impact in the com-

munity.

Many of those who attended CONECAR 2009 stated that the experience was life and ministry transforming. It certainly was a seminal moment in the life of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean.

It is expected that CONECAR 2011 will take place in Guyana and options are being explored for CONECAR 2013 to be held in St. Maarten.

EAC President Visits China

Rev. John Smith joined World Evangelical Alliance's delegation to China to meet with the official Church represented by the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement.

Formal meetings were held in Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing. The

delegation also visited the Shanghai Gospel Church, the Shanghai Community Church, the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, Amity Foundation, Amity Press, the Yanjing Theological Seminary and Chonwenmen Church.

Rev. Smith commented towards the end of the

trip that the experience had been very interesting and that he had gained a new perspective on the Church in China. While in China, Rev. Smith took the opportunity to visit two Guyanese families living there.

Bishop Gerry Seale, EAC's General Secretary, was also part of the WEA's delegation.

Ben & Sharon Vogelenzang outside court



UK Christian Couple 'Not Guilty'

The case against Ben and Sharon Vogelenzang has been dismissed by the judge. Ben and Sharon have been found to be entirely innocent of the charges against them.

The Christian couple was charged with a crimi-

nal offence in the UK after taking part in what they regarded as a reasonable discussion about religion with guests at their hotel.

Ben and Sharon were arrested after a Muslim woman complained to police that she

had been offended by their comments.

They were charged under public order laws with using "threatening, abusive or insulting words" that were "religiously aggravated."

The Christian Institute

Nazarene Youth in Haiti Fight HIV



Nazarene Youth International (NYI) leaders in Haiti are taking part in the fight against HIV/AIDS where an anti-AIDS programme has been started. This programme is aimed at training district NYI trainers on each of the eleven districts of Haiti, who

Some of those who participated in the training programme

will train youth leaders from local churches, who will then train their youth. Over 400 local Nazarene churches and 15,000 Nazarene young people are targeted for this year long programme. This training will help the young people protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, minister in their communities, as well as increase

their awareness of the need to develop their potential for a secure future.

To this end, the first training session for trainers was held from 13-15 November 2009, at Luly, Arcahaie. The 32 Trainers from NYI and NCM were all determined to take this training for the welfare of the youth, especially the young Haitian Nazarenes. Two to three NYI trainers per district were trained, with all 11 districts represented.

“A New Song was recorded in Botswana where Monica was at the time on a job assignment”

Monica Williams Releases New CD

There's a new song and it is coming from Monica Williams. The born again Christian has just released her first album entitled *A New Song*.

The seven songs on this compact disc are all written by Monica and represent her Christian walk. The tracks tell about her personal testimony, about God working in her life, her faith in Jesus

Christ and also include songs of worship and praise.

A New Song was recorded in Botswana where Monica was at the time on a job assignment. She testifies that the project happened at a time when she was not even thinking about it. According to her, God put the right people in her life at the right time.

Monica Williams has been singing all her life and her rich vocal talent has been described as a gift and a gift is said to be talent with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Those who have heard and followed her over the years say there is always a message in her music which comes from her heart with conviction.

Christians in Honduras Thankful

Christians in Honduras say the June 28 removal of Manuel Zelaya as president was a defense of democracy and an answer to prayer. Thousands of protestors marched June 23 in the capital city, Tegucigalpa, to protest Zelaya's call for a constitutional assembly to rewrite the country's charter. Zelaya

had expressed a desire to serve more than the constitutional limit of four years, but the country's congress, public ministry, supreme electoral court and supreme court had all rejected Zelaya's call as unlawful since only Honduras' congress has the authority to convene such an assembly.

When Zelaya moved to hold the election anyway, the supreme court ordered the military to remove him. The president was sent into exile June 28 and has appealed to allies such as Barack Obama, Hugo Chavez, Fidel Castro, Daniel Ortega and the United Nations to help restore him to power. (BP).



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**Empowering the Church to transform
society**

*EAC has published its **Report on the Sexual Practices of Youth Attending Evangelical Churches in Antigua, St. Lucia and St. Vincent**. In publically launching the report in all three countries Bishop Gerry Seale, EAC's General Secretary and CEO, thanked all who made it possible to complete this exploratory survey. He said the survey raised serious issues that impact how discipleship is taught and implemented through our churches in the Caribbean. According to Bishop Seale the most significant finding is that HIV is no longer "out there" but is now very much a part of life in Evangelical churches in the region. He urged the Evangelical Associations in all three countries to seriously study the report with a view to implementing significant changes in how sexuality is handled in the context of discipleship. Very special thanks to **UNICEF** who funded the research. The report is available at EAC's website.*



Persecutions Continue in Karnataka, India

Church desecrated in Karnataka

On November 24th in Madhugiri, about 30 Hindu extremists accused Operation Mobilisation's (OM) four Bible students from the International Cultural College of Studies of forceful conversion and burned Bibles, compact disks and Christian tracts belonging to the students.

Correspondent, Rev Noel Kotian reported from Bangalore that the extremists ransacked the house of the OM students, snatched Bibles and Christian literature and burned them up. They warned the students to leave the area or face dire consequences.

Due to the extremists pressured, the police took the four

students to the police station, detained them for about 20 hours. The students were released without any charges.

Later, the extremists forced the Christians to vacate their home warning them not to return to the area again.

Five Pastors Detained

On the basis of the complaint lodged by Hindu extremists, Karnataka police detained five pastors on charges of forceful conversion on November 24th in Nangli, Kolar district.

At about 11:30 a.m. Hindu extremists barged into the Friends Missionary Prayer Band's (FMPB) prayer hall inaugural function, disrupted the service and accused the Chris-

tians of forceful conversion, reported EFI correspondent, Rev. Noel Kotian.

At about 12:15 p.m. the police, having been alerted by the extremists, arrived and took the five pastors to the police station for questioning. The Christians were released at about 8:30 p.m. that night.

A compromise was reached between the two parties with the police instructing the Christians to give prior information to them before conducting any future worship services for security measure.

Please continue to pray for Karnataka where the persecution of Christians has become a common occurrence.

Report received from the Evangelical Fellowship of India