

The Baptist World Alliance

Dr. Wainwright had received a written greeting from **Dr. Denton Lotz**, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. The World Methodist Council also received a greeting from **Pastor Nilson Fanini**, President of The Baptist World Alliance, who is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Niteroi, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro:

"I wish to greet my Methodist brothers from around the world in the name of the millions of Baptists worldwide. We rejoice with you in the 17th World Methodist Conference, held on Brazilian soil, and we pray the most richest blessings of God on this event.

"We recognize the Methodist Church as one of the most active on the world scene and one that is working very hard. May God bless you, our Methodist brothers and sisters."

Dr. Wainwright then introduced the Methodist chairpersons of each dialogue, who will bring reports from the dialogues tomorrow: dialogue with the Orthodox, Bishop Ruediger Minor of Moscow; with the Anglicans, Bishop William Oden, of Dallas. (Dr. Wainwright is co-chairperson of the Roman Catholic/Methodist Dialogue.)

Wainwright reviewed titles of the three reports: "Word of Life" Catholics and Methodists on Revelation and Faith; "Sharing in the Apostolic Communion," Methodists and Anglicans, with important proposals to be voted on tomorrow; and then "Orthodox and Methodists," introducing ourselves to each other.

Dr. English thanked the ecumenical representatives for their presence and for bringing greetings, then announced a short break.

VII. GENERAL EVA BURROWS

Dr. English then introduced the keynote ecumenical speaker, General Eva Burrows:

"In the mid 80s the General Council of The Salvation Army met in England in order to be guided by God to choose their new General. There was a special reception in Church House in London to which I was invited to say some prayers, as Free Church Moderator at that time. The guest of honor was Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, who at that time was our prime minister, known as "the iron lady," and she gave a quite splendid address. She had her little cards there, but she didn't use them, and she talked, I thought, wonderfully, about the work of The Salvation Army. Then she was thanked by a woman officer from Australia, of whom I have to say I had not then heard, who matched Mrs. Thatcher, I felt, word for word, blow for blow, illustration for illustration, joke for joke, and I found myself sitting and thinking, when I should have been thinking about my prayers. I found myself thinking, I would love to be in a room when those two ladies face one another over some issue about which they disagree deeply. I have to say, I did not hold out a lot of hope for "the iron lady." As we drove home, my wife said to me, "Wouldn't that Eva Burrows make a wonderful general!"

Well, as you probably know, when the general of The Salvation Army is chosen, no smoke goes up any chimney, but the press are invited to come for the occasion, I am told. The announcement of the new general is that the general who is retiring comes out of the room where the deliberations are taking place, with the new general. The new general was General Eva Burrows.

My wife and I felt we had taken on a slightly prophetic role. General Burrows then brought, as I understand it as one who looks on from the outside, two quite distinct qualities to the work, and many others, I am sure. I observed these two: one her capacity to see the way in which organization may express the gospel more effectively than we felt. The other, around

the world by The Salvation Army; and two, the capacity to preach the gospel in a way which inspired people of very different backgrounds and cultures and experiences. It is a very great honor for us to have this outstanding Christian woman to address us today. (See Address section.)

Dr. English then closed the ecumenical afternoon, thanking General Burrows and the ecumenical guests.

VIII. YOUTH PRESENTATION

Dr. English led the group in a song, "Ye Servants of God" as the youth came to the platform, led by Mr. Stephen Elliot, chairperson of the WMC Youth Committee.

Mr. Ken Barnes from Ghana read from I John 3:16-18, and elaborated, "this is how we know what real love is. Jesus gave his life for us, so we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters. Suppose someone knows of a sister or brother in need, but does not help, then God's love is not living in that person. My children, my children, we should love people not only with words and talk but by our actions and true caring."

Stephen Elliot continued that the youth report would be based around the findings of the people who attended the youth seminar, who were a variety of ages, from a variety of countries. "When deciding what we would do, we thought about our careers, what excites us in our lives. A lot of us work in volunteer projects in many different surroundings in the church. So a chance to come to Rio to learn from them how they work in their projects was a great opportunity. (See "Youth Presentation" in Address section.)

Statement from Youth Committee

It is not easy being classed as Committee on the World Council. We are very small in numbers and as you can see, the numbers of the Conference are quite small. This is really a concern for us, something we worry about. We wrote a statement together that I will read from the Youth Committee:

During our seminar we found hope and experienced much love. We had over 100 participants from around the world. We laughed, talked, and experienced a little of the Rio that most tourists or Conference delegates do not see. This is the first time the Youth Committee has arranged its own seminar. Normally this has been done in cooperation with other world Methodist committees. We have also obtained grant funding to further and support our work and to allow us to participate in other world ecumenical bodies.

Traditionally the International Christian Youth Conference has been organized by World Methodist Evangelism in cooperation with the World Methodist Youth Committee. The current committee was part of this process for the conference that took place in Hamburg, Germany in 1994. During the Evangelism Seminar a leaflet was given to the participants. It gave information that the next International Christian Youth Conference would take place in Georgia, America in 1998. The leaflet also stated that this event was organized by the World Evangelism Committee in cooperation with the World Youth Committee. Until this morning when a member of the Youth Committee was asked about this leaflet at breakfast, the Committee had no knowledge whatsoever about the next International Christian Youth Conference or its whereabouts. We have not been consulted or informed about anything. We as a committee of the Conference need to be informed about this matter and also so as to help the cause and work of the next Committee which seems somewhat undervalued and hurt that we were not consulted as a group to the planning of the Conference or disbursement of materials, whereabouts, dates to meet, etc.

during an International Conference Seminar. Not only did we not have this information prior to our Seminar, during our Seminar, and after our Seminar, but we have yet to be approached--the Youth Committee, or this Conference as a whole, about an upcoming event. We learned of this information by mistake. It is for this reason we stand before the Conference, because the Conference is so important and has such an impact on from around the world. We want to work with the Evangelism Committee very closely and the Conference openly and humbly for the next Youth Committee of the World Methodist Council in the planning of this event and others.

After some discussion and announcements, Dr. English thanked the youth saying, "I think we've had a most moving experience today. I want to say two things if I may. One is, what we saw is not an example of the church of the future. These young people are the church of today." At the request of Dr. English, the audience stood in AGREEMENT to the report, and he closed in prayer.

Statement Regarding the International Christian Youth Conference

Dr. H. Eddie Fox was invited to make a statement at the beginning of the Council meeting the following day regarding plans for the ICYC. The text of his remarks follow:

"Mr. Chairman, the program for the Sixth International Youth Conference on Evangelism is not planned.

"Following the conference in Hamburg in 1994 where suggestions were made by many participants that, if possible, a suitable venue be found in North America for the Sixth ICYC on Evangelism. A suitable venue which will house participants at a reasonable cost and which is a Methodist property has been selected. The only decision made is venue and date.

"The program for the Sixth ICYC Conference, as in the previous conferences in the Bahamas, Mexico and Germany, will be done by a planning team composed of persons from the new Evangelism Committee, Youth and the Host Committee. As was stated by the Youth Seminar report yesterday, the current youth participated in this very process for ICYC in Germany in 1994.

"The site and date for the Sixth Conference was announced for the first time at the World Evangelism Convocation here at Rio. We regret this information was not given to the Youth prior to their convocation.

"No planning of program has taken place. As in all the previous conferences, it is our intent in World Evangelism to work with persons from the Youth and Host Committee in planning the next ICYC on Evangelism."

Wednesday, August 14, 1996

SESSION III

IX. COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS TO CONFERENCE (Continued)

On Wednesday, August 14, 1996, the World Methodist Council was called to order by Dr. English who led in prayer. As in the previous session with the World Methodist Council meeting in the presence of Conference, the Council was seated together in a section to facilitate any matters that called for a vote

X. FAMILY LIFE REPORT

Dr. English introduced Mrs. June Lunn, Chairperson of the Family Life Committee who brought the Family Life report. Mrs. Lunn began by recognizing the audience as groups: mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, then asked dads, sons, brothers, to join them. She recognized the part each plays in the family.

In introducing her report, Mrs. Lunn told the following story:

"I once heard a cautionary story about a pastor's wife. She was expecting the bishop to lunch. She'd made strenuous preparations in the kitchen and the bathroom and throughout the whole house. The bathroom had been tidied up earlier and lest one of her three schoolboys sons should wipe his dirty hands on the clean guest towel, she pinned a large notice to it, 'If anyone uses this towel, I'll murder him.' At the end of the day when she was going to bed she noticed the towel with the note still pinned to it. Not even the bishop had dared use it.

She then went on to describe the Family Life Conference with the theme "The Family of God in a Broken World." (See Seminar section.)

The group had received reports from around the world and she listed some examples: Lucille Liger talked about families here in Brazil and her work among the children and among women from the favelas. Battu Jambawai from Sierra Leone shared with us what the war in her country has done to families and to children caught in the middle of the conflict. We heard from Korea and from the Caribbean and from Kenya voices witnessing to the joys and the problems of family life.

David Deeks, the keynote speaker, asked "What is happening to families today and how can the church respond to family needs? She then asked Dr. Deeks to continue the report. He focused on two questions that were discussed at the seminar: "What is happening to families today?" and "What responses should we make, what initiatives should we take in relation to those changes?"

The second question concerned what to do as Christians. The group looked at what you might call the "traditional picture" of the ideal family and tried to work out where that came from historically.

Mrs. Lunn reported that the committee feels this work will go on into the next quinquennium as members build on the sharing and the listening and the learning done here. She encouraged delegates to promote materials in their own countries, and that the committee would welcome any feed back for future use.

The Family Life Committee has also made a commitment to work more closely with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women bringing three of their officers onto the Family Life Committee.

Mrs. Lunn asked Family Life Vice-Chairperson, Bishop Neil Irons, to lead in a brief act of remembrance:

In Memory of Dr. Orion Hutchinson

"In any organization there are persons whose very lives have been the bridges that have allowed what was hoped for at one time to continue into the present so that it might be made real. One of the persons in this organization who has seen to that emphasis of world Methodism on the family is Orion Hutchinson. Orion Hutchinson died in this year.

"We in the Family Life Committee remember him not just for his leadership in the United Methodist Church, but we remember him more especially for his sense and care for