

EAC NEWS



The official Newsletter of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean

December 2020

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EAC News is your link to up-to-date news from across the Caribbean and where Caribbean missionaries are serving. Please pray for this ministry. To assist EAC financially, mail your gifts to EAC or call us at 1.868.708.7595.

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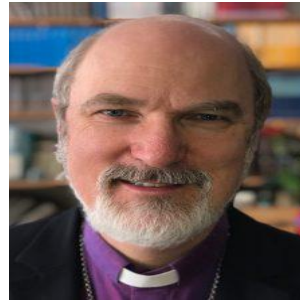
EAC News
P. O. Box 4947
Tunapuna, Trinidad

Dr. Schirrmacher WEA's New Secretary General & CEO

Deerfield, IL - October 29, 2020
WEA International Council Selects a New Secretary General

*The International Council (IC) of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr Thomas Schirrmacher** as the next Secretary General / CEO.*

Bringing many years of experience serving in various roles in the WEA, the Search Committee recommended Dr Schirrmacher from among more than a dozen candidates, and unanimously affirmed by the IC on a conference call on October 27. He will assume leadership of the WEA on March 1, 2021.



Dr. Thomas Schirrmacher

Dr Schirrmacher has served in various roles in the WEA since 1999, and is currently the WEA's Associate Secretary General for Theological Concerns. Prior to this, he was a member of the Religious Liberty Commission. He developed the International Institute for Religions Freedom, built up WEA's Office for Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations.

He is Chair of WEA's Theological Commission, and WEA's Ambassador for Human Rights.

Dr Schirrmacher studied theology at colleges in Switzerland, the United States, and Netherlands and received a degree from India.

He holds several degrees in various disciplines and a number of earned doctorates to his name.

As a strong advocate for religious liberty for all, Dr Schirrmacher has a great concern for the persecuted church and has been a promoter of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) that was founded by the WEA more than two decades ago.

Dr Thomas Schirrmacher is married to Dr Christine Schirrmacher. Together they have two adult children and currently live in Bonn, Germany. Christine is a professor of Islamic Studies at the Universities of Bonn and Leuven as well as serving WEA as Commissioner for Islamic Affairs.

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WEA "Make Disciples Toolkit"

The EAC invites you to join the WEA's movement and community by accessing relevant resources to help sharpen and deepen our disciple making regionally and globally.

Initiative of the WEA

From the Pen of the Secretary General



It is that time of the year, when the mood is celebratory!



Rev. Emerson Boyce
Secretary General

Let me please begin this communiqué by thanking all of you. This year has been such a difficult time for all of us. It is easy for us to forget the way this pandemic has affected adults, youth and more recently, children. You have done so much to change the way you live to help control the virus and keep those more vulnerable to be virus safe. I know that the way we have had to adjust our in-person worship services caused a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty for everyone. However, you kept going. I heard so many stories from church leaders of how hard you worked and, more importantly, being so kind to one another and reaching out to more individuals in communities. You have been an inspiration, in difficult days to all who looked on.

Although there is now hope on the horizon with the coming of a vaccine, we are about to have a Christmas that will be very different from any before. We all have to make new plans. You may not be able to see all the congregants attend the Christmas morning nor the New Year's services. Neither will you be able to meet all the people you normally see around this time of year.

Please remember if you find this all very stressful; that is okay and it is always good to talk to someone about how you feel. We all feel worried or sad at times and it is very normal to do so. A phrase you hear a lot at Christmas is "Comfort and Joy" and I pray you will find that this year through all the mess.

It is comical that the first people to hear the Christmas message of comfort and joy were a group of shepherds who heard it from the angels telling them about Jesus' birth. These poor men lived in the fields with the sheep in a country ruled harshly by the Romans. I wonder if they thought that message would mean that someone was going to remove the Romans from ruling they would get better jobs.

God's plan was different. In the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4), God sent Jesus to be with people in all the mess of a stable, but also in all the mess of our lives. The wonder of Christmas reminds us that in all the mess happening now, Jesus is still with us and He still brings comfort and joy. I pray that God grant us the fortitude to create room in our hearts for Jesus Christ this Christmas. Christ is Light in the darkness of this pandemic.

Dr. John Smith, Chair of the EAC Regional Board and other members, pray that you have a very happy Christmas and you would experience the comfort and joy that God gave us through Jesus throughout 2021.



My wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Lyzette, join with me to wish each of you a Happy Christmas and a Merry 2021!

Shalom (שלום)



Evangelical Association
of the Caribbean

VISION: Every Church empowered to transform Caribbean society through biblical discipleship so that poverty is reduced, peace (wholeness) is increased, public justice is ensured, and national righteousness develops.

MISSION: In a spirit of servanthood, the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean exists to unite Evangelical Christians in the Caribbean, giving them a regional identity, voice, and platform to extend the Kingdom of God through Christ-centered proclamation of the Gospel to all peoples, discipling the nations, and the transformation of society.

PURPOSE: Empowering the Church to Transform Society.



EAC Making A Difference

The Evangelical Association of the Caribbean unites churches for Gospel Witness and Discipleship



Regional Board

The Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC) is governed by a Regional Board drawn from its member bodies and selected members based on their skills and competencies. The role of the Regional Board is to focus on the cutting edge of spiritual, social and political realities; support the work of the EAC and its National Evangelical Alliances, in empowering and mobilizing local congregations and Christian organizations regionally to spread the Gospel and disciple the nations for Jesus Christ.



Dr. John Smith
Chair
Guyana



Dr. Desmond Austin
1st Vice Chair
Trinidad & Tobago



Rev. Emerson Boyce
Secretary General



Dr. Alvin Bailey
2nd Vice Chair
Jamaica



Clovis St. Romain
Financial Controller
Antigua & Barbuda



Dr. Alsender Williams
St. Croix Evangelical
Ministers Association,



Rev. Shamus James
Youth With A Missions



Rev. Shakika Fraser
St. Vincent and the
Grenadines

The EAC Regional Board (RB) facilitates the networking of evangelical church leaders and others capable of assisting the evangelical Church in the Caribbean. The RB receives, manages, and disburses funds in the Caribbean and abroad for the purpose of promoting, strengthening, and expanding the activities of evangelical churches within the Caribbean. The Association promotes in tangible ways, through National Evangelical Alliances, the active partnership and functional unity of the Church in the Caribbean, to make a difference.

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Commissions

Commission on Evangelism and Missions (COEM)

The COEM has responsibility for driving EAC's evangelistic and missionary outreach across the Caribbean Region, working closely with selected NEA's to (a) Implement EAC's vision for preparing and commissioning Caribbean Missionaries; (b) Execute National Crusades across the Region in partnership with NEA's; and (c) Help drive EAC's outreach to the next generation.

Commission on Relief and Development (COMRAD)

Enables NEAs and local churches to respond rapidly and effectively to disasters and to develop holistic, transformational ministry. Creates awareness within the Caribbean Christian community of disasters and disaster survivors, with special attention to little recognized disasters and the alliances and churches that respond to them.

Communications and InfoTech

This Commission has responsibility to spearhead EAC's Mission to (a) Build a strong network linking all NEA's; (b) Support the efforts of each NEA to build up its social media presence; and (c) Support EAC's drive to ensure its social media presence is maximized.

Men's Commission

Provides through EAC, a regionally respected voice and platform for men of the Church in the Caribbean.

Women's Commission

A Caribbean network of compassionate and visionary women seeking to identify and address the unique needs of women and girls across the Caribbean providing them with a voice and platform.

Youth Commission

Facilitates National Alliances and strategic partners to reach, equip and mobilize young people for Jesus Christ; and impart vision for reaching every young person in the Caribbean with the Gospel.

Theological Commission

Provides regional theological reflection on issues of importance affecting the church and society; a prophetic Evangelical voice that is faithful to Scripture, theologically informed speaking with clarity and relevance to both the church and the world.

EA Caribbean Institute of Leadership

Build strong leadership teams, which in turn assures common measurable qualities that demonstrate NEA's health and effectiveness; maintaining governance with clear structures and efficient processes that hold its board and executive staff accountable to mission.

Member Spotlight

CETA Accredited Theological Institutions

The Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association (CETA), a member of EAC, is a network and support service for evangelical theological education. CETA promotes excellence in theological education in the Caribbean through professional association and quality control. CETA's Accreditation Commission offers academic accreditation at post-secondary and graduate levels in order to stimulate the improvement of theological education by developing standards of excellence, encouraging self-evaluation, and securing academic recognition.

CETA provides for professional association among administrators of Bible Colleges and theological schools throughout 7 nations in the Caribbean, with 48 accredited theological institutions who pride themselves on being Christ-centered communities for 3,840 students. These institutions encourage students to grow spiritually as they train for ministry by living biblically, thinking theologically and engaging regionally. Each campus has residential and on-line course formats.

CETA is a member of the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions (ACTI), the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE) and the International Association of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQA/AHE).

For more information visit www.cetaonline.org



West Indies School of Theology (WIST)

The WIST Board of Governors has just confirmed **Dr. Desmond Ferrette**, as the new President of the institution. EAC congratulates Rev. Dr. Ferrette on his appointment as President of the West Indies School of Theology, and wish him every success as he leads this great institution.

WIST is accredited by the Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association (CETA) and the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT). The institution is a member of the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE).

The West Indies School of Theology is sponsored by the Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies (EAC Member), for students who wish to do Christian ministry. It also seeks to prepare the Christian for subsidiary tasks other than pulpit ministry. WIST develops an educational experience in the context of the historic and evangelical Christian faith. The educational philosophy of WIST rests upon a theological base, which respects the forthright commitment to evangelical theology and to those spiritual, intellectual, moral, and attitudinal values deeply rooted in the Holy Scriptures.

WIST is a leader in Biblically based ministerial training in the Caribbean and beyond.

For more information visit <https://wistef.com>

Evangelicals in Cuba



Evangelical Christians in the Caribbean are growing numerically and influentially. This is no less true than in the Republic of Cuba. Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean and has a population of 11.4 million. Following years of steady growth, Evangelicals currently amount to about 10% of the Cuban population that is just over 1 million Christians. Located within 100 evangelical denominations of which half of these are legally registered by the justice ministry of the Cuban government.

We give God thanks and praise for the growing freedom of religious affiliation being experienced in this our neighbouring Caribbean state.

We look forward and pray for greater participation of Cuban Evangelicals in the work of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean. We are certainly impoverished by a lack of fellowship and sharing when we are separated from each other by denominationalism or ideology.

We therefore, encourage fraternal exchanges between our denominations in Cuba and the rest of the Caribbean. Our countries established diplomatic relations with Cuba since December 1972 led by Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Barbados. The time has come for us to proactively engage our Cuban brothers and sisters in the whole scope of theological education, evangelism and social transformation.



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Rev. Ronald A. Nathan
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Continued from page 3

The Regional Board at work

For the period May to December, Regional Board members engaged their attention on the following:

- **Reviewing EAC's Vision and Mission**
- **Strategic Planning** – created and approved a 3–Year Plan
- **Draft Roadmap / Budget**
- **Fund Raising Training** – a six (6) member EAC Team participated in an 8–Week Fund Raising Training sponsored by WEA /Global Institute of Leadership (WEA GIL) from July 9–August 27, 2020. Resulting from the training, the Secretary General commissioned a Fund Raising Team (FRT) and appointed the following persons to the Team – Clovis St. Romain (EAC Financial Controller), Neville Butts (GEF), and Ronald Nathan (AMEZ). The FRT is currently participating in a series of Coaching Sessions conducted by WEA GIL Coaches Brad Smith and Rob Martin. The Secretary General and the FRT are working with the WEA–GIL to afford ongoing training for EAC member bodies and provide operational support to NEAs where necessary.
- **EACIL:** The Regional Board is working in collaboration with the WEA GIL to launch the Caribbean Institute of Leadership. The CIL will be a virtual regional training initiative focused on assisting EAC NEAs on board governance, leadership skills, communication, vision casting, financial sustainability and public service engagement. As part of the EAC, the CIL will serve to strengthen Evangelicals in the Caribbean to be part of God's work in speaking to social and justice issues, and bringing about national spiritual transformation.
- **Reconstruction of EAC's Web Site:** The current www.caribbeanevangelical.org is decommissioned. The Secretary General is leading a 3–member team including Clovis St. Romain and Ronald Nathan in collaboration with Brad Smith (GIL) and WEA IT Team to design a new EAC web site. Work is progressing smoothly for a launch in January 2021.
- **Creation Care Task Force:** The Regional Board approved the Secretary General's proposal to commission a Creation Care Task Force and confirmed the appointment of Dr. Reynold Murray (AEC SVG) to lead this Task Force. The TF will operate under the aegis of the Commission on Relief and Development.
- **GA 2021. Plans are on train for convening the EAC General Assembly in midyear 2021. Stay tuned to this frequency, you will hear all about it next!**

The Antigua and Barbuda Evangelical Alliance (ABEA) Elects New President

The ABEA is pleased to announce the election of Bishop Rolston Jeffrey as the next President.



Bishop Rolston Jeffrey, a former Superintending Bishop of the New Testament Church of God in Antigua and former First Vice–President of ABEA, was elected on November 21, 2020 to lead the Antigua & Barbuda Evangelical Alliance (ABEA) for the two–year term, which begins on January 1, 2021.

Bishop Jeffrey, the only candidate for the position of President, received some 75% of the votes cast by Delegates to the Organisation's AGM held recently. Also elected to serve the new Board were Rev. Michael Aubrey as First Vice President, Rev. Olson Daniel as Second Vice President and Pas Fitzgerald Semper as Public Relations Officer.

Addressing the Delegates after his election, Bishop Jeffrey expressed his gratitude for their vote of confidence and pledged to work assiduously to restore the ABEA to a place of prominence among religious bodies on the island. He indicated that his focus would be to ensure that the Congregations represented by the Organisation were drawn closer together so they could be supportive of each other. He also spoke of the need to ensure the Organisation's voice is heard across the nation.

In addition to the elected Officers, the new Board of the ABEA will comprise the supervising Bishops of the seven Denominations represented under the umbrella Organisation, including the Christian Union Church, Church of God of Prophecy, Church of the Nazarene, New Testament Church of God, Pentecostal Assembly of the West Indies, Wesleyan Holiness Church and Zion Church of God.

The ABEA represents some 63 congregations established across Antigua and Barbuda.

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AEA Appoints General Secretary

The Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) is pleased to announce the appointment of the **Rev. Dr. Master Oboletswe Matlhaope** as the next General Secretary. The recruitment and selection process was rigorous, attracting high calibre candidates from across the continent.

Rev. Dr. M.O. Matlhaope is from Botswana. The 48-year-old Reverend gentleman was born at Kalkfontein in Ghanzi District in Botswana. He is married to Boipuso Eneldah Matlhaope and blessed with three children: two boys – Prince and David and a daughter, Abigail.



Rev. Dr. Master
Oboletswe Matlhaope

Rev. Matlhaope holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Practical Theology from North West University (NWU)-Potchestroom in South Africa. He did part of his doctoral research at Cambridge University-United Kingdom under Tyndale House. He did his Masters at Cape Theological Seminary aka Global University at Cape Town – South Africa and majored in New Testament and minor in leadership. His first Degree was in Bible and Theology with Global University (Missouri-United States of America).

Rev. Dr. Matlhaope is no stranger to AEA. He is a senior minister in the Pentecostal Protestant Church (PPC) in Botswana and has been a pastor for over 22 years. He has also served the Botswana Evangelical Fellowship (BEF) in various positions and notably, as president of the BEF for a maximum of three

successive terms. Among other responsibilities, Rev. Dr. Matlhaope has held positions in public service in his country.

He was a member of a thirty persons Presidential Task Team (PTT) appointed by the Government in 2015, to design, develop, draw and document a long-term vision for Botswana, known as Vision 2036. He is also a member of the Advisory and Arbitration Council (AAC), a statutory and quasi-judicial body; appointed since March 2017 to date.

Rev. Matlhaope succeeds, Rev Dr. Aiah Foday-Khabejje, who has served a maximum of three successive terms of four years each, since 2009. He is now in his final term which comes to an end in May 2021. Rev. Matlhaope's appointment takes effect on 1 June 2021.

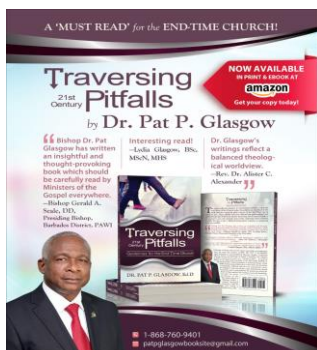
We take this opportunity to convey our hearty congratulations to Rev. Dr. Matlhaope on his ascension to the position of General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa. Our prayers and very best wishes for Spirit-led, Christlike impactful service to the Church in Africa, for the glory of God and indeed, the Africa God Wants. We could not have hoped for a better leadership insignia, than AEA Vision2066, undergirded by the Word of God, the abiding presence of Christ and enabling of the Spirit.

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Book Spotlight



Traversing 21st Century Pitfalls by Dr. Pat P. Glasgow. A MUST READ for the END TIME CHURCH. Now available in print or e-Book at Amazon. Get your copy today.

Missio Nexus: Learn, Meet, Engage in the Great Commission

The Mobilized Church: Keys to Unlock Missions Potential

Transgender Activist Makes Argument for All Kids Taking Puberty Blockers Until They Can Confirm Their Gender Identity

December 16, 2020 by Staff



(Christian Headlines) Lauren McNamara, a well-known transgender activist known by followers as “Zinnia Jones,” made the argument that all children should be given puberty blockers until they are old enough to confirm their chosen gender identity.

According to the Washington Examiner, Jones argued her case earlier this month in a series of posts on Twitter. “If children can’t consent to puberty blockers which pause any permanent changes even with the relevant professional evaluation, how can they consent to the permanent and irreversible changes that come with their own puberty with no professional evaluation whatsoever?” Jones asked.

<https://christiannewsnow/transgender-activist/>



What Are Your Thoughts?

Read the article in Christian News Now and send your response to

EAC News
caribbeanevangelical@gmail.com

2,200 Nigerian Christians hacked to death in 2020; 34,400 since 2009: Intersociety report

By [Jackson Elliott](#), Christian Post Reporter



Christian mourners at the burial site of the Rev. Alubara Audu who was killed by jihadist herdsmen at Buda, Kajuru in Kaduna state, Nigeria, in September 2020. | Emeka Umeagbalasi

When radical Islamists murder Christians in Nigeria, the government lists their deaths as having other causes, according to new report released by Nigeria’s International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law.

Women Leaders...

Are you a Christian woman who is a capable, called, and gifted leader?

Then... Jenifer Johnson, Chair of EAC’s Women Commission needs to hear from and converse with you about the issues you face.

eMail: jeniferjohnson55@gmail.com



Upcoming Birthday
John Smith – January 8

Day of Intercession

Join with us every Tuesday (6:00 AM—6:00 PM), January 5, 2021 as we pray to **Ignite Revival and Transform the Caribbean Society**

Relief and Development Leaders...

The Caribbean is a Disaster Prone Region...very often we are caught unprepared...The Time to ACT is NOW

Ron Nathan, Director of EAC’s Commission on Relief and Development (COMRAD) needs to hear from and converse with Relief and Development Leaders about the Humanitarian & Disaster issues you face, and the proactive approach we should take.

eMail: rancilen@gmail.com

The newly-released report indicates that deaths which the Nigerian government describes as random banditry or inter-tribal violence, actually result from radical Islamists attacking Christians, said Intersociety leader and founder Emeka Umeagbalasi.

Since 2009, 34,400 Christians have been murdered by radical Islamists, with 2,200 slain in the last year, the report says. Radical Muslims have also killed an estimated 20,000 moderate Muslims.

What the government here is doing is mapping out strategies. [It’s] a kind of script that’s given to media, local media and what have you,” Umeagbalasi said.

According to Umeagbalasi, Nigeria’s government tells media that Fulani tribe herdsmen travel south fleeing desertification and kill during conflicts with local farmers. The truth is that Fulani tribesmen travel south because they are radical Islamists looking for Christians to kill. They don’t attack Muslim villages, and traditional cattle-grazing methods don’t support enough cows to justify fatal conflicts with farmers.

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The Nigerian government hides these attacks because it supports radical Islamists, Umeagbalasi asserted. President Muhammadu Buhari is a Muslim. He is also a member of the Miyatti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, which supports radical Islamic tribesmen, he added.

“Buhari sets aside the Constitution. He makes appointments without recourse to the Constitution,” Umeagbalasi continued. “In the Constitution, it is forbidden for the government to have a state religion. The Constitution made it clear that the composition of the armed forces of Nigeria should reflect regional or religious balancing, but the president is not listening to that.”

Instead, Buhari stacks the government with Muslims in positions of high authority, the Intersociety report said. Since Buhari's 2015 election, Muslims have occupied 32 of the most important 39 positions in politics, security, lawmaking and the judiciary, even though Nigeria has even numbers of Muslims and Christians.

In June, five of Nigeria’s major Islamic groups made an alliance with each other to rise up against Christians. The killings of Christians in Nigeria aren’t random acts of violence, but a calculated attempt to conquer Nigeria for Islam, Umeagbalasi claims.

“The country is being taken over by the caliphate,” he said. “When they are done in the north, they will now come to the south.”

In response to the rise in attacks, Nigeria’s government has done little or nothing, the report says. They consistently under-report casualties of Christians. Sometimes, the government buries murdered Christians using Muslim funeral rites in an attempt to convince the world that Christians aren’t under attack.

Source: Christian Post
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/>

Dry Bones



Hindus beat pastor in India, threaten to sacrifice him to false god over Bible tracts



Thousands of pastors go into hiding amid China’s rising persecution, attempts to eradicate Christianity

Is there a difference between the “letter of the law” and the “spirit of the law?”

Send your answer to:

EAC News
caribbeanevangelical@gmail.com

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