



WORLD'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NEWS

February 2009

"Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

The collection of wise sayings and good advice for daily living in the book of Proverbs, reminds us of the responsibilities that all parents and CE leaders have towards training the next generation.

The training that Francis Clark desired to give to the young generation in his church back in 1881 was the reason he commenced the CE movement. He endorsed the sentiments expressed in Proverbs particularly in the first seven chapters where we can read repeatedly: "My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart".

"CE is the best training ground for young Christians", I hear from many 'old' Christian Endeavourers, and it is still the reason we want to see Christian Endeavour practiced in our churches, so that we as leaders take up the responsibility to do the teaching, and the young people take up the responsibility to be trained.

It is an uplifting experience to be told that the JCE kids from yester-year are now in the church leadership positions, and we pray they will continue to follow the fine example set by Francis Clark so long ago.

Joyce Spicer, WCEU Vice President for Australia and the Pacific Islands

News from the WCEU

World's Convention 2010

Just as the previous issue of the WCEU-NEWS was ready to be dispatched both the leaders of Christian Endeavor International (CEI – which is the North American CE) and of Pennsylvania CE (which is now Mid Atlantic CE – MACE) informed the World's Union, that they withdraw their willingness to host the 2010 World's CE Convention.

Pondering the effects of the present economic crisis on their unions they felt the efforts to organize the convention in 2010 could ruin their unions. In fact there are only few CE societies left in North America. Hence the available manpower for organizing the convention is too small. Subsequently staff would have to be hired which would lead to more financial strain.

Now I can report that the Peruvian Unión Nacional de Esfuerzos Cristianos (UNDEC) graciously agreed to host the convention next year. A final decision to respond to the request of the WCEU positively was made in a meeting on Febr. 28th. This decision is

backed by their church, the Iglesia Evangelica Peruana (IEP).



Previous (center) and present (left) President of UNDEC in the General Assembly 2008

The change of place makes it necessary to change the date. Instead of July 11 to 15, the date will be most probably between July 24 and August 1, 2010.

Presently a team is being formed, that will act as Local Convention Committee. Andreas A. Rudolph, Gen. Sec. WCEU will be in Lima, Peru, for negotiations regarding the convention from March 20th to 23rd.

Suggestions for Trustees

Presidents and Secretaries of national CE unions are in receipt of a letter with Suggestion forms for the 2010-14 Board of Trustees Please remember to sent your suggestions and the suggestions

of your Union back to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Harry Wedekind, in the Netherlands. (address in the letter)

Moving !

By end of April the WCEU office in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, will be closed down. From May 2009 onwards Andreas A. Rudolph will work for the World's Union from Germany. The WCEU office will be in the headquarters of the German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavor (GYFCE) in Kassel, in central Germany.

Our address after May 1st 2009:

World's Christian Endeavor Union

Postfach 420 220

34071 Kassel Germany

Phone: ++49 561 4095-0

Fax: ++49 561 4095-112

e-mail:

centraloffice@worldsceuunion.org

There will be an American office of the WCEU. The address is:

World's Christian Endeavor Union

P.O.Box 723

Grove City PA 16127-0723

News from National Unions

Africa

The Gambia and Niger

are hosting in August each one WCEU Seminar about the basics and the practical work of Christian Endeavor. These seminars are meant for the West African CE leaders and for interested youth pastors and youth workers in the area.

Southern Africa

Karsten Hüttmann, Secretary for Youth Evangelism in the German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavour (GYFCE), visited one of the newly founded CE-societies in Southern Africa in Feb/March 2009. He writes (report abridged):

"I was invited to Namibia by the "Evangelische Stadtmission Windhoek" (Evangelical City Mission), one of the German-speaking churches in Namibia and South Africa associated with the Chrischona-Gemeinschaftswerk in Germany. I was to speak at a 4-night evangelistic youth rally in Windhoek, to train lay leaders in evangelistic youth ministry and had a weekend with young people on 'discipleship'.

I was invited because of the long existing connections with CE in Germany. They hope for ongoing support (teaching aid, material, information, etc.) by the GYFCE and contact with German CE staff. Last year the Synod of the City Missions decided to organize their youth ministries according to CE-principles. The first members were accepted shortly after the synod. Easter this year they will have their next CE youth-convention in Upington, SA. Convention theme will be: "ich glaubs" (I believe it!). It is still being discussed how they will organize their CE-Union in the future and relate to GYFCE. To start an "independent" Southern-Africa CE-Union seems inappropriate to them. German-speaking people are a small minority in these countries."

Australia and Pacific Islands

Australia

Australian CE held its Annual General Meeting 2009 in Brisbane Jan. 16th to 18th. Justin Gilfillan (26) from Penrith, NSW, who lives now in Brisbane, was elected president for the next 2 years. Andrew Turner, President of South Australia CE, whose activities are mainly youth camps, wrote in his report to the AGM:

"In God's providence 2008 was a fruitful year for SA Christian Endeavour. We're blessed to have a significant number of lively and experienced Christians involved at a strategic leadership level, from across a broad range of ages and backgrounds.

For some time now we have been exploring the strategic direction of rebuilding a network of missional discipleship groups for teenagers. Our camps ministries remain healthy (although each year stretches us), but we are convinced of the long-term benefit of ongoing influence in youth discipleship in the "other 51 weeks of the year", and surely the history of CE is strong evidence of that.



Australian Junior CE (Penrith, NSW) and leaders

We began the year with a framework for a discipleship network that a mathematician would describe as "bounded set" (imagine a circle which defines "insiders" and "outsiders"). We set a very high bar and required young people to organize themselves into disciplined cells in order to join. After reasonable

interest, there was very little actual take-up.

On reflection, as we continue to learn and walk by faith, we are now working on a "centered set" approach (imagine a point, which defines some as moving towards it and others moving away from it). From this year's camp we have approximately 125 individual contacts, whom we intend to all treat as "members" and influence throughout the year towards formation into cells and the disciplines on which the strength of Christian Endeavour is built. Stay tuned! We're learning by doing like all good Endeavourers."

American Samoa

Rev. Faataape Lavatai, President WCEU, has been appointed to supervise the Eastern District of the Congregational Church in American Samoa.

Solomon Islands

Report by

Derek Pongi, C.E Coordinator, Regional Superintendent S.S.E.C (South Sea Evangelical Church), Rennell-Bellona region:

We had our C.E. Convention from the 21st – 23rd of November 2008 hosted by Hatagua society on Rennell Island. All societies on Rennell and Bellona attended the convention. The theme of the convention was "Living for Jesus" Speakers spoke on the topics:

Living for Jesus - Loving Him
Living for Jesus - Fearing Him
Living for Jesus - Witnessing for Him
Living for Jesus - Giving to Him
Living for Jesus - Serving Him
Living for Jesus - Waiting His return

God really blessed us through His Word during this convention. Praise God, 8 people gave their lives to Jesus during this convention. We will have our next convention in 2010 at my local church. We are thinking of reestablishing the Solomon National CE Union during this C.E Convention.

Europe

(www.cceurope.eu)

Germany

Every year the German Youth Federation for CE (GYFCE) offers a seminar in counseling for endeavourers, titled "SOS".

The last one was January 17th and 18th in Kassel. 350 highly motivated women and men of all ages and from all Germany came together despite ice and snow to get training in counseling. In 33 different workshops experts offered information, encouragement and practical advice in the various fields of counseling

How to go about doubt in faith; what should one know about violence and fantasy-games; what about internet addiction; am I possibly endangered myself; eating disorders; Borderline-Personality disorders; ADD / ADHD – this is just a small selection of all the topics of SOS. Again, the seminar was fully booked. There were more applicants than available seats. This showed how important this kind of training is.

I was encouraged by this two days seminar. We need not to resign looking at the great psychological and spiritual needs. We need not helplessly watch human personal disasters we can do something and we can change conditions people are living in and help them cope better with their life.

GYFCE General Secretary and Theological Director Rudolf Westerheide said in his sermon that Sunday morning: „Only superstitious people say: People are as they are, there is nothing one can do about it.“

from a report by Jörg Maushake

March 28. 2009 all German endeavourers who are involved in activities for and with foreign CE unions and churches are invited for a day of reporting and exchange of experiences. The "Impuls Day CE International" will be in Kassel.

Who is ... ?

Here you will find brief information about the officers and trustees of the WCEU. You should know who is behind the names. In this issue:

Joyce H Spicer

WCEU Vice President for Australia and the Pacific, appointed 2002



My twin sister and I were born in 1940 in Penong, South Australia, to parents who were missionaries to the Australian Aboriginal desert tribes. 1941 the family – parents, twins and two older brothers - settled in Kalgoorlie in Western Australia where they assisted other missionaries to the aboriginal people.

We as family attended regularly church, Christian Endeavour, Sunday School, and sang in a half-hour Christian program on the local Radio every Sunday.

Each age level of C E from Juniors, through Intermediates and Young People's Grades was an exciting and fulfilling time, involving training in leading, singing items, writing to missionaries, as well as planning and attending many inter-church CE Teas and Camps, District and State Conventions.

After completing school at age 17, I commenced a nursing career which spanned the next 48 years doing General, Midwifery and Theatre specialty. Other areas of ministry replaced CE for 25 years as I led the hospital Christian Nurses Fellowship, Scripture

Union Beach Missions and Camps and after marriage, Women's Fellowships and Sunday School teaching.

My husband Graham was a Primary School Teacher. We had 5 children and moved to various country towns before we settled in 1984 in Perth, the capital city of Western Australia. We joined a church with a strong youth work and assisted in leadership of the children's ministry.

This gave opportunity to return to my CE heritage, and I had the support of the church leadership to establish a JCE Group, which led me onto the State Council in 1986, the National Council in 1992 and the World Council in 2002.

Graham also joined the State Council as Secretary/Treasurer in 1995, and together we are the Western Australian delegates for Australian, Pacific and World Conventions.

In 2006 both Graham and I retired from our working lives, also moved to a new house and retired from leading the JCE groups I had led for 20 years.

Western Australia, as well as all of Australia has seen a decline in churches utilizing the CE movement, but I remain available as a CE Consultant and am revising Junior CE Literature.

Since becoming Vice President for the Australia and Pacific Region we have had Regional Conventions in Western Samoa and Tonga, and I have also visited Pohnpei in Micronesia and Rennell Island in the Solomons for their local Conventions.

CE-Volunteers

For all who are interested in the **WCEU International Exchange Program for Volunteers** write to: thomas.kroeck@ec-jugend.de .

A volunteer in these programs is usually expected to pay for his travel and health insurance and will get free customary accommodation, food and maybe a pocket money from the hosting institution.

Presently England, Germany, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Romania and USA are countries, where CE-volunteers can find a placement.

And this is the volunteer presently serving at the WCEU Headquarters in Liberty Corner:



"I am Kathrin from Wetzlar, Germany, and since the beginning of February I am involved in the daily office work and help especially with preparations for the move of the office to Germany in April. I am here because it is important for me to spend some time for God abroad before I enter a job back home in Germany. I already feel at home in this totally different country, enjoy work and life here. For the next three months I hope that God will use me and I am glad to contribute to the great work of Christian Endeavor."

Finances

We thank God who provided the funds necessary for our work. It is great to know, that His provision does not depend on the stock market. Although we do not spend money unnecessarily, we are not yet close to our goal to cover current expenses with current donations. The move to Germany is one measure to reduce costs. We do thank all national unions and individuals who support the WCEU financially.

Please pray for ...

- * CE unions in Canada, USA and Australia in their search for ways to reach the youth of today
- * CE Seminars to be held in August in Africa
- * Moving of the WCEU office to Germany
- * the matters you just read about
- * Christians in India, Middle East, Central Asia who suffer persecution
- * the young Endeavourers around the world to keep focus on what the Lord Jesus want them to do
- * those who are leading national CE unions and the WCEU that they make sound decisions in obedience to our Lord
- * the political situation in countries like Zimbabwe
- * unity in Christ's church and among Endeavourers, humility and readiness to forgive each other

- * for the conventions and meetings mentioned below
- * and do not forget to praise God for all his blessings given also through Christian Endeavor.

Next Board Meetings, Conventions . . .

Please notify your events to the WCEU if you want them to be listed here.

- March 7th – 8th: KIS - Kreativ-Intensiv-Seminar, Kassel, Germany
- April, 17th – 19th: Meeting of the Executive Committee in Liberty Corner, NJ, USA
- Easter-days: CE Convention Upington, Republic of South Africa
- May, 2nd: National CE Conference 2009, Malawi
- July, 3rd – 5th: English CE Union Convention in Conway and Rhos-on-Sea
- July 29th to Aug. 2nd: 8th National Fellowship, UNSEC, Mexico
- July, 29th - Aug. 3rd: Convencion Nacional UNDEC, Arequipa, Peru
- August 25th – 27th: Convention of the Japanese CE Union in Higashi-Izu, Shizuoka Prefecture
- Sept. 11th – 13th : Meeting of the Board of Trustees in Liberty Corner, NJ, USA
- Sept. 18th – 19th: Irish CE Union Conv. in Belfast; Theme: "Building Foundations"
- Sept. 25th to 27th: ECHT 2009, German CE Youth congress, Baunatal near Kassel

2010

End of July, - 26th: World's CE Convention in Lima, Peru.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ANYBODY WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED, AS THE WCEU DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ALL ENDEAVORERS

World's Christian Endeavor Union,

3575 Valley Road, P.O.Box 326, Liberty Corner, N.J. 07938-0326, U.S.A.

! until end of April 2009 ! until end of April 2009 ! until end of April 2009 ! until end of April 2009 !

centraloffice@worldsCEunion.org

Tel.: ++1-908-604-9440 Fax ++1-908-604-6190