

WORLD'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NEWS

November / December 2009

"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4.14

The story is known. The Jews in the Persian Empire face annihilation. Queen Esther's uncle Mordecai seeks her help. But she cannot go before the king, it is against the rules. Nevertheless Mordecai insisted she must speak on behalf of the Jews. -

We live in a time of chaos, both secular and spiritual. And in these times we need proper people in proper places with proper perspectives to lead and to guide the mass. ... I want to bring this verse to you so that you remember: Perhaps you are here to bring peace, harmony and tranquillity to the chaos, both secular and spiritual, in the world. So we ask God's peace, we ask his guidance, we ask his wisdom to be in our hearts.

Rev. Faataape Lavata'i, President World's CE Union
(From devotions held at the WCEU Board meeting September 2009)

News from the WCEU

Board Meeting 2009

Sept. 10th – 13th the WCEU Board of Trustees, the Nominating Com., the Finance Com. and the Convention Program Committee met in Liberty Corner, NJ, USA.

Reports were received about activities in the various CE unions: The Korean CE Union financed building a church for a Mission project in Africa, CEI (North America) shared about the many contacts with churches on account of the pray 21 program and other internet activities. Australia reported about their struggle to reach out to young people despite the fact having mainly elderly members. India had a national convention. President, Vice-Presidents and the Director of Operations reported about their activities and observations.

In the discussions about the reports and reviewing the work some expressed dissatisfaction with the implementation of the Gödöllő Statement. The WCEU should show a clearer vision and have a resp. action plan followed up faster.

It was decided to recommend to the National CE Unions holding a worldwide CE Prayer Week in February 2010.

Another topic discussed in the meeting was whether the present structure of the WCEU and the size of its bodies are adequate

for the future. A draft of a revision of the bylaws was distributed.

The budget for 2010 showing income and expenditure of USD 131 500 was approved.

The Board of Trustees will meet next time August 2nd 2010 in Lima, Peru in connection with the World's Convention.

CE Day 2010

February, 2nd, the day when the first CE society was founded, is observed by many Endeavourers as CE day. The 2nd February 2010 will see the 129th CE birthday party from 7 – 9 p.m. GMT+1 at www.crosschannel.de a Christian internet radio. WCEU Trustee Thorsten Riewesell is in charge of the program. It will be widely in English although the station is basically German.

For the CE Prayer Week to be observed in the first week of February 2010 some ideas and program suggestions are provided by Trustees Th. Riewesell and Tim Eldred. (see www.ec-jugend.de)

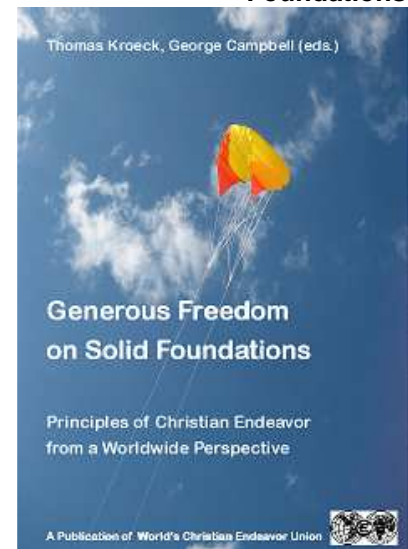
The CE day could be the date to collect an offering for the work of the WCEU. We encourage the Unions to use the "Each one (CE-member) give one (of your resp. currency)" idea for collecting a contribution to the WCEU.

Board Elections 2010

All Presidents and Secretaries of the National CE Unions (born

members of the Council) and other council members should receive soon ballot sheets prepared by the WCEU Nominating Committee for the upcoming elections in Peru (August 2010). All council members unable to attend the meeting in Peru can cast their vote by letter.

'Generous Freedom on Solid Foundations'



This book about Christian Endeavor basics from the perspective of 32 endeavorers from 15 countries will be released in English and Spanish at the World's Convention in Lima, Peru. The book offers insights and experiences of how the principles of Christian Endeavor are applied in different settings.

World's Convention 2010

The World's CE Convention every four years is certainly a highlight among the WCEU activities. Beside the unique chance to meet Endeavorers from all over the world and share with them life and work for CE the convention is the place to discuss and decide the future direction of the CE movement. Before the convention commences, the board of trustees meets for its annual meeting and the council comes together.

The council elects the board of trustees and the WCEU officers. Changes of the constitution and other major decisions are to be made by the council. The President and the secretary of each national union and the WCEU board of trustees are members of the council.

Exhibition

There is a proposal to have an exhibition of material and programs of the National Unions. Plan already now what you would like to contribute and let us know how much space you may need.

Accommodation

will be in bungalows for 4 or 6 persons. Each room is a double room with a shared bathroom. The prices (in USD) per person for 4 nights are as follows:

4 person bungalow: \$50

6 person bungalow: \$75

6 person bungal. (exec.):\$85

The price of food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) for four days will be \$45 (USD) and the set registration fee is \$65 (USD).

For planning purposes, we strongly suggest that registration is done before March 31st as accommodation will be given out on a first come, first serve basis.

For any questions, feel free to contact the convention office at

ceworldconvention@hotmail.com

or call +51-1-3305074 (office hours are 9am to 5pm, GMT-5). Sheba and Deborah speak Spanish, English, German and Dutch.



Bathsheba Palma and Deborah Wedekind run the convention office together.

Note: The Australian CE Union tries to find sponsors who help paying travel expenses for delegates to the World's Convention in Peru from Solomon Islands. Several National CE Unions are unable to pay for their leader's airfare to Peru. The Australian example is recommended to be followed by other National Unions.

News from National Unions

Americas and Caribbean

Peru

The Peruvian Endeavorers will have their National Convention 2009 from January 6th to 10th, 2010 in Arequipa. The theme is 'Lideres con Corazon de Siervo' (leader with a servant's heart). One of the speakers is WCEU Trustee Tim Eldred, USA.

The following link gives more information about CE in Peru:

<http://www.ec-peru.blogspot.com/>

Asia

India

More than 1000 delegates from different Churches met on October 3rd in 2009 in Balangir, **Orissa** for the convention of the Orissa State CE. WCEU-Trustee Rev. Surendra Kumar Sahu brought greetings from the WCEU. They held prayers for the people of the Samoan Islands affected by the Tsunami and for other parts of the globe as well.

An ecumenical carol service was organized by the South India CE Union on December 19th, 2009 at CSI St. Andrew's Church in Chennai (Madras), **Tamil Nadu**.

The Speaker was Dr. John Solomon.

Rev. M.H. Subba from Kalimpong, in the North of **West-Bengal** State in India, close to Darjeeling, started his Free Presbyterian Church more than 30 years ago because the diocese he belonged to wanted to abandon Christian Endeavor in its area. Today congregations of the Free Presbyterian Church are found in Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian States Sikkim and West Bengal. Most have C.E. societies. The Nepal CE Union grew in this church as well. Rev. Subba wrote in September:

"By God's grace we are all fine and our C.E. movement here in Kalimpong is going strong and good. We have 32 C.E. societies, worshipping every Sunday, in their respective places. We also have 5 district C.E. unions called combined C.E., started in 1960. Next year, we are celebrating Golden Jubilee of Combined C.E. We are looking forward to organize Meetings and sport competitions among the C.E. societies. Please uplift us in your prayers.

Next year, we are also planning to hold Bi-annual Bengal State C.E. Convention in Kalimpong. We are happy to share with you that even C.E. groups from UCNi and CNI churches have taken affiliation in the Bengal State C.E. Union.

Sikkim State C.E. societies have their own Union but during convention and Retreat time, we come together and share with each other."

Australia and Pacific Islands

Samoa

The Samoan Islands suffered from a Tsunami last Sept. 29th. People lost their life, houses, cars and infrastructure got lost or damaged. WCEU President, Rev. Faataape Lavata'i wrote a letter to all who prayed for Samoa:

"I am deeply touched by your concerns. I know of your prayers

and I pray in return that whatever you wished upon me and my people, God will return to you and yours ten-fold. Yes, we have buried our dead (We are a small group population wise so, everyone is related. We always hear and read about tragedies affecting others and when it is in our back-yard, we ask, "Why me Lord? What have I done?" Answers vary and there may be no answer at all. Our certainty however is knowing that in the depths of human degradation and suffering, there also lies Divine Providence. "All things come to pass." So, we move on. If the past is prologue to the future, than we continue with the experience of life. We learn and we live. Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. With love and prayer, Faataape Lavata")

Europe (www.cceurope.eu)

Ireland

"Building Foundations" was the theme for the 95th Irish National Christian Endeavour Convention, hosted by the Belfast Union and held in Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Agnes Street. As the Irish CE elects every year a new president, Mrs. Carole Dillon handed over the presidential chain to Mr. Paul Nesbitt, Glengormley, Northern Ireland and installed him as Irish CE President for the year 2009-2010. The outgoing President said she was encouraged seeing the life and growth (3 new societies this year) of CE in Ireland.



Austria

The Austrian CE doubled the number of their societies. With the group in Hermagor they have now two CE societies, both in the State of Carinthia in Southern Austria.

Germany

„(Un)erhörte Gebete“ - (double meaning: 'not answered prayers' or 'shocking prayers') - was the theme for the Youth Congress 'Echt 2009' in Baunatal near Kassel (Sept. 25th -27th). Main speaker was Pete Greig (London), the founder of 24-7 Prayer. About 400 young adults learned about the power of prayer and heard how to deal with obstacles which hinder regular prayer. Greig challenged the audience to pray much more. After all it may change the world. CE Secretary Karsten Hüttmann gave instructions how to survive 'Desert - times', spiritually dry periods in life.

as three children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

2007 in Liberty Corner, NJ, USA: Rev. David G. Jackson, former President Dr. Konrad Brandt, Andreas A. Rudolph, Rev. Charles Barner (from left to right)



CE people

Two former General Secretaries of the WCEU exchanged time for eternity in the last quarter of 2009.

* Rev. **Charles W. Barner** died Oct. 16, 2009, aged 84, in Myerstown, Pennsylvania, USA. He was born July 19, 1925 in Richfield, PA. He had 9 sisters and brothers. Charles studied theology at Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, PA, graduated 1949 and became an ordained minister of the Evangelical Congregational Church. 1970 Charles was called to serve as executive director of Christian Endeavor International (CEI) (Columbus, Ohio). 1972 he became General Secretary of the World's Christian Endeavor Union too. Many remember the great tours he conducted. In 1984 Charly left his assignments with Christian Endeavor and returned to pasturing a church in Allentown, PA. Charles Barner's first wife Marietta died 1982. One year later he got married to Etta, nee Dysle, who survives him as well

* Rev. **David G. Jackson**, General Secretary of the WCEU from 1984 until 2006 as successor of Charles Barner, died 73 years old on Dec. 9, 2009, in a Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA, after weeks of severe illness. Dave was born Nov. 5, 1936, in Derby, near Buffalo, State of New York, USA. After graduation from University in Buffalo (1960), he went to Huntington College Divinity School (Indiana). In 1969 he was ordained as a minister of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. From 1966 to 1979 he worked as the United Brethren in Christ Church denominational director of youth ministries and was also the general treasurer. From 1979 to 1997 he was executive director of Christian Endeavor International and became 1984 General Secretary of the World's Christian Endeavor Union. David submitted his resignation as General Secretary for health reasons in 2005 but ran the WCEU office until December 2006 when Andreas A. Rudolph joined WCEU.

David Jackson who remained unmarried was interred at the First Church of Evans Cemetery in Derby, NY.

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:

Rev. Dr. Faataape Lavata'i
President of the World's CE Union from 2002 -2010



Faataape Lavata'i hails from the Eastern Islands group of the Samoan Islands. He was educated in American Samoa and the United States. An encounter with Christ interrupted his successful business career in the US. He studied theology and

became pastor of the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa. For many years he is pastor of the church on the Island of Tau, American Samoa and was for many years Secretary of the American Samoan CE Union. Last year he was appointed Supervisor of the Eastern District of his Church. Rev. Lavata'i is married to Sipa'u and head of a large family which includes a number of foster children.

CE-Volunteers

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

For all who are interested in the **WCEU International Exchange Program for Volunteers** write to:

thomas.kroeck@ec-jugend.de

A volunteer in this program 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.

Pray for ...

- * the matters you just read about
- * Christians in India, Middle East, Central Asia and other parts in this world who suffer persecution
- * young Christians in Western countries not to get lost in the abundance of opportunities and material wealth

* 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, where people suffer from irresponsible governments

* unity in Christ's church and among Endeavourers, humility and readiness to forgive each other

* for the conventions and meetings mentioned below

* for those who prepare for the World's Convention in Lima, Peru

* 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.

2010

6th – 10th Jan - Convencion Nacional UNDEC, Arequipa, Peru

20th – 21st March – "ICH GLAUB'S" Congress in Kaufungen near Kassel, Germany.

3rd – 7th August - 26th: World's CE Convention in Lima, Peru.

17th September - 96th Irish CE Convention

30th September - CE Convention Jamaica

16th October - Centennial of CE in The Netherlands

Best wishes for a blessed, happy New Year!

Greetings from the WCEU. Hopefully you had a blessed Christmas time. Life in this particular season and in the New Year will be blessed and joyful, if we not only remember the birth of the saviour once in the Holy Land but provide room in our heart for him to stay. So easy we forget about him, who was a tiny baby in the beginning, but nevertheless came to rule and guide us. Let Christmas remind us to remain obediently in His care, to worship him as the shepherds did, to give our treasures to him as the wise men did. Because:

"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

Thank you for all your efforts to build the kingdom of the Lord Jesus as Christian Endeavorers in your area.

For the WCEU: Andreas A. Rudolph

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

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