



WORLD'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NEWS

May 2008

God wants His people to become like Christ. Christlikeness is the will of God for the people of God. ... So I conclude, as a brief summary ... : God's purpose is to make us like Christ. God's way to make us like Christ is to fill us with his Spirit. In other words, it is a Trinitarian conclusion, concerning the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Dr. John Stott in his final sermon

News from the WCEU

The Executive Committee of the WCEU met on April 18th – 20th in Valley Forge near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Main topics were the forthcoming Worlds Convention and the relation between CEI and WCEU. The reports about the recent visits to CE unions in Asia and the South Pacific by A. Rudolph (Dir. of Operations / Gen. Sec.), were thoroughly discussed.

Reaffirming the purpose of Christian Endeavor the Exec. Committee stated, that CE is meant to be a movement for discipling, training and nurturing young Christians, equipping them for service in church and mission and building their personalities and character much through learning by doing.

Eliseo Vilchez–Blancas (Peru/Mexico) and District Elder Kalepo (American Samoa) were appointed to the WCEU Board of Trustees.

President F. Lavata'i reported that he initiated support for projects for children (Day Care Centers in India and a Children Home in Romania) through Endeavourers. These programs shall be monitored by the WCEU and will be considered WCEU-projects.

Africa

Gambia

400 youth attended a youth retreat organized by CE Youth

Unlimited in Gambia (April 18th - 20th, 2008). Main speaker was evangelist Keith Nix (USA).

South Africa

After many years CE is back in the Republic of South Africa. The youth of the Evangelical City Missions in Southern Africa, a handful of churches in RSA and Namibia with mainly German speaking members, met during Easter in Upington for a retreat. "Right in the center" was the theme, which reflected upon being Christian in this world, in the church and in sufferings. One evening they celebrated the introduction of CE for their groups. The Youth Pastor in charge, W. Müller, had been secretary of a German CE State Union before going to South Africa. He maintained close relationship with the German Youth Federation for CE.

Malawi

James Luphale, Nat. Secretary of CE Malawi reports that by end of June CE Malawi holds its National Conference at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi.

Americas and Caribbean

Mexico

Since February 2nd the Mexicans have a new website online: www.esfuerzocristiano.org.mx

The Mexican national CE union (UNSEC) celebrated their 52nd anniversary on May 26th. Because of the distances and

travel time the event was celebrated in four regional camps (about 250 participants each).

"El mundo del EC" (The world of the CE) is a new bulletin or e-magazine in Spanish which is edited by Josué Fuentes-Blanco (jospatdarjos@gmail.com). It is meant for Mexican and Spanish speaking endeavurers to let them know what is going on around the world in different CE unions.

As resources for the local societies UNSEC launched this year "Enlace" (link, network, connection) which has youth topics, sermons and hints for youth activities in Spanish for the weekly youth meetings.

As another resource for youth work the Mexicans have a "Resources CD". It contains "different material and tools that have been created, designed and found on the internet or borrowed from other organizations" and is helpful even for the youth pastor.



Seminar at the National Mexican Convention 2007 (Oaxaca)

Joel Cruz, the chairman of the UNSEC publishing committee, began editing a CE news paper. Presently free samples are mailed out, but beginning next summer the plan is to sell the paper.

Already since two years the publishing committee works towards the publication of a devotional book (like 'Our Daily Bread'). The book contains anecdotes, testimonies, stories, and experiences by Mexican endeavurers. 2,500 dollars are needed to launch the book in 2009.

UNSEC reports that Mexicans are interested in the International Volunteers project of the WCEU. They promote the program and put efforts in finding places for volunteers who want to come to Mexico.

Guatemala

CE in Guatemala (UNEC), Youth of the Iglesia Evangelica Nacional Presbiteriana de Guatemala (IENPG), holds its Asamblea Nacional de la Juventud Presbiteriana (ANAJUPRE) at Campamento Monte Sion, Amatitlan, on 27th to 29th June. Every society is to send two delegates and every district 4 delegates who will also elect the new national board of UNEC.

Asia

Japan

Rev. Yasuo Yonekura, former WCEU Vice President retired as President of Japan Christian Endeavor Union (JCEU) on March 31st after 22 years in office and became Honorary President of JCEU for Life. New President is Mr. Yuzo Kato, who was the Executive Director and the Secretary until then. Mr. Kato serves also as editor of the JCEU publication "Kyourei" (Christian Endeavor). The new

(honorary) Secretary is Mr. Yuki Tsukada. Mrs. Keiko Ishimatsu was elected as Treasurer.

Myanmar (Burma)

The cyclone Nargis was well covered by the media so that everybody heard about the disaster or saw even pictures. We were concerned, because



KBCEU group in Yangon

we visited last October the big and very lively CE in Myanmar, the Kayin Baptist CE Union (KBCEU).

Its headquarters are in the Burmese capital Yangon, but societies are found in many parts of the country including the delta of the Irrawaddy River, where the storm hit first and hardest. The KBCEU-headquarters are in a four storied concrete building and suffered only minor damage. But concerning our brothers and sisters in the delta area we received an e-mail:

"Pray for our members there. They lost their houses, their animals, and also their family members. We help them as much as we can but they still in needs."

WCEU has sent through courier arranged by our Hungarian trustee András Bogyó 900 Euro to KBCEU, which is but a sign of our love and care. The need is far bigger and funds will be necessary also later to rebuild churches and other structures. If anyone would like to support the

Endeavourers in Myanmar – money can be sent via WCEU. Please let us know.

May 30th we received a message from Yangon: *"Now, this morning some of CE members from Yangon Association (about 500) are sent back to their old villages. It was conduct by the government and we can't do anything for them. We know that they lost all their shelters and what they owned. So, if they reach to their villages they will face with so many difficulties. Some of our members followed them to notice what is going on in this process.*

Pray for us."

This news indicates that help is still needed for the victims of the disaster.

Australia and Pacific Islands

The **Quadrennial Regional Convention for the Australian and Pacific Islands Region** was held in Nuku'Alofa, Tonga, 21st to 24th March 2008. Delegates from American Samoa, Samoa, Australia and Solomon Islands joined well over 500 Tongans for the event in the hall of the Longolongo Free Wesleyan Church. Rev. Fred Nile (Austr.), Rev. Faataape Lavata'i (Am. Samoa), Rev Andreas Rudolph (WCEU), Dr. 'Alifaleti Mone and Dr. Taliai Niumeitolu (both Tonga) spoke about various aspects of the convention theme: 'Because he loves, we live!'



Crucifixion Drama, Tonga Convention

The delegates presented a wide range of dances, biblical dramas and songs.

Food was provided by the congregations around the venue. "Because CE promotes reading the scriptures, we are going to revive CE in our church. Our members need a better knowledge of the word," said the church president Rev. Dr. Mone, who is also a member of the WCEU Board of Trustees.

Europe (www.ceeurope.eu)

Great Britain

The Christian Endeavour Union of Great Britain and Ireland is now online: <http://www.ce-online.org/> Stuart MacDonald, Gen. Secretary CEGB&I, wrote: The new website is now operational with regular additions being made. We have been redesigning our literature and are now marketing to churches. At the Baptist Assembly at the beginning of May the new website and marketing literature were well received. Our email is admin@christianendeavour.co.uk if you wish to contact us.

CE people

Lavern Billig, former President of ISCE (CEI) exchanged time with eternity suddenly and unexpectedly on April 24, 2008.

CE-Volunteers

England, Germany, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Romania and USA are countries, where opportunities are offered for volunteers to gain cross-cultural experience while serving in projects run by CE Unions or

institutions close to them. WCEU trustee Dr. Thomas Kröck, Germany, informs about the WCEU international exchange program for volunteers:

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.

Finances

We are grateful to God for providing the necessary funds. We do thank all individuals and national unions who support the WCEU financially.

Pray for ...

* many of the matters this newsletter tells about.

* the preparations in the various national unions for conventions, summer-camps, and retreats.

* the leaders of the local societies, that they may expect strength and guidance from our Lord Jesus Christ

* leaders in the national unions that they have the right vision for the future of their unions and find good co-workers.

* our sisters and brothers in Myanmar who were affected by the cyclone.

* unity among endeavorers in various national unions

* This newsletter gives also many reasons to thank God for and to praise him.

Next Board Meetings, Conventions . . .

2008

July, 4 -6

Convention of CE in Great Britain and Ireland at Chester, England. Theme: "In this sign conquer"

July, 18-20

Youth Spiritual Retreat 2008 of Texas CE Union at Three Mountain Retreat Center near Clifton TX. Theme: "Not of this world"

July 24.-27.

Connect Europe, the Christian Endeavour Youth Conference 2008 for Europe, aiming at potential and active young leaders from the CE movement and beyond

August 21.-23

Convention of the Japanese CE Union in Oshino village.

Sept. 17.-20.

WCEU Board of Trustees and Finance Committee meeting in Northern Ireland in conjunction with the 94th Irish CE Convention 2008 at Carnmoney. Theme: Work in progress

Sept. 27.-28.

"ECHt" Youth conference of the German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavor

October

National Convention of CE in India in Bangalore (days not yet fixed)

2009

July, 29.- Aug. 3.: Convencion Nacional UNDEC, Arequipa, Peru

2010

26th World's CE Convention in the U.S.A.

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

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