



World's Christian Endeavor News

For Christ and His Church

September 2014

27th World's Convention with the Eyes of a Teenager

'I was blessed to be a part of it. It was amazing to hear how God is working in so many lands with so many different people groups.'

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'Kassel meant for me stepping out of my comfort zone and re-evaluating the picture formed of myself until now.'
- Eszter Páskuj (RO) on her time in Germany.

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President's Word

Matter of faith

by Kálmán Adorján, President WCEU

'Christian brotherhood is not a psychic, rather a pneumatic reality' - says Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German martyr-theologian in his book 'The Fellowship of Saints'. It is not an ideal to strive to, but a divine reality. Indeed, You are my brother and sister, neither because You are sufficiently acceptable, nor because I am willing to regard You as such, nor because we should strive to fulfill this high ideal, but because Christ redeemed us, made us children of God and thus brothers and sisters. The fellowship of saints is a matter of faith.

As I understand Paul, he writes to Philemon: 'God has placed in us lots of good things, useful in the cause of Christ. Let them be evident, as you share (a way to practice fellowship) your faith. Do this now not in preaching, not in receiving the worshippers in your house, but welcoming the one, who didn't live up to his name, Onesimus (useful). Receive now him, who in Christ is much more than a runaway slave, indeed much more than a useful slave. He is your brother.'

Conventions - big ones, like the one we enjoyed in South Korea, or small ones - are the situations in which we believe, and - to a limited extent - we practice fellowship. Everyday life's situations challenging our limits (mutual acceptance, forgiveness) offer us opportunities to make known all the good that is in us. For Christ. In and outside His Church.

WCEU News

27th World's Convention with the Eyes of a Teenager

by Nikell Ruhl, Member of CE Mid-Atlantic

Traveling to South Korea was my first time stepping foot out of the USA. After waiting for what felt like forever, we flew to Seoul. When we landed, we went to our hotel and then right to dinner. Koreans always have appetizers on the table when we went to restaurants. They also had a mini stove contraption in the middle of the table. Food was brought to us and we cooked it ourselves! With every meal there was a small bowl of white rice. Some of us ate rice three meals a day. Sometimes I missed food from home, but it was good to experience how another culture lives.

We toured for a few days before heading to the World CE convention. Some interesting things we visited were the Demilitarization Zone (DMZ), the Seoul Tower, and the Korean War Memorial. It was a learning experience for everyone, and it was really fun to see the difference between America and Korea. I didn't realize how in the US we get to see people from many different cultures, but in other parts of the world this is not always what they experience.

At the CE convention we met people from many different countries. There were

around 3000 people in attendance. This was mostly Koreans but also people from India, Mexico, Peru, Nepal, American Samoa, Russia, Holland, Germany, Romania, Hungary, Nigeria, and Australia. God was certainly at work during this convention and I was blessed to be a part of it. It was amazing to hear how God is working in so many lands with so many different people groups.



Loyalty to Christ's Church

by Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary of WCEU

Becoming a Christian means becoming part of a community; called 'body of Christ' (1Cor. 12:12), kingdom of heaven (Phil. 3:20), flock of the good shepherd (John 10:16) or - the church. There is no solitary Christian. Christ connects all who are connected to him. Love (agape), the most prominent sign of Christianity, is impossible without fellow-men. Because Christians are basically one (John 17:21) CE maintains loyal fellowship with the church. Christian Endeavor is a part of the church, formed to give young Christians a field to try out following Jesus, serving and spreading the gospel as they feel led by the Holy Spirit. Thus CE puts in practice its motto: 'For Christ and His church'. Unfortunately some church leaders and pastors – and some adult CE leaders as well - fear their youth is unable to lead responsibly. Hence they exercise direct control on CE and obstruct the learning potential of CE. Generation-conflict is part of this fear and lack of trust. Therefore it is important that CE groups strongly state loyalty to their church and build up trust by communicating with church leaders often and discussing differences of opinions.

Sometimes CE groups are started where there is no church. But in the course of time these groups will either join a church or become one. 'Loyalty to Christ's Church' is only logical, since CE and the church serve the same Lord (Eph. 4:4f).

informative website. Since 2012 the 'mobile devotions' are available, written by many Endeavorers from around the world. In the past years the WCEU archive has been made almost fully accessible. Now a permanent place is to be found for the archive. The CE prayer week is well established and an annual event which connects endeavorers around the world. Regional CE conferences have been held in Hawaii (Pacific), Germany (Europe), and Mexico (Americas).

The Vice Presidents reported about growing unions on the Solomon Islands, Nepal and Latin America. Contacts have been made with CE groups in Belize, Costa Rica and Domenica (Caribbean).

The council ratified all actions taken by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee in the past four years. An amendment of the WCEU bylaws to strengthen youth in the council was thoroughly discussed and enacted. Now every national CE Union is entitled to send one youth (18 – 30 years) along with President and Secretary to the council and all additional representatives must be of the same young age. Further it was decided to allow national CE unions with less than five local groups one vote in the council only.



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The election to the new Board of Trustees was well organized by NomCom Chairman Harry Wedekind. For the term 2014 – 2018 the following persons have been elected:

President:

Rev. Kálmán Adorján, Romania

General Secretary:

Andreas A. Rudolph, Germany

Vice-President (Africa):

Momodou Kanteh, Gambia

Vice-President (Americas):

Rev. Eliseo Vilchez-Blancas, Peru

Vice-President (Asia):

Rev. Surendra Kumar Sahu, India

Vice-President (Europe):

Harry Wedekind, The Netherlands

Vice-President (Pacific):

Rev. Dr. Faataape Lavata'i, American Samoa

Treasurer: **Jonathan E. Stewart**, USA

Ass. Treasurer: **Benjamin Wenzel**, Germany

Members of the new Executive Committee are:

Mrs. **Krisztina-Ágnes Berke** (Romania), Rev. **Dr. David Coryell** (USA), Elder **Tong-un Ko** (Korea), Rev. **Surendra K. Sahu** (India), and Rev. **Eliseo Vilchez-Blancas** (Peru). Ex officio members are the President, General Secretary and the Treasurer.

Trustees:

Rev. **Dr. Joseph O'femi Adeosun** (Nigeria), Mrs. **Krisztina-Agnes Berke** (Romania), **Dr. Mahendra Bhattarai** (Nepal), **Matt Bishop** (Northern Ireland), **Ibzan Campirán Chávez** (Mexico), **Rev. Dr. David Coryell** (USA), **Timothy Eldred** (USA), **Josue Miguel Fuentes Blanco** (Mexico), **Daniel Hoffmann** (Germany), **Peter Jenkins** (Australia), Elder **Tong-un Ko** (Korea), **Rev. Raffi Messerlian**, **Daniel Peña Lopez** (Peru), **Rev. Derek Pongi** (Solomon Islands), **Purna Nanda Pradhan** (India), **Rev. Siolo Tauati** (Samoa), **Rev. Liona Thompson** (American Samoa), **Michael Warren** (Hawaii), **Deborah Wedekind** (The Netherlands).

WCEU Leadership Meetings during 27th World's Convention in Korea

Council Meeting

by Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary of WCEU

Prior to the 27th World's CE Convention in Hoeng Seong, Korea, the WCEU Council met. President K. Adorján welcomed about 40 members from 15 nations, 16 members attended a council meeting for the first time.

Gen. Secretary A. Rudolph recollected the developments in the WCEU since 2010. Due to an active assistant (Anna Visky) WCEU is present in the digital world in Facebook and with an



Discussion on the Prayer Week

Discussion about the 28th World's Convention 2018

by Harry Wedekind, VP for Europe

Work groups were formed during the Convention with leaders and participants eager to add something to WCEU's planning. Some leaders met to discuss the 28th World's Convention 2018. They agreed on some 'must-have' elements of the program. The plan for 2018 is to have a schedule with windows for participants to meet (maybe in a coffee area), share or get to know each other (s CE work) better. The official language of the convention will be English and the language spoken in the host country. The main focus in 2018 will be connecting the several CE's worldwide and worshipping the Lord together. A Christ centered theme is to be searched for, taking in consideration the principles of CE. The theme will be communicated by speakers of CE. Free time will include sports and tourism.

Discussion about the Prayer Week 2015

by Nathan Robb, Member of CE Mid-Atlantic

At the Prayer Week meeting a work group brainstormed on how it could be changed to make it more accessible and easier to follow. After long discussion Nathan Robb (CE Mid-Atlantic) explained that he thought National

Unions should pray over the course of 12 months so every month on the second a different time zone in the world be praying. For example the 2nd of February being the Birthday of Christian Endeavor, people in the 'Pacific Time Zone' would pray. Then on the 2nd of March National Unions would follow from the next time zone. The reason for this is to keep us thinking and praying for Christian Endeavor over the entire year. But it also makes easier to understand when the National Unions would be praying. A specific Time Zone could create prayer activities through their month with a local Christian Endeavor group. The group discussed a second possibility as well, to pray only during one day, 2nd of February in a certain hour, which would actually be different for National Unions in the different time zones. In this way endeavorers over the world would create a 24 hour, non-stop prayer chain.

Endeavorers are asked to send their feedbacks on this matter before 30 September to assistant.wceu@gmail.com.

Africa

Ebola calls for Donation

From emails by Rev. Wiah and Pastor Wuo Gahn

Our Christian Endeavor friends in Sierra Leone and Liberia have to face again

(after last year's cholera) a life threatening epidemic, Ebola.

Pastor Wuo Gahn, who leads 'Endeavor Liberia' wrote to WCEU trustee Tim Eldred: "We ask our friends to intercede for us as we fast and pray for God's intervention. The Ebola Outbreak is such that we have been asked by the government to stay home and try to get enough food to keep us home for an indefinite time. We do not know what the masses will do to survive."

Endeavor (CEI) in the US collects funds to help provide chlorine, chloride, and dentol to Liberian families.

The president of the Liberian Christian Endeavor Union, Rev. Enoch Wiah, wrote:

"We are deadly in tears to inform you about the present condition we are facing here in Liberia, which is troublesome, that is the deadly Ebola Virus that took away more than five hundred lives and part of our country have been barricaded by our government. Hence, we are calling upon you for a help to enable us help our members and the nation in general. We are also told by the Ministry of Health that we should protect ourselves by washing our hands with chlorine, soap and clean water through buckets. This Ebola war brought hardship on our people and nation. Presently, a bag of rice costs US\$40.00 while a gallon of chlorine is US\$50.00 etc.

We are very much hopeful that you will do all that is required to provide some needed assistance such as cash, food, buckets, chlorine etc. Presently, Liberia CE does not have bank account. Therefore, if you have any cash to send us please pay it to Rev. Enoch Wiah Belloh account (A/C) 0521105111001 First International Bank (Liberia) Ltd."

You can send money for the Liberian endeavorers to the WCEU account in Germany (IBAN: DE94 5206 0410 0000 8038 98 – BIC: GENODEF1EK1) or send a check to the American WCEU office (P.O. Box 723, GROVE CITY, PA 16127-0723 U.S.A.).

Donate Now

Americas and the Caribbean

Global Pray-With-Youth Sunday

Endeavor (CEI) invites churches worldwide to join this program on Sept 21. CEI president Tim Eldred writes:

"Many adults in your congregation are praying for youth—but what could happen if these faithful people actually prayed with them?"

He believes it's the most important event a church will do for young people all year long. Since 2007, many congregations in different nations joined this exciting, simple campaign on the third Sunday in September. Through it they communicate to their young people how much they believe in God's call on their life and generation. They invite you to join Pray-With-Youth this year, to release the potential of the youth, and to change Church's future!

More details at: praywithyouth.com
pwpy@endeavorministries.org

Europe

Situation in Syria

Reported by Andreas A. Rudolph, GenSec

Though geographically in Asia the CE union of Lebanon and Syria joined recently the European region, because being part of the Armenian Evangelical Church they feel culturally close and in fact the distance to Europe is less than to the next Asian CE unions.

As the news inform daily the situation in Syria is terrible. The war is destroying everything. Please continue to pray for all the Christians and everybody else suffering in this situation. Pray for peace and mercy. Some time ago reports from the besieged town of Aleppo said endeavors keep the children busy with an on-going Vacation Bible School.

The president of the CE union in Syria and Lebanon, WCEU Trustee Rev. Raffi Messerlian wrote some time ago from Lebanon:

"We are ok. As CE we are busy with the summer camps. We started running our renovated camp site in KCHAG. We already had our Junior Camp where about 70 junior campers attended. Next

week we will have a camp for children and we are expecting 90 children. Than from August 22 to Sept 1 we will have our youth camp in Armenia. The total number of youth participating is 65 with leaders. We are so excited about that and we have been planning it since one year.

The camp site KCHAG was occupied by the Syrian army for years and destroyed. Many years we were trying to renovate it. Last years after raising some money we succeeded in doing big renovations which gives us the possibility of hosting about 80 campers. This is open for our groups and also for other church groups in Lebanon. Of course still there are works to be done there in the future."

News from Ireland

By Margaret Houston, Communication Officer, CE Ireland

We are thankful to God for successful YP and Junior Camps.

Celebrations to mark 125 years of Christian Endeavor in Ireland will coincide with the 100th Irish National CE Convention on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September 2014 in Immanuel Presbyterian Church, in Agnes Street Belfast where it all began.

Craig Dyer's theme will be, "For Christ and the Church".

Church Leaders and civic dignitaries will attend Friday's Rally and Mrs Jean McGall will be installed as Irish Union President at Saturday's. There will be a Prayer and Praise Walk plus other activities for the various age groups during Saturday.

Eszter Páskuj (RO) in Germany



What did actually mean those 10 months for me in Kassel (Germany)?

I was a volunteer in the WCEU Office, where I was helping Andreas Rudolph. My main tasks were translating texts for the 'mobile devotions' project and archiving CE books.

The most important motivational power in undertaking this volunteering year was the German language. It was great to see how much progress I made in this area (I recommend it to everyone!). I am also very grateful for all the pleasant and unpleasant experiences as well, which shaped me and probably brought me closer to God.

Kassel meant for me stepping out of my comfort zone and re-evaluating the picture formed of myself until now. I asked myself more than once: 'Is this really me?'. A new environment can teach you a lot of things. And these self-knowledge lessons were very valuable. They pointed out that there are still many things about myself I should work on.

Thinking back to the past ten months I must say that God loved me and took care of me very much. I am very thankful for Andreas Rudolph, who provided a home for me in Germany and who put aside his work very often in order to listen to me. Andreas was always open to my problems and stories.

I am also very grateful for those, who became my friends in the past year and for the many experiences, which influenced and shaped my life.

authors from all
over the world
writing one
year's daily
devotions

WANT TO JOIN?

centraloffice@worldsceunion.org

Relaunching CE in Russia

From mails by Dominick Semenov, Leader CE in Russia

For quite some time we had no news from the CE group established in Moscow in the nineties. Now WCEU office received some wonderful last minute news: on 31 august the first youth CE Group was held in Tambov local Presbyterian Church. God heard the prayers. Dominick's leader friends are gathering every week to discuss youth ministry in Moscow, he will also join to make further plans.



Dominick Semenov in South Korea

WORLD'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION

Leuschnerstr. 74, 34134 KASSEL, GERMANY
Tel.: ++49-561-4095-130,
Fax: ++49-561-4095-230
American office: P.O. Box 723, GROVE CITY, PA 16127-0723 U.S.A.

Bank Account: 803 898 with Evang. Kreditgenossenschaft Kassel (EKK), Germany
IBAN: DE94520604100000803898
BIC: GENODEF1EK1

www.worldsceuunion.org
centraloffice@worldsCEunion.org
assistant.wceu@gmail.com



Who is... **Deborah Wedekind?**



I'm Deborah, 27 years old and living in the Netherlands. After a study of Leisure Management I went to Peru to assist organizing the 26th CE World Convention. The period after that was a great time of many travels all over the world in between a job as Online Marketer and tour guide on European river cruises. Now I live in Breda and work in an office where we sell cruises all over the world.

Christian Endeavor is something I grew up with as my parents both are Endeavorers and actually met at a world's convention! CE is not only a great tool in youth ministry that teaches and challenges youth, but also a great place for fellowship with people. I remember the last night after this year's World's Convention where people from India, Hawaii, Netherlands, Germany, USA, Romania, Korea, Mexico and Peru somehow gathered in the lobby and passed around guitars to praise and worship our Lord.

As a new Trustee, I aim to promote the fellowship between Endeavorers, both off-and online. Fellowship doesn't only strengthen relationships with others, but you can grow in your faith and as a person!

The deadline for the next issue of the WCEU Newsletter is October 15, 2014. Please notify us about news, events, announcements etc. if you want them to be listed here.

Pray with us!

Let us not forget to thank God. For example for:

- the recent World's CE Convention
- so many women and men, young and old, actively serving the Lord through Christian Endeavor
- so many opportunities to reach out to Non-Christians
- 125 years CE in Ireland
- CE, the most effective youth ministry

Let us intercede for:

- War torn areas like Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, etc.
- West-Africa suffering from the Ebola epidemic
- Christians persecuted
- All activities to build up CE in Pakistan
- The leaders of CE unions and the World's CE Union
- Writing and writers of the 'Mobile Devotions'
- Funds for the operations of the WCEU

Events

2014

September 26-28 - **National Convention**, General Assembly, Romania

October 17 - 19 - **33rd North-East India CE Convention** at Jowai, Meghalaya, India

Oct. 31 – Nov. 2 - **PLUS** conference for young adults, Marburg, Germany

November 20-23 - **National Convention**, CE Union, Solomon Islands

Dec. 29 – Jan 2 – **Senior Camp** CE South Australia

2015

Jan. 3 – **CE Prayer and Fasting Day**, North East India CE Union

Jan. 5 – 9 – **Junior Camp** CE South Australia

Jan. 24 – 25 – **SOS, Conference on counseling youth**; Kassel, Germany

Feb. 2 – **CE Birthday**, Prayer Week

Feb. 10-11 **WCEU Executive Committee Meeting**, Bangalore, India

March 13- 15 – **'denk mal'**, congress for work with children and juniors, Germany

