



World's Christian Endeavor News

For Christ and His Church

February 2013

CE Prayer Week 2013 - interview with Eliseo Vilchez-Blancas

This year's Prayer Week organizer, vice president for Americas and the Caribbean region Eliseo Vilchez-Blancas speaks about his experiences.

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WCEU News

To be an endeavorer "In Christ"

by Josue Fuentes Blanco, WCEU Trustee from Yucatan, Mexico

Actively contributing to the 132th CE celebration, brought me personally different kind of gratifications: talents and technology; the former CE members and leader's meeting, and the new generation of endeavorers spreading the kingdom of God.

But the challenge is the same: to be in Christ for being able to do things for Christ and His Church. In order to make leadership, planning and ministry last, everything and everybody has to be founded "In Christ".

Every endeavorer from a local society or youth group, as well as national and world leaders should note what Paul says in the Bible: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17, NIV) So, technology matters, relationship and leaderships helps, planning organizes the work, but just through living "In Christ" we can do mission and contribute to Christ's church.

Are you living and serving "In Christ"? If you are doing so, you are living and serving "For Christ and His church!"

CE Prayer Week 2013 - interview with Eliseo Vilchez-Blancas

by Anna Visky, Assistant for President and General Secretary

Reading the prayer tasks of the different countries, what does it tell you about CE around the world?

We can specify some common and particular characteristics regarding the prayer requests. A common issue concerns the training of youth leaders. From local and national actions, to the events of the WCEU regions, CE people are trying to train youth leaders. The Connect Europe 2013 convention is a good example for such an initiative.

There are also particular characteristics: CE in Scotland is looking for involving churches in the movement; in Romania concrete steps are taken towards teenagers; the many activities of CE in Germany calls our attention that December is the busiest month in collecting funds for ministry. We also learn that Christian Endeavor is in crisis

in many countries, however, we are happy to hear about communities that persist and get stronger, the same way just as Gideon in the time of the Judges.

Which prayer task touched you most?

The little CE society's prayer tasks, where God's presence can be spotted in the movement. We join them in prayer, hoping that God will call the next generations to be instruments of God. Our time demands new Gideons, young men and women, to prepare soil for the gospel's seeds.

Can you remember a prayer task that you prayed for and the answer came soon?

We prayed for the involvement of endeavorers in the Prayer Week and we could see that from 2012 to 2013 the participation became stronger. We hope that in 2014 there will be even more endeavorers praying.

How can you imagine a Prayer Week in which the different National Unions in the world meet, pray together and realize the dynamics suggested by the guide?

It would be impossible to meet for a whole week, but we could get together through Ustream or Livestream (online broadcasting). We could establish an appointment most convenient for everyone. It's inevitably a sacrifice for some, because of the different time zones. For those who can't participate, the video streaming would always be accessible.

We have to continue promoting the Prayer Week by offering materials to be followed and by giving opportunity for endeavorers to bring in specific elements of each country or region. That way, we could strengthen our union; and even though we cannot be together in one place, we can be united in fellowship as CE in the world.

World's Convention 2014

The next World's Christian Endeavor convention will be hosted by the South Korean CE Union, 15-18 July, 2014. The venue is at **High1 resort** in Jeongsun-kun, Gangwon province. Apart from the fantastic community experience, Korea is known for technology, ginseng and taekwondo. Plan to be there!

How did the Prayer Week influence CE in Latin America?

As I mentioned before, this year we have had more participation on the Prayer Week, although I have to note, that there is little global involvement of endeavorers from Latin America. However, in México, the denominational unions have scheduled and promoted Prayer Week. In Guatemala and Peru, a special activity was organized for February 2, CE day. In the last two years the organization of the Prayer Week has been developing.

Africa

Seminar in Nigeria

Reported by Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary, WCEU

In last December 13 - 16, another West-African CE Seminar was held in Nigeria. In and around Abeokuta, Ogun State, about 70 km North of the Nigerian economic centre Lagos, is a group of pastors and lay people who got to know about Christian Endeavor through the late Bishop and former WCEU trustee George Larbie from Ghana. They applied for membership in the WCEU and were accepted. But only one of them, Pastor Samson, who runs a primary school, started CE children groups. Otherwise the CE friends meet

occasionally. Since they had invited everybody interested and all who are connected to them the seminar was rather a convention for people of all ages. The main themes had to be given as a lecture. Up to 300 attended the meetings in the 'Revelation of Christ Gospel Church Int'l' in the Iporo-Ake Sawmill district of Abeokuta. Dr. Joseph O'Femi Adeosun, President NCEU, spoke about challenges for the youth today. Andreas A. Rudolph, Gen. Sec. WCEU, taught how CE works and what the basic elements it has. Drumming, singing and dancing was an inevitable part of all meetings, expressing the joy of the participants and their praise of the Lord Jesus Christ. Sunday, December 16, afternoon certificates were handed over to the group of about 40 regular seminar attendees along with a book and a CE pin.

Americas and the Caribbean

A Treasure in Your Heart - Convention in México

Reported by Ibzán Campirán, International relations, CE México

December 26-29, 2012, the 10th Christian Endeavor Youth Convention was carried out in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico. More than 450 young people from all over the country and even from the neighborhood country, Guatemala, gathered to celebrate this annual convention.

Andrés Jacobo, US native musician preached on the theme "Un tesoro en tu corazón" (A treasure in your heart). Many participants lives' were touched through the sermons and also through funny challenges where their biblical know-how and dexterity were tested. From beginning to end, Jesus Christ was calling the heart of some attendees who finally received Him as their only Savior. Others had such experiences which impacted their personal lives that they decided to stay on the path of purity by living according to the Word of God: Loving the Lord our God with all the heart and with all the soul and with all the strength. It means we have to use all what we are to seek Him, to make a firm decision to not stray from

His commands but to hide them in our heart in order to not to sin against Him (Psalm 119:9-11, Deuteronomy 6:5). God demands an increasingly holy life, to be witnesses to the nations and to preach the Good News, so we must be consistent and congruent with the faith we have.

What actually make these reunions unforgettable are the whole experiences that each young person keeps in heart at the end of it, just as making new friends from different places, learning bible content, growing up spiritually, and sharing all this with other youth of same age and belief. We already look forward to the activities of this year and we hope to keep on growing spiritually in the name of The Lord.



...Till the next national activity!

LIDEC '13 - Seminar in Peru

By Yessy Guadalupe, CE member, Peru

The first edition of **LIDEC '13 - CE Leadership that transforms** training ended in a warm climate of brotherhood, creativity and engagement. The convention is designed for youth leaders of the Peruvian Evangelical Church, Coastal Region and aims to promote the integration, evolution and planning of the youth work, and creates a space for planning the future of CE. The event took place on 8-9 February in a retreat house in the South of Lima, district of Cieneguilla and was organized by the Synodical Commission of CE. We implemented our working plan through dialogue and participation. We had training workshops with the themes: Youth serving in emergency cases and Synodical Convention on 26-29 July - one of the most relevant activities of the annual program. As part of the tasks of the church we felt the





where we embraced service in the diversity and complementarity of gifts, in the atmosphere of the community as Christ's body, being persistent in prayer, like transforming agents of CE.

CE spreads in the USA

Reported by Dr. Dave Coryell, Executive Director, CE Mid-Atlantic

The CE Mid-Atlantic board met for an overnight retreat January 11-12. Key initiatives include continuing the Rebirth CE Campaign. Currently five churches have committed to starting CE in their local settings. Many more churches are considering CE. The ministry is praying God would provide fifteen new churches each year for the next three years. It was also determined at these meetings that the ministry will primarily go by the name "Christian Endeavor" in its public relations efforts in the United States. The ministry will also assume the role of CE-USA in relationship to the WCEU. The primary focus will still be building CE in the Mid-Atlantic States, but will also be a support for existing and emerging groups through phone/skype communication, online resources, the beginning of online youth ministry trainings during 2013, the website, and other ways as time permits. God has certainly been working as the CE Quick Start Manual, available at www.cemidatlantic.org, continues to be downloaded by several interested people. The Manual was updated at the beginning of 2013 representing adjustments suggested to improve the initial Manual released in July. We have also developed a CE Starter Kit that will be sent to churches committing to start CE. This "thank you" gift provides small items that assist an adult youth leader in understanding CE with hands on items. Finally, a retired pastor named Richard

"Woody" Woodcock has begun a ministry of encouragement with CE church pastors. Woody has begun visiting and praying with pastors from churches starting CE. Pastor Woody's passion to build up pastors is helping us being the ministry of encouragement we feel God is directing us to be.

Asia

CE goes college in India



In the presence of the President of CE in India, Rev. S. K. Sahu, a CE Society was inaugurated in the BWDA Polytechnic College in Ventellicode, Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu, India on February 1, 2013. All the 600 almost entirely Christian students and faculty participated in the function. The principal, Er. P. Shrivasa Sundar, functions as president of the CE. It was decided that once in every month they will meet for one hour time of worship and taking pledge.

From report by Surendra K. Sahu, India

Leadership seminar in South India

The South India CE Union (SICEU) held a Leadership Seminar for Office bearers of District and State CE Unions at the Lay Training and Youth Centre Kovalam, Trivandrum, Kerala on February 2 and 3. The President of SICEU, Bishop Rev. Dr. G. Devakadasham, Moderator of the Church of South India had sent greetings as he was out of country. The 49 participants came from all South India. CE leaders Dr. R. Gladwin Gabriel, Prof. J. S. Chandra Sen, Rev. A. J. M. Kesari, Mr. Sonny Lionel Amos, Mr. B. Oliver Raj Kumar and Mr. M. Panneer

Selvam spoke on the the following topics respectively: "CE's roll - in spiritual activities; - in administration; - in social activities; - in finance". The meeting closed with a Holy Communion Service. Merited Endeavorers were honored and the occasion was used to release a CE-Handbook (by Mr. Sonny Lionel Amos) and a Year Planner booklet (by Dr. Gabriel).

From a report by Er.Shelley Christopher Charles, Gen. Sec. SICEU

Activities of CE in Nepal

From reports by Mahendra Bhattarai, CE Nepal

CE Youth Fellowship/music practice on Friday evenings is an established practice in Kathmandu now. Our CE youth have been going out on mission trips, outreach or Gospel concerts too. CE Kathmandu with Christia Lahar, a Gospel Music ministry, is also training two of the youths from APFC Pakhribas on three musical instruments. We were able to have a Youth Retreat with fruitful results and blessings to do His work with greater zeal. In all, the year 2012 has been a blessed year for us. CE youths are active in 9 out of 10 Churches and in over 30 fellowships. There are combined CE fellowships taking place regularly among Churches and fellowships in Eastern Nepal. There are over 500 persons directly participating in CE Praise and Prayers every week. Our CE youths are also mixing with youths of other Churches in praise and prayers to God.

Europe

CE Society Broadcasting

From a report by Jörg Maushake

The German CE Union started to communicate with and about local CE societies through YouTube videos instead of the formerly printed material sent by post. They wondered whether the material in the letters was really read and the content shared or got mixed with ordinary advertising mail and

thrown away. This is how CE-Society-Mailing became the CE-Society-Broadcasting (Digitale Jugendbundsending). It is offering a 3 to 5 minutes compilation of messages and offers from the German CE Union. The reporters are chosen from the CE society where the filming takes place. The CE-Society-Broadcasting is available in German language on Facebook, YouTube and the homepage. This form of communication is more common with youth.

Australia - Pacific

Father follows son

January 19 the Australian Christian Endeavorers met in the Collaroy Centre, Sydney, NSW, Australia for their Annual General Meeting. They resolved to focus in 2013 on the 'pray 21' project, support for CE in the Pacific area and marketing CE. Mr. Richard Gilfillan from NSW was elected President. His son Justin, who was the previous president, is National Director, Doug Rea continues as Treasurer and Milton McDonald as Secretary.



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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.worldsunion.org
 centraloffice@worldsCEunion.org
 assistant.wceu@gmail.com



Who is... Josue Fuentes Blancas?

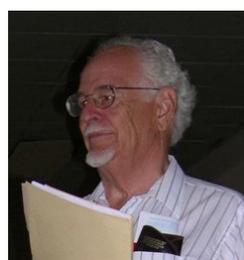


I began to attend CE when I was about 12, when the society of my local church held a state convention. After that, a poster of a CE world

convention in 1990 that would be celebrated in England called my attention. It encouraged me in such a way that I almost immediately got enrolled and signed the CE pledge. I have been working with CE in different levels from local to national. In the last decade I have been closer to the international and world CE, translating materials from English to Spanish and backwards. In Mexico, I am working right now as a coach and trainer and also as a part of a CE publishing house that I and other former CE leaders founded.

I'm married to Patricia who is also a teacher and has worked as a child evangelist. We have two children, Dara and Isai (Jesse) who are part of our ministry life and our "shadows" in youth camps, seminars, conventions and CE events in general. Right now, I am working with my state Presbytery in the National Mexican Presbyterian Church as a part of the Ministry of Education.

LaVern H. Boss



LaVern H. Boss, Ed.D. from Michigan, USA, turned 88 recently. He was active in various posts in CEI and administers

successfully the WCEU investments for many years. He is known and loved for a congenial and encouraging attitude. It helped greatly in meetings. He regrets very much that overseas travel to attend CE meetings is over for him and his wife Norma now. Congratulations!

The deadline for the next issue of the WCEU Newsletter is 15 April 2013. Please notify us about news, events, announcements etc. if you want them to be listed here.

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

Events

2013

March 3-6 - **Regional Convention** South, Yucatán, México

March 16-18 - **Regional Convention** North, Monterrey, Nuevo León, México

April 4-5 - **WCEU Executive Committee Meeting**, Lancaster county, PA, United States

April 8-12 - **National CE Forum** in Honiara, Solomon Islands

May 3-5 - **Vertical Conference**, Torda, Romania

July 23-27 - **Biannual Convention**, Comalcalco, Tabasco, México

July 28-August 2, 2013 - **Summer Assembly** - CE Youth Conference of CE-Midatlantic at Refreshing Mountain, Stevens, Pennsylvania; Theme: 'iPledge'

August 1-4 - **Connect Europe**, Hattingen, Germany

September 21 - **99th Irish National Christian Endeavour Convention**, Raffrey Presbyterian Church, County Down

Prayer Tasks

Germany

- Pray for the General Assembly in March in Woltersdorf near Berlin.
- Pray for the local CE societies who are each expected to run an evangelistic program in 2014 to mark the 111th anniversary of the German CE Union.
- Thank god for a successful 'SOS' - congress. About 300 youth leaders got trained in youth counseling.

México

- Give thanks for the people who accepted Jesus as their Savior
- Pray for the next activities of CE México.
- Pray for the next elections of the leadership

Nepal

- That all of us can invite our neighbours & relatives in our House Fellowships
- For Christian Endeavour (CE) Nepal Convention to take place in the next four months

Scotland

- Pray for the efforts of the mainly elderly endeavorers to plant new CE societies

Solomon Islands

- Pray for the National CE Forum in Honiara and for the expansion of CE in the South Sea Evangelical Church and beyond.

Syria

- Pray for our sisters and brothers in the civil war.

Ukraine

- Thank god for a good number of youth attending meetings.
- Pray for the economical situation in the country and for those suffering from poverty.