



World's Christian Endeavor News

For Christ and His Church

February 2015

WCEU Executive Committee

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Page 1

CE Mid-Atlantic Inspires Local Churches

Primary steps were taken to enhance CE's ability to inspire local churches in recent months.

Page 3

Visit to CE in India and Pakistan

After the Executive Committee meeting Andreas. A. Rudolph, General Secretary visited CE in India and Pakistan.

Page 3

Update on Ebola

Bo -, Kenema - and Bonthe districts were no go area for the past eight months but thank God that the government has lifted the travel ban. Ebola draws back.

Page 4

Who is Rev. Raffi Messerlian?

Rev. Raffi Messerlian met the Lord in 1986 in one of the youth camps in KCHAG retreat center Lebanon.

Page 5

Announcements, Events and more

Page 5



WCEU News National Union News Announcements, events and more...

President's Word

Origins of CE

by Kálmán Adorján, President WCEU

Read Philippians 1:3-11

Was the apostle Paul an Endeavorer? I am sure he was, just like the Christians in Philippi, the city of the ancient Macedonia. Of course you are right, if you think that Paul could not know anything about Francis E. Clark, or that he did not pledge loyalty to Christ and His Church in your local CE society. But he and the Christians, in whose partnership in the gospel he had so much joy, were definitely people of prayer and action.

Paul prayed for the Philippians. In prayer we acknowledge our dependence on God, and that He is the one who carries out His work in his people (confession). He prayed in gratitude and joy because of their involvement in the cause of Christ (service). He is also full of hope and confidence regarding their future ('Trusting the Lord Jesus for strength...'). He shows loyalty to the Church in general: 'I have you in my heart; I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.' (vv. 7-8) And last but not least: Paul's prayer for the Philippians was the greatest service he could do for them.

Let our prayer be our confession of God's power. Let it be true service, done for each other. Let it express our loyalty to Christ's Church and our renewing fellowship with Christians in different situations in this world.

WCEU News

WCEU Executive Committee met in Bangalore, India

by Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary, WCEU

February 10 and 11 the WCEU ExCom met in the Vishranti Nilayam Guesthouse in Bangalore. The focus was on planning the future direction of the WCEU. It was agreed on concentrating more on support and training for national CE leaders. A curriculum is to be set up and an online-course to be compiled. At CE conventions at least one day should be used for teaching and for seminars on CE matters. There shall be more focus on prayer. To strengthen praying for each other, WCEU will send a simple monthly prayer mail. Please send your prayer topics if you want endeavorers around the world praying for you.

It was decided to design and construct the WCEU website new in order to be prepared for the latest technical developments and to be attractive to young people. Your suggestions are welcome.

Also the Executive Committee resolved to start the search for a successor for the present General Secretary who will retire in 2017.



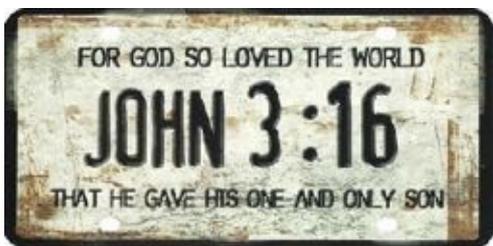
Youth in Ministry

by Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary of WCEU

One ‘trademark’ of CE youth ministry is putting youth in charge of their meetings and activities. F.E. Clark had seen the vast potential in letting youth taking initiative, developing activities and bearing responsibility. He saw a need for a place in the church where youth could learn the life of a disciple by practicing it in real. There was and is a lot of concern and objection to the concept. But Clark was confident the Holy Spirit would also work through young Christians. History proofed him to be right. Of course there will be mistakes, weak performance, and shortcomings if somebody ventures into something new. But that is the way we learn. Christians tend to forget that the church is a flock of pardoned sinners and is not the club of perfect saints. Adults make mistakes too. We only do not like to admit that in public.

CE is part of a local church and not a separated body. Interaction with the older generations is necessary, healthy and rewarding. And CE activities serve the church and reach into the local church. These correlations need to be considered by the CE youth. Experienced Christians are a tremendous help for the young endeavorer. They should give advice if asked and in a way that builds up the youth and encourages them. Mentoring is a great way to teach young Christians without denying them to make their own decisions.

In the Eastern and African cultures with strong dominance of elder leaders the CE concept needs a lot of humility by those church leaders. Allowing youth certain independence is rather unusual. The Indian CE has for senior leaders the office of an advisor. This secures influence of the senior leader but gives also independence to the regular board of the respective CE unit. An advisor is expected to counsel the board, but not to direct.



Feedback on the 24h Pray Day

‘In moments in which speed in response is so demanding and things happen so fast just by clicking a button, it was necessary to stop and spend some time with God and wait for His answer. In a middle of an environment surrounded by social networks it was a key to be connected to the source of power, protection, hope and love.’

Josue Miguel Fuentes Blanco, CE México



Prayer Meeting in Romania

‘On the Prayer Day, besides the prayer topics listed, I cried for my widow mother and mother-in-law. I prayed for my church, as well as for the confirmed youth. I prayed for my country’s political leaders, that they could make wise decisions, as well as for the strengthening of CE. Thank you for this opportunity!’

Molnár Aranka, CE Hungary



Prayer Group of CE Gambia

Americas and the Caribbean

Asia

CE Mid-Atlantic Inspires Local Churches

by Dave Coryell, Executive Director, CE Mid-Atlantic

One primary step was taken to enhance CE's ability to inspire local churches in recent months. Work was begun to develop two mobile websites to allow people accessing the C.E.M.A. website to have a more readable version. These sites available since end of January.

Steps to Equip churches more effectively were also taken. Two apps that will be available through both iPhone and Android smart phones are currently in process. The first app will be primarily a discipleship tool for youth. It will include the CE Pledge and tips to encourage youth to Pray, Study, Share, Serve and Worship. The second app will be a youth worker app designed to enhance the summer work camp ministry.

During 2014's last quarter three new initiatives were started to Encourage the work in churches starting CE. The first initiative was launching a new monthly email newsletter called REAL IMPACT. The REAL IMPACT e-letter highlights one church and how CE has been effective in helping their youth discipleship efforts. The second initiative is a youth worker luncheon taking place three times per year. Youth workers gathered in November for the first time to share how they are applying CE in their setting. The next gathering is scheduled for March. Finally, the third initiative was on site visitations. Two CE staff have visited several churches with plans to visit the remaining churches this winter. This step has helped the relationship between CE and local churches to deepen. It has also enhanced our ability to be a network advocate as we have seen the practices being applied in local settings.

Christian children, Pakistan

Visit of the Gen. Sec. WCEU to NEICEU and Pakistan

by Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary of WCEU



The guests are seated on the bed, the only piece of furniture in the house

beyond 1k audience, and visited the Lakhimpur Baptist CE Union. There are about 60 local CE societies in the Lakhimpur district (population about 1 m) with about 1500 youth. One third of them study in colleges or university. Among the programs of the Lakhimpur Bapt. CE union are an annual youth camp, leadership training, monthly youth rallies and practical services like road repair. 2013 the district union appointed a full-time evangelist. The leaders visit the local societies regularly to encourage and advise them. Pastor Aziz ul-Haq and local CE president E. Mrinmoy from Guwahati, the biggest town in Assam, reported similar figures and activities in their area. CE is very active and numerous in Northeast India especially with the Baptists in Assam and the Presbyterians in Meghalaya.

Following the visit in Assam I flew to Lahore, Punjab in **Pakistan**. The CE friends, Pastor Roshan and Evangelist Samuel, took me to a number of rural churches and house churches. Especially the Christians in the villages, mostly workers in brick kilns, shared as their main problem the lack of proper schools for their children. Some pastors started informal schools to help the children. Evangelists Samuel and Joseph Yousaf together with Pastor Roshan had arranged for a conference where some Christian organizations presented themselves to an audience of about 80 youth leaders and pastors. I could explain what is special with CE: Pledge, consecration meeting, working through committees, youth in ministry... Quite a number of the visitors appreciated the CE way of youth ministry. But until now no CE youth group has been formed in Lahore.

For the first time I visited Pastor Manzoor, who lives in Tando Jam near Hyderabad, Province Sindh in the desertic South of Pakistan. He cares for about 8 rural churches which meet usually in private homes. Sunday, 22nd morning we



After the meeting of the Executive Committee in Bangalore I visited CE groups in the northeast **Indian State of Assam**. I spoke at the 113th annual conference of the Sonitpur Baptist Christian Association in S h a k o m a t o Christian Centre,

Biswanath Chariali to a

went to preach in Hari Camp, Kotri, across the vast Indus valley. As special security measure we were escorted by four policemen in a police pick-up. Police watched also pastor's house as long as the foreigner was there.

And around the school where we met in Hari Camp all day long about ten policemen stood guard. After service I was requested to inaugurate a room for the youth ('Junior Church') and in the afternoon I was to speak about Christian Endeavor at a youth conference. This church has started a CE youth group but it seems the youth needs still a lot of most basic know-how for effective functioning. These Christians have been liberated from bonded labor only a few years back. Pastor Manzoor promotes CE because he hopes to get motivated helpers for his missionary outreach activities.

Africa

Update on Ebola

by Rev. Sorie Kamanda, Gen. Secretary CE Sierra Leone

Greetings from Sierra Leone! To God be the glory! Great things He has done; let us continue to praise Him. In the past weeks I had the opportunity to visit Bo-, Kenema - and Bonthe districts. These areas were no go area for the past eight months but thank God that the government has lifted the travel ban; we can now travel as usual.

- 13 out of the 14 districts continue to report zero new cases. For the past two weeks Western area and Port Loko Districts report new cases, but on lower double digit (10 and below)
- Preparation for the reopening of schools continues. The government has appointed a committee to speed the work towards the reopening of schools in March.
- Kenema and Kailahun, where Ebola was reported first, has gone over 42 day plus without any reported case.
- My Faith UB church has started their first children's church. The children continue to come to the Lord every Sunday.
- From his report this morning the CEO of the Ebola-Centres said that the beds at the epicenters are empty; - that means the situation is under control.

Jim Murdoch, former President of the WCEU dies at 99



Jim and Betty Murdoch in the 80's

James Murdoch was a minister of the Baptist Church in Scotland with a great experience in Christian Endeavor. He was elected president of the WCEU in 1982 at the Second Century Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland after being Vice-president for 8 years.

His interest in evangelizing through the movement has taken him into several countries around the world. For more than 35 years he had been a successful business man in lithographic printing industry and was then trained for pastoral ministry at London Bible College. Mr. Jim Murdoch and his wife Betty, who died last year, lived lately in Stirling, Scotland. They will be remembered by their children Heather, David, Alistair and families and many endeavorers around the world. May God rest his soul in peace!

Doug Rea, former Vice-President WCEU, passed away



Doug Rea and his wife

Doug has been a strong advocate for Christian Endeavour and several other ministries throughout his life and it was a privilege to have him involved in the Australian and World's CE movement. Doug has served CE in a wide variety of positions, including as National Treasurer and President, World Vice President and various roles within Queensland CE. Not only his wife Elwyn and children with families will miss him, but also many friends in the CE movement.



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Who is... **Rev. Raffi Messerlian?**



My name is Rev. Raffi Messerlian. I was born in Beirut, Lebanon, on 13 February 1968. I graduated in 1986 from Shamlian Tatikian Secondary school in Bourdj Hammoud. I continued my higher education at Haigazian University and graduated in 1993. Then I did my masters of divinity in the Near East School of Theology and graduated in 1996. After graduation I started my work in Ainjar and I worked there for 18 years as the principal of the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School and also as the pastor of the evangelical church there. Also I had responsibilities in the boarding section of the school.

I left the work in Ainjar in August 2014 and as of 1 September 2014 I am the pastor of the

Nor Marash Armenian Evangelical church in Nor Marash, Beirut.

I married in 1996 Miss Kayane Tunberian. She is a graduate from Haigazian in Christian Education. We were blessed with two children: A daughter Nayiry who will graduate from high school and a boy Hovsep. He is a grade 8 student.

I met the Lord in 1986 in one of our youth camps in KCHAG Lebanon, and since then I am a member of the Christian endeavor of my church.

In the last 8 years I was a member and the chairman of the Christian Endeavor Committee of Syria and Lebanon, and that was a great opportunity for me to work with the youth. One of the achievements during these years was creating the possibility of having a full time youth worker in Lebanon. Now I am a member in the World's CE Union board and I represent the Middle East.

Lately I was elected as the chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Armenian Evangelical churches in the Near East.

I thank God for the opportunity that he gave to me to work with the youth in the last 20 years.

Pray with us!

- Peace in war torn areas: Iraq, Syria, Central Africa, Ukraine
- Ebola epidemic in West Africa
- CE beginnings in Pakistan
- For the Pakistani pastor Charag's wife (diabetes)
- For a job for Samuel Bechir (CE Pakistan)
- For encouragement of endeavorers in small CE unions
- For activities in all CE unions to expand CE
- For CE Russia to be able to recruit more members for the organization. May God help them to find financial support and strengthen leadership.
- For the 101st Irish Convention that God's Holy Spirit would guide the organizing committee and the speaker as they prepare and that those who attend would know God's Blessing.

Events

2015

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

May 1-3 - **Vertical Youth Convention I**, Nagybánya, Romania

May 15-17 - **Vertical Youth Convention II**, Székelyudvarhely, Romania

June 25-28 - **'Life Builders'** Mid Atlantic CE Youth Work Camps, USA

July 5-10 - **Summer Assembly** (Youth conference) at Refreshing Mountain, Lancaster County, PA, USA.

July 18-24. - **Irish CE Junior Camp**

August 9-15. - **Irish Union YPCE camp**

September 19. - **101st Irish National CE Convention**, Carrickfergus

The deadline for the next issue of the WCEU Newsletter is April 15, 2015. Please notify us about news, events, announcements etc. if you want them to be listed here.

Financial matters

Treasurer Jon Stewart informed the Executive Committee that in 2014 WCEU had expenses of USD 181 250 and an income of USD 75 000. A slack stock market, only few smaller donations, almost no contributions from national unions and extra expenses for the World's Convention caused a loss of USD 106 000 in 2014. It is about the amount WCEU gained in 2013. The treasurer reminded the Committee to force fundraising for WCEU.

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