



World's Christian Endeavor News

For Christ and His Church

November 2016

Two precious brethren

The WCEU faces a change: we say goodbye to our General Secretary (GS), Andreas A. Rudolph, and welcome the new one, Dr. Dave C. Coryell, who steps in beginning with December 1st.

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President's Word

WCEU News

Servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God

by Kálmán Adorján, President WCEU

Some believers from Corinth questioned the apostleship and authority of Paul and judged him on various grounds. The apostle needed to defend himself. It was clear for him, that those "judges" were not aware of their own worth. Therefore he reminded them: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (3:16) Paul lived as one who knew his God-given purpose, task and worth.

I am convinced, every believer is a servant of Christ and steward of the mysteries of God, whether as an apostle or as a person with any other calling or job. We are called to serve Him, who died for us as the Servant of God. We are called to let the mystery of God's love shine through our lives and give our words sense. Moreover, we need be conscious of this calling.

Let this conviction give our lives purpose and meaning. Let it define our decisions, the way we relate to believers and to the ones not knowing yet the Lord. Let it correct our ways, destroy our pride, lift us up when depressed, make us responsible and trustworthy. Last but not least: let it prompt us to pray for our fellow-servants!

Two precious brethren - General Secretary is changing

The World's Christian Endeavor Union faces a change: we say goodbye to our General Secretary (GS), Andreas A. Rudolph at the occasion of his retirement, and welcome the new one, Dr. Dave C. Coryell, who steps in beginning with December 1st, this year. We believe, that the One, who spoke in parables about merchants, stewards and householders, is the best of them: as the Heavenly Householder, Christ is the one, who brings forth out of his treasure, not only things, but people, new and old. (Mt 13:52). This is how we look now to these two precious brethren – old and new General Secretaries – as to gifts from the heavenly treasure. As for such ones, we give thanks and pray for a blessed continuation of their ways, in their respective capacity.

To help the readers of this Newsletter sensing the above mentioned change, I asked almost similar questions the retiring and the new GS. You will find the interview in an attachment to this newsletter and on the WCEU website and the WCEU blog. Hopefully it also assures the reader about somebody, who does and will not change: the Lord of both the "householders" presented.



Read the whole interview in the attached document or online: <http://bit.ly/2gF4p9y>

Rev. Kálmán Adorján
WCEU President

Americas and the Caribbean

'I'm Not Ashamed' movie - a CEI project



Endeavor tackled a special project in the last two months. A movie "I am not Ashamed" about the Columbine massacre in 1999 was released Oct. 21. Endeavor had been requested to handle the entire response by teens. When the movie ends, audiences will be prompted to text imnotashamed to 95577 where they can accept Christ, start a WAVE (youth group), or find help for a personal crisis. It was quite a challenge providing the technical equipment, printed material and sufficient staff.

Unfortunately just in these days their office was burglarized. Many items of value, e.g. all the film production equipment and a new computer display had been taken. Thank God the equipment was given back soon, because the mother of the thief was alert and returned the goods.

Tim Eldred is grateful for the results of the project. Hundreds of youth used the opportunity to contact endeavor staff (CE) right after the movie. The various programs and material offered to them was well received. Some of the young people became believers, others decided to involve themselves in the movement or ordered books.

Asia

CE State Convention in Odisha

The Odisha State CE convention was held in Balasore, in the most North-Eastern part of Odisha, India,

on 8 -11 October. More than 500 delegates participated in the convention out of which 60% were teenagers.

The convention was inaugurated by the Governor of Odisha who was a member of CE in Nagaland (North East India) in his youth. Rev. S.K. Sahu, WCEU-VP for Asia and President of CE in India wrote: 'This convention was a blessed time of everyone.'

Australia Pacific

Thesis about gender

relations in the CE movement

A few weeks ago WCEU received a copy of Dr. Eve Carol-Dwyer's doctoral thesis, accepted by the University of NSW. In the course of her studies about the development of gender relations in the course of time she came across a significant movement in the U.S.A. in the gilded age (1870-1900) and progressive era (1890-1920): The Christian Endeavor!! She was surprised having never heard about that movement with such an worldwide impact. So she choose for her doctoral thesis to research about the gender relations in the coeducative movement CE in the above mentioned years. Based on documents and books she studied in the CEI and the WCEU archive (and other libraries) she wrote a very interesting analysis of the various views within the CE movement on the female and the male role in society and church. Along the way one gets also an abundance of other information about the early days of CE. Anyone interested can read the thesis through the usual ways of accessing literature in university libraries.

Compiled by A. Rudolph

... to read the bible every day ...

By Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary, WCEU

"Tell me what you read and I will tell you who you are." Is it true? Sure - reading and other means of communication shape our thinking, our way to live and our opinion about God and the world. Therefore promising "to read the bible every day" is not just accepting to daily perform a certain ritual. It is essential for a Christian. It is her/his lifeline, because the bible is the only source of information about God, the only place where he reveals himself to man. Without the bible we would not know who and how he is, what he wants us to do - and not to do!

Since myriads of voices and pictures influence us night and day - and mostly not towards a holy life - we need to take explicitly time to learn from the bible how a disciple of Jesus is expected to live. To that end the bible contains:

- information about creation, man and God's history with them
- answers to the big questions of life in this world we are living in and beyond
- wisdom and rules for a successful life

The bible is also a medium through which God speaks to us personally. He uses the scriptures to give particular specific instructions and to comfort and strengthen us if we need it. The word of God helps our faith to grow and mature. So let us read the bible to bring more fruit! (John 15)



Europe

Identity in Christ- 25th National CE Convention, Targu-Mures, Romania

Retrieved from a report by Ágnes Ablonczy, Member of CE Hungary

Four representatives of CE Hungary traveled to Targu-Mures, Romania. We arrived on Friday, the program started Saturday morning in 'Alsóváros' (Lower Town) Reformed Church. There was a full house venue when we arrived with approx. 200 participants from all over Transylvania. We were very thankful as local minister István Lőrincz said his welcoming speech. He was followed by the conference band, which sang with much devotion. The first presentation was held by minister Jenő Demeter on Matthew 9, 35-38. He used the symbols from the well-known Harvest parable. If Jesus wants to sow on our 'lands', what kind of soil does he find? Is it a plowed land that can take the seeds? Or does it just seem like good soil, but underneath it is tough? Is it 'overpacked'? Only a soft, compassionate heart can bear fruit. Small group discussion, than elections followed. Since the Hungarian CE also struggles with operational issues, we decided to watch the elections of the Romanian CE. We could see that there can be questions, issues that we don't understand, but at the end of the day there is a common goal that can bring us all to one will. The members of the new board are: Berke Sándor Jr., Bálint Tibor, Belényesi Gabriella, Deé-Lukács Éva, Gyűjtő Katalin, Réman Emőke, R. Szabó István, Berei Anna, Köteles Pál, Mike Pál, Boda Szilárd, Erdei Gábor. The President



20 volunteers worked on the Romanian CE Convention

remained the same: Sándor Berke Sr. In the afternoon a panel discussion took place in the church, moderated by Kálmán Adorján, WCEU President. The topics were our CE identity, what does it mean belonging to CE? The participants had to pick a car's parts to identify themselves with a role within CE. We can be engine, break, mirror, window cleaner, air freshener etc. The evening presentation was held by Katinka Berke, leader of the Elder's Home in Tenke. She continued the morning message by adding the importance of bearing fruits in our Christian lives. Saturday evening Attila Bán, former member of the CE board lead a successful 'stand-up comedy' night. The Sunday sermon was given by younger Sándor Berke on "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9, 37 When we talk about the ability to serve, it's not about trusting ourselves, but trusting the Lord and being open to receive His calling. The convention was closed with an interactive exhibition on the ministries of CE Romania. It was good to spend time with the Romanian brothers in Targu-Mures.

A night in front of the Gates of Heaven in Ukraine

Written by: Baranyi Eszter
Translated by: Zányik Márk

Our Lord Jesus has spent a whole night with praying in the garden of Gethsemane. The Son of God thought this to be very important. So, why should we, the people of 21. Century, full with troubles and worries not follow His example? The Transcarpathian Reformed Youth Prayers Night took place for the sixth time by now. It was organised on November 7th by KRISZ in the atrium of the Rakoczi Institute in Beregszász. Approx. 100 followers of Christ devoted their time and night to God. "Our prayers affect and change us in the first place", said Gyula Homoki, a student of the Reformed Theological Academy of Sárospatak. In his sermon he reminded all the people present about the blessings, successes and presents God had given them. Sometimes we don't experience these because we don't ask for them properly, with faith. After this we listened to the testimony of Adrienn Demeter about her prayers being

fulfilled, her loving husband and her cute little baby. We began our next day celebrating the Lord's Supper in this way putting down our past and turning our face upon our forgiver. In order to avoid any kind of misunderstanding we'd like to say, that this night was not just about murmuring prayers. We raised our hands to the Almighty not only for personal problems but also a lot of global questions were touched. Everybody has prayed for repentance, a brighter future and for all the people in the world. Thanks to the LAUDIS worship band we could lift up our voices to praise the Lord the whole night long. This event was of a charitable nature too. The organisers had put a money box in order to collect the donations for the CEF camping ground in Nagyberég, which, unfortunately, lately was damaged by a fire. The total sum was 125 000 HUF, 1400 UAH, 31 USD and 10 EUR. It's not too easy to vigil a whole night long, even for the most energetic people, therefore everybody could have a 15 minutes coffee break and some snacks. At the end of the event we had witnessed God's presence and what it means to be so close to God.



Short news

Germany

At the general meeting of the GYFCE on 7-8 October six new CE societies have been accepted as members in the union. One is a very unique group. They are part of a church in Frankfurt/Main – one of the multi-ethnic centers in Germany – whose members are ethnic Turks from Bulgaria. The church approached Daniel Hoffmann, WCEU trustee and Executive Director of a CE state union in that area, asking whether they could join CE. D. Hoffmann explained the “CE-philosophy” and the basics of CE practice to the young immigrants and they happily agreed with it, signed the pledge without hesitation and they are now a valuable addition to the German CE; maybe the first group of many similar ones to come.



Ireland

by Margaret Houston

We give thanks to Almighty God for His Blessing upon the 102nd Irish National CE Convention held on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th September in Ballygomartin Presbyterian Church, Belfast.

Once again, we were blessed with beautiful weather throughout the weekend. The Rt Revd Ken Clarke, speaking on the theme, “Burn like a star - Light a fire in our hearts”, based his addresses on Acts chapters 11 and 13. Bishop Clark, in his own inimitable way, was both inspirational and witty. A substantial cheque was presented to, “Spud Bear Ministries”, last year’s missionary project. Spud Bears are solar powered, “talking” teddy bears sharing the Gospel of God’s love and giving health education such as malaria prevention to children, in hospitals and orphanages, who are not able to read and have no one to read to them. The new project was introduced, it involves our working with the Bible Society in Northern Ireland supporting their work in telling God’s big story to children in schools.

Seniors, Young People and Junior Leaders all had their own activities on the Saturday afternoon.

Russia

Dominick Semenoff wrote: Now we opened a Russian Christian Channel on YouTube. We will share information and news, what's going on in CE Russia and in Russian Christian churches. Welcome to our channel! <http://bit.ly/2fsleCt>

Youth of KRISZ celebrating Prayer Night in Beregszász

Who is... Rev. Michael Warren?

Rev. Michael Maluhia Warren is Pastor of Kalapana Mauna Kea first Hawaiian Church UCC.

He was born in Oahu and graduated from Kailua High school then attended Henry Opukaha'ai Center for Pacific Theological Studies.

He is married to Angie and has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

He is currently enrolled at Vancouver School of Theology working on his masters of Divinity.

He has been with CE Hawaii for 12 years and is currently serving as their president. M. Warren was elected trustee of the WCEU in 2014.

PRAY WITH US!

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, focused only on prayer points:

<http://eepurl.com/b03Y7v>

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**CE Prayer Week 2017**

All endeavorers are invited to join in prayer around the globe from Jan. 29th to Feb. 4th, the week we also remember the birthday of Christian Endeavor (Feb. 2, 1881). It is worthwhile to train ourselves in prayer and practise it frequently, because our work deals with tasks which are beyond our human abilities. Martin Luther in his famous song "A mighty fortress .." wrote: "with our strength is nothing done, we are lost quite soon, but Jesus Christ fights for us, the one chosen by God." It is through prayer we can connect with our Lord and avail his power and might.

So please make sure to plan for a week of prayer or at least a day, one prayer meeting. Whether it is a big group or one, two, three only, does not matter.

By December 10 you will find on the WCEU website some suggestions for your prayer meetings, prayer topics and devotions written by CE-leaders from Germany. All recipients of the WCEU newsletter will get an e-mail with this material as well.

We at the headquarters hope for many thousands of endeavorers praying in that week.

Events**2017**

January 29-February 4 - **Prayer Week**
Feb. 5 - **CE Sunday**, Irish CE Union
February 16-19. - **Winter Camp for Young Adult**, Somesu Rece, Romania
July 14-18 - **Connect Europe**, Neukirchen / Knüll, Germany

2018

July 25 – 29 - **World's CE Convention** in San Diego, California
Oct. - **National Convention of CE in India**, Raipur, Chattisgarh, India

European Christian Endeavor Convention
from June 14, until June 18, 2017

CONNECT EUROPE

Connect Europe Youth Convention - Knüll House/ Neukirchen, Germany near Frankfurt

The convention is hosted by the German State Union of Hessen-Nassau and will be part of the J-Camp (www.j-camp.de), the state union's youth camp.

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Registration opens early 2017!

The deadline for the next issue of the WCEU Newsletter is January 15, 2017. Please notify us about news, events, announcements etc. if you want them to be listed here.