



WORLD'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NEWS

September 2011

What is our Calling?

Since I joined the Board of World's CE Union we have been struggling with the questions, „What shall the WCEU be doing and what can it do?“ These questions are about our mission and our resources. As Christians we are called to join in Christ's mission. Jesus Christ tells his disciples: „As my Father has sent me, even so send I you.“ (John 20:21). This the general calling of all who follow Christ, but what is the specific mission of World's CE Union? A few years ago the WCEU Board agreed on the following statement: „Our purpose it to support local churches across cultural and denominational boundaries to call young people to Christ and to equip them for holistic service.“ Is this what the national CE unions and local CE societies expect of WCEU?

The second question is closely linked to the first: What can we do with the resources available? World's CE Union is not a big organization. Basically the work of WCEU depends on the National Unions who are willing to share their resources for the common mission of CE. This includes finances, materials that can be used by CE societies and churches and people who work and pray for WCEU. Let's share our expectations and resources to work together for the mission of CE worldwide.

Dr. Thomas Kröck

News from the WCEU

About CEI and WCEU

Time and again Endeavorers have been confused by the two names 'World's CE Union' and 'CE International', which seem to say the same. But actually the WCEU was founded 1895 and incorporated 1902 by the same leaders of the CE movement (Clark, Shaw, Baer, Wells and others) who had formed before the United Society of CE as legal vessel for the Christian Endeavor work in North America.



The WCEU was meant to look after the development of CE in countries outside Northern America. For decades mainly American Endeavorers run the WCEU rather as a committee of the International Society of Christian Endeavor (ISCE), mainly distributing subsidies to needy national unions.

Dr. Francis Clark was the president of ISCE (which had replaced the United Society) until 1925 and of WCEU until his death in 1927.

ISCE decided about 50 years back to appear in public as CEI

(Christian Endeavor International). CEI is "International" because CE Societies and Unions in Mexico, Canada and in the United States, including American Samoa and Hawaii were part of it. In contrast WCEU is an umbrella for all national CE unions worldwide including CEI.

CEI lost in the course of the last decades almost all societies and State Unions and subsequently its influence on worldwide level. The WCEU became gradually more important for the CE movement because of the support and influence of non-American CE Unions.

CEI has made some radical and painful decisions - for some supporters - since Timothy Eldred, a very adventurous pastor, has been appointed Executive Director. The organizational structure has changed, the persons who constitute board and committees of CEI are completely new (with hardly any CE experience) and the approach to propagate CE is different. A new "brand name" - **endeavor** - was chosen. CEI tried and tries with a number of campaigns mainly via internet to



revive Christian Endeavour in North America.

The internet does not have boundaries. So CEI actions and programs have been used (or at least looked at) by churches and youth from many parts of the world. One very promising campaign is the "pray with youth program" (see page 2).

So far CEI has not made attempts to organize the users of their programs, but is ready to connect those people with existing CE groups.

Daily Mobile CE Devotions

Look out in the WCEU website www.worldsceunion.org

from November 2011 onwards for an offer of the daily WCEU devotions available as download (app) on your Smartphone

The devotions for 2012 are available in German (known as 'Lichtstrahlen') and English. The German version will be about 3 €, the English version about 5 US\$.

WCEU website

www.worldsceunion.org is on! Feedback and suggestions welcome!

CE: Christian Endeavour on Facebook



News from National Unions

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On invitation by the small union Effort Chrétien de Côte d'Ivoire (ECCI) WCEU General Secretary Andreas A. Rudolph held a seminar on Christian Endeavor in Abidjan from June 16.-20.



A. Rudolph with ECCI President Mme. Konan and Secretary Pasteur Dr. Guede

CE in Côte d'Ivoire is a group of pastors of independent churches in the Ivorian capital. They are very busy evangelizing, but have no self responsible youth groups. The principal ideas of CE were explained to the about 20 participants. It became obvious that in the hierarchic African society Christian Endeavor does not work in its original form. CE needs to be adapted to suit a youth whose self-dependence is not encouraged by the authorities.

Americas and Caribbean

USA

We will be rolling out the 'Pray with Youth Campaign' again this summer with **September 11**, being the **Global Pray-with-Youth-Sunday**. Last time we presented this challenge, churches of many denominations from 56 nations responded. Again, we will offer the materials for free to any congregation who wishes to be involved, as they pray for God's call on the lives of this generation to rise up and take action for Jesus Christ and His Church. The fruit will be seen not in mere numbers but in young people discovering who they are in Christ, owning their faith, and living their calling.

Timothy Eldred, Exec. Director CEI
See website: www.christianendeavor.com

Asia

India

Meeting CE in India and Nepal

To learn about the state of CE in India (CEil) A. Rudolph visited three areas with strong CE presence and met mainly regional leaders. The Indian CE - one of the oldest national unions - is challenged by its great diversity of languages, cultures, churches and the vast distances of the sub-continent. There are no full-time workers in CEil. In South India A. Rudolph met the Youth Coordinators of the CSI Diocese Nagercoil, representing 500 CE groups. In Madras he met the CEil officers. In Bhubaneshwar, Orissa he attended a district CE conference. In North-East India, an area partly entirely Christian, A. Rudolph could meet with some members of the regional board for personal conversation.

CEil thrives where individuals whole heartedly work for Christ and His church. Lack of national coordination and strategies for the future cripple CE in India.

Nepal

CE-Kathmandu, Nepal organised a one day Youth Seminar on 21 August in Aashish Presbyterian Church. Established Christian specialists presented useful information on the subjects of Responsibilities of the Christian Youth, The Generation Gap, Worship and Music and Substance Abuse. Over 50 youth and teenagers attended the event. Secretary of CE-Nepal presented a report on the activities of CE-Nepal and Rev Andreas Rudolph gave an introduction of WCEU. The Programme was conceived and designed by Coordinator of CE - Kathmandu and conducted by Treasurer of CE-Nepal.

Report by Dr. M. Bhattarai,
President Nepal CE Union

CE is in Nepal since 1993. The National Union was formed 1998. There are about 40 societies mainly in the Eastern Region of Nepal. About 500 youth are now members of CE in the poverty

stricken country which was a Hindu kingdom until 2008.

Europe (www.ceeurope.eu)

Romania

Black-on-white: About SEX

More than 500 young people gathered May 6-8 for this year's FÜGGÖleges (Vertical) youth conference in Cluj's Two Tower Reformed Church. Promotion had been created by young Transylvanian people well ahead: <http://www.fuggoleges.ro/index.php/site/index/56>

The majority of the participants were 17-19 of age. Guests came from Hungary, Ukraine and Germany too. The main speaker of the conference organized by CE Union's Genezius Association and two local Reformed churches was Rev. Jozsef Csomos jr. from



Miskolc (Hungary). He spoke on 'Sex is good' and 'Destroying Christian myths'.

On the second day different speakers in 15min. presentations talked about topics like: 'Do you know your real motivations?' (Sandor Fazakas), 'In the net of performance and expectations' (Eszter Berke, Timea Balogh), 'Masturbation or abstinence?' (Sandor Berke Jr.), 'What influences are you shaped by?' (Istvan Imreh), 'Let's pour fresh water in the glass' (Pal Mike).

Besides lectures and group discussions participants could enjoy themselves during



the optional sport, entertaining and leisure time activities (including free hug in the city and flash mob in one of the local malls), could take part in forum discussions, have a chat in the café tent and could meditate, pray and sing during the musical devotions, the starting point of the second and third day's morning. Saturday afternoon there was an optional 5 hour marathon forum with the well known Hungarian writer Peter Varga and his book 'Spielhozni'.



Krisztina Berke, FÜGGŐleges project coordinator and WCEU trustee

At the end the participants attended the local churches Sunday morning service. This time the sermon was very special for the local congregation, too, because of the youthful decorations in the church and the hot topic (sexuality) addressed from the pulpit titled 'After all: Grace' (Peter Visky).

We felt God's presence during the conference. Even in the unusually cold and rainy weather: It made some truants to stay in the church and take part in the program. Krisztina and her team of volunteers did a great job. (abridged)

Istvan R. Szabo,
Traveling secretary CE Union Romania

Germany / Ireland

Mission Portaferry

Again, following the tradition of the last 6 years, a number of German endeavorers invaded Portaferry, a small town in Northern Ireland. This time the 'raid' was organized by „Jumpers“, a network of projects caring for youth in socially difficult conditions. Purpose of our mission was supporting churches and especially the young CE society. Ready for action and full of plans we got down to work. We had a great time especially

during the GalaWeek (the big Portaferry fair), where we had plenty of opportunities to share our faith and beliefs. We experienced how God acts in Portaferry, how he moulds lives, and that he used our presence to do it.

Christian Mempel

CE-Volunteers

For all who are interested in the **WCEU International Exchange Program for Volunteers** write to: thomas.kroeck@ec-jugend.de

A volunteer in this program 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.

CE-unions in the UK, Germany, India, Mexico, Nepal, Romania and USA offered support for finding a placement for CE-volunteers.

Nepal wants urgently a volunteer for supporting work with youth and children in Kathmandu.

CE in Britain and in Germany offer places for volunteers in their Holiday- and Retreat Centers. If interested going to the UK, contact Helen Norman: e-mail: beechwood@dialstart.net.

It is also possible to volunteer for work in the WCEU headquarters.

Annie Gomado, Intern,
WCEU central office, Kassel



My name is Annie Gomado. I come from Ghana and I have been living here in Germany for about 8 years now. I am 20 years of age. I completed my A-level

education as a bilingual secretary this year at Friedrich-List Schule in Kassel. For the approval of my A-level, I need to obtain 6-months internship which I am doing at the World's Christian Endeavor Union. I started my internship July 25th, 2011 and I hope to end it by January 2012. I also hope to learn enough about the World Endeavor Union and to have a nice time here.

CE people

Anna Visky

Assistant to President and Gen. Secretary



I started to work for WCEU in September as a part-time assistant for President and General Secretary. I studied Spanish and German language in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, my current location. I'm working part-time too at CE Koinónia Publisher Romania as a PR manager since 2007. I am looking forward to meet all the WCEU activists, because I consider this organization a great network for building Christ's church and I'm eager to know more about it.

CE-Material

There are a number of sources where material is available which may be helpful for starting and running CE work. Please look at: <http://worldsceunion.org/service> for a variety of basic materials. Check also with other national CE unions as they may have programs which might be helpful. A leaflet with basic facts about CE is available as pdf-file in English, French, German, Polish and Spanish.

Who is... ?

Here you will find brief information about the officers and trustees of the WCEU. You should know who is behind the names. In this issue:

Dr. Thomas Kröck

WCEU Vice-President for Europe

Thomas Kröck is married to Ulrike and they have three grown-up sons. Thomas came to know the Lord Jesus Christ,



when he was 16 years old and joined the CE society in his village in Germany. While studying agriculture at university he was leading the CE group. After graduating, he worked at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines for his Ph.D. in agriculture. From 1989 to 1999 the family lived in Tanzania (East Africa) where Thomas was involved in training church workers in the Anglican Church and supporting rural development. Since 1999 he is in charge of the Social-Missionary Service of the German CE with a focus on child care projects in India and Nepal. He was elected to the WCEU-Board in 2002 and is the vice president for Europe since 2010.

Thomas Kroeck

Financial Matters

One of the important long-term projects of the World's CE Union is to work out strategies how to secure a regular influx of funds in order to keep the WCEU capable of acting. Until now the WCEU spends mainly funds which have been donated by American Endeavorers in the past.

Because there is hardly CE in the US nowadays, this source of support is running dry. Presently a committee is being formed which has the job to look into that matter. National CE Unions are asked to discuss what they feel the WCEU is worth

for them.

Please pray for ...

I urge then, first of all, that requests prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone –

Apostle Paul

1.Tim.2:1

- the matters and people and events you just read about
- sisters and brothers who suffer from persecution
- young Christians especially in Western countries not to get lost in the abundance of opportunities and material wealth
- leaders of national CE unions and the WCEU that they act in love and obeying the Lord's spirit and guidance
- Endeavorers in Syria and other countries in unrest

- unity in Christ's church and among Endeavourers, humility and readiness to forgive each other
- Praise and thank God

Next Board Meetings, Conventions . . .

Please notify your events to the WCEU if you want them to be listed here.

2011

11th September – Announced by CEI as global Pray-with- Youth-Sunday

16th - 17th September - 97th Irish National CE Convention in Dungannon Presbyterian Church

22nd – 25th Sept. 2011 Board Meeting of the WCEU in Kassel, Germany

23rd – 25th Sept. – Youth Congress 'echt' near Kassel, Germany

25th–26th Sept. – European CE leaders meeting in Kassel, Germany,

29th Sept. - Convention of NorthWest Jamaican CE at William Kibb Baptist Church, Falmouth, Trelawny

7th -9th Oct.: - North-East India CE Convention at Golaghat Baptist Church, Assam

28th Dec. – 2nd Jan. MISSION-NET Congress, Erfurt, Germany

2012

29th Jan. – 4th Feb. CE-Prayer-Week

2nd February CE Day

23rd – 25th March – WCEU Executive Committee meeting

13th - 15th April – Annual General Meetings for CE Australia in Adelaide at Nunyara Conference Centre

25th – 29th July – CE Pacific Regional Convention, Old Airport Complex, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii: www.cehawaii.org

Topic: "Let it shine"

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

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