



World's Christian Endeavor News

For Christ and His Church

December 2012

Board Meeting 2012

WCEU Board of Trustees met this year in Romania. Last year's visioning groups continued to be active this year, initiating interesting discussions.

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Next year's Prayer Week is approaching, the topic is: 'Go in the strength you have...' Check out for details!

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'You are going to conceive and have a son' Judges 13, 3b

by Harry Wedekind, Netherland, WCEU Board of Trustees and Chairman Nom. Committee

When I was in primary school ages ago, my teacher started with a Bible story every morning. She was a good storyteller; we were fascinated, especially when she told us about Samson, that knave! He was our hero: strong, big, a tough guy, a transgressor, who sometimes did what was forbidden by law. How many of us recognize ourselves in Samson?

When I was a grown up, a father already, I was in confirmation class and our pastor, a great narrator, showed us a different point of view: Samson as a symbol for the Messiah.

Maybe you didn't expect the Advent editorial about this rough fellow as you wait for the advent of the Messiah, but read this chapters of the Judges and try to see the parallels to the verses of Luke 1, 26 vv. The angel of the Lord, His messenger, appears with a similar message in almost the same words as Mary heard from the angel Gabriel. The proclaimed son gets a name: Samson, 'He who is like the sun' (shemesh in Hebrew). He gets a task for his people, even before he was born: to deliver his people from the enemy, like our Lord Jesus Christ delivers us from our big Enemy and from our sins. (...)

See continuation on the WCEU website!

WCEU News

Board Meeting 2012: Volunteer Program, Youth Representation and CE Manual

Reported by Anna Visky, Assistant for President and General Secretary

The World Christian Endeavor Union's board met this year 27-30 September in Targu-Mures, Romania, while also the Romanian CE Union had its Annual General Meeting. Trustees came together from Korea, India, Hungary, Germany, United States of America, Mexico and Romania to discuss among others the Volunteer Program, Youth Representation in the Board and CE Manual. VP for Europe, Thomas Kröck presented a draft for the Volunteer Program and he suggested that every union participating appoints responsible person willing to attend in order to facilitate the application procedure.



Last year's visioning groups continued to be active this year, initiating a long discussion about the participation of youth in the Board, which resulted in the decision to have one youth representative at the Council Meetings from every National Union. After a long and thorough period of research, Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary of WCEU presented the CE Manual to the board which is a helpful guide about the organization's functioning. It was decided to have a WCEU App in

2013 including the Mobile Devotions project and will be available for free on Apple Inc.'s AppStore and possibly others.

It was agreed that the next board meeting will be held in Korea, the location of the 2014 CE World's Convention.

Sunday, the last day of the meeting, several Board Members were invited to preach in different churches of Targu-Mures about giving thanks. You can get an insight of the sermons:

Rev. Eliseo Vilchez-Blancas, México

Isaiah 35.

As we are being thankful for little things day by day, we should also give thanks for God's enormous deeds in our life, those events which we don't realize, because we think that they are our merit.

Rev. Adorján Kálmán, Romania

Colossians 4: 2

Heavy thoughts, troubles wake us up at night. But what if all of a sudden we would be waken up by the thought of being thankful? Thanksgiving should keep us awake. Thanksgiving is not just a way of prayer, but Paul says, thanksgiving should be a foundation and that we have to be steady in prayer. Our life's refrain has to be thanksgiving. Are we thankful for each other?

provide water for them to drink. Therefore, they grumbled against Moises and asked: 'What will we drink?' The Lord heard their cries and provided them water from 12 springs under the 70 palm trees in Elim. He provided them water out of the rock. Than people started to grumble for food (Exodus 16). Manna was given them by the Lord which was a food their fathers have never known. When the people got food, they complained about lack of spices etc. They were never satisfied and thankful for what they got.

CE Prayer Week 2013



Next year's CE Prayer Week will be organized 27 January - 2 February, 2013 with the topic 'Go in the strength you have' based on the calling of Gideon from Judges 6:1-24. The CE Prayer Week is being coordinated by Vice-President Eliseo Vilchez-Blancas (México). A booklet will be published soon with themes and devotions for this period, prayer tasks, as well as ideas and ways of involvement in this occasion. Please plan this week accordingly and follow the instructions of the booklet!



Trustees Rev. Daniel Hoffmann and Mr. Ko

Rev. Daniel Hoffmann, Germany

Joshua 4, 1-9

The Israelites showed a lifestyle which honors God by thanking visibly: Glorifying praise! Praise is more than singing a lot of songs one after the other - praise is giving thanks too and hence giving thanks is a lifestyle honoring God. This thought was picked up by Paul in the New Testament. He writes to the Thessalonians (1 Thess 5:18) the following challenge: '... give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

Each one give one

About

Several years ago a proposal was made that National CE Unions from around the world should financially support the ministry of the World's Christian Endeavor Union (WCEU) by encouraging each member of their local societies to contribute yearly donating one unit of their national currency. The project was called 'Each One Give One'.

Why give?

In order to accomplish the goals of WCEU, officers and office bearers need to have paid salaries (General Secretary and Assistant for General Secretary and President), travel expenses (in case of field work, visits to national unions, respectively of board meetings, executive committee meetings), office-related expenses (Headquarters, phone, postage, equipment and furnishings, etc.), expenses of organizing events (World Conventions, Regional Conventions, seminars). We are aware of the fact, that CE has many members worldwide without any income. This is why we consider that **ONE UNIT** of the national currency per year is not an exaggerated request.

What for do you need the World's Christian Endeavor Union?

By Andreas A. Rudolph, General Secretary WCEU

From time to time I am asked what for WCEU is necessary. Usually this kind of inquiries come from endeavorers who belong to the big national unions. Of course I have a number of answers to give but I thought it would be interesting to know what those reading this newsletter feel they need WCEU for. Please let me now, what the WCEU means for you, what the benefits are you get from WCEU and what you expect from the WCEU. Please write to <centraloffice@worldsceanion>. I hope your input will help us to serve the Christian Endeavorers around the globe better.

Rev. Surendra Sahu, India

Exodus 15-16.

We read about the Israelites in the desert, complaining about lack of water (Exodus 15). They forgot that the Lord, who set free his people from Egypt and led them through the ocean, is able to

How to make your gift reach WCEU?

- ✓ send checks to the American office
- ✓ transfer to bank account

(see page 5 for both ways)



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Americas and the Caribbean

CE Quick Start Manual leads to new CE societies in USA

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

The CE Mid-Atlantic board will meet for its first overnight retreat on January 11-12, 2013. During these meetings officers will be elected and discussion will take place regarding a strategic plan looking at both the Mid-Atlantic states and needs across the USA.

Churches continue to express interest in CE now that the CE Quick Start Manual is in print and electronic form. You can have an electronic version emailed to you for free by registering at www.cemidatlantic.org. This new website has many new features and is gradually having additional functions uploaded.

Four churches are in the process of starting CE this fall. Several others are being contacted each week. Please pray that God will guide this process and the churches involved. CE Mid-Atlantic also plans to add levels to what will be called the CE Leadership Academy. The Academy will include the 'Imagine the Challenge' weekend where eventually three leadership tracks will be available. One track can be taken per year. The advanced training will be our already functioning and successful 'Imagine the Impact' program where youth carry out a ministry project with the guidance of an adult coach. Please pray God would guide the curriculum development for the CE Leadership Academy and give us favor in our publicity with churches, youth, and adult youth workers.

CEI lays the foundation of prayer

By Tim Eldred, President CEI

CEI continues to challenge the Church to return to the roots of youth ministry, and we praise God for the increased influence He has allowed in recent weeks and months. While we provide training materials that enable churches

to build new Endeavor groups, our continued emphasis remains on laying a foundation of prayer. We believe praying with youth will change the heart of the church worldwide to recognize God's call on this generation.

In late September, we officially introduced the United Kingdom to the Pray21 tool at an event entitled 'The National Day of Prayer and Worship', which was held at Wembley Stadium with over 32,000 people in attendance. With the support of our ministry partners in England, this material will soon be used in multiple discipleship publications that influence young people. In addition to the printed materials, the message of Pray21 will be carried on the airwaves. There are also plans to build a Pray21 mobile app to help expand the reach of this resource to UK youth.

We received word in early October that our partners in Italy will also be printing and distributing Pray21 in early 2013. Pray21 will soon be translated in French and Haitian Creole too.

Our largest prayer effort in the last few months was a simple campaign calling Christians to pray for America for 31 days leading up to the national elections in the USA in November. We praise God for allowing CEI to champion this prayer initiative and lead the church in such a crucial initiative. Early calculations reveal that nearly 450,000 people participated in this campaign. We look forward to following up with the congregations who took part and hope for opportunities to encourage them to pray for youth as they continue to train this generation for ministry and mission for Christ and his church.

of Ceil help in Visakhapatnam, October 22-24.

The National Convention of CEI in Visakhapatnam was a special experience for me. It was an opportunity for me to have a glance both into the spirituality of CE and into the culture, in which it lives. My task was to lead two Bible studies based on Romans 12, from which the main theme of the Conference 'Renewing of the Mind' was taken.

An important moment of the Convention was the installation of the newly elected office bearers. At this moment I could convey greetings on behalf of WCEU, and reiterate the position of WCEU regarding the representation of CE from the various regions of India, having each 2 seats in the WCEU Council.

It was a joy to meet so many endeavorers. I cherished the fellowship with them, I enjoyed their hospitality and love, and I am glad I could hear also about their service, their concerns and joys.

"We have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world." (John 4:42)

Asia

A visit to Christian Endeavour in India

By Rev. Kálmán Adorján, President WCEU

In the second half of October I had the opportunity to visit Christian Endeavour in India. I was invited to attend the triennial National Convention

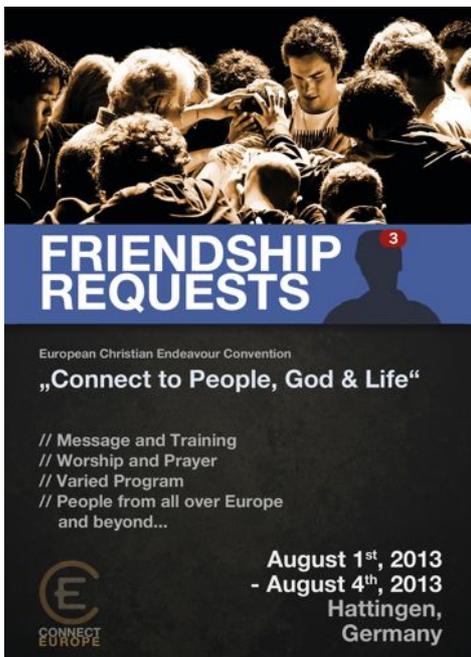


Europe

Connect Europe 2013

Report by Anna Visky, Assistant for President and General Secretary

On the first weekend of November the Connect Europe team got together for a one day meeting, to plan the next convention which will be held 1-4 August 2013 in Hattingen, Germany. The attendants came together from Germany, Netherlands, Hungary and Romania in Haus Friede (www.hausfriede.de), the location of Connect Europe 2013. The team decided on the **Friendship Request - Connect to People, God and Life** theme and other seminar topics as for example: networking with other churches for mission, student led ministry, inter-generation work, history of CE and CE today etc. It has been decided that the fee for Western Europe will be 95 euro, for Central and Eastern Europe (except Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine): 70 Euro, for Romania, Bulgaria: 50 Euro. The meeting turned out to be blessed, the organizers will be in touch issuing more information at: http://www.worldsunion.org/connect_europe_2013.



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

New board for Romanian CE Union

Reported by István Halmen, Secretary, CE Romania

End of September (28-30) the Romanian CE Union had their annual National Convention and General Meeting in Targu-Mures. The topic was **Prayer as a lifestyle**.

The 450 participants could practise different forms of prayer and experience the power of prayers. There were early morning prayer-groups, prayer-chain, prayer-walk, prayers for the CE activities on different continents, for the foreign mission in Nepal and Kenya. The main lectures were also about the parts of a prayer: praise, confessing sins, supplication, intercession and gratitude. Sunday the WCEU Board Members, who had simultaneously their annual board meeting in the Romanian CE headquarters, preached the gospel in five different churches of the town.

Another major issue of the conference was the election of a new board. Romanian CE is facing big challenges and major developments. Last year the criteria for membership were redefined: Members can be those devoted to Christ, accepting the principles of CE, and committed for a delimited period (max 3 years, which can be renewed after expiration) to work regularly as volunteer, to do occasionally works, to pray for CE, or to support the work of CE financially. A larger board, formed of 5 seniors (above 35 y.) and 10 young adults (under 35, involved as organizer in youth conference, camps and other activities) was elected for a period of one year. The new president of CE Romania is Imola Grosz. The board will have a lot of meetings (team building, training, brain-storming, etc.) aiming at more involvement of youth. Through and with them a 'younger-vision', and strategies for youth mission and work shall be created. Next year the board will be elected from the younger group. The older leaders will form an advisory-board. It is the prayer and hope that with this plan more young people get involved in CE and take over the leadership and responsibilities.

Who is... Harry Wedekind?



Hoi, I belonged to the lucky few in the Netherlands that had a CE society in town. I started as a junior and was impressed at the World's Convention in Essen (1974) at

the age of 15, meeting so many Christians from all over the world. It influenced the rest of my life, private and professional.

I met my wife Annette at the Convention in India in 1978. We have two daughters, Deborah (25) and Tabea (21).

I am a German language teacher and was a part time youth pastor for 8 years. Because of CE I learned German quite well and because of several CE youth camps and activities I got a heart for young people, to work with them and to do several projects with them, learning by doing all the time.

Since I have got many friends in the worldwide CE, I serve as a board member of the WCEU.

My hobbies are traveling, sports (cycling, skiing, volleyball) and again: CE.

What I learned and experienced the most in CE: there are no walls, no barriers between Christians, so many people from so many denominations worshipping together, singing 'He is Lord!'

Dr. Thomas Kröck changes job

After 13 years, serving as the head of the Social-Missionary Service of the German Youth Federation for Christian Endeavor, Dr. Thomas Kröck started a new job in Marburg, Germany at the Marburger Bibelseminar (mbs). He is in charge of the degree course "Development Studies & Transformation", www.developmentstudies.de. As the new challenge calls Thomas in another city, his address changed. The thomas.kroeck@ec-jugend.de email address is invalid now. Thomas will continue to fulfill his term as WCEU VP for Europe and this business will be handled on europe@worldsunion.org.

Merry Christmas

'For this is what the high and exalted One says - he who lives forever, whose name is holy, I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.' (Isaiah 57:15)

(...) Jesus came into this world to reveal the real meaning of God's highness and holiness by dwelling with the 'contrite and lowly in spirit': with sinners, outcasts or people just considered unimportant. (...) Becoming a man, a friend of sinners, Jesus humiliated himself. By this He conveyed to the people around Him this message: 'You don't need to prove yourself 'high and holy' in order to be accepted by God. You may come as you are. If your heart is broken because of being separated from God by your sins, I came to separate you from sin and unite you with God again, lifting you up to the dignity of being His own child.'

With this in focus we wish all a really Merry Christmas and remember especially those suffering in these days!

**Rev. Kálman Adorján, President
WCEU**

**Andreas A. Rudolph General
Secretary WCEU**

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Prayer Tasks

Featured Prayer Tasks of the CE Prayer Week:

- **Israel and Palestine.** Considering the historical background and the actual political situation, we intercede that justice and peace would come to our brothers

- **Endeavorers and activities of CE** around the world, that God would use them in the near and far future, making the church and mission in the world fruitful

- **Plans and projects of CE**, that inspired by the gospel we would be encouraged to continue the mission for Christ: preaching, healing, reconcile, aiming for peace, unveiling the injustice, serving and helping our neighbors

- **World's Convention 2014**

Other Tasks:

Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Guyana

- for ways to reach youth and for initiatives to involve them

India

- for ways and means to encourage the many local groups and connect them for paid traveling secretaries

Korea

- give thanks for the missionaries over the world, that they may be able to adapt to the culture of the people they are living with

Syria

- for protection in the civil war and for boldness to practise the love of Christ in the climate of hate and fear

Nigeria

- Christian Endeavor Seminar in Abeokuta, Ogun State, for pastors and leaders with A. Rudolph and Dr. Adeosun (Dec. 14 - 16) sisters and for wise leaders with all parties involved in the conflict

The deadline for the next issue of the WCEU Newsletter is 15 January 2012. Please notify us about news, events, announcements etc. if you want them to be listed here.

USA

- fruitful leadership training programs, increasing numbers of churches introducing CE

Events

2012

December 26.-29. - **Biannual Convention** of the Mexican CE, Chiapas, Mexico

2013

January 18-20 - **Annual Council and Annual General Meeting** of the Australian CE Union at Collaroy Beach, NSW (Sydney)

January 27-February 2 - **CE Prayer Week 2013**

February 2 - **CE day**

February 23-24. - **SOS SeelsorgeOffensivSeminar**, Kassel, Germany

April 5-7 - **WCEU Executive Committee Meeting**, Lancaster county, PA, United States

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

Mobile Devotions 2014

The 2013 mobile devotions will be most probably late arrive in the app-stores mainly because we could not manage with the big number of translations from German into English. However we have to keep in mind the 2014 mobile devotions already and try to find more authors who write the devotions right away in English. Because of the good experience we made with the Maranatha CE society from Lima, Peru, we thought to ask all CE societies whether they are interested to write devotions for one week as a joint project of the whole group. If you are interested and feel like having the talents to embark on such a venture, please let us know within the next two months.

WCEU and Daily Devotions App 2013

daily devotions by authors from
all over the world

A dynamic application for iPhone available
from 2013 January for FREE!

news and events from National
CE Unions of over 30 countries

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