

Vanuatu Women Celebrate Jubilee

Clinton J. Holloway

The year was 1942. All around the South Pacific there was intense and bloody fighting for control of the islands. American victory in the Battle of the Coral Sea gave rise to an influx of Americans and their supplies that greatly altered the way of life in the island nation of Vanuatu (then known as the New Hebrides)—and the future.

Following the battle the Foreign Missions Board of the Churches of Christ in Australia (now the Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners

Mary Clipstone Finger, and later Shirley (Mrs. Keith) Ludgater who pioneered the women's work on Vanuatu and founded the Christian

of their Jubilee. Nearly 300 CWF members from nine islands came together for three days of worship and celebration. Singing, dancing and the fellowship of food were enjoyed by all.



The event was held at the Nduindui Church on West Ambae and it fairly bulged at the seams with the crowd. A fresh bamboo dining room to serve the assembly was constructed on the foundation of the old church building with the pillars wrapped in palm fronds and fresh flowers. Green mangoes served as vases for cut hibiscus blossoms. As colorful as the flowers were those in attendance with every island CWF being represented by women in matching outfits of pink, green, yellow, blue and maroon. Each island group also presented gifts of taro, lap-lap (a baked taro casserole), rice, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and cucumbers. *cont. P2.*

[GMP] allowed Mary Clipstone (later Mrs. Harold Finger) to go as part of a team to Vanuatu to develop a new medical work; Clipstone was a qualified nurse. According to Vanuatu tradition it was

Women's Fellowship (CWF) in the islands.

December 15-17, 2006 saw the first national gathering of the CWF in honor

Mid-Winter Rally in Germany

Randy Smelser

"Simply splendid" describes one of the reactions to our yearly family retreat with other Europe Christian workers, gathered from France, Germany, Kosovo, Albania, Romania and Italy in a youth hostel in Hermeskeil near the German border with Luxembourg from December 27-31, 2006.



Mark Scott

Mark Scott from Ozark Christian College used the parables of Jesus to teach on the surprisingly "Upside Down Stories of God." His wife Carla led the music, blending the old and new in great hymnology.

Other local workers led in the prayer sessions and workshops. Al and Val Cinnamon (Emett, Idaho) and other workers with them guided the children's program. Each day representatives from three European areas presented "Five Things to Pray for my Country." Everyone divided into six small prayer teams and took notes to pray pointedly for each need.

More information about the retreat can be found at: www.MidWinterRally.com

Scholarship Fund Needs your Support

There has been a wonderful start to the establishment of our **Scholarship Fund** to assist people from two-third world countries who may have a difficulty finding enough funds to attend the World Convention. Within weeks two Churches in Nashville offered support as well as some individuals. An interdenominational men's bible study group has pledged to raise enough funds for one scholarship over the next 12 months by levying their members \$2 per week.

We need many more scholarships, the need is great! The scholarship will assist in funding air-travel, accommodation and meals. Each recipient will be required to make a contribution as well. Those sponsored will come early and spend at least one week with their sponsors.

This is a wonderful way that your Church can have an active role in assisting the development of an overseas mission work. The financial support of a two-third world delegate, enabling them to be exposed to the wider Church is a great gift to their work.

Will you accept our invitation to make a difference in a two-third world Christians life and work?

Churches or individuals interested in knowing more about supporting this fund can contact **Mrs. Judy Davis at the World Convention Office.**



Women arriving by boat for the huge celebration



CWF memorial stone and plaque

Cont..

Vanuatu Women Celebrate Jubilee

Most of the women arrived by ship, some having traveled for three days to attend the celebrations. The island has no pier so small skiffs ferried people and goods from ship to shore.

A highlight of the jubilee was the unveiling of a memorial stone and plaque honoring the "pioneers, founders and leaders" of CWF in Vanuatu since its inception in 1942. The memorial featured a tall stone "pyramid" on a base topped with an open Bible inscribed with the verse, "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:3).

The featured speaker and study leader was **Ana Gobledale**, with her husband, Tod, Chaplains at the Churches of Christ Theological College, Mulgrave, Australia. Ana represented the GMP at the Jubilee which she described simply as "a wonderful occasion." According to Deaconess **Nellie Sese**, Secretary for the Jubilee Celebration, Ana Gobledale's presence and enlightening studies was representative of Australia and continued the pioneer efforts in women's work of both Mary Finger and Shirley Ludgater.

The World Convention office extends belated congratulations to the Christian Women's Fellowship on the occasion of their Jubilee. Vanuatu is said to have the highest per capita membership of Stone-Campbell Movement Churches of any country in the world. For further information and history of the Movement in Vanuatu, see the national profile located on our website at www.worldconvention.org.

Our thanks to Ana Gobledale for this report and photos.



Thank You World Convention Supporters

Our wonderful World Convention supporters have come to our aid once again. In the last edition of World Christian we included a letter from President Dr. C. Robert Wetzel about our desperate financial need and requesting supporters to assist us. The response has been very encouraging with a close to record amount in donations coming in over the Christmas /New Year period.

Your gifts have been a great encouragement to our hard working staff, and while we didn't manage to meet budget for the 2006 financial year, we ended up with a much improved situation.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Australian College Celebrates Centenary

The Australian Churches of Christ came together in February to celebrate the centenary of their theological college CCTC - Mulgrave.

Churches of Christ Theological College (CCTC) is the national ministry and theological teaching college for the Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia. It was established in 1907 in Carlton, Victoria as

the **College of the Bible**. Between 1910 and 1988 the college was located in Glen Iris, before moving to its current location at 40-60 Jacksons Road, Mulgrave in 1989.

In 1975, CCTC and Whitley (Baptist) College established the **Evangelical Theological Association**, which is accredited by the Melbourne College of Divinity to teach undergraduate and postgraduate theology degrees.

Dr Merrill Kitchen has served as the Principal of CCTC since 2000. Dr Kitchen was a bible study speaker at the Brighton, England World Convention in 2004.

We congratulate CCTC on reaching this milestone.

World Convention
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1279 Brentwood Highlands Drive,
 Nashville, Tennessee 37211, USA

Postal Address:
 1279 Brentwood Highlands Drive
 NASHVILLE, TN 37211 USA
 Phone: +1 (615) 331-1824
 Fax: +1 (615) 331-1864
 Email: worldconv@aol.com
www.worldconvention.org
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 Jeff Weston

Partner Profile

Abilene Christian University Abilene, Texas



Abilene Christian University has the honour of being the first academic institution and the first organization from the Churches of Christ to join the World Convention sponsorship program in providing financial support for the 2008 Nashville Convention. *“ACU is honoured to have the opportunity to support this effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace within our family of Stone-Campbell churches. Abilene Christian University’s commitment to the principles of this Movement is strengthened by its support of World Convention”* said Abilene’s **Doug Foster** and a member of the World Convention Executive.



Dr Royce Money

In 2006 Abilene marked its’ centenary and in so doing exceeded a capital campaign goal of growing their endowment to over \$250 million. Begun in the fall of 1906 as Childers Classical Institute, the first president was A.B. Barret, who succeeded in securing a location for the school and opening the doors of the Institute for eleven primary and secondary grades that first semester. By the end of the first year 85 students were enrolled, despite numerous hardships. Accredited collegiate courses were added later. By 1929 the school had outgrown its original five-acre campus and moved to the present location, a ranch comprised of nearly 750 acres outside of town, known as “the Hill.” Such notable Churches of Christ leaders as Jesse P. Sewell and Batsell Baxter succeeded A.B. Barret as president of the school. **Dr. Royce Money** currently serves the institution as President. Since that first year Abilene has had 86,000 alumni and former students receive a Christian education.

In addition to a full catalogue of undergraduate courses and majors Abilene also offers several outstanding graduate departments and schools. **The Graduate School of Theology**, founded in 1999 from the Graduate Department of Bible. The mission of the Graduate School is “to equip men and women in effective ministerial leadership in a variety of missions and ministry contexts and to provide strong academic foundations for theological inquiry.” Students from all over the world can enrol in degree programs including the Master of Divinity, M.A. in Christian Ministry, M.A. in Missions, History and Theology, Old Testament, New Testament as well as the Doctor of Ministry degree. One notable feature of the physical campus is an eight-foot-diameter World Missions Globe that is representative of the university’s mission to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. In this regard, one significant opportunity in the undergraduate department of Bible is the **WorldWide Witness** program that allows students and graduates to serve God through short-term involvement with experienced mentors on the mission field through summer internships lasting six weeks or apprenticeships after graduation, lasting six to eighteen months.



ACU Campus in Abilene

The Centre for Restoration Studies is another significant feature of the Abilene campus. Under the direction of Dr. Douglas Foster, the Centre is a repository of books and archival materials for the Stone-Campbell Movement and the Churches of Christ. While the Centre has a rich collection of 19th century materials that includes handwritten sermons by Barton Stone and Thomas Campbell’s pulpit from his Ahorey, Ireland Church, the Centre’s main collection focus is the development of U.S. Churches of Christ in the twentieth century. In addition to an archival repository, the Centre seeks to develop understanding of the Stone-Campbell Movement through symposia, visiting scholars programs, and other public presentations of the history of the Movement. Many of the Centre’s treasures are available on-line by accessing the website at <http://bibleacu.com/crs/>

For ninety years Abilene has hosted their Annual Lectureship, drawing together some of the best speakers of the Churches of Christ. In 2006 the Lectureship included an important step towards unity and included an invitation to Christian Churches to be a part of the annual event. The 2007 Lectureship will be held September 16-19 on the ACU campus with the theme of messages from Micah: *“Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly.”* Lecturers will include Jerry Taylor, Abilene; Fred Asare, Accra, Ghana; Stephen Johnson, Abilene; Landon Saunders, Norwich, Vermont; Don McLaughlin, Atlanta, GA; Mark Hamilton, Abilene; Mark Hamilton, Abilene; Jeff Walling, Charlotte, North Carolina. Workshop topics include: Reading Revelation, Spiritual Direction, Christians and the Environment, Filmmakers’ workshop, Overcoming Racism, Missional Leadership and Youth Ministry.



“Future History” looks at foundational concepts of Stone-Campbell Movement By Ted Parks

With plans well under way for the next World Convention—an event bringing together diverse believers sharing a unique spiritual heritage—a slender new book offers timely insights into the religious principles championed by Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone some two centuries ago.

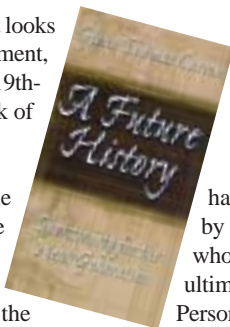
In “A Future History: Christianity for the Next Generation,” Dr. Glenn Carson, president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, identifies “four central ideas” crucial to the future of churches in the Stone-Campbell tradition. A general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Historical Society also serves Churches of Christ and Christian Churches / Churches of Christ.

Carson’s four “ideas” are the centrality of the New Testament, the priesthood of all believers, the importance of Christian unity and the open table of the Lord’s Supper. Leaders today must carry forward these historic concepts if they want the Stone-Campbell tradition to continue to shape churches, the author believes. If congregations in the movement “are to have a history in the future,” Carson writes, “there are ideas which cannot be left behind.”



Dr Glenn Carson

To make his case, the Historical Society president looks tradition. Emphasizing the role of the New Testament, devotion” to the authority of scripture. But the 19th-authority of Scripture has always been a hallmark of “Scripture Alone.”



In his discussion of unity, Carson re-visits the Christians. But he adds a spin to the familiar theme century North American preacher Phillips Brooks, on consensus, but faith. “Our unity does not writes. Rather, unity “is based completely on the

not only to scripture, the Campbells and Stone, but other voices in the Christian Carson reminds readers that Stone and Alexander Campbell shared an “absolute century leaders didn’t develop their ideas in a vacuum. “The inspiration and true Christianity,” Carson explains, pointing to Martin Luther’s commitment to

hallmark Stone-Campbell emphasis on breaking down the barriers between by exploring the spiritual foundations of Christian unity. Quoting famed 19th-who exclaimed “Not Christianity, but Christ!” Carson argues that unity depends not ultimately reside in any set of principles, no matter how important they may be,” he Person of Christ and our ongoing, growing relationship with him,” Carson explains.

A powerful embodiment of the Stone-Campbell plea for oneness is the Lord’s Supper, the final of Carson’s four bedrock concepts. There is no other marker of our faith which is as constant as the Table,” he writes, describing the open communion table as “perhaps the best symbol of who we are.” Carson stresses it is Christ, and Christ alone—not the church or its leaders—who invites people to the feast.

Throughout the book, Carson uses “Disciples” to refer to all modern-day believers in churches related to the Stone-Campbell Movement. The Historical Society president said in an interview shortly after the book’s publication that he hoped to reach readers from across the Stone-Campbell spectrum. “I was looking for those . . . kind of common elements,” Carson said, “as well as . . . an introductory overview to who we are.”

The slim new book is only 77 pages long. But the author believes it will meet a need for “essay-sized” studies to complement the traditional scholarly offerings of the Historical Society. The volume launches a new society imprint, the Polar Star Press. “A Future History: Christianity for the Next Generation,” published by Polar Star Press, is available from the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. For ordering information, the society’s toll-free number is 866-834-7563 and its e-mail address, mail@discipleshistory.org.

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Response from around the world shows that this prayer network for our global family is very appealing. Set your watch for 11:11 am daily

- **Thank God** for what you have; pray for what you need.
- **Include** any person around you in your prayer.
- **Be truthful** if anybody asks you what you are doing.
- **Remember** your global church family and that you are a loved and commissioned member of the whole church of Jesus Christ.

Can You Help Us?

At World Convention we rely on our freinds and supporters to send donations to fund our daily operation. Can you assist us in this ministry of unity and reconciliation? Will you send us a gift or ask for us to be added to your Chuch’s mission outreach support? Please send your support today.

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Return Visit to Hurricane Area

World Convention Executive Director **Jeff Weston** was part of a team from Nashville that recently revisited the hurricane damaged area of **Gulfport, Mississippi**. This area was devastated as a result of the massive storms which hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Region in August 2005. Jeff had previously visited the area to assist with cleanup (see issue #50) in October 2005. He was amazed at the work still needing to be undertaken in the area. "There has been a great deal of publicity about the work still to be undertaken in New Orleans, and rightly so, but other places are also still in need of assistance. I was just amazed at the devastation still evident in Gulfport today," Jeff said on his return.



A house yet to be repaired



Nashville team members Woody Powers and Jamie Huling receiving thanks for a job well done

Habitat for Humanity has been active in the Gulf Region building over 700 new homes. They have pledged to construct 1,000 to meet the great need. One thing that is very evident is the excellent work being undertaken by **all three streams of our Churches**. The Disciples have established seven mission stations in the region and have a constant stream of volunteers assisting from across the country. The Churches of Christ and Christian Churches are offering similar assistance thanks to the many gifts of finance, goods and service by our members.

Jeff reports; "One of the most wonderful compliments I have been asked to pass-on came from an 80 year old lady we assisted. She said to me, "**tell your Churches thank you, for you are the living body of Christ to us in need.**""



Jeff sharing a word of encouragement with team workers at morning devotions

Exciting Workshops Planned for World Convention

In it's scheduling for the 17th World Convention the planning committee has put in place a broad range of workshops that will meet the interests and be of value to all who attend from around the world. This will be one of the largest gatherings of the World Convention in recent years we are therefore trying to ensure that there is something applicable and of value to everyone's ministry. We are planning to have our largest range of workshops with **more than 80 sessions being offered over three days**.

There will of course be excellent workshops on the **Restoration Movement** and tours to significant historical sights. We will also have a range of workshops on contemporary issues including a workshop on **Islam presented by Saleem Massey from Pakistan**. There will be a range of workshops on **Family Issues** including the *Spiritual Development of Children and Marriage Enrichment*. A highlight will be sessions on developing **Spiritual Disciplines with Dr. Gary Holloway** and the **Prayer** workshop. **Growing the Church** workshops will include sessions for *Church planters and Urban Ministry Issues* as well as the *Value of the Smaller Church*. Our **Church Life** workshops will include topics such as *Handling Conflict, Dealing with Discouragement, and Effective Senior Adult Ministry*. A real highlight will be a **Musicians workshop and Writing Music for Today's Church** lead by some of the talented Nashville based Christian musicians and composers.

This is just a sample of the many wonderful learning and sharing opportunities that will be available in the World Convention workshops. Added to these are the **construction of a Habitat for Humanity House** in Nashville, and a **teen's house framing construction project**. Don't forget our **Global Leaders Forum** and **College Presidents Conference**. A complete listing will be available later this year, but start planning now to make the most of your time at this global event. If you haven't yet registered do so now while there are still reduced rates for registration.

Have you thought about how good the World Christian would look in full colour?

Each edition of World Christian costs around \$5,500 US to print and mail to our many supporters around the world. If we printed it in colour it would cost a lot more.

You can get a full colour edition of World Christian and save us some money at the same time. World Christian is available on the **World Wide Web** as soon as it is prepared (even before our printer gets his copy!).

If you would like to view the World Christian go to www.worldconvention.org and click on the **World Christian** link button. You will view a pdf file which you easily download or print.

Why not try it today?

If you like what you see let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list and you will help us keep costs down while getting a quality **colour edition** of World Christian.

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Without the gifts of Friends of World Convention, the ministry of World Convention would cease. These gifts also determine the amount World Convention can do to serve our global family. Opportunities abound! We are very grateful for the support of the following friends who have given since our last issue of World Christian and before the end of February 2007.

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Fees are per person.

There is no registration fee for children up till age 12 years attending with parents.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a program fee for children who share in the children's program which will cover costs.

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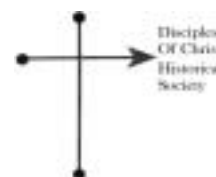
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Unity Efforts Celebrated in Benin

Clinton J. Holloway



In December of last year the Kaiteme Church of Christ, planted in 1998 and one of the oldest of the Churches of Christ among the Aja people of Benin, West Africa, hosted the annual year-end convention of Churches of Christ. The three-day event, just prior to Christmas (December 22-24), was historic in that it was also a time of celebration of the union of Churches of Christ and Christian Churches of Benin.

There are reported to be seven congregations of Churches of Christ and over a dozen congregations identified as Christian Churches. On Saturday, December 23, during the annual convention a delegation of about 100 people from the Christian Churches arrived by truck. The delegation entered the worship service in a parade, their hearts full of praise as they offered up a special song they had prepared for the occasion. Randy and Kelly Vaughn, are missionaries from the



Christian Church members arrive

American Churches of Christ in Benin (in 2007 they will be ending their eight-year tenure in Benin). Randy said of the Christian Church delegation, "I appreciate so much our brothers from the Christian Church; their humility is evident and their dynamic relationship with Jesus is contagious."

Later in the day, the leaders of the Christian Church delegation called together the leadership council of the seven Aja congregations, laid hands upon them and prayed over the

leadership of the Churches of Christ. Union will provide both groups of first generation Christians important opportunities for fellowship and mutual encouragement in a land where believers are still a very small minority. Vaughn says that this kind of union is significant for these relatively new Christians who have no mentors in their families to guide them in their Christian walk, "for God to bring together these two groups under one umbrella will strengthen everyone in this combat for purity, holiness and the pursuit of righteousness." The combined fellowship will fortify both groups for the purpose of evangelism, discipleship and the spiritual battle for maturation and sanctification.

While the Vaughns will be returning to the United States sometime in 2007 you can read more about their work among the Aja people of Benin at their blog found at <http://rkvaughn.blogspot.com> For more information on the history of Stone-Campbell mission work in Benin see the national profile located on our website at www.worldconvention.org



Randy Vaughn praying for leaders

DISCIPLES HELP DEDICATE HISTORIC MISSION HOSPITAL IN CHINA

The renovated 1892 mission hospital founded by William Edward Macklin, the first missionary to China sent by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1886, was formally dedicated in the Macklin Courtyard of Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital on Jan. 23. The historic building now serves as the hospital's 1892 Memorial Hall, Hospital Archives, and includes a series of memorial galleries, a dedicated archives and spacious conference hall. Nanjing, a Chinese city of 6 million people, is the capital of Jiangsu Province.

Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital's 19th President, Prof. Ding Yitao, M.D., hosted the public ceremonies. Representatives from the Nanjing Municipal Government, the Bureau of Public Health, Nanjing University, Nanjing College of Medicine, Nanjing TCM University, Nanjing Xianlin University City and Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital Group attended the event. Among the dignitaries and guests from the United States and Canada attending the ceremonies were William Nottingham, president emeritus of the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM), Xiaoling Zhu, Global Ministries area executive for East Asia and the Pacific and Marjorie Ruth Hancock, granddaughter of the hospital founder with Ms. Carolyn Johnson Sandison, great granddaughter of the hospital founder.

In his welcoming remarks, Prof. Ding Yitao, acknowledged the historical contributions of Dr. William Edward Macklin (1860 - 1947) the founder and first president, and the numerous doctors and medical professionals who have so faithfully served the people of China for more than 100 years.



To read more about the event, see:

www.globalministries.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1622&Itemid=125