It’s Next Year!
Share in unique global fellowship - inspiring, informative, educational and encouraging.

And it’s time to make plans!
Program, registration, travel and accommodation information - page 5

If you possibly can, share in the global family gathering of your church

Wednesday July 28 - Sunday August 1
Brighton, United Kingdom
You'll love the Convention and the United Kingdom!
The World Convention of Churches of Christ

Christian - Churches of Christ - Disciples of Christ
2000-2004 Executive

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General Secretary: Lorraine Jacobs
Associate General Secretary: Lorraine Jacobs

The World Convention

Thinking Aloud ...

Ready To Move On

This is the fortieth issue of World Christian.

The name on the masthead for the first issues was Christian Friends. The purpose of Christian Friends was to keep in touch with Friends of World Convention - key supporters of the global networking ministry of World Convention.

World Christian still aims to meet that need, but now no less than 9000 copies are printed and sent to about 100 countries, sharing news and information that helps to build fellowship, understanding and common purpose within our unique Christian family. The name was changed with issue twenty in 1998 to recognise this wider purpose and circulation.

Forty is an important biblical number. Israel's forty years in the wilderness and Christ's forty days in the desert were times of preparation.

We see these last forty issues spanning ten years that have been an important decade of preparation for worldwide Christian Churches, Churches of Christ and Disciples of Christ.

Communication has been extended; fences have been lowered; bridges have been built. Globally and locally the understanding that we belong together under the Lordship of Christ and within His whole church is stronger than it has been for perhaps a century.

Now it is time to move on.

In this bicentennial era God is calling our movement to re-examine its roots and discover its future. Not for nothing has the theme, Founded in Christ - Building for Tomorrow - been chosen for our convention in Brighton next year.

World Christian is a small, unpretentious paper. But it is amazing where copies get to. After every issue we receive responses from people, often in remote places, expressing joy in discovering the breadth of their 'family'.

World Christian is also unique in representing the Christian-Churches of Christ-Disciples of Christ family globally and inclusively. It is the only paper that does so. It will continue to do this, reminding us all of our given oneness in Christ and our historic plea for the unity of all of God's people.

But World Convention is moving on too. By the time you read this, many of you will also have received the first of the new series of email releases. Work began in February on 'country profiles' for the World Convention website.

Forty issues - and World Convention is moving on!

- Lorraine & Lyndsay Jacobs

Filling the Position of World Convention

General Secretary

- D M Thompson, President

The General Secretary and Associate General Secretary of the World Convention, Lyndsay and Lorraine Jacobs, will retire from their office at the end of 2004.

The World Convention Executive Committee has therefore begun the search for a successor or successors, with a view to bringing an appointment to the Brighton World Convention in July 2004.

The position of General Secretary will be filled first, and it is hoped to reach a decision on this in the latter part of this year.

Anyone who is interested in being considered for the position, or anyone who would like to suggest that a particular person should be considered, should write to the President of the World Convention, Dr David Thompson, at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, CB3 0DG, England (email: dmt3@cam.ac.uk) as soon as possible for further details.

Mailing this issue

Because of the travel schedule of staff during January and February this year, this first quarter issue of World Christian was not prepared and mailed until March. We expect it will be delivered during the first week of April in the USA and later in the month in other countries.
**Around Our World**

**News from our Churches**

- **Here’s a monthly report that will leave you breathless.** 250 leaders and preachers attended a seminar on leadership, five new church buildings dedicated, 2000 families received blankets and rice, several evangelistic meetings lead to over 1100 decisions... 87 baptisms in Raipur area... medical team reaches over 6000 (46 surgeries)... medical centre leads to start of new village church (100 attending)... children’s home still under construction. Those are highlights from the monthly report of the Central India Christian Mission by Ajai & Indi Lall.

- **Dr Richard Hamm will conclude his ministry as General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA & Canada, in October.** Dr Hamm has given very positive and popular leadership over the last ten years, providing North American Disciples with a ‘2020 Vision’ and leading them to establish more congregations in the last two years (over 100) than at any previous time since the 1968 restructure of the Christian Church. Dr Hamm has commented in his decision to end his term two years early (four years into a second six year term) that ‘I believe today’s leaders have adapted and pushed the 1960’s organization we inherited about as far as possible. Disciples need to take a fundamentally new look at how to mobilize for our mission as a whole church.’ Dr Hamm sees ‘enormous promise’ in this task but he believes that a new leader needs to begin this task as soon as possible.

- **Other North American Disciples news includes:**
  - The Division of Homeland Ministries will become Disciples Home Missions, ‘dedicated to serving congregations, strengthening leaders, and making a difference in the world by revealing the light of Christ’.
  - Basic Mission Finance has become the Disciples Mission Fund. Congregations are more able to support specific areas of the church’s ministry through the special offerings that are now for specific purposes. There is also some percentage movement of Mission Fund gifts from national to regional ministries.
  - Week of Compassion has committed $100,000 to a Church World Service project with partners in Africa to address root causes of hunger and poverty in four regions in Africa.
  - Church Extension will receive a $1.67million Lilly grant to sustain the ministry of new-church pastors.
  - Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Virginia, is celebrating its centennial.

- **Stadia: New Church Strategies** The Church Development Fund Inc, a ministry within the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ in the United States, has established Stadia. Stadia will make available to Christian Churches/Churches of Christ a unified, organised approach to planting new churches by finding, training and deploying church planters across the United States. It is hoped to plant ten churches this year and ultimately double the present 5,500 congregations. Marc Bigelow will lead this ministry. CDF was founded in 1953 and is best known for its financial help, particularly for property, to churches.

- **Fellowship of Churches of Christ in the United Kingdom.** Dr Dwight Smith of Saturation Church Planting International has become a consultant to the Fellowship to help in laying plans for growth. A day meeting will be held on October 4 to set goals for 2004. Dan Yarnell now works full time as staff person for the Fellowship.

- **In Canada**, a memorial service to recognise former World Convention President (Calgary 1996) and World Christian Women’s Fellowship President (Honolulu 1980), Marj Black, will be held at 3 pm on May 3 at the Aboretum, University of Guelph.

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**Friends of World Convention**

The global day to day ministry of World Convention depends on gifts from Friends of World Convention (churches and individuals) for all that it does.

- Thank you for all gifts received so far this year.
- Your current label (pg 8) gives the date of your latest gift.
- Australian/Canadian/USA/UK currency checks/cheques please.
- Or use your credit card.
- (New Zealand cheques to Dr David Coulter, 264 Highgate, Dunedin.)

---

**Thank you for your gift!**

Name __________________________

Mailing address __________________________

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If using credit card:

- Visa _____ Mastercard _____
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- Credit card gifts are entered in $US. Please indicate clearly if your gift is in another currency.
- Friends gifts from the USA are acknowledged in four groups:
  - Contributor - up to $50
  - Supporter - $51 to $100
  - Sustainer - $101 to $249
  - Benefactor - $250+

Mail Mail Mail Mail Mail 4800 B Franklin Rd,
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Email worldconv@aol.com

Fax +1 (615) 331-1824

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**Join Us For Lunch**

Thursday, July 10 in Indianapolis IN
12.15 pm Tickets $15.00

North American Christian Convention

We invite all those attending these events and all those living in these areas to attend. See the World Convention video! Hear a global update on your church family. Receive all the latest information about Brighton next year.

We’d love to see a large crowd from all three streams of our movement at both gatherings!

Tickets available now. Use check or credit card. (For card supply details as for gifts in panel on right.)

**Join Us For Breakfast**

Monday, October 20 in Charlotte NC
7.00 am Tickets $11.00

Disciples of Christ Assembly

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**Dr & Mrs Hamm at the Brisbane World Convention in 2000**

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Some Frequently Asked Questions

- **When exactly does the convention start and finish?** It will begin at 7 pm on Wednesday 28 July and close late morning (with the communion service) on Sunday August 1. The pre-convention Leaders’ Forum (all who are interested in the future direction of our global church family are invited) will take place 9.30 am - 4 pm on Wednesday. We recommend that people travelling long distances arrive in Brighton for Tuesday night so that they can recover and be ready for Wednesday. If you are flying out on Sunday, remember you need time to collect luggage, perhaps eat lunch, travel to your airport and check in. Try to avoid pressuring yourself. You will not want to leave early.

- **Do I need to attend the whole convention?** We recommend you do. More than most, this convention is a total experience. People in the past who have arrived late and needed to leave early have often been very frustrated with themselves (or with those who have made their arrangements.) For this reason (and because it would be a big job checking everybody as they come and go each day) we do not have part-time registrations.

- **What does the registration fee cover?** The registration fee (it is a bargain!) allows you to attend every part of the program. It also includes tea & coffee at morning & afternoon breaks. For the Leaders’ Forum and the Saturday Men’s, Women’s and Ministers’ Luncheons, there will be a charge for the meal itself. For the Friday excursion to Arundel Castle and Chichester Cathedral there will be a cost for transport, lunch and admissions. Tickets will be sold in advance for these events. We will mail details (later this year) to all who have registered and to others as they register.

- **How can I obtain accommodation?** Those in Australia, Jamaica, New Zealand, Poland and the Philippines should contact their national World Convention organisers. Those in the UK will receive information through the United Reformed Church or the Fellowship of Churches of Christ in June this year on how to make bookings (brochure available then). Those in North America and other countries will make requests through the World Convention office. We can promise the best book-ahead rates possible.

- **What about travel to the convention?** Use the same contacts that you would for accommodation. World Convention has arranged for a basic package (airfare and accommodation - with breakfast - at Brighton) from North America. To this can be added pre and/or post tours. Look on line at www.worldconvention.org or ask us for a brochure.

- **Can I make my own travel and accommodation arrangements?** Yes. For countries other than those listed, we recommend that you do organise your own travel but you can obtain your Brighton accommodation through the World Convention office. (Four or five night package). For those in countries listed above we recommend using World Convention travel and tour arrangements to give you a seamless package and to allow you to share more with other conventioners.

- **Can people from non-North American countries join the World Convention pre and post tours of the United Kingdom and Europe?** Yes, certainly. Tours will start or finish at Brighton but you will need to make the link to the ‘other end’ of your tour with your travel arrangements.

- **Will there be programs for pre school, children and youth?** Yes, except for pre school. Regulations require the equivalent of a registered pre school for that group so we will offer just a ‘retirement’ room for parents and young children/babies with a speaker link to the main platform. There will be a primary school children program and a youth (the equivalent of middle school/junior high school up) program. Children of convention parents/guardians only. Youth must be attending with parents/guardians or in a group with leaders taking official responsibility. Youth can stay with parents but group accommodation will be available at the university. The youth program will include some exposure to the main convention. It will consist of day and evening sessions with lunch and dinner.

- **When will full details be available?** We will be publishing a comprehensive brochure mid year - the next (second quarter) issue of World Christian.
Register Here and now!

16th World Convention - July 28 - August 1, 2004

Please print very clearly

- Names (Christian and family names as for name badges)
  (1) first ____________________ last ____________________
  (2) first ____________________ last ____________________

- Children attending (age: August 1, 2004)
  ____________________ ( )
  ____________________ ( )
  ____________________ ( )
  ____________________ ( )

- Contact information
  Street ____________________________ ____________________________
  City/Town ____________________________ State/province __________
  Postal/zip code ____________________________ Country __________
  Email __________________________________________________________
  Phone: Area code - ___________ Local number - ___________
  Local Congregation ____________________________

- Registration (check/tick)
  ___ Attending. (I/we hope/plan to be there!)
  ___ Non-attending. (Supporting; mailed materials)
  ___ Electronic (email). Daily email reports. (Attending and non-attending registrants may wish to receive this information too; add the email registration fee.)

- Payment
  - Fees are per person. (Refundable after convention if requested by May 31, 2004.)
  - No registration fee for children/youth (up to/including high school) attending with parents. There will be children's and youth programs (details later). For children/youth who share in these programs there will be a fee to cover costs.
  - Youth/Young adults beyond high school need to pay the registration fee. Those who choose to be involved in the youth event will receive credit for their registration towards the youth event program costs.

Please calculate fees from this chart and enter total below.

From: 2003 2004 Supporting Email
Australia AUD$155 AUD$165 AUD$50 AUD$40
Canada CAN$140 CAN$150 CAN$45 CAN$35
New Zealand NZ$170 NZ$180 NZ$55 NZ$40
United Kingdom £70 £75 £15 £15
United States US$120 US$130 US$50 US$35

(*The higher amount for those with 'one third world' incomes; lower amount for those with 'two thirds world' incomes)

- Method of Payment: Check/cheque ___ or credit card ___ (provide details below)
  Cheques (payable to 'World Convention') in Australian, Canadian, New Zealand or USA dollars or £stg only.
  - Circle the amounts you are paying above (remember amounts are per person for attendees).
  - Enter the total you are paying here:

- If paying by credit card please supply
  Card number ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________
  Expiry date ____ / ____
  Visa ____ Mastercard ____ Discover ____ Diners Club
2002: RECORD GIFTS

More than 800 gifts totalling US$51,824.00, were made by Friends in 2002. Each one of these gifts played a vital part in enabling World Convention to continue its growing, seventy-two year old ministry of building up fellowship, understanding and common purpose amongst our global church family. National churches and congregations that make direct gifts, contributed US$41,756.00 - a similar amount to the previous year.

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Christian Church (DOC) in the USA & Canada, Disciples Mission Fund
Christian Church of Mid America (DOC), MO
Christ’s Church of the Valley, Peoria AZ
East Side CC (DOC), Tulsa OK
First Christian Church, Johnson City TN
First Christian Church, Nashville TN
First Christian Church (DOC) in Brownfield TX
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Washington Ave CC (DOC) Elsberry OH
West Point CC, Yukon OK
Westminster Church of Christ, MD
Westwood Hills CC, Los Angeles CA
Woodmont CC (DOC), Nashville TN

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This page records gifts since the last issue of World Christian - those in the latter part of 2002 and up to March 12, 2003. Thank You!
Partnership

World Convention is very grateful for its many Friends and Ambassadors who pray for, work for and financially support this key ministry amongst our global family.

The small World Convention office cannot hope to reach out to all of our members and churches around the world, and every person who helps to promote the goals of World Convention is greatly appreciated.

A good deal of the scarce time of the staff is taken up with encouraging financial support for World Convention so we are very grateful also for those who have decided to be financial partners in this work - those who make Friends gifts regularly, willingly and generously.

This year we are attempting much more. Clint Holloway has begun researching & writing for the World Convention web site directory of the work of our churches around the world and Ed Dodds is working on the web site and ChristianNet email releases.

Because of this and because of lower income from some other sources we need to lift World Convention Friends gifts this year by 50%. That is a major challenge!

It can be done easily if:
• Current Friends make sure they send in their gift every year. Despite the wonderful total mentioned on page six, many Friends overlooked their at-least-once-each-year gift in 2002.
• Current Friends consider increasing their 2003 gift. Would you raise your gift by 50% - or even 25%?
• Those who currently receive World Christian regularly and are not Friends of World Convention, become so now.

We look forward to your continuing, growing or brand new partnership this year. Then we can do much more of what you want us to do.

Personally

• A memorial service for Sir Garfield and Lady Todd was held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London on February 13th. President David Thompson took a reading. The General Secretaries, in London at that time were able to attend and the service recognised the role of Churches of Christ in the Todd’s ministry. St Martins (in Trafalgar Square these days rather than, ‘the fields’), was packed. Judith Todd, a Zimbabwean citizen, was also able to present.
• Dr Trevor Banks of Australia, World Convention Vice President 1984-88, and a former Moderator of the International Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours List in January.
• The photo below shows (l-r) Lloyd & Janice Tatlock, J Sydney Carnes and William R Baird Jr, who received Distinguished Minister Awards during the Brite Divinity School Ministers’ Week in February. Allan W Lee, Immediate Past General Secretary of World Convention introduced J Sydney Carnes. Lloyd, Janice and Sydney have all given long and significant support to World Convention. World Convention Program Chair for 1992 & 1996, Richard Ziglar, was also present.

Do you live in Europe?
Are you in touch with members of our churches in Europe?

Our goal: Every country in Europe represented at Brighton!
• Register yourself now.
• Contact those you know.
• Send us names and addresses in Europe so that we can send World Christian to them.

Creative Ways to Brighton

Tom Mackey (Newark OH) can help even a small church raise US$1000 with his well received worship concerts. Contact Tom at timesoffreshingmusic@hotmail.com or call him (740) 366-5928 for more information.

Secretaries’ Journal

Most of January and February has been spent on the road. March - May we will be spending much more time in the office.

In Arizona in January we had an exhibit at the Christian Church/Churches of Christ National Seniors’ Convention at Central Christian Church in Mesa, attended the national Disciples’ Development Conference in Phoenix and the Leadership Conference at Christ’s Church in the Valley (CC/CC) in Peoria. In New Mexico we shared with classes and services of the Monte Vista CC (Disciples of Christ). We also made many personal contacts - but there is ‘never enough time’!

We spent February 7-19 in England with many organising and promotional contacts built around the program committee meeting on February 10 in London. Altogether a very valuable time.

Three days after our return from the UK we drove to Abilene, Texas (two hours west of Dallas) where we had a booth and program slot at Abilene Christian University.

We were able to stop in Dallas on our return and visit Allan & Mildred Lee (our predecessors in office). It was good to see them so well settled in their new central Dallas home and to see Allan doing much better healthwise.

What Next?

Some significant national and global events we are aware of.

Please send us your dates!

# Annual Celebration. Fellowship of Churches of Christ in Great Britain & Ireland. May 4-5; Nettle Hill, Coventry
# Asia Sunday. June 1.
hca@cca.org.hk
# USA Stone-Campbell Dialogue. June 22 or 29; Atlanta, GA, USA.
# Conant Ridge Day. June 28.
# Annual Delegate Conference, Fellowship of Churches of Christ in Great Britain & Ireland. July 5. Wigston
# United Reformed Church Assembly. July 5-8, Portsmouth, UK
# North American Christian Convention. July 8-11, Indianapolis IN, USA
# National Christian Convention, Brasilia, Brazil. July 11-13
# General Board, Christian Church (DOC) in the USA/Canada. July 19-22. Indianapolis, IN, USA
# Pan European Lectureship (Churches of Christ), Geneva, Switzerland. July 27 - August 1
# National Convention in Zimbabwe. August
# National Gathering for Women. Sep 10-14. Perth, Western Australia
# Restoration Forum XXI. Oct 12-14, Johnson City, TN, USA
# Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA & Canada Assembly. October 17-21, Charlotte, NC USA
# National Missionary Convention. November 20-23, Cincinnati OH, USA 2004
# United Reformed Church Assembly. July 4-6; Walsall, UK
# World Convention, Brighton, UK July 28-Aug 1.
# National Missionary Convention. September 30; Peoria IL, USA

Have you included the everyday global ministry of World Convention in your will?

No other gift goes as far
What's that you said?

Key points from this issue of World Christian

• Information is available for the position of General Secretary which will be vacant at the end of 2004. Interested people should contact the World Convention President - see page 2. Your interest in and prayers for this appointment (suggestions also welcome) are needed.

• Get the FAQS. Answers to frequently asked questions about the next World Convention in Brighton next year - see page 4.

• Next issue of World Christian (Second quarter - June) will be a full colour brochure with all Brighton details. See page 5.

• ChristiaNet Global news of your church family. The first News and Information email in a new series was distributed at the end of March. Do we have your current email address? see page 7.

• New Friends of World Convention needed now to help lift Friends gifts 50% in 2003. See page 7.

• Be sure we always have your current mailing and email address.