What World Convention does

World Convention is best known for the four-yearly conventions which bring together members of the Christian - Churches of Christ - Disciples of Christ family of churches from around the world. However World Convention is building up global fellowship, understanding and common purpose in many other ways.

A chart on page two of this issue, shows the many ways in which World Convention tries to be an ‘every day, everywhere’ ministry today.

When World Convention was set up in 1930, it was intended to be much more than a convention. It was to provide a means through which our churches, in a growing number of countries in the early 20th Century, could remain linked in fellowship and purpose.

World Convention has made a renewed effort in the last decade to hear the call of many in our movement to do more. Appropriate ways have been sought and introduced to do strengthen both the feeling and reality that we belong together within God’s purposes.

A new means - Eleven: Eleven - Get Connected - a prayer network, is introduced in this issue of World Christian!

The constitution of World Convention was last revised almost fifty years ago and the present World Convention Executive Committee has therefore looked at bringing this up to date to reflect the ongoing ministry of World Convention today.

The proposed constitution is available for you to look at on the World Convention web site (www.worldconvention.org). It will be proposed for adoption during the brief business session (to elect the officers for 2004-2008) at Brighton.

If you have any comments we would be glad to receive them by December 31 this year, so that they can be considered in any modification or addition to the proposal.

Initially we thought that we would produce the constitution within World Christian. We know, however, that most people would not take the time to read it and the very limited space could be better used.

If you would like us to mail or email you a copy directly we would be very pleased to do that. Just let us know.

Please pray regularly for ‘World Convention’. World Convention has a unique role in bringing us together globally, reminding us of our unity in Christ and our calling to be effective witnesses and servants for him.

Vital Connections

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.

- Luke 10: 27

Less than eleven months till Brighton Convention

With our 16th World Convention fast approaching we urge those who are planning to attend but have not registered, to do so as soon as possible.

Registration now will still enable us to give you the accommodation of your choice but we will soon need to move onto second choices. Spaces are still available also on all pre and post convention tours to extend your convention experience in this special way.

We have not printed the usual registration form in this issue of World Christian. If you have not received, or have mistaken the last issue of World Christian (a coloured brochure with full convention details) please contact us and we’ll mail one immediately. It is also available on our web site. (Contact details: page 2 - bottom left.)

Register & reserve accommodation now!
The Ministry of World Convention

Building fellowship, understanding and common purpose within the global family of Christian Churches - Churches of Christ - Disciples of Christ as part of the whole church of Jesus Christ.

A networking ministry, helping to create a sense of convention in your global church family - everywhere, every day.
11:11 - Get Connected

Don Breiby is a member of our churches living in Olathe, Kansas, USA. Don had a hectic and stressful schedule with family and work and knew he was not finding enough time for God in his life.

A friend, who knew that Don considered 11:11 his lucky number, suggested Don set his watch to ‘beep’ at 11:11 and each day make that a time for prayer.

He began to do that and soon noticed a change in the world around him.

Often people asked him why his watch was beeping at this unusual time. Soon he discovered he was being asked to include special prayer requests for people who were sick, having problems or needing assistance connecting with God.

11:11 became an incredible tool in helping Don share his faith with others. He soon realised too that he, and not the world around him, had changed.

11:11 - Get Connected has been a phenomenon continuing to expand every day.

A gift to our global family

When we were visiting Overland Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - longtime strong supporters of World Convention - Don saw the potential for 11:11 world wide. So did we.

With members in every time zone on the planet we could set up a pattern of prayer that operated every hour of every day of the year.

Don had copyrighted 11:11 but saw his global church family through World Convention as the way he had been looking for to have it fully used, and immediately offered it.

We are grateful. And we’re excited!

People these days are used to numbers: 7/11, 7/24, 9/11. Now 11:11 can be a tool to strengthen spiritual life, personal witness and global fellowship within our movement everywhere.

We invite you to join in!

Here’s what to do:
• Set your watch (pager, phone, computer) to beep at 11:11. If you don’t have something like this, choose a regular daily ‘noise’ in your life.
• Thank God for what you have; pray for what you need (not want!)
• 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!

Let’s release the power of prayer in this new way throughout our movement. The time to start is now. Make 11:11 a daily appointment. Send us your stories. Tell us what part of the world you are in.

Our heritage lifts up the importance of unity in an effective witness of Christ’s church. Through 11:11 Get Connected, we will be better connected with God and each other, strengthen our own lives and develop our witness together.

Lorraine & Lyndsay Jacobs

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!

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• Friends gifts from the USA are acknowledged in four groups:
  - Contributor - up to $65
  - Supporter - $66 to $125
  - Sustainer - $126 to $299
  - Benefactor - $300+

Mail: 4800 B Franklin Rd, Nashville, TN 37220-1199, USA
Email: worldconv@aol.com
Fax: +1 (615) 331-1864


**Around Your World**

**NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES**

- **National Missionary Convention exhibit space sellout.**
  All 420 exhibit spaces at the annual USA National Missionary Convention of Christian Churches/Churches of Christ in Cincinnati, November 20-23, have been taken. This beats last year’s record of 373. If you can be there make time to get this amazing view of many things that are happening. World Convention has an exhibit and we invite all conventioners and others living in the Cincinnati area to come and see us.

- **Ghana Christian College moves to its new campus.**
  Ghana Christian College in Accra began its new semester on August 11 on its new campus. The inauguration drew a crowd of over 1,500 people including the Minister of Agriculture representing the president of Ghana, President Kufour. Late in August Ghana CC had its government institution inspection and, according to United Kingdom missionary, Brian Jennings, this went very well. The cafeteria and student dormitories are major needs still to be met.

- **US Disciples settle 568 refugees in 2002**
  The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA and Canada has a strong, continuing program for refugees in the USA and Canada. 568 refugees in 2002

- **Rebuilt Bangkok Christian Guest House back in business.**
  On June 12, The Rev Dr Boonratna Boayen, Moderator of the (united) Church of Christ in Thailand, reopened this completely rebuilt guest house. The old guest house had been used by many passing through Bangkok, Thailand over the years. The new guest house has 58 en-suite rooms and can accommodate about 120 people. reservations@bcgh.org

- **Partnership with Alliance of Baptists**
  The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA & Canada, already in an ecumenical partnership with the United Church of Christ, will expand that partnership to include the Alliance of Baptists. The 60,000 member Alliance of Baptists includes congregations and individuals committed to freedom of conscience, but also deliberately ecumenical in stance.

- **Two USA teams in Jamaica**
  Two teams from three Christian Churches in Kentucky worked in Old Harbour, Jamaica in June. Over 700 children from the local community joined in the youth fun day at the newly established Old Harbour church in this densely populated city. www.herkomission.org

- **Step towards merger**
  Dr Yoon Kwon Chae reports that Korean Christian Churches and Churches of Christ (instrumental and non-instrumental) met together in May for seminars and athletic events as a step of merger.

- **Prime Minister opens conference**
  The Prime Minister, Mr Edward Natapei opened the annual conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (South Pacific) in May. The new church building of the host congregation, Sarabulu Church of Christ in the capital city of Port Vila, was opened during the conference.

- **New National President in Australia**
  During September, Richard Menteith takes over from Peter Overton as President of Churches of Christ in Australia. He is a member of the Greencare Church of Christ in the state of New South Wales.

- **Carrying the Torch**
  A torch will be carried from the old site of Western Christian College and High School in Dauphin, Manitoba to Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada to celebrate the reopening on the new site on October 12. More than 200 miles/300km. www.westernchristian.ca

- **‘Tops’ Rebuilt.**
  On August 9th, eighteen months after a disastrous Christmas Day 2001 bush fire firestorm created US$3,000,000 worth of damage, the Churches of Christ Stanwell Tops Conference Centre, south of Sydney, Australia, was reopened. The extensive, multi-centred conference facility is considered to be the most modern and well equipped in the Sydney basin.

- **Sacred Treasures/Sacred Roots**
  Sacred Treasures/Sacred Roots - Art and the Bible in Russia, is a two part video produced in the Russian language by World Christian Broadcasting and Madison Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. It was shown on Russian television beginning on August 3. A cappella Church of Christ members were given special access to the religious masterpieces in the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. Now that communism has fallen, the natural Russian interest in these paintings can be used to learn about the Christian message.

- **Home for Girls in Cambodia**
  ARM International, a USA Christian Church/Churches of Christ rehabilitation ministry, is building a home for 48 victims of the prolific sex trade in Battambang close to the Thai border. ARM ministers to nearly two million inmates in USA prisons and jails as well as to prisoners in Ghana, India, Russia, Mexico, South Korea and the Philippines. www.arm.org

- **Elsewhere in Cambodia**
  Asia Christian Services (LaVerne & Lois Morse founders) report that in January of this year, working with Agape International Missions, they presented the gospel to 2000 Cambodians in Pursat province. ‘Last year two sites ... this year seven. We can’t keep up ... former ‘Killing Fields’ have become God’s harvest fields. As armed guards watched over the 2000 plus, over 400 people responded ... and were baptised. This was only the beginning of a seventeen day trip.’

- **Expansion at Khayelihle**
  Australia House, which will house an extra 12-16 children at Khayelihle Children’s Village in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, was completed in July. Six ‘dumped’ children have been taken in already. This is the World CWF project. Gifts should be set to the treasurer, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986, USA.
• **World Convention Citations**
  At each World Convention citations are awarded to recognise outstanding leadership from within our churches. We invite nominations for these awards. They will be awarded in two categories for the first time. The Allan & Mildred Lee citations will recognise leadership within the church. The Garfield and Grace Todd citations will recognise civic/community leadership. Please send your nominations with an outline of the achievements you believe merit this recognition. Include also your own name and complete contact details, and the names and contact information for two other referees. Nominations of young people are specially welcome. Due date: December 31.

• **Are We There Yet?**
  We have written a further paper in the *Exploring Our Destiny* series. It focuses on our calling in this third century of our movement. It was ready for printing in this issue of *World Christian* but World Convention income to date this year is well below spending. We hope that Friends gifts (new and renewed) will allow us to include *Are we There Yet?* in the fourth quarter issue.

• **Marking 200 years**
  June 26-28 next year will see celebrations of the Christian - Churches of Christ - Disciples of Christ family at the Cane Ridge (near Paris, Kentucky, USA) meeting house to mark the signing of the *Last will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery*, effectively establishing the Christian Church. If you can be there, mark the dates now. Information from canerdgmtg@aol.com

• **www.worldconvention.org**
  Our web site is undergoing considerable change and a great deal of information will be added before the end of this year. Already the first dozen country profiles are available and issues of ChristiaNet can be read there. The last issue of *World Christian* (the World Convention coloured brochure) is there too and you can download a registration form for the convention. Once the information is up, the graphics of the site will be improved.

• **Some Brighton updates**
  - Please contact us if you need a copy for yourself, or copies for promotion, of the last issue of *World Christian* which has comprehensive details of the upcoming convention.
  - The next issue of *World Christian* will bring even more *program information*. It will be an exciting event!
  - We encourage groups and individuals to make *gifts to help leaders from ‘the two thirds world’ attend*. So far we know that Australian Churches of Christ and the United Reformed Church (in the United Kingdom) have taken steps to bring people to the convention. Send special gifts to the World Convention office.
  - The *European Tour* being organised through the World Convention office is twelve days, not thirteen as listed. The day to day itinerary clearly shows twelve days.
  - *Exhibit information* will be available in November. Let us know if you might like an exhibit space.
  - *Youth groups*: Please let us know as soon as possible of youth groups that are coming.

**Thai Tour**

• In January 2002 we enjoyed seeing the work of our churches in Thailand on a tour organised by retired missionaries well known to World Conventioners, Allan & Joan Eubank. This tour runs again January 21 - February 2, 2004. Contact: ajeubank@cm.ksc.co.th

• **Chris Hobgood to speak at Brighton Ministers Luncheon**
  Dr Wm Chris Hobgood, who will become interim General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA & Canada in October for 21 months, will be the speaker at the Ministers’ Luncheon at World Convention. Details of this luncheon, along with details for the Women’s & Men’s Luncheons, will be mailed to registered conventioners early next year. We appreciate the support of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church for the Ministers’ Luncheon.
Thank you

Friends of World Convention

We are very grateful for the following gifts which have enabled the ministry of World Convention to continue to do what it needs to do in building up fellowship, understanding and common purpose within our global family.

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for Richard L Hann

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**Seamless**

It will not surprise you to learn that we have opinions. We do not agree with everything that is spoken or done by members of our global family.

However over the last ten years we have come to appreciate and recognise the real integrity and commitment that exists throughout our movement which, despite its many common characteristics, is very diverse.

We grew up understanding that the church in God’s eyes was seamless, and that we should see it that way too. There’s no ‘them’; there’s just ‘us’.

But that doesn’t mean it’s always easy to see with inclusive eyes. Many people, living under the Lordship of Christ and within the grace offered by him, have helped us immensely.

We value letters like these, received after the last issue of ChristiaNet, because they indicate ‘World Convention’ is being somewhat successful in being ‘even handed’ in its approach to different ‘streams’ and countries:

I want to thank you for the totally even handed and fair minded approach that you give to the work of World Convention. In your latest issue, you report a great deal about the Christian churches/churches of Christ and the cappella Churches of Christ as well as the Disciples...Balance is my goal and you achieve it for me. Bless you.*

*I continue to read with interest your news of major world developments among the various segments of the “church family.” Your very upbeat and inclusive coverage is to be applauded. It is a very healthy and helpful stimulus to the sort of fellowship sought by the World Convention. Bravo to you! You are doing an excellent work.*

We don’t want to pretend there are no barriers in the church. Even within your congregation there may be some quite high fences. But who put these barriers there? Not God! Who is keeping them there? Not God!

Within our family there are many (both ‘ecumenists’ and those who are ‘non-denominational’) who find it easier to see the fences in our movement than to see through them. We understand. But there are no divisions within the church of Jesus Christ. The challenge (and calling) for all of us is to eliminate the barriers in our minds; then it will be easier to eliminate the barriers in practice. Our movement came into existence with a vital understanding that division within the church was a barrier to the mission of the church. Division within global church families (& congregations) as much as between these global church families, is making a mockery of the gospel today.

Our message - unity needs to be seen and heard - is needed more than ever today. Let’s keep practising what we preach.

* Names not used as these letters were not intended for publication

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- Lorraine and Lyndsay Jacobs
**ChristiaNet - email news and information monthly**

Each month World Convention emails interesting and important information about your global church family. If you are not receiving ChristiaNet, email us now (worldconv@aol.com) requesting it. It is a free service. Below is the September issue for those who have not received it by email. You will notice there is very little overlap with the contents of World Christian.

**ChristiaNet - Monthly Global News and Information** for members and friends of the Christian - Churches of Christ - Disciples of Christ family of churches around the world from ‘World Convention’.

**Second series, number 6 - September 2003**

**A struggle in Liberia**

Liberia (capital Monrovia) in West Africa has been very much in the news lately as a peace agreement was reached. A civil war has ravaged the country and virtually every person in the population of towards three million has escaped from starvation, property damage, looting, the destruction of vital services, relocation, rape, deprivation, injury or death. 

The peace settlement is tenuous and both prayer and hard work by church and other humanitarian agencies are necessary.

Reggie Thomas of White Fields Evangelism, a Christian Churches/Churches of Christ ministry based in Joplin, Missouri, USA has been in touch with pastors there during August. The story of destruction and displacement is gradually coming together. White Fields reports thirty Churches of Christ in and around Monrovia. A White Fields evangelist and psychologist, Dr Blythe Robinson, is leaving for Liberia on September 12th to assist churches there. Week of Compassion (www.weekofcompassion.org) and the Division of Overseas Ministries (www.disciples.org/dom) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, have been working through ecumenical partners in Liberia helping with vital present needs and future planning. As at least US$30,000 has been forwarded.

An article in the latest Christian Chronicle (www.christianchronicle.org) reports that there are between sixty-six and seventy (a cappella) Churches of Christ across Liberia.

Our family of churches can trace its links to Liberia back to 1855 when an early USA mission sent a freed slave to Liberia.

**Growth in Zambia**

We were quite amazed in the mid 1990s when we picked up a directory of a cappella Churches of Christ in Zambia and found it listed 500 congregations. Zambia Christian College in Kalomo reports that there are now 978 congregations! In 1980 there were just 211. Attendance is recorded at 53,159.

**TCM International**

The ministry of TCM International (Training Churches for Ministry), based at Haus Edelweiss near Vienna, Austria, began in 1963. This Christian Church/Churches of Christ ministry equips Eastern European Christians for ministry in churches in sixteen countries. Numbers each year were relatively small prior to the collapse of the Iron Curtain but growth in the 1990s has been huge. This year TCM is equipping national leaders all year long through sixty-nine seminars in Austria and in-country extension centres in ten other countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia and the Ukraine. (www.tcmi.org)

World Convention needs your friendship

- • The next issue of the quarterly, World Christian, will be mailed this month. There is virtually no overlap with news in World Christian and ChristiaNet. To receive a free copy email your name & full postal address to worldconv@aol.com.
- • World Convention will have exhibits at the Restoration Forum, the ‘Disciples’ Assembly and the National Missionary Convention (see below). Come and talk to us if you are at any of these. For those in the Charlotte, North Carolina area, we have a breakfast world update meeting on Monday, October 20 in the Westin Hotel. 7:00 am. US$11.00. Request tickets from worldconv@aol.com
- • If you can come to the next World Convention in Brighton, England - July 28 to August 1, next year, we strongly recommend you register and request accommodation now. See World Christian or www.worldchristian.org

World Convention seeks to build up fellowships, understanding and common purpose within the Christian Churches in New Zealand at the beginning of November.

- • The annual National Missionary Convention (Christian Churches/Churches of Christ in the USA) in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 20-23. President: Greg Pruett. (www.nationalmissionaryconvention.org)
- • The church in Nakon Pathom, now District 11 of the United Church of Christ in Thailand, celebrating 100 years since its founding by Churches of Christ missionaries from the British Isles, on November 22. Information from Allan Eubank (ajeubank@cm.ksc.co.th).
- • Ranwadi Churches of Christ College in Vanuatu (South Pacific) celebrating its centenary, November 20-24.
- • Gandep Bible School (seminary) in Papua New Guinea holding its first graduation service, November 29-30.
- • Christian Churches/Churches of Christ members from Europe gathering at a mid winter rally in Hermskell, Germany, December 27-31. (www.MidWinterRally.com)

**World Convention needs your friendship**

- • If you are receiving World Christian and have never become a Friend of World Convention we invite you to do so now. Friends support World Convention with a gift at least once each year.
- • If you are already a Friend, and haven’t already sent us your 2003 gift, please do so as soon as possible. Your label (on page 8) gives the date of your last gift.

Your generous giving enables World Convention to do much more!
What's that you said?

Key points from this issue of World Christian

• Eleven: Eleven - Get Connected®. A new World Convention personal-global prayer focus. There are no boundaries to 11:11 - Get Connected®. God is always listening and responding! Page 3.
• Brighton 2004. Register and make deposits for tour, travel and accommodation now to be sure of your place and choice.
• World Convention is an everywhere, every day ministry. Pages 1 and 2. And it is for all our Christian Churches of Christ - Disciples of Christ members world wide. See Seamless, page 6.
• The next issue of World Christian (Second quarter - June) will include Are We There Yet? An Exploring Our Destiny paper written by the General Secretaries. (Page 5)
• ChristiaNet Monthly global email news and Information of your church family. See page 7. Do we have your current email address?
• We are very grateful for - in fact entirely dependent upon - Friends’ gifts. Thank you to those listed on page 6. But notice it is a much shorter list than usual. We do need your help now.
• Be sure we always have your current mailing and email address.