The World What?

I have now been working with the World Convention for 12 months. Gee time passes quickly! It has been an interesting transition for me from director of an Australian global mission organization working with one Church structure to General Secretary of an organization that attempts to work with congregations within three very diverse structures but one common heritage and spread throughout the world. Add to this the fact that most people do not understand the function that World Convention plays within the global movement, it is an interesting job I have.

Of greatest interest to me has been hearing the perceptions of people as I move around the US church, comments range from; "the World who?" To my favorite; "My it must be interesting to be the World head of our Church!" Some folk are a bit more cynical; "Boy what a cushy job you have, just organizing a convention once every four years, how do you fill in the rest of your time!" Through to; "Boy you have your work cut out for you trying to bring together three such diverse Churches, do you really think it is worth the effort?"

The ministry of World Convention is diverse and challenging and consists of more than just organizing a convention every four years (as challenging as that is. When the visionary pioneer of World Convention Jesse Bader established the World Convention in 1930 he wanted it to be more than just a nice time of fellowship every few years. He had observed that there was too much isolation among the churches of the movement. He at that time counted 35 countries where our people were active. He saw that there was a need for closer fellowship but also a greater bond of unity within the family; a return to our biblical and historical plea "that we might all be one" was needed.

Today World Convention works amongst both Churches and individuals within our global family to strengthen fellowship, increase our understanding of each other and God's desire for unity of the body, to provide inspiration and encouragement to those who need such, encourage focus on our common life, witness and shared calling to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. We do this through a range of activities. 1. Monthly enewsletter "ChristiaNet" which shares news items of interest from around the world. 2. Extensive contact with Churches and individuals around the world, helping them to feel included and important to the global church. 3. Networking with similar groups who are working for unity both within the Stone-Campbell Movement and the wider church. 4. Researching and writing the history of our Movement's involvement around the world. 5. Writing and publishing papers on contemporary issues. 6. Sponsorship of the Bader Lecture in Contemporary Evangelism. 7. Recognizing achievements through the awarding of World Convention Citations. 8. Production of publication "World Christian". 9. Organizing the four year global gathering "World Convention", as well as many other things.

All this work is undertaken with one full time staff person (General Secretary) and two part time staff and volunteers. We work from a very small rented office based in Nashville, Tennessee with a yearly budget that most Churches couldn't operate on.

This year is World Convention's 75th anniversary. How many more anniversaries will we celebrate? I am not sure, but I hope that the only reason we go out of business is because our ministry of unity within the body of Christ is complete. Until then we need you to support your World Convention.

Jeff Weston
General Secretary

We want to sincerely thank the global family of the Stone-Campbell Movement as you have assisted so many needy people in the Tsunami and Hurricane damaged areas of Asia and the USA this year. Your generosity is a genuine expression of God's love. If you are able to assist further please contact one of the following:

Week of Compassion (Christian Church-Disciples of Christ) P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206 USA.
IDES International Disaster Emergency Service (Christian Church Independent) PO Box 60, Kempton, IN 46049-0060 USA.
Churches of Christ Disaster Relief 410 Allied Drive, Nashville, TN 37211 USA.
Partner Profile:

European Evangelistic Society, Tuebingen, Germany and Atlanta, Georgia

By Clinton J. Holloway

There are a small number of ministries within the Stone-Campbell Movement of churches whose primary focus is largely outside of the United States and which encompasses the three streams of the Movement (Christian-Churches of Christ-Disciples of Christ). World Convention is one of those unique ministries; the European Evangelistic Society is another. World Convention and EES share an historic relationship and a continuing partnership in fulfilling Christ's prayer "that all might be one!"

The European Evangelistic Society sees their calling as being an international witness for the Christian Gospel primarily through the academic community located in Tuebingen, Germany and with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia in the United States. The roots of EES are traced to Dr. Ludwig von Gerdtell, a Prussian nobleman in the early twentieth century who came to reject the State Church of Germany in favor of simple New Testament Christianity. Writing and lecturing about his new understanding of the church and its relevance in the world, primarily to university students, von Gerdtell drew harsh criticism in Germany, including, some have suggested, three public debates with a young Adolf Hitler. Learning of the Movement of New Testament Christianity in the United States von Gerdtell traveled to America where he appeared on the program of the first World Convention in Washington D.C. in 1930 and subsequent conventions. The following year von Gerdtell taught at the School of Religion, Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. As a result he developed strong relationships with a number of leaders in the American Movement. It was then the German Evangelische Gesellschaft was founded to "promote the cause of New Testament Christianity in Germany and the rest of continental Europe." During the Second World War the name was changed to the European Evangelistic Society.

By the late 1940s EES had recruited Earl and Ottie Mearl Stuckenbruck to carry the Gospel to Europe. After considering several locations in Prague, Basel and throughout Germany, they settled on Tuebingen as the base of ministry, in part because the city and university already offered a well-established theological tradition. A Bible study class was begun which later came to meet regularly and eventually became a congregation, the Christliche Gemeinde. The Stuckenbrucks also began to build up a specialized theological library, with emphasis on the origins of the church from late Judaism to early Christianity and cultivated contacts with the theological faculty of the university. These activities were carried out because Stuckenbruck had become convinced that the work of EES should proceed with an academic approach so that the Gospel could be related to the full cultural background of the people of Germany and Europe. This began with participation in research seminars, translation projects and work with other theologians and scholars. Over the course of several years this academic approach resulted in the establishment of the Institut zur Erforschung des Urchristentums (The Institute for the Study of Christian Origins). Since then the Institute has become one of the leading specialized centers for research on the origins of the early Church. Today the Institute is under the direction of American, Scott Caulley. The Library, now known as The Stuckenbruck Library and Institute continue to be important factors in facing the challenge of being an international witness for the Christian Gospel in Europe in the modern era.

Included in the current ministry strategy of EES is the planting of a new congregation in the Tuebingen community and partnership with GlobalScope Campus Ministries (CMF) to develop a ministry to the undergraduate students at the University.

Stateside the American agenda for the EES is focused on promoting the unity of the Church in the United States. In particular EES seeks to bring the three streams of the Stone-Campbell Movement to a more united effort in serving Christ. "There is much common ground among these three groups and EES is working towards identifying common ground and promoting the idea that as a unity movement, the Stone-Campbell churches ought to act as one in essential matters of the faith," according to the EES website. Included in this ministry are the Dean E. Walker Lectures (held at the gatherings of the North American Christian Convention, General Assembly and World Convention, and beginning in February, 2006 at the Abilene Christian Lectureship), working with churches in all three streams, and in general working with churches to promote the unity of the church of Christ. In addition to raising the funds to promote the witness in Europe the American office is also involved in the publication of the Walker Lectures, The European Evangelist newsletter, weekly email devotionals, power point presentations and other academic pursuits. Wye Huxford is Executive Director of the American office which is located on the campus of Atlanta Christian College.

Those interested in learning more about this partner ministry are encouraged to visit the EES website at www.eesatlanta.org or to contact Wye Huxford directly at: Telephone: 404.460.2443 or via email: wyehuxford@earthlink.net
Spotlight on Rwanda

The World Convention is currently building a global reference for the countries where we know there are Christian – Churches of Christ – Disciples of Christ congregations. Rather than wait for comprehensive, complete information we are putting up the details that we have readily available. Simply by clicking on our web site at www.worldconvention.org you can follow links that will guide you to information about countries around the globe. There are still a number of profiles to complete but we regularly add new countries and update information on existing profiles. What follows here is a sample of the page on work in Rwanda. If you can correct or add to this information, please contact us with details at worldconvclint@aol.com References for further information will be in the form of web sites and mailing addresses.

The central African country of Rwanda is a small landlocked country surrounded by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rwanda covers an area of more than 26,000 sq km (10,000 sq miles) and has a population nearing 9 million people. Among the earliest people in the area were the Twa Pygmies, a people group later displaced by the Hutus who began migrating into the country in the eleventh century. As the Tutsi people began to migrate to the area from northeastern Africa, present-day Sudan, in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the Hutus lost their primary position. In the nineteenth century Germany laid claim to the area but lost control to Belgium following World War I. Independence from Belgium came in 1962. Late in the twentieth century hostilities between the two historic tribes of Hutus and Tutsis reached new levels. In 1990 a small a cappella Churches of Christ congregation was known to exist in the Kigali Prefecture but with the outbreak of hostilities in 1994 current status of that congregation is unknown. Other relief organizations and individuals are known to have given short-term aid in Rwanda during the 1990s.

In 1990 a small a cappella Churches of Christ congregation was known to exist in the Kigali Prefecture but with the outbreak of hostilities in 1994 current status of that congregation is unknown. Other relief organizations and individuals are known to have given short-term aid in Rwanda during the 1990s.

Traditional religions are practiced by about a quarter of the population and include belief in a "supreme being" or spirit. Ancestors are remembered through sacrifices. Christianity is practiced by nearly three quarters of the population, the majority of these (65%) being Roman Catholic. A small minority are Muslim.

In 1990 a small a cappella Churches of Christ congregation was known to exist in the Kigali Prefecture but with the outbreak of hostilities in 1994 current status of that congregation is unknown. Other relief organizations and individuals are known to have given short-term aid in Rwanda during the 1990s.

For further reference:

Congregational information
Kigali Prefecture
BP 1317 Kigali, Rwanda
Mbarute N. Thassien
Quail Springs Church of Christ
14401 N. May Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73134-5099
Telephone: (405) 755-4790;
Fax: (405) 755-5981
Email: info@quailchurch.com
Website: www.quailchurch.org

For online directories of a cappella Churches of Christ see:
http://www.churchzip.com/otherdirectories.htm

Together in Christ
Nashville
Music City
July 30 - August 3
2008

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.
- If you have not made a gift this year, or have never made a gift, please mail your gift now.

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.

Thank you for your gift!

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- Credit card gifts are entered in SUS. Please indicate clearly if your gift is in another currency.
- Friends gifts from the USA are acknowledged in four groups:
  - Contributor - up to $75
  - Supporter - up to $125
  - Sustainer - up to $300
  - Benefactor - over $300
"Go and Preach, 'The Kingdom of Heaven is near!' Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons." (Matt 10:7-8) This commission which was given by Jesus to his twelve disciples was carried by Australian missionaries to this part of India in the beginning of the Twentieth Century and today is still continued in Ashwood Memorial Hospital at Daund, Maharashtra.

After the death of Francis Ashwood of the Chatswood Church of Christ in New South Wales, Australia, his wife and three spinster sisters fulfilled their wish to support medical mission work in India in his memory by giving a substantial donation. In 1927 the Ashwood Memorial Hospital was established in a small garage. The first Australian missionary doctor was George Bert Oldfield, subsequently followed by several other doctors and nurses who served the Lord until 1972. Since then Indian Christian doctors and nurses and other medical workers are continuing this service.

As wife of Dr. Philemon Pawar (Medical Superintendent) I have been privileged to bear witness and be part of this ministry since January 1982, for which I give thanks to our Lord. Many poor and needy people from all across the community, irrespective of their religion and caste, get treatment at a fair price. One can understand the level of poverty from the following true story.

Malan, a woman of 23 years, was admitted for her second pregnancy. Her first child was born by Caesarean section and this time also the baby was by Caesarean delivery. From the second day her husband and relatives stopped coming to the hospital and looking after her. The hospital donated all the medicines for her. The staff and some patients and their relatives gave her food. For almost 30 days she was all alone in the hospital waiting for her family. Nobody turned up. She was waiting for her husband to pay some of the hospital bill. At last her old mother came to the hospital and said that her husband had left the house and herself because he didn't have the money to pay the bill. So there was no other way than to send her home without taking any money. She went home with tears in her eyes and gratitude in her heart! There are so many women and men like this lady as they come to this hospital. Here they get love and compassion. They are also told about Jesus Christ.

In the last five years a new ministry among HIV-positive people has been started at Ashwood Hospital. A support group of more than 100 HIV/AIDS sufferers from Daund and surrounding villages was formed. They are encouraged, given love and compassion and a living hope in Jesus Christ. More than 80 percent of these people are young widows with small children, who are neglected by their relatives, but are accepted and cared for by hospital staff.

Many of them are coming very close to Christ. Every day in the morning devotions are made for all the patients and a bedside prayer in the evening by the hospital chaplain is very much appreciated by them.

Daund is a fast-growing city. Ashwood Memorial Hospital continues to serve the people mainly because of God's hand upon it.

In addition to the modern medical services Ashwood Memorial Hospital provides, the government has chosen Ashwood as an agency for community health work for eleven villages catering for a population of about 30,000. Accessibility to these villages is quite difficult due to poor roads. Ashwood Hospital has been asked to provide community awareness programs to help improve the health of women and children especially. Of the twelve zones in the Pune District, Ashwood is the only Christian hospital to be asked to pilot the Reproductive and Child Health Care Project. We praise God for this unusual and unique opportunity given to us for the healing ministry in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many future plans for the development of this hospital to give better care and service to the patients, for which we need your constant prayers and support.

Dr. Pawar (on left) with his team checking a new born baby.

In the fall of 1905 the Foreign Mission Committee of the Churches of Christ in Australia resolved to expand their overseas mission involvement by establishing a new work in Western India. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Strutton volunteered to set up a work at Baramati, Maharashtra State then a town of 8,000. In October of 2005 the Indian and Australian churches marked the centenary of that partnership in world mission. World Convention wishes to extend our warmest congratulations on reaching this historic milestone. J. Weston General Secretary.
What World Convention Does

The ministry of World Convention builds fellowship, understanding, common purpose, and effectiveness within the family of churches known as Christian, Churches of Christ and Disciples of Christ.

World Convention is creating a sense of continuing (every day) convention through:

- Publishing the quarterly, *World Christian*.
- Publishing the monthly email newsletter, *ChristiaNet*.
- Maintaining the World Convention web site which includes a growing number of national profiles (currently 100) of your church family’s witness.
- Promoting “World Convention Sunday” to provide a sense of family (first Sunday in August).
- Publishing *Exploring Our Destiny*—papers on the future of your global church family.
- Emphasising your church family’s unique story and witness through the writing of brochures and articles and by speaking.
- Awarding World Convention Citations that recognise the outstanding civic and church leadership of members.
- Appointing World Convention Ambassadors to advocate for the ministries of World Convention & lift up the heritage and destiny of your global church family.
- Strengthening networking through global correspondence and visiting.
- Emphasising links with other *Christian World Communions* and our place within the wider church through things like World Communion Sunday.
- And of course organising the *Quadrennial world conventions* for those who can attend.

Registration

17th World Convention Nashville, USA
“Together in Christ”
July 30 - August 3, 2008

Now is the time to register your interest in attending the 2008 World Convention. We will mail you information on the program as it is available.

Please print very clearly

- **Names** (Christian and family names as for name badges)

  (1) first __________________________ last __________________________

  (2) first __________________________ last __________________________

- **Contact information**

  Street ____________________________________________

  City/Town __________________________ State/province ____________

  Postal/zip code ____________ Country ________________

  Phone: Area code - ____________ Local number - ____________

- **Registration (check/tick)**

  ( ) Attending. (If we hope/plan to be there!)

  ( ) Non-attending. (Supporting; mailed materials)

Registration Fees:

Fees are per person.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>110.00 US</td>
<td>(must be aged 13 -25 years as at August 1, 2008)</td>
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<td>Children or family youth attending</td>
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- **Family (2 Adults and own Youth)**

  1. Paid before end of 2005 300.00 US
  2. Paid before end of 2006 340.00 US
  3. Paid before end of 2007 380.00 US
  4. Full registration (paid in 2008) 420.00 US

- **2/3rd World Countries**

  1. Paid before end of 2005 50.00 US
  2. Paid before end of 2006 55.00 US
  3. Paid before end of 2007 60.00 US
  4. Full registration (paid in 2008) 65.00 US

Method of Payment: Check/cheque _ or credit card _

Cheques (payable to World Convention) in US dollars only.

If paying by credit card please supply

Name on card: __________________________

Card type: Visa Mastercard Discover Dinners Club ______

Card number __________________________

Expiry date ______ / Signature ______

We can debit cards from any currency but our entries are in US dollars. We calculate exchange rates carefully but remember they will not be exact and credit card companies build in a margin.

Please mail this form to:
World Convention
P.O. Box 41487
NASHVILLE, TN 37204-1487
United States of America

Enter the TOTAL you are paying here: __________________________
Thank You Friends

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.

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Raymore Christian Church, Raymore, MO
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Dr Gail B & Mrs Carol Dunning, Louisville, MO

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James & Juanita Cope, San Francisco, CA
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Lorraine & Lyndsay Jacobs, Kinwee

New Zealand Diamond Campaign $1000 & up

Moorhouse Ave Trust, St Albans

Together in Christ
Nashville
Music City
July 30 - August 3 2008
In March this year the World Convention launched the Diamond Campaign to mark its 75th Anniversary, beginning with the first Global Gathering in Washington D.C. October 19-23, 1930. As at the end of September nearly $35,000 has been given and at least $2,500 more has been pledged by Friends of World Convention. We have nearly reached the halfway mark towards the goal of raising $75,000 in 2005! A special thanks goes out to all who have shown their love for the ministry of World Convention by joining thus far in reaching the goal. By way of update the following are a few interesting notes about giving to the Diamond Campaign:

Number of Friends giving/pledging to the Diamond Campaign: 125 including 1 agency and 2 congregations (more than 25 individuals have already given above and beyond their original pledge!)

Number of gifts from outside the US: Australia, 17; Canada, 2; Japan, 1; New Zealand, 1; India, 1; Haiti, 1.

Largest gift: $5,000

Gifts of $1,000 or more: 11 (and counting!)

In addition to raising funds the Diamond Campaign has also raised awareness of the World Convention and its role as a unifying entity within the Stone-Campbell Movement through the distribution of specially made bronze anniversary key rings, paperweights and several copies of the Stone-Campbell Encyclopedia. A press release detailing the 75th Anniversary and the Diamond Campaign was sent to dozens of periodicals across the United States and around the world. The Christian Standard, based in Cincinnati, Ohio and under the editorship of World Convention Board Member Mark Taylor, has notified us that they will be carrying the article in a future issue (it may have already been published by the time World Christian reaches you...watch ChristiaNet for an update).

There is still plenty of time to be a part of this historic and God-honoring effort. Inside this issue is a pre-addressed envelope for your convenience in making a year-end gift to World Convention. Friends who make a gift to the Diamond Campaign of $75 or more will be acknowledged with one of our anniversary key rings. A gift of $750 or more will be acknowledged with the donor’s choice of a World Convention crystal paperweight or a copy of the Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement. A complimentary registration to the 2008 Convention in Nashville will acknowledge the gift of $1000 or more to the Diamond Campaign.

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A Celebration Gift of $75 US or more.
Donors at this level will receive an appreciation gift of a 75th Anniversary Key Ring.

$750 US Diamond Donor Gift
Supporters at this level will receive an appreciation gift of your choice of a 75th Anniversary Desk Top Momento or a copy of the Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement. Please specify.

$1000 US Diamond Sponsorship
Donors at this level will receive one complementary registration to the 2008 World Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Please Note:
Your gifts maybe given in deposits up till the end of 2005.

Name: _____________________________
Address: ___________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________
Code: ________________
Country: ___________________________
Email: ____________________________

Please Mail to:
World Convention
P.O. Box 41487
Nashville, TN 37204-1487
USA

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2008

Anniversary Key Ring a gift to those who give $75 US or more.
Encyclopedia, a gift to those who give $750 US.
Washington D.C. Congregation Celebrates 75\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary

The historic National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Washington D.C. is celebrating its 75\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary in 2005. Formerly the Vermont Avenue Christian Church where President James A. Garfield was a regular in attendance, National City is marking the 75th anniversary of the dedication of their building at 5 Thomas Circle in the capitol of the United States. In the late 1920s a plea went out to members of the Stone-Campbell Movement to contribute funds to build a grand edifice in Washington, according to the dedication program, “as a symbol of faith in the abounding love and power of God... as an avenue for spreading the Gospel, and a place for the worship and work of God’s people.”

40,000 people from across the United States and around the world contributed funds for the structure.

National City Christian Church was dedicated at services culminating on the morning of October 19, 1930. At 3 p.m. that afternoon the first World Convention of Churches of Christ was opened with a celebration of the Lord’s Supper in both the Washington Auditorium and the National City Christian Church. Throughout that week National City played host for the first global gathering of the Stone-Campbell Movement.

October 22-23, 2005 has been slated for a 75\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Gala for the National City Christian Church and will culminate special celebrations that have occurred in the preceding months. World Convention’s General Secretary Jeff Weston has been invited to attend the celebration on behalf of the Stone-Campbell Movement worldwide. Dr. Peter M. Morgan, formerly President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, is currently serving as Interim Minister at National City. For further information on the celebration see the National City website at www.nationalcitycc.org.