10 Reasons to attend the next World Convention

Given that we are already inundated with encouragements to attend various conferences and seminars what makes the World Convention special and worthy of your time?

1. It is the only Global Gathering of churches with a heritage in the Stone-Campbell tradition. Although the 17th World Convention is to be conducted in Nashville, Tennessee it is not a U.S. event. Participants will come from all around the world. The 2004 Convention in Brighton, England attracted people from 40 countries.

2. The World Convention draws people from all church streams with a Stone-Campbell heritage. It is a one of a kind event when all members of the family are invited to gather in one place. The things that have brought division in the past are put to one side and we share our common desire for unity not uniformity in the body of Christ.

3. It is an opportunity to experience the rich blessings of the abundant giftedness and diversity God has placed within His Church. From the gift of beautiful a cappella praise worship to the exuberant and exciting worship of our Africa brothers and sisters, or quiet, contemplative spiritual reflection to loud up-tempo contemporary worship and praise, the World Convention offers something for everyone. Each morning there will be seven different forms of worship from which to choose and share.

4. Some of the best speakers from within our global family will share God’s word to build and encourage the Church.

5. Each day there will be an expansive choice of workshops to attend. You can follow a particular stream of thought over the time of Convention, or experience a different stream each day. All workshops will be lead by gifted communicators sharing God’s message for today.

6. A Global perspective will be shared. Hear first hand from national leaders and evangelists working in both the two-thirds world as well as developed countries. They will share from their unique perspectives the exciting and challenging things that God is doing.

7. Our three Bible Study leaders: Evangelist and Mission leader Ajai Lall from India; Church and Community leader B.J. Mpofu from Zimbabwe; and Women’s Ministry leader Rhonda Lowry from U.S. will share unique and encouraging perspectives from God’s word.

8. Nashville is known globally as the home of Country Music, and we can assure you that it will live up to its reputation during World Convention. However not just Country Music will be presented! You can expect a rich tapestry of some of the finest Christian music from around the world.

9. Your attendance will be an encouragement and a blessing to others. First, to the Nashville community as we share in a number of service projects over the week including building a Habitat for Humanity house. Also to the global family by meeting and encouraging those who will attend from around the world. Many attendees will be Pastors and Church leaders from countries where the church is not strong; other participants will be from countries where they face persecution and opposition to their mission and message. Just your presence will be an encouragement to many as they see that they are a part of a large family that stretches around the globe.

10. You will be encouraged, inspired and will make new friends around the world. What’s more you will discover a sense of the global family of the Stone-Campbell Movement.

The 17th World Convention will also be a historical gathering. We will share in the first communion service marking the bicentennial of Thomas Campbell writing the “Declaration and Address,” one of the foundational documents of our Movement. This promises to be a very moving experience as we remember again the principles upon which our Unity Movement was established.

Make sure to send in your registration form now to benefit from the discounts being offered. The World Convention is an event you do not want to miss!!!
Partner Profile

Disciples of Christ Historical Society
Nashville, Tennessee

Clinton J. Holloway

Among those who have joined with us in financially sponsoring the 2008 World Convention is the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Located in Nashville, Tennessee, World Convention and DCHS have already shared a long and fruitful partnership together in that from 1993 until 2001 the World Convention offices were located in the Society’s Phillips Memorial Building in Nashville. Not only do we have in common the same host city but World Convention and the Historical Society are among the oldest institutions in the Stone-Campbell Movement who share both an inclusive spirit and global worldview in promoting our heritage of the unity of God’s people.

Founded in 1941, Disciples of Christ Historical Society exists to serve the heirs of the Stone-Campbell tradition as a repository for the literature and artifacts of the Movement but it is more than just a library, archives and museum. The Historical Society is a place of hospitality where members of all three streams of the Movement in the United States as well as brothers and sisters from around the world are welcomed equally and are invited to share in our common heritage. “We have a powerful story of faith to tell,” according to President Dr. Glenn Carson. “Whether we are speaking of the personal faith of individual Christians, or the amazing stories of congregations past and present, we proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ is alive and at work among us.”

Among the Society’s holdings are publications; 35,000 missionaries and lay-people; countless artifacts and all preserved for the use of in a climate-controlled, fireproof volume and other biographical files of ministers, 25,000 congregational records, estimated 300,000 photographs researchers, scholars and historians environment.

where the “Spirit of Inquiry,” to nurtured, promoting a knowledge of the future. Carson says, “…We believe intimately connected. We love our about the generations still to come.”

Future of History.” In addition to materials, several ways DCHS include the publication of a historical papers, articles and teaching helps at their website http://discipleshistory.org/.

Another way is through lecture-ships, seminars and flagship conferences both in Nashville and throughout the United States. Local Church historians needing help writing their congregational history or taking care of their congregational records will be interested in the Society’s Stalcup Seminar for Local Church Historians and website tools for preserving congregational materials.

The next biennial Stalcup Seminar is scheduled for the fall of 2008. Through these activities the Society seeks to provide resources, foster community and extend the Movement’s witness.

All Attendees at the 2008 Convention in Nashville will want to set aside time for an opportunity to visit the Society housed in the wonderful Tudor Gothic T.W. Phillips Memorial Building. Completed in 1958, the building is one of the most architecturally significant structures in Nashville. Stone sculpture on the exterior and stained glass throughout depict our religious heritage as well as key moments and figures in the Stone-Campbell Movement. In the central courtyard is a cenotaph depicting bas-relief busts of Thomas and Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone and Walter Scott, the four men credited with much of the early impetus and thought for the American-segment of the Movement.

Those interested in the heritage of the Movement are invited to seek membership in the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. Privileges and benefits of membership include use of the Library and Archives for reading, research or writing, assistance with research questions or research projects and subscription to the Society’s publications. A searchable catalogue and indices to some periodicals are available free to internet users.

Disciples of Christ Historical Society is located at 1101 19th Avenue, South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212. Their telephone number is 615-327-1444. Email inquiries to mail@discipleshistory.org. They can be found on the web at http://discipleshistory.org/

Dr. Glenn Carson, an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is President. Vice President Sara Harwell is a member of the a capella Churches of Christ as is Public Services Archivist, Mac Ice. Curators Elaine Philpott and Rev. Sharman Hartson are active Disciples. The Board of Trustees is drawn from Christian – Churches of Christ –Disciples of Christ congregations across the United States. World Convention is pleased to have both Glenn Carson and Mac Ice serving on the Local Arrangements Committee of the 2008 Nashville Convention.

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Phone: +1 (615) 331-1824
Fax: +1 (615) 331-1864
Email: worldconv@adl.org
www.worldconvention.org
Executive Director:
Jeff Weston
Christian World Secretaries meet

In October the annual Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions was conducted in Rome, Italy. The meeting annually brings together world secretaries from a range of Christian traditions for fellowship and dialogue. This year’s dialogue centered on the topic of “Visions of Christian Unity”. Each secretary was asked to prepare a short report on the priorities of their communion and a statement on the vision of Christian unity held by their particular communion, these were shared and discussed by the group over the four days of their conference.

Secretaries of Christian World Communions

While the group recognized that physical unity of all Christian Churches was not a goal desired by all or attainable at this stage, it was something that we must continue to work at in accord with our Lord’s prayer in John 17:21. Much closer relationships have developed between many of the communions in recent years due to the levels of trust and acceptance that has been built through meetings such as this.

A highlight of the meeting was a personal invitation to meet with the Pope Benedict XVI. In an address to the group Pope Benedict stated; “I am glad to meet all of you here today, and to encourage you in your work. Every step towards Christian unity serves to proclaim the Gospel, and is made possible by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who prayed that his disciples might be one, “so that world may believe”. It is clear to us all that today’s world is in need of a new evangelization, a fresh accounting on the part of Christians for the hope that is in them (cf. 1 Peter 3:15). Yet those who profess that Jesus Christ is Lord are tragically divided and cannot always give a consistent common witness. Herein lies an enormous responsibility for us all… though there are many obstacles still to be overcome, we firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is ever present and will guide us along the right path. Let us continue our journey with patience and determination as we offer all our efforts to God, “through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever (Rom. 16:27)”.

The secretaries will meet next in Nairobi, Kenya following the proposed Global Leaders Forum to be conducted in November when leaders of the World Christian Communions will be invited to meet and discuss their relationships and cooperative approaches.

Executive Director of the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, Robert Welsh, was elected at the conference as chair for the next two years.

A further highlight for the group was an opportunity to share in the evening prayer service and meal of the St. Egidio Community. The Community began in 1968 when a group of students gathered in Rome to read the gospel together. In the slums outside the city, they came into contact with poor immigrants. The students got friendly with the immigrants and started helping their children to learn to read and write. This group of students has evolved into a lay movement of over 15,000 people involved in voluntary and unpaid service for peace and reconciliation in cities of more than twenty countries all over the world. The community meet in the small church of St. Egidio in Trastevere, where every evening prayers for the Community are held.

In the last few years, the Community of St. Egidio has been discovered by the media due to its peace initiatives for Mozambique, Algeria, Guatemala and the Balkans. It also has close relations with groups from many other countries who have been suffering for years due to injustice and war - Lebanon, El Salvador, Armenia, Burundi and the Horn of Africa. Our evening meal was presented in the very room were the Mozambique peace talks were moderated by the community. Almost all the community are people in full-time secular employment, but who are committed to fully sharing their life and resources with the needy. It was a wonderful time of fellowship for the secretaries as we shared with this humble and gentle Christian community.
Do you know that there are Stone - Campbell Churches in Cuba?

The history of the Stone-Campbell Movement in Cuba can be traced back over one hundred years, to the earliest days of Cuban independence. The Spanish-American War piqued the interest of the American people in the island neighbour to the south and the Foreign Christian Missionary Society capitalized upon that interest by sending Mr. and Mrs. Lowell C. McPherson and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Menges to Havana in the fall of 1899. Upon arrival in the city the missionaries began renting quarters and were soon making friend among the Americans and Cubans. Initially attendance was small but interest was good enough that soon a number of baptisms were reported. A Sunday school was opened and a day school teaching English was not far behind. One difficulty encountered was the high turn over in American soldiers which meant an unstable English speaking congregation. Also the effects of the war were particularly felt by the native peoples. Opposition from the Catholic clergy was also strong.

From 1899 until the work was closed in about 1916 a dozen missionaries were sent to Cuba by the Foreign Society. In the end the work was turned over to the Presbyterian Board of Missions and the buildings were sold to them for $18,000. Despite the difficulties associated with the work in Cuba there were those who for the next several years advocated continued efforts in Cuba.

In 1937 two Cubans who had been living in Florida –Ernesto Estevez and Jose Ricardo Jimenez- returned to their island and established a cappella congregations modelled after those they had witnessed in the United States. This indigenous work grew rapidly in pre-Communist Cuba soon reaching 5,000 members in 161 congregations, many meeting in homes. But with the advent of Castro's Communist regime some church buildings were destroyed, home meetings were forbidden, and Christians were persecuted. Within ten years that number was reduced to only seven legally approved groups. In 1990 the membership of these seven legal (and one illegal group) numbered about 400 with nine native preachers serving the needs of the body. In addition a military congregation met at the military base at Guantanamo Bay.

With the fall of communism elsewhere in the world the religious climate in Cuba also began to change. Soon American and Canadian evangelists began making trips into Cuba, campaigns began to be conducted, students were being enrolled in Bible correspondence courses, receptivity to the Gospel began to grow and several hundred, if not thousands, were baptized in the 1990s. The Church of Christ became officially registered in Cuba and Basilio Roberto Flores is listed as president. Though there are still many restrictions the government did recently allow a new building to be built in Matanzas. The May 2000 census of Churches of Christ shows 105 active congregations with a membership of 3500. In March of 2001 550 people attended the Third Annual Cuban Churches of Christ Lectureship which had the historic precedent of being conducted in the Cuban national capital building.

In about 1996 the American Christian Churches and Churches of Christ agencies Hasten International (under the direction of Dr. Dennis Pruett) and White Fields Evangelism (under the direction of Reggie Thomas) began a cooperative effort in order to secure a foothold in Cuba. These efforts were soon augmented by the addition of Peace on Earth Ministries (POEM under the direction of Victor Knowles). The combined efforts have produced a bible school in Havana and the establishment of the Christian Churches in Cuba, though not officially registered. The combined efforts have produced a bible school in Havana and the establishment of the Christian Churches in Cuba, though not officially registered by the government. During the first year of the church’s existence in Cuba 163 people were baptized and nine students were enrolled in Bible correspondence courses. The combined efforts have produced a bible school in Havana and the establishment of the Christian Churches in Cuba, though not officially registered by the government. During the first year of the church’s existence in Cuba 163 people were baptized and nine students were enrolled in Bible correspondence courses.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) financially support work in Cuba through the Pentecostal Church in Cuban and the Ecumenical Council of Cuba and were recently recognized for their ecumenical activity in Cuba.

Clinton J. Holloway
National Profiles Editor

An except from our World Convention National Profiles. The full text can be found on our Website www.worldconvention.org

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.
-Lifting up daily global prayer through our prayer network, 11:11, Get Connected.
-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 Form

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

Now is the time to register your interest in attending the 2008 World Convention.

Please print very clearly

• **Name/s** (Christian and family names as for name badges)

  (1) first _____________________________ last ______________________________________

  (2) first _____________________________ last ______________________________________

Please tick box if you are a Youth Registrant (must be aged 13 -25 years as at August 1 2008) □

Children or family youth attending (age: August 1, 2008)

_________________________________ (     ) _______________________________ (     )

_________________________________ (     ) _______________________________ (     )

• **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)

**Registration Fees:**

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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<td>2. Paid before end of 2007</td>
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<td>3. Full Registration (paid 2008)</td>
<td>200.00 US</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spouse paid when registering with partner</td>
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<td>Youth 13 years – 25 years</td>
<td>110.00 US (no further discount)</td>
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<td>Seminarian</td>
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Family (2 Adults and own Youth)

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2/3rd World Countries

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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 ____ Diners 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.

Our Sponsorship Partners

[Logos of Disciples Of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Of Christ Historical Society]

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Enter the TOTAL you are paying here:

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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 October.

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We need your gift today in order to maintain this global work of unity.

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Together in Christ
Music City
July 30 - August 3
2008
New Stone - Campbell Resources

A Future History: Christianity for the Next Generation

Is the new book from Dr. Glenn Thomas Carson. This book features four central ideas for the health and well-being of the Stone-Campbell movement. It will enrich your own spiritual life and also makes a great gift for friends and family.

Each book is only $5.00 plus $2.00 shipping and handling (for orders of 10 or more: $3.50 each). Call Marlene Patterson (615) 327-1444 for shipping costs for multiple copies.

Order your copy today at mail@discipleshistory.org
(We will have a review of this book in the next edition of World Christian)

Dialogue Study Guide

A sixteen-member task force (five persons from each stream of the Stone-Campbell movement, plus the Executive Director of World Convention) has been established for the purpose of promoting a worldwide celebration of the bicentenary of Thomas Campbell’s foundational document in 2009. It will also be marking the 100th anniversary of the “Centennial Celebration” in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (October 1909) where over 50,000 Christians and Disciples gathered for a giant outdoor communion service in Forbes Field. The task force has proposed that the closing service of World Convention will be the kickoff event for a year of celebration culminating on October 18, 2009 when congregations who are part of the Stone-Campbell family around the world will join in using common prayers, litanies, and hymns to celebrate a “Great Communion Sunday.”

To help congregations to prepare for participating in this Bicentenary Celebration, a Study Manual for Local Dialogue has been developed by the Stone-Campbell Dialogue in the United States to encourage local contact, learning and sharing around our hopes today – and for the future. This Study Manual is available on-line at http://www.disciples.org/ccu/pdf/studyguide.pdf.

Have you joined your global Prayer Network - 11:11 - Get Connected

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 friends 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 Church’s mission outreach support?

Please send your support today.

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More New Sponsor Partners Join the Team

We are pleased to add to our World Convention sponsor partner team Greenwood Cemetery Inc. of Nashville who have generously funded the cost of our Volunteer Recruitment brochure. Greenwood is owned and operated by the National Christian Missionary Convention Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will once again sponsor the Ministers Lunch at World Convention. The Pension Fund have undertaken this support at several past World Conventions and we are most grateful to them. We are also pleased to welcome the support of the Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who will sponsor our opening night speaker Cynthia Hale and website registration.

We are still in need of more sponsors. We especially need one more major event sponsor plus two sponsors for our keynote speakers. A number of smaller sponsorships for workshops and events are also available. We would also appreciate the sponsorship of any Church or individual for the special communion service which also mark the Bicentenary of Thomas Campbell writing the “Declaration and Address”.

If you can assist or know of someone we could invite to join our sponsor team please advise the World Convention Office.

Scholarship Fund Established

We are pleased to announce that a Scholarship Fund has been established in order to assist people from two-third countries who may have a difficulty finding enough funds to attend the World Convention. The scholarship will attempt to fund air-travel, accommodation and meals.

We are hoping that many Churches will see this as a way they can financially support a two-third world delegate to be exposed to the wider Church. It is our hope that an invitation will also be extended to those sponsored to spend time with funding Churches prior to attending convention.

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