Korean Churches Celebrate 75th Anniversary

Former World Convention President passes

Australian guitarist to headline convention concert
Power for Pressurized People

Now Available Through Convention Office

A devotional study on Paul’s letter to the Church at Colosse, Power for Pressurized People is a new book now available from the office of World Convention, written by Executive Director, Jeff Weston.

“As a local Church practitioner the Pastoral Letters of the Apostle Paul have always been of interest to me,” says the author, “in them we find something of the development of the early Church, its struggles, challenges, misunderstandings, victories and hope.” By reading the letter to the Colossian Church we get a glimpse of the pastoral heart of the Apostle as Paul attempts to correct and yet encourage the local Church leaders. In a series of ten studies Jeff Weston brings out these themes as a way of encouraging believers today. Particularly, those who have experience in roles of leadership or active involvement in the local church will be able to identify with the material presented and will benefit from the studies, hence the title theme: power for people who feel the pressures of the world and the local church.

The book grew out of a five-part series Jeff was invited to prepare for the Marion Church of Christ, South Australia and his own personal study. Later these small group studies were expanded into a refresher course for pastors of the Vanuatu Churches of Christ in the South Pacific and further developed as a Wednesday evening study for First Christian Church of Nashville. Dr. C. Robert Wetzel, President of Emmanuel School of Religion, and 2008 World Convention President, says of the book and its’ author, “Jeff has proven himself to be an effective Christian leader;” in this book “Jeff draws upon his considerable ministerial experience and his understanding of the church as the Body of Christ in presenting this study of the Colossian letter.”

The 118 page soft bound book includes both the author’s reflections as well as questions for further study and personal reflection that makes it an appropriate tool for both small group study and personal devotion. Publication of the book is made possible through the generous support of Dr. Glenn T. Carson and the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. It can be purchased through the Convention office for $10 (US) postage paid or a complimentary copy will be sent for a gift of $30 (US) to the ministry of World Convention.

Clinton J. Holloway

Ebook to be available in November

Last year we were amazed with the response to Jeff Weston’s highly successful ebook “The Traditions of Christmas.” The book has been updated and expanded for 2007. This small book is available only on-line, it will not be available in hard copy print. It is available free of charge by sending your email address to worldconv@aol.com In the book Jeff traces the origin of many of the customs and symbols we use in our Christmas celebrations.
Forrest Haggard, Former WC President Passes

Clinton J. Holloway

Dr. Forrest D. Haggard, 82, President of the 1980 World Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, died on August 11, 2007 following a long illness. His wife and partner in ministry, Eleanor, 81, passed away on August 21, 2007. Both had been in declining health for some time. Becoming Convention President upon the death of Barnett Blakemore, Forrest Haggard presided over the tenth assembly of the Convention, which was also the fiftieth anniversary Convention, the first Convention having been held in Washington in 1930. His Presidential Address on the opening night of the Convention was “Sharing the Word With the World.”

For many years an active and influential supporter of the Convention, Forrest was the minister of the Overland Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Overland, Kansas. When he took on that ministry the congregation was made up of thirty people meeting in a movie theatre. Under his leadership the church grew to several thousand and became one of the largest Disciples congregations in the US.

A prolific author and world traveler Dr. Haggard was in demand as a speaker for many religious and fraternal events. He held executive positions of leadership in both national and international organizations and the Church. Forrest and Eleanor were the parents of three children. Their daughter, Katherine Ann Haggard Perry, has continued her parents’ involvement in World Convention serving on the Executive Board. A public memorial service was held September 8, 2007 at Overland Park Christian Church, Kansas City.

Those wishing to send memorials to World Convention may contribute to the permanent fund established by the Haggards. Please designate your gift to the “Dr. Forrest and Eleanor Haggard Endowment Fund.”

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.

Use this form to send your gift:

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The World is coming to the 17th World Convention

What about YOU? Register now while discounts apply.
Korean Churches Celebrate 75 years

A crowd estimated at 7,000 packed into the Olympic Hall in Seoul, South Korea on August 6 for the opening service to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Christian Church – Churches of Christ. The theme for the celebration was “Return to the Bible!” Keynote speaker for the opening celebration was Dr. Robert Schuler of the Crystal Cathedral California, USA. Greetings were shared by a range of South Korean key religious leaders including Dr. Paul Yongi Choe minister of the world’s largest single congregation, Yoido Full Gospel Church, with a membership of 750,000. Dr. Choe attended the opening celebration and shared his greeting in person.

It was the quality and number of young people present which spoke loudest of the health of the Korean Churches and efforts to plant the Gospel in the difficult circumstances of the past. An estimated 2,500 young people attended the three day celebration. A highlight for the youth was an afternoon musical program which was broadcast on a national station.

Dr. Yoon Kwon Chae headed-up the organizing committee and was ably assisted by many including President of Seoul Christian University Dr. Kang-pyung Lee. A large number of young people presented some wonderful music and dance items over the three days. (See photo on front cover.)

A very moving part of the celebration was the honoring of those who pioneered the work and those who have continued to labor for many years to plant the Gospel. Each was presented with a special medallion to commemorate the celebration however it was the wonderful acclamation from those assembled which moved many to tears of joy.

Special guest speakers from the United States included Dr. Alan Ahlgrim - President of the North American Christian Convention, Marsha Relyea Miles - President of the National Missionary Convention, Dr. Bob Hudson Pastor of Christ’s Church at Georgetown Fort Wayne, Indiana and Jeff Weston – Executive Director of World Convention.

The meetings closed with a wonderful time of worship praising God for His graciousness and empowering over the 75 years but looking forward to future opportunities to share the gospel.
Partner Profile:

Global Ministries

Clinton J. Holloway

World Convention is pleased to spotlight our partner in world missions and a financial sponsor for the 2008 Nashville gathering, Global Ministries. The Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) together with Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ constitutes Global Ministries. Global Ministries has Co-Executives with Cally Rogers-Witte from the UCC joining David A. Vargas President of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (DOC), a native of Puerto Rico and member of the World Convention Executive Board.

Global Ministries bears witness to the Disciples’ vision “to be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.” DOM/Global Ministries has adopted a “Critical Presence” priority to their missions endeavors; critical presence is defined as a timely and appropriate way of meeting God’s people and creation at a point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically. In the implantation of this strategic direction or approach priority is given to ministries of acompanamiento (being there, in various forms and modes of presence) to and with people in critical situations throughout the world.

With it’s headquarters split between Indianapolis, Indiana, and Cleveland, Ohio, Global Ministries carries out and supports the historic Disciples-related mission activities, some dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. Present missionaries and mission personnel are commissioned to function in two primary areas of focus: healthcare and capacity-building, that is, leadership and community social infrastructure development leading to self-sufficiency. Global Ministries works in and maintains offices related to their ministry in Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Middle East/Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean and Southern Asia. In recent years special interest has been shown in responding to the Tsunami in Southeast Asia and East Africa, racial/ethnic constituency education and development and child sponsorship programs. One report to the local churches calls Global Ministries “Your link to God’s work in the world today.”

World Convention is pleased to share and participate in the ministry of linking together God’s work in the world today with Global Ministries and appreciates Global Ministries financial sponsorship for the 2008 Convention in Nashville. The Convention theme “Together in Christ” was never more appropriate. For more detailed information on the work of Global Ministries see their website at www.globalministries.org

Have you changed your address and not advised us?

We had over 200 issues of the last World Christian returned to us because of change of address. It cost money every time a World Christian is returned. Please advise us of your change of address.
Tour options for the 17th World Convention are now available. They offer some great opportunities to see this beautiful country and experience the rich heritage of the birthplace of the Stone-Cambell Churches. All tours are being conducted by Goodtime Travel Tours a Christian tour company with a fine reputation of offering value for money and great hospitality. For more information on tours contact Jerry Masterson email: jmasterson@goodtimetravel.net or ring (800) 606-7103.

Pre Convention Overnight Tours

The “Big Apple”: New York, NY July 22-28

Everyone needs to visit New York at least once. And if you have gone before, you likely want to return to experience the grandeur and the excitement of one of the world’s greatest cities. You will anticipate and prepare for your New York visit as you ride through the beautiful countryside of Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Once in “the city”, you will have an option of a personally guided tour, a “go on your own” excursion, or a combination of the two. Either way, you will enjoy New York as you never imagined. Highlights include: lunch at Tavern on the Green, the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island, a Broadway Musical, complete tours of Manhattan and Brooklyn with 48-hour On/Off Gray Line Sightseeing buses, Fifth Avenue shopping, and everything else in and about New York, including Ground Zero and St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

This tour departs from Millennium Hotel Nashville and includes transportation, six nights’ lodging, Gray Line sightseeing transportation, and five meals.

Price per person:
  Single lodging ($1,759); Double ($1,449); Triple ($1,259)

Stone-Campbell Heritage Tour July 26-29

What a fitting beginning or ending to your attendance at the World Convention! This tour gives you the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study the lives and teachings of our spiritual forefathers in the settings in which they worked.

You will visit Cane Ridge and worship in the meeting house where Barton Stone and others signed the Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery; you’ll pass through Mays Lick where Walter Scott lived and is buried; you will spend a full day at Bethany with guided tours through Alexander Campbell’s house, the church building where he preached, the school he established, and the cemetery where he and family members are buried.

This tour is not just about “seeing.” It is also about hearing, discussing, and learning. You will gain a greater understanding of who we are today in our communities, and you will be challenged to think seriously about what we should be together in the future.

This tour departs from Millennium Hotel Nashville and includes transportation, three (3) nights’ lodging, eight (8) meals, and all admissions fees.

Price per person:
  Single lodging ($719); Double ($599); Triple ($579); Quad ($549)

The United States Capital: Washington, D.C. July 22-28

Washington, D.C. is a center of world power. It demonstrates our present and our past in its monuments, museums, and government buildings. It is packed with famous sights and treasures that inspire millions from around the world to visit each year.

This trip to Washington includes a guided city tour with an opportunity to visit Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, Ford’s Theater, and the memorials for Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and the veterans of World War 2, Korea, and Vietnam. You’ll walk in front of the White House, tour the Nation’s Capitol, and marvel at the majestic National Cathedral. We’ll make a special stop at the National City Christian Church and make out-of-town excursions to Mount Vernon (home of George Washington) and Monticello (home of Thomas Jefferson). This trip is one that you will never forget!
Post Convention Tours

Stone-Campbell Heritage Tour
August 4-7
What a fitting beginning or ending to your attendance at the World Convention! This tour gives you the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study the lives and teachings of our spiritual forefathers in the settings in which they worked.

You will visit Cane Ridge and worship in the meeting house where Barton Stone and others signed the Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery; you’ll pass through Mays Lick where Walter Scott lived and is buried; you will spend a full day at Bethany with guided tours through Alexander Campbell’s house, the church building where he preached, the school he established, and the cemetery where he and family members are buried.

This tour is not just about “seeing.” It is also about hearing, discussing, and learning. You will gain a greater understanding of who we are today in our communities, and you will be challenged to think seriously about what we should be together in the future.

This tour departs from the Millennium Hotel Nashville and includes transportation, three (3) nights’ lodging, eight (8) meals, and all admissions fees.

Price per person:
Single lodging ($719); Double ($599); Triple ($579); Quad ($549)

Niagara Falls and Ohio Treasures
Aug. 4 – 8
The three Niagara Falls are wonders of the world! You have read about them, heard others talk about them, so now see them for yourself. Hear their mighty roar and feel their power. Witness this unique demonstration of the splendor of God’s powerful creation. In addition to walking alongside the Falls, you will board the Maid of the Mist to see the Falls from the water and then have dinner in Skylon Tower high above the Falls. All of these perspectives make this trip unforgettable.

On our return to Nashville, you will spend time in the Amish country of Ohio where you will meet the largest concentration of Amish in the United States. Our stop among the Amish includes Warther Carvings and a narrated Ohio canal boat ride.

This tour departs from the Millennium Hotel Nashville and includes transportation, four (4) nights’ lodging, eight (8) meals, and all admissions fees.

Price per person:
Single lodging ($1,169); Double ($899); Triple ($839); Quad ($789)

U.S. National Parks
Aug. 4 – 18
Thoughts of the late 19th century "wild, wild west” in the U.S. capture the imaginations of people worldwide. This spectacular trip across 15 states travels through the American west and spotlights the beauty and splendor of several National Parks.

Among the places you will visit are Palo Duro Canyon, the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Salt Lake City and Tabernacle Square, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Deadwood and the Black Hills, Badlands National Park, and Mount Rushmore. Truly, you will see more that you have heard and read about than we can possibly mention.

This tour departs from the Millennium Hotel Nashville and includes transportation, thirteen (13) nights’ lodging, 16 meals, and all admissions fees.

Price per person:
Single lodging ($3,199); Double ($2,419); Triple ($2,199); Quad ($2,029)
Clinton Holloway

World Convention is pleased to announce another fantastic addition to our line-up for the 2008 World Convention in Nashville. Australian guitarist and superstar Tommy Emmanuel has been booked to give a full concert at our Saturday entertainment on the evening of August 2nd. Nashville is now Tommy’s home base from which he travels around the world, playing throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. Tommy, a committed Christian, will perform alongside a number of other Nashville area Christian singers and songwriters. Tommy is very open about sharing his faith in the media and in interviews. Jeff Weston, Executive Director of World Convention and himself an Australian, says “It will be a thrill to have Tommy share his talents with us at Convention and will be a great source of pride for the Australian Delegation to ‘share’ Tommy with the World.” In his native Australia ‘Tommy Emmanuel’ is a household name.

In addition to his extensive touring, Tommy has sixteen recordings to his credit plus he is an accomplished record producer and music arranger having performed and worked with some of the biggest name entertainers in the rock and country genres on both stage and television screen. He has released two live-performance DVD’s as well as two guitar instructional DVDs. Voted Rolling Stone (Australia) Magazine’s “Most Popular Guitarist,” Tommy has been nominated for two Grammy Awards. In 2000 an estimated 2.25 billion people worldwide experienced Tommy’s talents when he played for the Closing Ceremonies of the Sydney Olympics. Your paid registration to the 17th World Convention will guarantee you a seat at the Nashville Convention Center for the Saturday night Concert; another great reason to come to World Convention! To learn more about Tommy and his music visit his website at www.tommyemmanuel.com

Have YOU registered for World Convention?

Discounts will end soon.

Three ways to register:
1. Go on line at www.worldconvention.org and click on the registration brochure.
2. Send in by mail the registration form found in the last World Christian.
3. Contact World Convention office and request a registration form be mailed to you.

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