

**WORLD CONVENTION  
(CHRISTIAN – CHURCHES OF CHRIST – DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

*Jeff Weston, General Secretary/Executive Director*  
1279 Brentwood Highlands Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37211  
Telephone (615) 331 1824, Fax (615) 331 1864  
E-mail: worldconv@aol.com Web site: www.worldconvention.org

World Convention provides both the opportunity and means of sharing between churches and individuals within the Stone-Campbell family of churches around the world.

It seeks to build up fellowship, understanding and common purpose within this global church family on an everyday basis, and through quadrennial conventions. Our ministry in the last year has consisted of:

- a) Publishing the global magazine "World Christian".
- b) Publishing the monthly email newsletter, "ChristiaNet".
- c) Maintaining the World Convention web site which includes a growing number of national descriptions of your church family's witness.
- d) Emphasizing your church family's unique story and witness through the writing of articles and by speaking in Churches and assemblies.
- e) Lifting up daily global prayer through our prayer network, "11: 11 - Get Connected".
- f) Strengthening networking through global correspondence, visiting and networking with leaders from various countries and 'streams' within the movement.
- g) Maintaining links with other Christian World Communions.
- h) Organizing the quadrennial World Convention global gathering.

The 17th World Convention was conducted in Nashville, Tennessee, July 30 - August 3. The theme was "Together in Christ," emphasizing the foundational principles of the World Convention. A steering committee comprising representatives from the three streams planned the convention under the leadership Dr C. Robert Wetzel. The opening night speaker was Cynthia Hale from Ray of Hope Christian Church. Many exciting options were on offer including 46 workshops which were each presented twice. There was a strong "missional" emphasis present in all aspects of the program. New initiatives included participation in both local and international mission projects, including the construction of two house frames to be used by Habitat for Humanity and the internal painting of a local High School gymnasium. Comprehensive and creative youth and children's programs were provided. The closing communion service included a celebration of the bicentennial of Thomas Campbell's writing of the "Declaration and Address" and the induction of new President Mr. B. J. Mpofu from Zimbabwe. Six major sponsors formed partnerships with us to facilitate the World Convention, however we still had a deficit of around \$17,000 due to the smaller than anticipated number of registrations. In total we believe that around 3,000 people attended at least one of the events at World Convention.

We praise God that 10 overseas leaders from two-third countries were able to be sponsored to the convention. Many of these people have never had an opportunity to travel outside their own country. They were encouraged to be able to share with likeminded brothers and sisters from around the world. Our preconvention event the Global Leaders' Forum featured many resources available to Church leaders today including, print, video and computer tools. Each two third leader was given a large parcel of these resources to take home with them.

The Global Women Connecting retreat attracted 75 participants and was viewed as a great success in drawing women from all three streams of the movement.

The 18th World Convention will be conducted in Goiania, Brazil, July 2012. The theme will be Sharing the Love that Unites based upon Romans 15: 5&6.

This past year we published a revised edition of "The Traditions of Christmas". This popular book written by our General Secretary/Executive Director Jeff Weston is an e-book, it is made available at no cost. Two books written by Clinton Holloway were released at the 17th World Convention. The first titled "Together in Christ, A History of the World Convention of Churches of Christ 1930-2008" is a synopsis of each of the seventeen global gatherings of the World Convention. It sells for \$5.00 plus shipping. The second book "Lest We Forget, Meditations at the Meal of Remembrance" is a collection of 75 meditations for use in the local church's observance of the Lord's Supper. The cost is \$11 plus postage. Both these books are available from our Nashville office. Clinton Holloway was also a joint editor of the book "One Church, A Bicentennial Celebration of Thomas Campbell's Declaration and Address". This book is the spring board for discussion on the relevance of the *Declaration and Address* for today's church. Jeff Weston also wrote a Communion Meditation in the book.

We continue to develop profiles on the 180 countries where the Stone-Campbell movement has witness. Historian Clinton Holloway has researched and now written profiles on 125 countries. These have all been posted on our web site.

A new aspect of our ministry has been the development of mentoring relationships with a number of Church leaders and Pastors of two-third world Churches. Many of these folk are in isolated locations and lack pastoral support. Executive Director Jeff Weston has maintained a relationship via email, personal mail and visits. At present pastors from six countries are in the program. Jeff Weston has undertaken teaching ministry in Brazil and Australia this past year. We receive many invitations for Jeff to visit and teach overseas.

Of major disappointment for us has been the inability of Jeff and Rosemary Weston to obtain Permanent Residency status in the United States. As their current work permits conclude in 2009 they have decided to conclude their ministry with us and return to Australia. The Weston's returned to Australia on April 22, 2009. At present the Board is considering our future direction in light of this decision. We believe God is in control and we must trust seeking direction and guidance for the future.

Due to the high production costs we have revised our magazine "World Christian". It is now produced as an e-document and is available for download as a PDF file from our web site or via email. For those without electronic access we provide at minimal cost print copies.

The existence of World Convention is a constant reminder to all within our movement that the church is universal and that all those with roots in the 19th Century Restoration Movement are bound together through a common heritage and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Unity (in order that we might effectively represent the Gospel) is our polar star. Everything we do as individual Christians and as the Church, we must do with the understanding that we are a part of the one Body of Jesus Christ.