



INLAND STREAM

INLAND WEST USA MISSION CENTER NEWS

Inland Stream Fall/Winter 2015-2016

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“Let the Spirit Breathe” by Brad A. Martell, Mission Center President

Move but an inch out of yourself. Now another. A bit more. Make a small, open space. Deep within. Opening from the inside out. Receiving from the outside in. A flicker of feathery wing. Descending and fluttering. Widen the space. Draw breath down into your being. A breeze. A letting in of air, expanding. Hands move. Opening to the touch. Inviting God's grace and love. Flowing. Move but an inch out of yourself. Now another. A bit more. Make a small, open space. Let the Spirit breathe. ~ BAM, 2014



In the last couple of months I have read and re-read my thoughts often. I wrote this (what would you call it? . . . a devotion,? a prayer) in my journal about 2 years ago. I don't remember the exact moment that inspired me. Was it during a spiritual retreat with my former ministry team? Or, did I sit at the dining room table with my early morning coffee simply journaling? I do recall another voice saying "Move but an inch." Was that literally someone there next to me? Or, a residual part of a conversation or worship moment I had had the day before, or a week prior, or even further into the past. I don't remember, but I'm grateful for whoever it might have been.

What I do know is that God has never forgotten that moment or any moment in my life. I have had times when I feel God's Spirit has abandoned me. Or God is too busy elsewhere flowing through the lives and moments of others. But my "delusions" are never true. I allow my fears and the inconsequential demands of life to paint pictures of the world that are ridged, askew, and limiting. At times I have inside my head my own little fearful art gallery that keeps the Spirit from breathing through me. That keeps the Spirit out. That keeps the Spirit from flowing, expanding, filling me abundantly. Recently I've had no power to keep my art gallery in business.

In the midst of starting as the new Inland West Mission Center President, November 1, 2015; completing a year's worth of house projects in a few weeks and still having a full Thanksgiving dinner; relocating from Independence, MO, to Spokane, WA, a week before Christmas; and trying to keep my head above the proverbial stormy and calm waters of life; God's Spirit has buoyed up Lori and me beyond imagining. We have been showered by so much grace, love, joy, and peace. Within the maze of moving boxes new friendships bloomed with our movers. I never would have dreamed that professional movers could make a transition joyful, deeply connecting, and fun. There was a spontaneous lasagna dinner with neighbors after another long day of painting, grouting tile, and installing a stone path through a garden. Precious friends bringing pizza for a balmy December picnic on our third floor balcony. And future house warming gifts from cherished old friends. And on the very day that we loaded up the cars and pulled out of the drive way (being over 7 hours behind schedule) there was a spontaneous game of playing Star Wars with the neighbor kids. I think I've invented the first snow shovel lightsaber and stuffed sleeping bag shields. That day we were all on the side of the Force!

These moments I will not soon forget. At a crazy time, Lori and I managed to find abundant moments of "moving but an inch out of ourselves." God promises the gustiness and serenity of God's Spirit. We are promised new life EVERYDAY in Christ's Mission. Starting a new year is like turning the page of a book as you read a captivating story. You don't want to stop reading for anything. Our lives are exiting, painful, joyful, mysterious, crushing, suspenseful, serene, challenging, the same mundane stuff each day, hubristic, crazy, and transformational in little and big ways.

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Do we pay attention to those moments of Spirit in our lives when we share a brief smile or say hello to a stranger? Pay attention to the Spirit fluttering in a pair of Purple finches feeding worms into the bottomless pits of 3 hatchlings? Pay attention to a moment of generosity when we go to the hardware store having discovered we forgot our wallet and only have \$7.48 in change when we actually need \$15.98 for our purchase. And the stranger behind us steps up and offers to pay the full amount as a gift. Or paying attention when the spark ignites a stranger's dead battery (and the look of gratefulness in their eyes) in the parking lot outside of a grocery store late at night?

To paraphrase one of my favorite theologians (Douglas John Hall) which a dear friend introduced me to in one of my very first seminary courses: Everyday of our lives we are called to turn to Christ, to have daily conversion to the life and mission of Jesus. Like the first disciples we need daily reminders of how to follow the ways of Christ. TO BE PRESENT IN ALL THE MOMENTS OF LIFE that seem so mundane but in reality are bursting forth with opportunities of God's blessings. We have short memories. We have too many things demanding our attention. We get caught up in the "doing" and forget that we also have to be about the "being." The New Year is before us. How are we going to embody Christ's Mission for the next 365 days? Or, in the very next moment . . .

My prayer is for Christ's joy, hope, love, and peace to continue to abundantly bless you this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Let the Spirit Breathe!

Save the dates for 2016 Reunions!

- ◇ Echo Valley: June 2-9
- ◇ Samish Island: July 2-9
- ◇ Cascade: July 6-10
- ◇ Red Cliffe: to be determined

Meet Bill McFarlin the New Inland West Mission Center Financial Officer

Bill McFarlin is a Bishop and our Mission Center Financial Officer (MCFO) as well as MCFO for the Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center and an Administrative Support Minister for the USA Mission Field. His ministerial passions include health (relational, individual, congregational and denominational), understanding contemporary culture, providing ministry to older adults, and seeing the big picture yet managing the details. Bill's undergraduate education was at Graceland College, and he received a doctorate from Palmer College of Chiropractic. More recently, he received a master's in Christian ministry from Graceland University. Bill is married to Beth, and they have two adult children.



Contributions Update

- **October contributions:**
\$1,020,000
- **Year-to-date as of November 18, 2015:**
\$9,870,000 (1.3 percent below \$10,000,000 year-to-date goal)

World ministries mission tithes for October reached \$1,020,000. That brought tithing totals for the year to \$9,870,000, which is 1.3 percent below the year-to-date goal. As we move the end of the year we anticipate a continued outpouring of generosity to support the church's worldwide mission.

Last year in an amazing outpouring of generosity, members and friends of Community of Christ gave \$1.9 million in worldwide mission tithes during December. World Church leaders were grateful for this wonderful blessing, which provided insights into our capacity to share when we focus on opportunities for mission.

Can we exceed that number this year? We believe the answer is yes!

We challenge each member to give in December what you gave last year—and prayerfully consider giving even a small amount more.

If each contributor gives just \$10 more than last year, and if new contributors join the effort, the total for December 2015 could exceed \$2,000,000! What an incredible blessing that would be as we seek to restore—and grow—ministries around the world. Will you accept the challenge?

Mark Euritt, *Multi-nations Team bishop*; David Nii, *USA bishop*; Dar Shepherdson, *Canada bishop*

Three Goals and a Perpetual Journey

By John Chatburn

Many of you have heard my childhood story of my three grand aspirations in life. The first was to work for the church. The second was to move to Montana. The final aspiration was to marry a doctor. Some people may say that was a goal oriented child and I'll give myself a score of 2.8 out of 3 on achieving my childhood dreams. Washington State isn't Montana, but it will do.

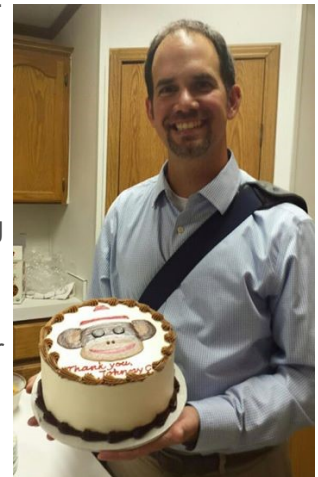
One of the plethora of differences between childhood and adulthood is children look at goals as achievements to be checked off of a list. Adults often look at goals as something to be formed by over a long period of time. Marriage is not a checklist item; it is something that requires continual nurturing, love, and growth. Being apart of a community is not something that one just does by existing. Being apart of community means being involved and caring about the people and environment around you.

My tenure as a church employee is about to come to an end, but while this has been a goal; it isn't something I can just check off a list and move on. Many of you have wisely reminded me that we all work for the church in some way, shape, or form. I will not be serving the church in the ways I have previously, but it would appear that our movement will always be looking for people who want to heal a broken world and I'm looking forward to contributing to the church in different ways.

Some of my colleagues who have left church employment have had awkward or less than fulfilling experiences in the transition. This transition doesn't need to be that way. I started graduate school at Eastern Washington University in September. Other than some professors who could have benefited from more hugs during their childhood, things are going well. I have a great group of classmates and I am enjoying my new field of study – Urban and Regional Planning. Some of you have let me know that this is one of the most boring degrees I could have chosen to study (and I still love you). Our communities have big challenges both in the present and in the future. I'd like to be apart of making sure the future of our communities is a good one. If you've never heard of the planning profession take a look at the video on this website: planning.org/ep

Wherever and whenever our paths may cross again, be ready for a smile and hug. My life is richer for the interactions I've had with you. I'm grateful for the things I've learned and the relationships I've forged. If you need me I'm only a phone call away (but you should probably call Brad, Bill, Sandy, JoAnn, Seth, John VanDerWalker, Robin Linkhart, or Porter Rockwell first).

Be well and go do good.



A fond farewell to John at Mission Center Conference in Whitehall

Would you like to be a delegate for World Conference?

Delegates for the 2016 World Conference were elected at our Inland West Mission Center Conference in October. Not all delegate spots were filled so if you are going to World Conference you can still be considered to be a delegate. Please e-mail the Mission Center at sdecker@cofochrist-iwest.org or call 800-918-8335 as soon as possible for consideration.

From around the Mission Center in 2015

Ordinations:

- Seth Bryant, Salt Lake City to Office of Seventy
- Carol Ann Reiff, Whitehall to Office of Evangelist
- Shirle Wiggins, Billings to Office of Deacon

Blessings

- Mya Ann Ayala, Pocatello
- Vincent Gore, Billings
- Maisie Olivia Herdman, Boise
- Harrison Quinn Hunter, Whitehall
- Huxley Qualls, Sagle
- Oliver Zane Simpson, Pocatello

Baptisms & Confirmations:

- Katie Jean Beaton, Boise
- Ella Rebekah Bryant, Salt Lake City
- Peggy Elaine Christensen, Coeur d'Alene
- Monica English, Salt Lake City
- Joseph Ford, Salt City
- Alyson Nicole Gose, Boise
- Bob Haldorsen, Spokane Valley
- Benjamin Kelsey, Salt Lake City
- Melanie Kelsey, Salt Lake City
- Brittany Mangelson, Salt Lake City
- Joshua Mangelson, Salt Lake City
- Tyler Marz, Salt Lake City
- Lance Maxey, Pocatello
- Granville Schmidt, Salt Lake City

Marriages:

- Marilyn Jacobs to Shawn Ketchum, Helena
- Lisa Masters, Lewis-Clark to Keith Stecher, Spokane Valley

Deaths:

- Laverl Aston, Orem
- Harry Dennis, Boise
- Clara Bell Galloway, Coeur d'Alene
- Glada Godfrey, Whitehall
- Rose Mary Goodman, Inland West General (Orem)
- Harley Gunter, Sagle
- Oma Howard, Spokane Valley
- Gloria Jolley, Salt Lake City
- Viola Lade, Boise
- Earlene McFadden, Spokane Valley
- Delma Seymour, Billings
- Jonathan Thompson, Billings
- Kenneth Thompson, Billings
- Oliver Wendell Townsend, Whitehall
- Phillip & Velma Vanderpool, New Plymouth
- Larry Verhei, Sagle

Friends of the Mission Center:

Deaths:

- Terry Read, Chino Hills, California
- James (Jim) Sahlberg, Burns, Oregon

Gather in Fellowship

I am excited to serve our Mission Center. My mission is to serve our isolated members with Christ's message and fellowship. The new mission center blog will serve by extending Spiritual care, prayer, evangelism and other manifestations of grace via digital medium. This will provide a much-needed opportunity for us to worship and connect with members who live in isolated areas.

My email is K7ZALL@gmail.com
I would love to hear from you with thoughts on how you would like to see our blog develop, or just to say hello. I am here to serve you.

I am looking for others who wish to share the Good News. God Bless you and all you love

Lavera Wade, Digital Pastor,
Inland-West Mission Center

If you need assistance with Legacy & Gift Planning please contact:

Diana Hansen

Mission Funding Specialist,
Legacy & Gift Planning

800-884-7526, option 7

Cell: 520-991-4708

dhansen@cofchrist.org

If there are life events or transitions happening in your congregation please send them to Sandy Decker at sdecker@cofchrist-iwest.org.

SPEC 2015



**Pictures from
Mission Center
Conference
Whitehall, Montana
October 10 & 11, 2015**



Setting apart of Brad Martell, Mission Center President



Seth Bryant teaching a breakout session



Award for Pastor of the Year presented to Judy Gardner



Award for Financial Officer of the Year presented to Penny Youth



Tamryn Parker-Carver and Andi Chatburn enjoying the meet and greet on Saturday Evening.



Having dinner at Mission Center Conference



John Chatburn passing Biggy on to Brad Martell, the new Mission Center President



A budget presentation you can sink your teeth into



Robin Linkhart gives the charge at Seth Bryant's ordination



Ron Harmon teaching a breakout session



The kids are having fun with Tamryn Parker-Carver

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