



INLAND STREAM

INLAND WEST USA MISSION CENTER NEWS

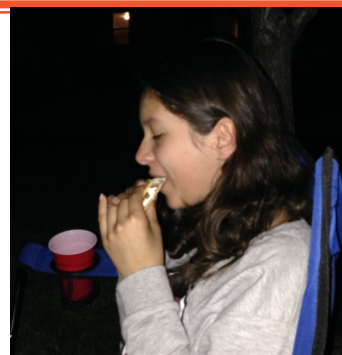
Inland Stream Spring-Summer 2015

Volume 11, Number 1

Camp Cascade Brings Together New Friends, New Experiences

By Andrea Silva

I was sitting at my desk and chatting online with a good friend of mine that happens to live in Amiens, France. Gilles' daughter had been getting excellent marks in school and was learning English, but she was reluctant to speak much English at home with just her family. He wanted to send her to the United States for an immersion experience in American language and culture. The only hitch was that the mutual friends he had hoped to send her to would not be available to host her that summer.



"How does she feel about Boise? We could probably host her for a couple of weeks if she wanted to come here," I suggested. "If she comes in August, I'll be helping to staff a church youth camp for 13-18 year olds. She'd be welcome to join the camp if that's when she wanted to come."

What was I thinking??? We've never hosted an exchange student before...doubt crept in but it was already too late. To my surprise "camp" was the magic word! Anaïs was very excited about the prospect of attending our youth camp and meeting other teens from America. Her mother had been to camp as a child and was thrilled her daughter would be able to have a similar experience. We worked out the travel dates so that she could stay a few days with my family before and after the week of camp and she could ride up with us to the campgrounds.

It goes without saying that the experience was enriching for everyone involved. Anaïs quickly overcame any shyness and participated 100% in every camp activity we had including meals, work crews, classes, recreation, and worship. The rest of the camp wholly accepted our guest and in every way possible invited her in as part of the camp. While her new friends did have to show her how to assemble a S'more the first time the marshmallows came out, she was quickly making her own after that!

It was very difficult to say goodbye when camp ended and it was time for Anaïs to return home to France. A few weeks ago I received a message from Anaïs saying she had saved enough money to come back and asking if we would be willing to accept her again this year. Of course we would!

This is what camp is about! During her short stay, Anaïs felt connected to our family, the many friends she had made, and the fellowship and ministry she was a part of during her week at camp. Although one of our campers lives halfway around the world, she has become a part of our community because we weren't afraid to invite her into our home, our camp, and our hearts.



The amazing experience we had last summer is why I look forward to returning to camp each year. It is just one of many testimonies about what makes camp such a great experience for our youth and families and why we should support the Community of Christ camping programs. As each of us prepares to return to our camps this summer, be open to new friends and new experiences. Each camp is a new possibility!

On the Horizon

For the past nine months many of you have been hearing about the financial difficulties of our denomination. Since we are all connected as a body, those difficulties which have been primarily at the World Church level will very shortly be our difficulties to address. The current administrative configuration of Inland West is what is called a Single Line configuration where I serve as both the President and Financial Officer for the Inland West Mission Center. This configuration will not continue after January 1, 2016. At this point, we do not know what the new configuration will be.

The cause of the church's financial difficulties fall into several broad categories:

- Erosion of the church's contributor base and contribution forecasts that missed their targets.
- Under performance of the World Church's investment portfolio which is heavily invested in real estate. Conversely, the Mission Center's investment portfolio is invested in stocks and has performed much better.
- Increased health care costs of retired and current employees.
- Increased pension costs. The World Church will be moving to a defined contribution plan from a defined benefit plan as of January 1, 2016.

*"God is before
us and God is
with us, no
matter what."*

In the coming weeks and during the summer information will be shared about a new model of mission that will include new ways paid staff and volunteers will administer mission centers across the United States. Very few mission centers in the United States will continue to have World Church funded Mission Center Presidents. That likely means there are changes in store for me, but whatever the future brings I will greet it with expectation and not fear.

The staff currently funded by the Inland West Mission Center will continue to be funded by the Mission Center. The proposed position for Montana is currently on hold until the final sale of the Orem, UT property and we understand how the new model of mission and its subsequent funding cuts will effect our mission center.

Sometimes it is hard to tell whether it is a forest fire or a sunrise that lies over the horizon. What I do know is that God has come this far with us, will go with us into the future and help us adapt to new circumstances and challenges. To quote President Veazey in a recent statement to the church, "Our present situation, is not our destiny." God is before us and God is with us, no matter what.

Grace and Peace,

John Chatburn
Mission Center President
and Financial Officer



Reunion is Good for your Health

Loving God how do we find the courage to Love so abundantly, so inclusively? How do we allow ourselves to be loved enough that it softens us, breaks down our barriers, and humbles us.

I was a new member of Community of Christ in 2011 when I attended my first reunion at Samish Island.



My second day there a young girl hands me a sign, and says do you want to wear this? The sign read FREE HUGS.



Did I want to spend my day hugging a large group of strangers? My life experience as the child of an alcoholic would not suggest this was a good idea. But for some unknown reason it dawned the sign and began my journey being loved in Community of Christ. I still enjoy the friendships that began at that reunion, and last year we made many new friends at Cascade reunion.

Christ said, they will know you are my disciples because of your Love for one another. Reunion is the place where we get to practice Love for one another, by serving each other, worshiping together, and finding peaceful times when God can whisper of his Love in the sound of the soft breeze through the tree's. Looking forward to reunion, Hope to see you there.

Note: studies show we need 8 hugs a day for good health, 4 hugs just for survival, HUGS lower your blood pressure, and just feel Good.

Lavera Wade

Congregational Focus

Each month the Inland West Staff remembers congregations in prayer. The congregations that will be the prayer focus for each month are listed below:

Month	Congregations	Month	Congregations
January	Sagle, ID; Ogden, UT	July	Camps and Reunions
February	Whitehall, MT; Hagerman, ID, Coeur d'Alene, ID	August	Isolated Members and Emerging Ministries
March	Pocatello, ID; Spokane Valley, WA	September	Buhl, ID ; Great Falls, MT
April	Richland, WA; Deer Lodge, MT	October	Baker City, OR; Billings, MT
May	Boise, ID; Culbertson, MT	November	Salt Lake City, UT; Twin Falls, ID
June	Lewis-Clark, WA; New Plymouth, ID	December	Walla Walla, WA; Helena, MT

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



SPEC 2015 July 15 to 25, 2015

2015 Theme: "Let Go(d)"

Where: Independence, MO, and Lamoni, IA (Graceland University)

Who: Youth who have completed grades 9-12

Cost: \$545 for 10 days

Arrangements for those that may need financial assistance can also be made by contacting Lynn Chapman.

Contact person: Lynn Chapman

E-mail: lkc5309@gmail.com

Phone: (509) 990-7333

The Inland-West Mission Center will join with the GPNW Mission Center to be one of the largest delegations with approximately 65 campers and 20 staff.

Registration Deadline is June 1, 2015

We want EVERYONE that is eligible to attend SPECTACULAR! Don't miss out!



The Valentine's Day Sock Drive, 1994 to present

by Barb Brock

The first time I heard about the terrible foot disease and fungus caused from homeless individuals wearing the same pair of socks for 7-10 days, was motivation enough to start the Valentine's Day New Sock Drive. Over Thanksgiving and Christmas, there is generous help for our outreach centers but during those cold, wet, late winter months, outreach supplies dwindle. It is rare to see someone on the streets with a good pair of shoes, let along boots, or waterproof footwear, thus their feet are cold and wet much of the time.

Now 22 years later, well over 40,000 pair of brand new socks have been donated to four outreach organizations in Spokane County. An average of 800-1,250 new pairs of socks are donated each year generally from two local elementary schools in Cheney, Community of Christ, and an Eastern Washington University department and that number is "matched" by an anonymous donor. It was easy to start and simple to run. People of all ages and backgrounds can relate to the issue and love to help out in this tangible manner.

Over the years, I've delivered the socks with my kids and their friends and every social service organization welcomes us. As one man was helping lift boxes out of the pickup, he commented, "I just got out of prison yesterday!" I replied, "That's awesome!" But you should have seen the look on one of the kid's faces!

Many individuals have made this sock drive an important part of their life. One long time Community of Christ supporter, who is now gone, gave hundreds of socks every Valentine's Day because she just felt it was the right thing to do. This year, another congregation member spent \$100 for a grocery cart full of socks and the woman behind her, overhearing the conversation at the checkout stand, gave her a \$20 bill because she, too, agreed it was a perfect way to help.

Warm dry socks are a small item, given with no strings attached, but they mean so much and simply allow a bit of comfort in a sometimes-tough world. I'm honored when sometimes referred to as "The Sock Lady" – it's the finest title I have ever had.

****Editor's note:** The Boise Congregation has also been doing a sock drive for several years. They have expressed that this has been a very worthwhile outreach. Clean socks and dry feet are indeed appreciated.





2015 Inland West Reunions

Echo Valley Reunion

June 26—July 2

**Echo Valley Campground
Avon, MT**

**Guest Ministry: John
VanDerWalker and
JoAnn Fisher**

**Director: Mary Beth Hunter
mbh.nomadnurse@gmail.com**

Red Cliffe Reunion

June 27—July 3

**Red Cliffe Campground
Huntsville, UT**

**Guest Ministry: Barbara
Walden, Robin Linkhart &
Seth Bryant**

**Director: Robin Linkhart
rlinkhart@cofchrist.org**

Samish Island Reunion

June 27—July 4

**Samish Island Campground
Bow, WA**

**Guest Ministry: Blake Smith &
John Chatburn**

**Director: Roslyn Bentz
rosalyn@cableone.net**

Cascade Reunion

July 7—July 12

**Cascade Campground
Cascade, ID**

**Guest Ministry:
Ron Harmon, JoAnn
Fisher & John Chatburn
Director: JoAnn Fisher
jfisher@cofchrist.org**

Early registration is always appreciated. You'll find more information and registration forms for each reunion at www.cofchrist-iwest.org.



Boise Primary Camp

June 12-14, 2015

Idaho City, ID

For youth ages 6 to 8

RSVP by June 5

Director JoAnn Fisher

208-392-4595

jfisher@cofchrist.org

Cheney Kids Camp

June 19-21

Cheney, WA

For youth age 7 to 12

RSVP by June 12

Director Kathleen Strozyk

509-636-2011

edwallian@juno.com

Cascade Junior Camp

June 25-28, 2015

Cascade Campground in Cascade, ID

For youth ages 9 to 12

RSVP by June 18

Director Sheri Moody St.Clair

208-334-2600

sms@lottery.idaho.gov

Red Cliffe Kids Camp

June 12-14, 2015

Red Cliffe Campground in

Huntsville, UT

For youth who have
completed grades K-6

RSVP by June 5

Director Carol Andreasen

307-537-3302

chosierandrea5@hotmail.com

Echo Valley Youth Camp

August 5-9, 2015

Echo Valley Campground in Avon, MT,

For youth going into grades 4 to 10

RSVP by July 30

Director Robin Martell

406-671-1914

robinmartell@optimum.net

Cascade Jr/Sr High Camp

August 8-13, 2015

Cascade Campground in Cascade, ID

For youth ages 13-18

RSVP by Aug. 2

Director: Andrea Silva

stamping.silva@gmail.com

**Join us at an Inland
West youth camp this
summer!**

Details including prices of each camp at cofchrist-iwest.org.

Print your registration and RSVP to your camp director as soon as possible.

Our camping program relies on dedicated volunteers such as directors, counselors, teachers, cooks, and nurses. We extend a big "Thank you!" to all who take on these important roles for our youth. If you'd like to help at a youth camp this summer, please contact the director listed above or call the Mission Center office at 800-918-8335.

**Inland West USA Mission Center
Community of Christ
11515 E. Broadway Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99206**

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
SPOKANE WA
PERMIT NO. 383

Mark Your Calendar!
2015 Mission Center Conference is
October 10-11, 2015
in Whitehall, MT
Guest Ministers: Apostle Ron Harmon, and
David Anderson, Director of Human Resources



**Find us on
Facebook**

Community of Christ
I-West Mission Center

Get your monthly new fix!

Are you receiving the Mission Center monthly e-mail NewsBrief? You can easily subscribe to the NewsBrief by going to www.cofchrist-iwest.org and go to the Events/News tab then click on the "Sign-up" button.

Mission Center Staff

11515 E. Broadway Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

John Chatburn

Mission Center President and Financial Office
jchatburn@cofchrist.org

JoAnn Fisher

Mission Coordinator
jfisher@cofchrist.org

Seth Bryant

Missional Consultant and Expansion Minister
sbryant@cofchrist.org

Sandy Decker

Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper
sdecker@cofchrist-iwest.org

Lavera Wade

Digital Pastor
k7zall@gmail.com