



INLAND STREAM

INLAND WEST USA MISSION CENTER NEWS

Inland Stream Spring-Summer 2017

Volume 13, Number 1

God is a River

By Brad A. Martell, Mission Center President

The Salmon River was roaring through the canyon as I drove south on Idaho Hwy 95. Weary patches of snow still clung to the shaded pine-tree banks. As the days grow warmer with the coming spring, these lingering patches will melt drop by drop into the surge. Water crashed against submerged boulders throwing up three to five feet of frothy whitewater.

That tremendous force stirs up and carries loose sediments down river. The water cuts into the earth--sometimes gently, sometimes dramatically--eroding its banks, and scouring the tenacious, tendinous pine roots. This time of year, the Salmon River explodes with energy, swirls with constant change, and splashes with transforming promise, creating oxygen-rich waters for life to continue to thrive as a sacred blessing of creation.

However, this transforming storm of a river can be disconcerting and even frightening. As it courses through the canyon bringing blessings of new and potential life, it also changes life, participating in the larger cycles of life and death. It can be downright scary! Perhaps that is why in Christianity we have many images and metaphors of God being a rock, a foundation, a solid place to build our lives. One of my favorite hymns "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" (CCS # 263) describes God as "that Rock I'm clinging" through the storms of life. The image is to express our reliance on God. That God will protect us. That if we cling to God during the storms of life (as we would a rock in a raging river) we will be safe and at peace.

"Let us be courageous enough to let go of the rock to which we are clinging"

It is a beautiful metaphor, God is a Rock. But, what if God doesn't want us to just cling for safety? Or, hold so tight that we never allow our life to "flow on in endless song"? Can we flow if we are clinging to a rock? Imagine instead, that God is the rock *and* the river. One of my favorite folk musicians, Peter Mayer (www.PeterMayer.net) wrote a song entitled "God is a River." The chorus: "God is a river, not just a stone / God is a wild, raging rapids / And a slow, meandering flow / God is a deep and narrow passage / And a peaceful, sandy shoal / God is the river, swimmer / So let go."

What might happen in your life if you let go, if you imagined that God is a river to swim in, for you to get caught up in the swirling and churning of the blessings of life and community?

This summer as we attend reunions and camps, as our youth participate in Spectacular, as we share in vacations with family and friends, and in our daily routines and relationships; I pray that we will ask God to help us risk something new. Let us be courageous enough to let go of the rock to which we are clinging and be swept away into "wild, raging rapids . . . slow, meandering flow . . . deep and narrow passage . . . [and] peaceful, sandy shoal" of Christ's Mission.

Check out the video: "The Long Journey": www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ILcN7LTxaQ&feature=youtu.be

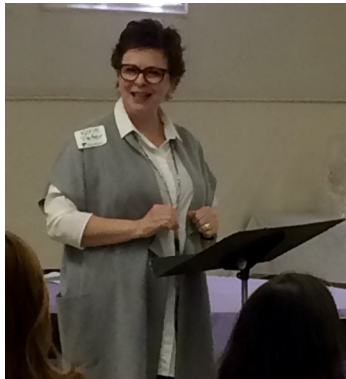
Sunstone Comes to Boise

By JoAnn Fisher, Mission Specialist

On April 29th, the Boise Congregation of Community of Christ had the opportunity to host the Sunstone Symposium which was held in Boise, ID.

The Sunstone Education Foundation started in 1974 as a magazine that published on Mormon “experience, scholarship, issues, and art.” Then, in 1978, it branched out into symposia and regional conferences.

Today, more than 40 years later, the Sunstone Salt Lake Symposium draws together more than 1,500 attendees to talk about Mormon history, theology, politics, culture and more. The attendees hail from all over the Restoration spectrum.



Because the Symposium hosts such a diversity of thought and belief, it can be a challenge for attendees to interact constructively with people who have opposing views. But this challenge is also an opportunity to expand our minds and empathize with each other. As Joseph Smith put it, “by proving contraries, truth is made manifest.”

To participate in Sunstone you only need to have an interest in Mormonism and a willingness to engage respectfully, thoughtfully, and intelligently.

The Community of Christ has had a presence at Sunstone for several years. Karin Peter was one of the featured speakers at the Boise Symposium. Susan Skoor, Robin Linkhart, Lachlan Mackay, Dale Luffman and John Hamer (to just name a few) have been featured at the Symposium in Salt Lake City, UT.

Regional conferences tend to be smaller, but they are quite interesting and provide opportunity for us meet those who may be seeking a safe place to live out their faith. Of the approximately 65 in attendance, 9 were Community of Christ members. The remaining folks became friends and some even worshipped with us at church the following day.

It is my sincere hope that we will continue to have opportunities like this, so we might develop relationships and grow in understanding of one another as well as ourselves.

If you would like more information on Sunstone see their website at: <https://www.sunstonemagazine.com/>



Inland West Mission Center Invitation Support Minister

By Karin Peter, President of Seventy

Each disciple in Community of Christ has unique giftedness to share in ministries of invitation and Christ-like hospitality. Mission Center leaders work together to resource and support these ministries. To keep our focus on mission and invitation, the role of Mission Center Missionary Coordinator or Mission Center Mission Coordinator has been revised and is now Mission Center Invitation Support Minister. This person serves as the strategic advocate for integrating the mission initiative, Invite People to Christ, into all aspects of mission center and congregational life.

Every USA mission center has an Invitation Support Minister or Invitation Support Minister Team. This individual or team is a key leader in the mission center, participates as a member of the leadership team and serves on the mission center council.

Due to the vast geography of Inland West Mission Center, we are experimenting with an Invitation Support Ministry Team to explore creative ways of supporting mission. The Inland West team is made up of four individuals with President of Seventy Karin Peter serving as the team lead. Seventy JoAnn Fisher serves Idaho, Eastern Washington and the Missoula area. Seventy Kuzma Brudsky serves Utah and the Pocatello/Idaho Falls area and Seventy Gil Martell serves Montana and the Cody WY area.

In addition, we are working on mission center visiting ministry assignments to engage all Inland West seventy and other World Church Ministers in leading ministries of mission and offering congregational support.

We believe these strategic missional assignments will allow us to nurture opportunities for invitation and witness, as well as offering support for individuals and congregations across the mission center. By integrating the team of invitation support ministers we anticipate:

- an increase in seventy engaged in invitational ministries
- a raised awareness and engagement by congregations in new expressions of ministry
- more effective coordination of invitation and witness resources and training opportunities.

In addition, the Invitation Support Minister will be the point person for initiating Percept demographic reports. Percept reports are an important tool in providing helpful information for congregations to further engage in invitational ministries. The invitation support ministry team member for your area is prepared to produce localized demographic reports and are available to help interpret the data to best serve your neighborhoods and communities.

As each of us engage in invitation and Christ-centered hospitality, may we share the good news of Jesus Christ in ways that offer the restoring ministries of welcome, healing, wholeness, and peace.

Inland West Blog—Readers Needed!

Thank you to all the wonderful people who have contributed their testimony to our blog. The blog offers powerful testimonies that tell of God speaking, and lives being changed. Most of us who open our hearts to the Lord hear, and are led by the still quiet voice. For some of us God speaks a little louder. Please take the time to read our blog over the coming months, your heart will be touched by the wonder of God's love. Consider sharing your testimony of how God has changed your life. If you would like to contribute to the blog contact Lavera Wade at k7zall@gmail.com. The blog is at <http://cofchrist-inlandwest.blogspot.com/>.

Congregational News

The Lewis-Clark Congregation of Community of Christ is located in Clarkston, Washington. Although we have remodeled a couple of times and improved landscaping, we have been on the same property for over 55 years.

Our congregation has between 25-30 average attendance with all ages. We gather Sunday mornings at 9:30 with lattes and coffee being offered. Sunday School begins at 10:00 and we offer adult and children's classes.

Our 11:00 worship is varied with intergenerational and traditional services. Because we have Wi-Fi and a projector, videos and power points enhance many of our services. We offer "Quiet Time" bags for children to use during the 11:00 worship, and children are often featured in our worship.

We have an active Mission In Action program which benefits our two communities. A change jar is set out during the offering and little kids run from person to person gathering change to put in the jar. This money is designated towards a specific goal such as showers for the homeless, razors and Halloween candy for the Veterans Home, Outreach International, a specific family need and the backpack program.

Other Mission in Action projects past and present include Valentines for students in our elementary schools, socks, hats and gloves for the homeless shelter, hats and gloves to elementary schools, pillows for the domestic violence shelter, school supplies for the YWCA, and hygiene items for homeless. We participate in several area food banks and serve other projects that have a specific need.

The Lewis-Clark Congregation feels all people have great personal worth. We desire to serve God and teach Jesus with the Holy Spirit leading us. Love is at the heart of our congregation and we invite all to share with us.

By Kathy Jones

On February 25th the Sagle Community of Christ and the outlining Community came together to support one of their own.

It has become a tradition every February/March to host a Community Cabin Fever Potluck and auction at the church in Sagle. All proceeds from the silent and live auction are donated to a person, family, or organization in need. Some community members look forward to the social event and make homemade items well in advance for the auction.



It was suggested this year, we give the proceeds to Bruce and Marcia Crabb to help with medical expenses. The word spread quickly and it became apparent the church would no longer hold all the caring friends and family that wanted to come support the Crabbs. Five days prior to the event the local community center was rented to provide more room and then we all came together to set up, park cars, price auction items, receive food etc.

What an amazing show of support and love, approximately 200 people packed the center. The silent auction, live auction and donation jars brought in \$20,000. I believe everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship and they all left feeling better inside. In some small way, they were able to help a friend and loved one in need.

May God Bless all of you, Crystal Gunter

What Do You See?

When you look at me, what do you see?
Do you see all the things that make me-me?
Do you stop at my race and the color of my skin?
Do you see only gender, or judge I'm not thin?
Don't search why were different, but how we're the same
Search for the good, not someone to blame.
You are not better because you're rich and I'm poor;
God loves us all the same, and not anyone more.
I laugh and smile when I'm happy – like you.
I cry when my heart breaks, whenever I'm blue.
I have hopes and dreams, and wishes too
And pray to my God when there's nothing I can do.
I'm a loving daughter, parent and grandmother,

I'm a loving sibling to my sister and brother.
I'm a woman, an aunt, a cousin and friend
I'll fight for your rights to the very end.
We all want the same, to live our life free;
In a country that cares for you and for me.
So reach out to those who may be in need;
Pick them up if they fallen, tend their wounds when they bleed.
Spread peace, love, and joy as much as you can,
Everyone needs it, every child, woman, man.
We're all children of God, who are loved from above.
The best you can give is your gift of love.
I laugh, cry, love and live, just like you
I tell you these things because they are true.
Do you understand now, how we're alike you and me?
Tell me now when you look at me, what do you see?
By Theresa Copeland, Baker City



SPEC 2017
July 19 to July 29, 2017

2017 Theme: "HARMONY"

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

Who: Youth who have completed grades 9-12

Cost: \$550

Arrangements for those that may need financial assistance can also be made by contacting Lynn Chapman. We want EVERYONE that is eligible to attend SPECTACULAR!
Don't miss out!

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 May 31, 2017



2017 Inland West Reunions

Samish Island Reunion

June 24-July 1

**Samish Island Campground
Bow, WA**

Guest Ministry:

**Karin Peter, Carla Long and
JoAnn Fisher**

**Directors: Travis Frost and
Andrea Bentz-Frost**

Echo Valley Reunion

June 22-26

**Echo Valley Campground
Avon, MT**

Guest Ministry:

**Barbara Waldon, Denise White,
and Brad Martell**

**Directors: Mary Beth Hunter
and Kimberly Sacry**

Red Cliffe Reunion

July 8-14

**Red Cliffe Campground
Huntsville, UT**

Guest Ministry:

**Larry McGuire, Brad Martell,
JoAnn Fisher**

Director: Carla Long

Cascade Reunion

July 19-23

**Cascade Campground
Cascade, ID**

Guest Ministry:

Blair White and Denise White

Director: Andrea Silva

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



Cheney Kids Camp

June 16-18, 2017
Cheney, WA
For youth age 7 to 12
RSVP by June 8
Director Kathleen Strozyk
509-636-2011
edwallian@juno.com

Echo Valley Youth Camp

August 2-6, 2017
Echo Valley Campground in Avon, MT,
For youth going into grades 4 to 9
RSVP by July 31
Director Robin Martell
406-671-1914
rmartellrealestate@gmail.com

Red Cliffe Kids Camp

June 9-11, 2017
Red Cliffe Campground in
Huntsville, UT
For youth who have
completed grades K-6
RSVP by June 1
Director Carol Andreasen
307-231-4427
chosierandrea5@hotmail.com

Cascade Junior Camp

July 7-9, 2017
Cascade Campground in Cascade, ID
For youth ages 9 to 12
RSVP by June 30
Director Sherie Moody St.Clair
208-334-2600
sms@lottery.idaho.gov

Cascade Jr/Sr High Camp

August 5-10, 2017
Cascade Campground in Cascade, ID
For youth ages 13-18
RSVP by July 31
Director: Andrea Silva
stampin.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, counse-
lors, 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**

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**Mark Your Calendar!
2017 Mission Center Conference is
October 14-15
in Spokane Valley, WA**

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Mission Center Staff

11515 E. Broadway Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Brad Martell

Mission Center President
bmartell@cofchrist.org

JoAnn Fisher

Mission Specialist
jfisher@cofchrist.org

Karin Peter

President of Seventy
Invitational Support Minister
kpeter@cofchrist.org

Sandy Decker

Associate Financial Officer &
Administrative Assistant
sdecker@cofchrist-iwest.org

Denise White

Mission Center Financial Officer
dwhite@cofchrist.org

Carla Long

Latter-day Seeker Minister
Utah Mission Team
clong@cofchrist.org

Blair White

Latter-day Seeker Minister
Utah Mission Team
bwhite@cofchrist.org

Lavera Wade

Digital Pastor
k7zall@gmail.com