

# Inland Stream

Inland West USA Mission Center News

## Building the Kingdom Together

*John Chatburn, Mission Center President and Financial Officer*

In woodworking there is a joint called a dovetail joint. This interlocking trapezoidal joint is most often found in drawers. A dovetail joint has two parts: the pins and the tails. When you cut these by hand (with a saw and a chisel) you have to pick whether you cut the pins or the tails first. I'm a "tails first" guy and find it by far the best way to go. I have a friend who is a "pins first" guy, and he assures me I will work through my shortcomings and come to find his way is the "right" way. That's ironic because I have the same thought about him.

Most folks reading this article will probably agree that they couldn't care less about how to cut a dovetail joint or even what a dovetail joint is (but you should). Our denomination, however, has recently made a decision at our National Conference to recommend to the First Presidency to extend the sacrament of marriage to people in same sex relationships as well as provide for the ordination of those in the LGBTQ community who are in committed relationships.<sup>2</sup> While a clear majority of delegates voted for this change, not everyone is of the same mind. Some folks in the majority are hoping folks in the minority will come over to the "right" side and folks in the minority are hoping the same thing. It's a "pins first" or "tails first" dilemma.

Frankly, I spent a lot of time debating about whether or not to include any comments about the World and National Conference in this edition of the Inland Stream. Both the Mission Center and the World Church have done fairly extensive communications regarding the process and outcomes of the USA National Conference. I am also not eager for our church to get tagged as the church that just talks about sex and money, because I believe the mission of Christ encompasses more than just those two issues.

In the places where I have been traveling I've appealed for breathing space for folks to work through these issues. I get the sense though that when I say "work through" what folks hear is "change their minds and come around to the prevailing side." The Community of Christ has always been a big tent people—we've always had diverse beliefs and adherence to a belief is not a test of faith. Communities of faith can agree to disagree and still work together to build the kingdom. We must all agree, however, that we will love each other, treat each other with respect, and always welcome others to the table.

The thing about a dovetail joint that makes it so useful is that even when the glue fails and the joint is stressed, it still doesn't pull apart. I believe that community is the same. In the midst of stress and tension, we don't give up on each other.



# Reflections on gathering together...



*Delegates left to right - Keith Townsend (Spokane Valley), Irene Thuesen (Billings), Walt MacIntosh (Billings) and Dottie Beck (Billings) Both photos by Dick McKee (Boise)*

## **Lisa Masters, Pullman, Washington**

The experience of attending World Conference made me realize I play a part in the bigger picture of God’s divine plan. I have never before been a part of a legislative meeting with parliamentary procedure and the use of actions, speaking for or against, amend a motion, question of privilege and request of information. I did not realize that the legislative motions are brought before The Presidency from mission centers around the world. Then we as a church body have the chance to explore the thoughts and concerns around those issues.

***...the power of those combined voices was truly the spirit of God moving amongst us.***

To hear other brothers and sisters in Christ express themselves with such passion was a moving experience. I found myself on the edge of my seat wanting to hear what the next person had to say. The sight of those same people raising their voices together in song and the power of those combined voices was truly the spirit of God moving amongst us.

As I observed, interacted, worshiped, reflected and listened to the word of council I became excited! In the past, I did not grasp the full potential of not only myself, but the church as a whole. We, Community of Christ, is making a difference in the world.

# ...World & U.S.A Conference

## Dixie Simon, Spokane, Washington

As I have readied myself for today and every day since World and USA Conference, my mind has such a peacefulness; and a connectedness. I am so thankful and excited to be a part of the sacred journey within the Community of Christ. I was so proud, and inspired by our leadership and by the community at large —we truly did have faithful listening and faithful disagreement on the resolutions and decisions made. We listened, we spoke, we worshiped, and we honored each other. It was a beautiful God thing!

***We listened, we spoke, we worshiped, and we honored each other.***



*Our Inland West delegation to World and USA Conferences included members from congregations in Eastern Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Utah.*

The Spirit of the Living God was ever present. It was wonderful in the World Conference to see the flags of all the nations where the church is, revealed. One of the nights the Tahitian Chorus sang as their new apostle was confirmed. I couldn't understand a word as the confirmation was done in French, but the power of the Holy Spirit was over-whelming to me. It was a beautiful service.

I can hardly wait for the next conference. I cannot believe that I have never attended before. It is important to be at this place as it is the heart and the energy and enthusiasm of our mission together. My hope is that I can encourage others to attend the next conference to experience this community. It is truly amazing.

# Together in Community

## 2013 Inland West Reunions

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul.” Acts 4:32

### Samish Island Reunion

June 22 – 29

Samish Island Campground

Bow, WA

Guest Ministry: Robin Linkhart,  
JoAnn Fisher

Director: Roslyn Bentz

[rosalyn@cableone.net](mailto:rosalyn@cableone.net), 208-743-0336

### Red Cliffe Reunion

June 29 – July 5

Red Cliffe Campground

Huntsville, UT

Guest Ministry: Tony and Charmaine  
Chvala-Smith, John Chatburn

Directors: Bob and Doris Cadman

[rbtcdmn@hotmail.com](mailto:rbtcdmn@hotmail.com), 801-648-5740

### Echo Valley Reunion

July 5 – 11

Echo Valley Campground

Avon, MT

Guest Ministry: Jake Davis and Maggie  
Morris-Davis, John Chatburn

Directors: Mary Beth Hunter

[mbh.nomadnurse@gmail.com](mailto:mbh.nomadnurse@gmail.com), Kim Sacry  
[kimberly.sacry@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberly.sacry@yahoo.com)

### Cascade Reunion

July 9 – 14

Cascade Campground

Cascade, ID

Guest Ministry: Doug and Connie  
Altman, JoAnn Fisher

Director: Renee Fisher

[Fishers2@cableone.net](mailto:Fishers2@cableone.net), 208-899-4449

Youth camp and reunion registration forms are available at  
[www.cofchrist-iwest.org](http://www.cofchrist-iwest.org)  
and at each Inland West congregation. If you have questions or would like to  
volunteer, please contact the director listed with the event.

# Summer 2013 Youth Camps

## Growing in Christ Together



### *Red Cliffe Kids Camp*

**June 7-9** Camp Red Cliffe,  
Huntsville, UT

For youth who have completed K-12

**RSVP by May 24**

Director Carol Andreasen 307-537-3302  
chosierandrea5@hotmail.com



### *Cheney Kids Camp*

**June 14-16** Brock home,  
Cheney, WA

For youth age 7-12

**RSVP by June 7**

Director Debbie Selzer 208-515-9285  
dselzer@cofchrist-iwest.org

### *Boise Primary Camp*

**June 14-16** Fisher home,  
Boise, ID

For youth age 6-8

**RSVP by June 7**

Director JoAnn Fisher 208-392-4598  
jfisher@cofchrist.org



### *Boise Junior Camp*

**Aug. 8-10** Camp Cascade,  
Cascade, ID

For youth age 9-12

**RSVP by Aug. 1**

Director Sheri Moody St. Clair 208-334-2600  
sms@lottery.idaho.gov

### *Echo Valley Youth Camp*

**Aug. 6 - 11** Echo Valley Campground,  
Avon, MT

For youth who have completed grades 4-9

**RSVP by Aug. 1**

Director Robin Martell 406-671-1914  
robinmartell@optimum.net



### *Cascade Youth Camp*

**Aug. 10 - 15** Camp Cascade  
Cascade, ID

For youth who have completed grades 7-12

**RSVP by Aug. 2**

Registrar Renee Fisher 208-899-4449  
fishers2@cableone.net

**SPEC is July 17-27. Registration deadline is June 1. Contact John Chatburn at 1-800-918-8335 for info.**

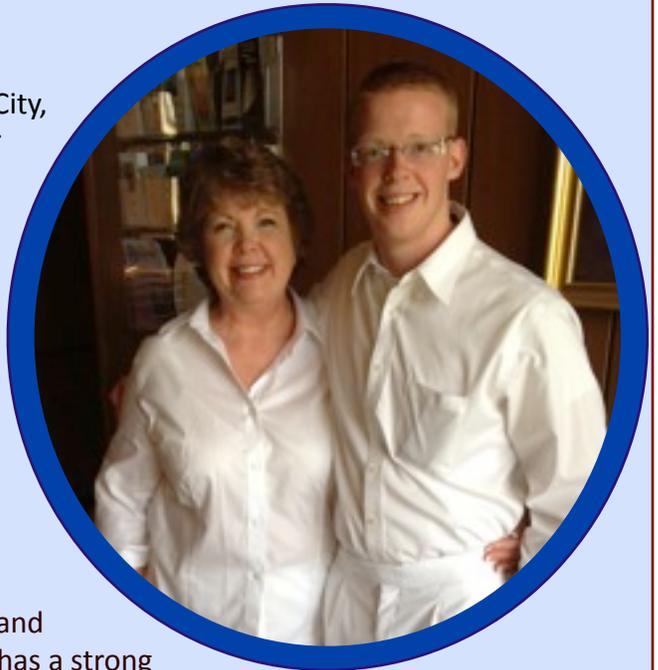
# Celebrating Sacrament Together

*JoAnn Fisher, Mission Coordinator*

I was privileged to participate in the baptism and confirmation of Jordan Kersey this spring in Salt Lake City, Utah. Twenty-year-old Jordan has been attending our monthly LDS Seekers gatherings at Salt Lake City since December.

Jordan’s journey to the Community of Christ has been fraught with personal challenges. Life-threatening illnesses, abusive relationships, and low self esteem, caused Jordan to search for a “home” where he would be accepted and loved. Jordan found a “physical home” with Robb and Mark Dexheimer Trujillo. Through Mark, he was introduced to his new “spiritual home” with the Community of Christ.

Since I have known Jordan I have come to appreciate and respect his enthusiasm, honesty and his courage. He has a strong testimony of God and the power of love in his life. Over the past few months I have witnessed tremendous introspection and growth.



In fact, he referred to his baptism and confirmation as his “butterfly experience.” Jordan went on to explain that butterflies begin their lives as caterpillars but through the amazing process of metamorphosis, they enter the chrysalis phase and eventually emerge as butterflies.

In many ways, the events of Jordan’s life have brought him to this moment of understanding and commitment. His past has equipped him in a unique way for his future and he is already becoming the person God created him to be.

We, his brothers and sisters in the Community of Christ not only celebrate this momentous occasion in Jordan’s life, but we will be on the journey with him. May his public commitment remind of us of our own baptisms and confirmations. And may we once again determine to live the life of the disciple with renewed strength and dedication.

***“It is imperative to understand that when you are truly baptized into Christ you become part of a new creation. By taking on the life and mind of Christ, you increasingly view yourself and others from a changed perspective.”***

***Doctrine and Covenants 164:5***

*Photo: JoAnn and Jordan at his May baptism*

# Staff Picks for Summer Reading

## **The Journey of a People Volume 1 & 2**

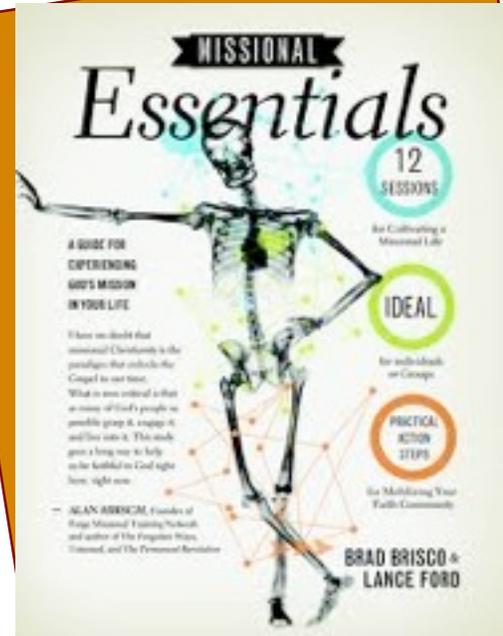
**By Mark A. Scherer**

World Church Historian Mark A. Scherer takes a fresh look at the journey and story of the Community of Christ in the first two of a three volume series. Volume 1 covers the “Era of Restoration 1820-1844” and Volume 2 covers the “Era of Reorganization: 1844-1946.” Well researched and easy to read (its got pictures to!)

## **Missional Essentials: A Guide for Experience God’s Mission in Your Life**

**By Brad Brisco and Lance Ford**

This 12 lesson book is a workbook that congregations can find both helpful and practical for mobilizing a community of faith to engage in Christ’s mission. Recommended by Apostle Ron Harmon as a solid resource that helps congregations explore the “how” of engaging in mission.



## **The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life**

**By James Martin, SJ**

While none of us are Jesuits, we have much to learn from the practical spirituality of St. Ignatius and its modern interpretation by Rev. James Martin, SJ. Rev. Martin has appeared on numerous media outlets and is affectionately known as the chaplain to Comedy Central’s Colbert Report. This witty and humorous spiritual conversation touches on a spectrum of spiritual practices while staying grounded in the practicality of daily living.

## **What We Talk About When We Talk About God**

**By Rob Bell**

Many congregations are familiar with the work of Rob Bell. In Bell’s latest book he casts a vision of a God who is with us, for us and ahead of us and how these understandings have the capacity to change both our lives and our world. Bell’s characteristically clever style and deep honesty give us new language and metaphors to thing about God while staying grounded in the Biblical traditions. Works well with High School kids and up.

## **The Book of Mormon Girl : A Memoir of American Faith**

**By Joanna Brooks**

In this memoir, Joanna Brooks shares experiences of growing up and remaining a member of the LDS Church despite growing distance between the place where she believes her church is called to be and where it is. In this work you will find echoes of our own faith journey as well as common ground that we share with our LDS brothers and sisters that are very populous in the western United States.

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