



Association of  
the Churches  
of God  
in Oregon and  
Southwest  
Washington



Pastoring in a  
Post-Tragedy  
Community  
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# THE CONTACT

November 2015

Volume 2 Issue 11

E-Contact

## Regional Convention coming to Vancouver, WA

Church of God Ministries announces that registration for regional meetings opens November 9, with schedule information available at [jesusisthesubject.org](http://jesusisthesubject.org).

Three regional conventions (East, West, and Central U.S.) are slated for 2016, with one in our own backyard. Each regional convention will have the same program.

**April 26-28, 2016—Vancouver, Washington (Vancouver First Church)**  
**June 21-23, 2016—Anderson, Indiana (Madison Park Church)**  
**September 27-29, 2016—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (New Covenant Church)**

Additionally, the site and dates for the **biennial Church of God Convention** in 2017 have been released: Mark your calendar for June 20-23, 2017, and plan now for Wichita, Kansas (Central Community Church). You won't want to miss this outstanding life-changing opportunity!



CHURCH OF GOD CONVENTION 2017  
 HOSTED BY  
 Central Community Church  
 Wichita, Kansas

**JUNE 20-23, 2017**

The Ministries Council and team at Church of God Ministries urge us to attend one of the 2016 regional conventions, also featuring the CHOG Table, "a forum," described by Jim Lyons, "where "we will grapple with important issues facing the church in our generation." These inspirational gatherings will feed your soul and connect you with friends and ministry colleagues. You won't want to miss being a part of one of these meaningful events.

## Three Centenarians Honored *by Rev. Steve Kufeldt, Woodburn*

Hoodview Church of God in Woodburn honored three "Centenarians" during a special worship service on October 25 as they each celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this fall. **Iola Hinkle** (left) turned 100 on September 27, and before her husband passed away last year, they were the longest married couple in Oregon. **Ursel Livingston** (center) turned 100 on October 26 and was the contractor for the present Hoodview Church facility. **Lucile Chapelle**, the longest term member of the three, turns 100 on November 18. She joined the Woodburn Church of God in 1934 and even served as the organist until age 89. Videotaped testimonies of each shared how God revealed His faithfulness through the years. A reception was held afterwards and included photo displays of each Centenarian.



*Photos  
courtesy  
John  
Kuykendall*

# Pastoring in a Post-Tragedy Community: Some Early Reflections

by Rev. Jon Nutter, Hucrest Community Church of God, Roseburg

Just three weeks ago the unimaginable occurred in our small community. A lone gunman entered a classroom on the campus of Umpqua Community College and took the lives of nine students before turning the gun on himself. It was a terrorizing scene the details of which have been reported and mis-reported dozens of times since. It was a senseless tragedy and a traumatizing event, the effects with which we in Roseburg are just beginning to grapple.

The palpable sense of grief hangs over our community like the fog of our fall mornings. The new reality of our neighborhood and the context of our ministry has been transformed inalterably. In the midst of unfathomably pain the power and hope of Christ and his church has been revealed. In big and small ways the truth of scripture that God can bring good from all things is being proven.

I wanted to share some of what we are learning in this season, and to ask for and encourage your continued prayers and support of Roseburg and Hucrest in particular.

## **Small-Town America Is not Immune to Big City Issues**

I did not suffer from the illusion that we were. Before ever moving to Roseburg I did some demographic study of the place to which we were called. Douglas County is in fact a dark place. Economic indicators, employment, education levels and health indicators rank near the bottom of all of Oregon. Pastors everywhere have occasion to interact with and become aware of the darker side of the places they live, and I am no exception. I have seen first hand the destruction of drugs and alcohol abuse, as well as violent and abusive behavior. I have encountered significant numbers of persons suffering from mental health issues outside of any circle of care. And, all of this before the events of 10/1. To say Roseburg and Douglas County were an idyllic area before the UCC shooting would have been naive and borderline delusional. Yet this is the reality many long-term residents have been forced to grapple with for the



**Memorial at Umpqua Community College, Roseburg, Oregon**

first time. Bad things like this were supposed to only happen in big cities. Anecdotally, I think this shooting has been most difficult for those who have always lived in Douglas County because it confirms their deepest fears of societal breakdown and the incursion of the world on their paradise. Before moving to Roseburg my wife, Kimber, and I lived in Oklahoma, when the Murrah Building bombing occurred, and in Fort Worth, Texas, when the Wedgewood Baptist Church shooting occurred. The shock was real when it came to Roseburg, but we were not surprised. And, while not surprised, our sense of sorrow and grief for our home continues to be almost overwhelming at times.

## **Secular Providers of Services and Faith Community Providers Struggle to Support and Complement One Other When Relationships are not Strong**

Within minutes of the shooting, secular and spiritual resources were being provided on scene, at the reunification location established by the county emergency response plan (Douglas County Fairgrounds), and across the community. Businesses, governmental agencies, health care

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# Pastoring in a Post-Tragedy Community

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facilities and churches locally were quick to respond by sending helpers and resources. Coordination, communication and collaboration were strained and chaotic at times. One of the enduring memories I will have of my time onsite at the fairgrounds is of the Fire District Chaplain assessing and attempting to sort his resources by these volunteers' training/credentials and his relationships with these persons. In my estimation, too few of the Christian volunteers were known to the point-people onsite. Additionally, few from the church community were trained in crisis response. The clinicians and certified responders were dominated by secular types who when the moment of spiritual need presented itself were ill-equipped or unwilling to pray and comfort at the soul level. Thankfully, and by God's grace, in those first 48 hours pastors and people of faith in key positions were afforded extraordinary access and influence in bringing comfort and counsel. Perhaps most amazingly, our United Way Director is a former

pastor and a committed Christ follower. He has done a marvelous job bringing dissimilar and suspicious agencies together in this crisis.

Here in Douglas County we have an evangelical ministerial alliance of nearly 40 churches. While only about half that number are ordinarily active and core to our association, a group of eight to ten of us has been looked to as a representative council. We have coordinated and assisted in vigils, memorials, and direct assistance of families. We have provided grief drop-in centers, pastored and counseled government officials and first-responders. We have worked tirelessly to represent well "the God people" in our community and to demonstrate Christ's loving heart to our area. Sure there have been mistakes and we've bumbled our way through some things, but we have learned or been reminded of how hard we must work to earn the respect and trust of those who are

in positions of influence and authority in our community.

## **Long After the News Cycle Changes the Impact of the Tragedy Becomes Chronic**

Only in the face of such tragedy would the sitting President of the United States travel to Roseburg. President Obama was not a popular figure in



Douglas County before the shooting. His remarks immediately afterward felt like a slap in the face or salt in our wounds. His decision to come was controversial and risky. Having the President come prolonged the news cycle. It opened our community to an influx of outsiders who equally politicized the shooting. But after a week of being all over the news, all the satellite trucks were gone and the news

crews absent. Nine victim memorial services later our community has grown weary of grieving, but we cannot escape the necessity of mourning. Fundraisers and tributes continue for the foreseeable future. Disbursements to victims' families are occurring, plans for changes at the campus and in our local schools are being considered, and everywhere one goes there are reminders and signs of people on edge emotionally and struggling spiritually. The tragedy will continue to impact those of us living in Douglas County for a very long time.

## **Conclusion**

I want to say thank you to those of you who have been praying for us in Roseburg. Thanks particularly to those of you who reached out personally without prompting to offer assistance, to pray with us, and to just check on us. Please do not forget to continue to uphold us in your prayers. Pray for strength and healing, for hope and health. Pray that we might have wisdom as we seek to minister in this new reality. And pray for resources to continue to flow to make available the kind of ministry and assistance we feel compelled to give.

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# Pastoring in a Post-Tragedy Community

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There are three ongoing financial needs we would like you to be aware of in case you feel prompted to give:

1. Lifecare Counseling - I serve on the Board of Directors of this Ministry. It exists to offer counseling services both professional and lay to persons struggling emotionally and spiritually. Our professional counselors, Debbie and Roger Horton, have been on the frontlines during this crisis, offering their services on the UCC Campus and local grief drop in centers and in their offices. Our plan is to increase our support to their ministry in order to expand the space available for group and private counseling. Our monthly need is an increase of approximately \$600 per month for the next twelve months.
2. Douglas County Evangelical Fellowship (DCEF). As the DCEF we have committed nearly \$6000 to supporting our first responding police in their attendance of a post-crisis/trauma event hosted at the Cove by the Billy Graham Crisis Response Team. We are raising all of that from member churches in the next two weeks (our starting balance 0). To date north of \$4000 has been

raised. Any funds in excess will be designated for ongoing assistance to responders, students and faculty who are dealing with the after-effects of trauma.

3. Hucrest Church's Grief and Counseling Assistance Fund. We are pleased to be able to help bring H. Norman Wright to our community on November 6-7, and to host ongoing Griefshare Groups (Holiday and Semester). We want to be able to offer these at the lowest cost possible. Our initial outlay is approximately \$500 and each participant's cost is approximately \$20. We are anticipating one- to two-hundred participants at the community seminar, and twenty or so ongoing participants in our group. Any assistance you might feel prompted to give will be put to good use.

Finally, I want to ask you all to pray for workers in the field here in Roseburg. There is an incredible opportunity to pray with and for folks in our community. Many are more receptive to spiritual conversations than I have ever seen. I'm believing great evangelistic fruit will be produced. Pray that our church would be able to deploy our members to maximum affect.

## Christmas Events

**December 12, 2015**

### **CHRISTMAS BANQUET**

#### **Mt. Scott Church of God**

10603 SE Henderson St.  
Portland, OR  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

"Jesus is the Sweetest Gift" with music from the Kuykendall Family, Woodburn

\$15.00 per person. Tickets must be purchased by December 1.

Contact: Charlie or Zona Gray,  
7103 SE 117 Place, Portland, OR  
97266

Email: [zonagray@aol.com](mailto:zonagray@aol.com)  
Phone: 503-760-6671

**December 12-14, 2015**

### **LIVE NATIVITY**

#### **Lynchwood Church of God**

3818 SE 174th Avenue, Portland  
Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 12-13:  
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 14: 7:00 – 9 p.m.

Questions: Call the church  
Phone: (503) 665-6638

**December 13, 2015**

### **CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS and CHRIST**

#### **Aloha Church of God**

18380 SW Kinnaman  
Rd., Aloha, OR  
6:00 p.m.

An evening of  
candlelight, carols and  
communion.

All are welcome.

Questions? Call the church

Phone: (503) 649-5678

**December 18-20, 2015**

### **LIVE NATIVITY**

#### **Friendly Street Church of God**

2290 Friendly Street, Eugene, OR  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. nightly

Free!

Drive or walk by scenes of Jesus'  
life with live actors and animals

Questions? Call the church

Phone: (541) 345-6553



**December 20, 2015**

### **CHRISTMAS PLAY & PROGRAM**

#### **Longview First Church of God**

2335 46th Avenue, Longview, WA  
6:00 p.m.

Phone: (360) 636-0370



Christmas Events are noted on the District webpage under the calendar icon at <http://orwacog.org>.

# Camp White Branch Progress

The annual Camp White Branch (CBW) fundraising dinner was held Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland.

A fundraiser campaign began September 20th with "Flash" Sundays, concluding October 11th with *Camp White Branch Sunday*. Congregations distributed

information each Sunday to encourage involvement.



Updated pledge numbers should be available in the next issue of the E-CONTACT.

A big thanks to the White Branch board members, and to Mt. Scott Church of God for their work on the campaign and dinner event.

The campaign effort focused on raising funds to complete the multi-purpose building and repay the Association for the money borrowed. Initial numbers following the October 11 target date resulted in a total of \$50,192.12 toward the goal of \$500,000. Pledge cards and gifts are still coming in. Please keep this project in prayer.



<http://www.orwacog/camp-white-branch>



## CWB Camp Dates Slated for 2016

- Senior High camp - Monday, July 11 – Friday, July 15, 2016
- Introductory Camp - Friday, July 15 – Sunday, July 17, 2016
- Middle School Camp - Monday, July 18 – Friday, July 22, 2016
- Summer Celebration - Sunday, July 24 – Wednesday, July 27, 2016
- Junior Camp - Monday, August 1 – Friday, August 5, 2016
- Primary Camp - Monday, August 8 – Thursday, August 11, 2016

Promote camp attendance for your local congregations.

The E-CONTACT is a publication of the Church of God in Oregon and SW Washington  
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Kay Tira, Editor—[contacteditor@orwacog.org](mailto:contacteditor@orwacog.org)

## College Application Fee Waived Through December 1

When you apply to attend Warner Pacific College, we'll waive your application fee. Hurry. While the benefits of a quality, Christ-centered education through Warner Pacific will last a lifetime, the application fee waiver period ends December 1. This waiver applies to applications from incoming freshmen, transfer students, and international students. <http://www.warnerpacific.edu/admissions/apply/>

## Warner Pacific is #IamUCC

One week after the Umpqua Community College shooting, the Warner Pacific community came together in prayer and support. <http://www.warnerpacific.edu/prayers-and-support-for-ucc/>

## WP Senior Brings a Pitch of Dreams to Gresham

Senior Ricki Ruiz had a dream to improve an ad-hoc futsal field in his neighborhood. Using the skills learned in his WPC Social Entrepreneurship classes and prayer, he brought in the Timbers and others to turn a weed-filled patch of asphalt into two new futsal fields for the community. He partnered with other Warner Pacific students and alumni to form the Rockwood Initiative. <http://www.warnerpacific.edu/futsal-field-in-rockwood/>  
*Photos: <http://www.pamplinmedia.com/go/42-news/274292-150115-in-photos-timbers-operation-pitch-invasion-dedicate-snake-court-futsal-pitch>*

## Newberg Welcomes PK: It's a Boy!

Praise for the newest member of the Ingalls family! Baby boy, Micah James Ingalls, was born Wednesday, October 7, 2015, to Pastor Matt and Abbey Ingalls (River Street Church of God, Newberg). Micah joins his 2½ year old brother. Congratulations to the family!

## High Schoolers: preview Warner Pacific College in November

Thursday – Friday, November 5-6, 2015  
\$25 (includes t-shirt, activities, and meals). Get a sneak peek at college life: sleep in a dorm room, eat cafeteria food, attend a class, and more!  
RSVP now: <http://www.warnerpacific.edu/admissions/visit/preview/>

## Chapel

Everyone is welcome to attend our Tuesday/Thursday Chapels. If you are near campus at 10 am either day, we'd love for you to join us. <http://www.warnerpacific.edu/campus-life/chapel/chapel-schedule/>

## Free Mobile App

Download Warner Pacific's free mobile app (available from Google Play or iTunes) and never miss an exciting event or the latest news: <http://www.warnerpacific.edu/wp-mobile/>

## Thanksgiving Holiday

Warner Pacific campuses are closed November 26 & 27 for the Holiday.

## Ministers' & Spouses' Annual Retreat

February 15-17, 2016  
Newport, Oregon  
Guest Speakers: Rand & Phyllis Michael  
Worship Leader: Pastor Martin Shrout  
Registration: <http://orwacog.org/events/ministers-spouse-retreat/>  
Registration Deadline: January 13, 2016

This retreat is intended for:  
*All pastors and staff associates  
Those who are single or whose spouse has passed away. You are not only very welcome to attend, but greatly encouraged to be a part of this special time of fellowship.*

# Christ Amid Crisis: Syrian Refugees Loved by 'People of the Messiah'

Posted October 22, 2015 by chogministries  
by Carl Stagner

They're not just "swarms" or "masses" of people. They're people. They're individuals. They're individuals for whom Christ died. One of the most complex issues of our day has hit the Middle Eastern country of Turkey especially hard. The Syrian refugee crisis—as it has been dubbed—offers no simple solutions, no easy answers. While the Church of God strategically prepares a holistic, long-term response, believers in Turkey are busy meeting immediate needs. Known by the refugees as "people of the Messiah," Christians in the region are boldly loving the "least of these." Ruth Lyons, Church of God contact on-the-ground (Eurasia Ministries), gives us a closer look.

While others are dismissing them, God's people are welcoming them. Believers aren't ignoring the very real problems posed by such unprecedented migration, but they do recognize that behind each refugee's face is a soul in need. Even as the Syrian



refugee crisis fades from the headlines, it's important for the Church of God to know that the issue remains front-and-center in countries like Turkey. According to

Ruth, three primary areas of concern weigh on the hearts and minds of those most affected in Turkey: 1) internal political tension; 2), ethnic tensions between Turks and Kurds; and, 3), the growing influence of the Islamic State (IS) and the refugee crisis. As a result of civil war in Syria and the rise of IS, economic instability and rampant violence has become the norm. "As a result of the Syrian refugee crisis," Ruth explains, "Turkey now hosts nearly two million refugees, according to official statistics, but the actual numbers may be even higher. This means that at least 3 percent of Turkey's population is now composed of refugees who have crossed into the country in the last two years."

All of this bad news has presented an opportunity for the Good News of Christ to be made known through word and deed. Ruth tells the story of one family's



exodus from Syria, painting a picture of the need for a tangible expression of the gospel:

We had just delivered some children's clothes, a carpet, and a hot water heater

to Hanan and her family. The warm jackets we had were both for girls—fine for their six-year-old, but we hadn't realized her eight-year-old was a boy. Nevertheless, they took the dark pink fur-lined winter jacket gladly, and he put it on, proudly parading around the house. "It's fine," she assured us. "We can't afford to be fussy about the color..." How many brothers and sisters do you have?" we asked. We learned that there were five, and they had all fled from Aleppo to Turkey. Hanan just needed to talk about the day that changed their lives... They had lived in a four-floor apartment, with two apartments per floor. A bomb made a direct hit on the building, flattening it so only the ground floor remained. Hanan was outside in the yard, and she raced into the rubble, screaming for her children and her sisters. The children were fine, but shaken. Her sisters had not been at home, thankfully. Having escaped with their lives, they'd lost everything, and decided to flee across the border, for the bomb had been dropped by their own government.

Much of the ministry to refugees has been ongoing since civil war first erupted in Syrian more than four years ago. These believers are in it for the long haul, and understand the power of developing relationships. "By visiting the families, we get to know their stories and recognize the dignity they have as people created in the image of God and deeply loved by Him," Ruth explains. "We can rarely give a package of food or a bag of clothing without the lady of the house wanting to show us hospitality in some way."

Coming to the aid of refugees, believers in Turkey have been a source of food, clothing, and other basic

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# Christ Amid Crisis: Refugees Loved by ‘People of the Messiah’

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necessities. They've offered medical care and helped refugees get to hospitals when needed. They've distributed hardcopy Bibles and Bibles on CD in the Arabic and Kurdish languages. They have prayed with the refugees. In all, God has been glorified.

Having witnessed the Syrian refugee crisis firsthand, Ruth Lyons suggests some specific ways the Church of God can pray. Pray for: wisdom in determining best ways to help the refugees; for protection, both physical and spiritual; for those refugees facing serious medical issues. Pray for: displaced

children without access to adequate education; the Protestant church in Turkey and those who are coming to the aid of refugees; those who read and hear the message of the gospel. Finally, Ruth suggests, pray for area governments to develop a strategy that will help bring peace back to the region. Thank you!

## Region 3 Unites

Church of God congregations in Albany, Salem and Woodburn met at Bush's Pasture Park, 890 Mission St. SE, in Salem, OR, to celebrate the unity of the church. The event involved picnic and worship in the park over Labor Day weekend. Rev. Steve Kufeldt captured the moment.



Region 5 is scheduled to meet for their first invitational event on November 1 at Rainier COG. Their next leadership meeting is December 3 at Rainier COG. Similar events are happening in other Regions. Be sure to submit regional photos and reports of these events to [contacteditor@orwacog.org](mailto:contacteditor@orwacog.org).

## Albany 1st Church of God Celebrated 120 Years

The October 16 event included a pie social and good conversation, followed by a celebration dinner October 17th in the multipurpose room at Albany's First Assembly of God. Congratulations, Albany, on this milestone!



### THE PURPOSE

of The Association is to:

- Conduct business as the legally-incorporated body of the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon, Inc.
- Provide assistance to Oregon and Southwest Washington congregations and be a channel through which local congregations shall be mobilized to fulfill our united vision and mission.

### THE VISION

of The Association is for every believer to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission, the Great Commandments, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

### THE MISSION

of The Association is to:

- Create and maintain ministries that will strengthen, encourage, supplement, and promote local congregations of The Association;
- Inspire commitment to the teachings, mission, and theological perspectives of the Church of God, Anderson, IN;
- Provide support for the development of healthy Church of God congregations.



Be Thankful!



# Happy Thanksgiving



## District Council Representatives

**Chair Person: Jackie Scott** (2015-2018) three-year term. Attends Lynchwood COG; serves on Board of Trustees

**Region 1** (Bandon, North Bend, Powers and Reed-sport): **Rev. Jim Minkler** (2015-2016) one-year term. Senior Pastor at Seabird Community COG, Bandon

**Region 2** (Cottage Grove, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Medford, Springfield and Roseburg): **J Brown** (2015-2017) two-year term; layperson at First COG, Springfield

**Region 3** (Albany Community, Albany 1st, Albany Oak Hill, Lebanon, Salem and Woodburn): **Rev. Steve Kufeldt** (2015-2018) three-year term; Associate Pastor at Hoodview COG, Woodburn

**Region 4** (Aloha, Gales Creek, Hillsboro, Newberg and Tigard): **Michael Harkema** (2015-2016) one-year term; layperson at River Street Church of God, Newberg

**Region 5** (Longview, Rainier, Scappoose, and St. Helens): **Rev. Mike Kernutt** (2015-2017) two-year term; retired pastor attending Rainier Community COG.

**Region 6** (Husum, LaGrande, Pendleton, Prineville, Redmond, and The Dalles): **Rev. Tom Culp** (2015-2018) three-year term; Senior Pastor of Husum Community COG in WA

**Region 7** (Community, Holladay Park, Iglesia de Dios, Maranatha, Neighborhood and Vancouver): **Rev. Martin Shrout** (2015-2016) one-year term; Senior Pastor of Holladay Park COG, Portland

**Region 8** (International Fellowship, Lents-Gilbert, Lynchwood, Mt. Scott, Richmond, Rockwood, Winding Road, Faith Rock and Hilltop): **Rev. David Wilson** (2015-2017) two-year term; Co-pastor of Mt. Scott COG, Portland

## Upcoming Events



### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**ENDS** - Sunday, November 1, 2015

**VETERAN'S DAY** - Wednesday, November 11

**THANKSGIVING DAY** - Thursday, November 26,

**CHRISTMAS DAY** - Friday, December 25, 2015

**HOW-TO Convention**, Saturday, January 30, 2016, Tigard Church of God

**Ministers & Spouses Retreat** - Monday, February 15, 2016 - Wednesday, February 17, 2016 (Registration Deadline: January 13)



A Click Away  
[Orwacog.org/calendar](http://Orwacog.org/calendar)