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SW Washington



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— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends,

Recently I shared with our pastors a 20-year study done by the Barna Research Group that revealed some not so surprising statistics regarding church attendance. According to the survey one-third fewer Americans attend church now than in 1993. Barna found that “in the 1990’s, weekly church attendance hovered around 43 percent of the sample. This general trend continued with some stability into the early 2000’s, and then there was a discernible shift upward. During the period from 2005 to 2010, weekly church attendance edged upward, with the highwater mark occurring in 2009 when nearly half Americans (48%) indicated weekly attendance.” However, since 2009, weekly church attendance has steadily declined to just 29% in 2020. These statistics were compiled before the Covid-19 pandemic required most of our churches to close or severely limit in-person gatherings.

Why do I share this? There has been much talk in recent days among church leaders about a post-COVID reality. Many long for the people who were part of the church they pastor to return. This is a legitimate desire, born out of a love for the people they serve. The problem I see is I am not hearing much conversation about reaching those who are not part of the church. That number is growing at a rapid pace. In the same study only one in four Americans (25%) are considered practicing Christians. The words of Jesus ring true, “the harvest is great, but the workers are few” (Luke 10:2). It is not just your pastor’s job to reach the lost, it is our calling as well. We are not simply asked to invite them to church, which can be an effective way to help introduce them to other believers. We are called to build relationships with those far from Jesus and through the leading of the Holy Spirit, introduce them to the God who loves them. Jesus is our example. He ate and drank with sinners. Jesus met them right where they were. He did not stress about what others would think of him. He simply loved enough to invite the lost into his orbit.

The point I am trying to make is, we are all responsible for introducing people to Jesus.

(continued on pg 3)

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District Office, Church & National Events



May 6: National Day of Prayer
May 9: Mother's Day
May 31: Memorial Day (office closed)



June 14: Flag Day
June 20: Father's Day
June 26-28: Young Adult Camp/CWB
June 26-29: Nat'l Convention of the CHOG

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD

CHOG NEWS

CONVENTION 2021 & GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DENVER | JUNE 26-29, 2021

HUNGER & THIRST

FOR JUSTICE. FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. FOR JESUS.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE,
FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED. Matthew 5:6 NLT



Convention 2021 is going hybrid — you can choose to attend sessions in person (first 1000 participants) in Denver or you can attend virtually.

There are great speakers planned and you can get all the details by logging onto Jesusisthesubject.org - our CHOG website.

To HUNGER AND THIRST is uncomfortable ...

what if we allowed that discomfort to lead us to empathy – for the needs of the poor, those whose voices have been dismissed, and those who mourn?

CONSIDER, PRAY and ACT—You won't want to miss Convention 2021. Register today!!

Letter from Jerry cont/More CHOG News

(article continued from pg 1)

Here are a few questions to think about. Who do you have a relationship with that is far from Jesus? Do you intentionally spend time with people who do not yet know Jesus? When was the last time you invited someone to church? Are you involved in serving people in the name of Jesus? The truth is declining church attendance is not going to fix itself. We can not simply put on better church programs and expect the lost to come. Discipleship and evangelism are about inviting others into our lives. I know that has been a challenge during the pandemic, which is not over yet. However, I would urge you to ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to people who you can begin to pray for and make plans to safely interact with, who do not know Jesus yet. Together, one relationship at a time, we can see people come to faith in Jesus. The field is ripe!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jerry

1. [Signs of Decline & Hope Among Key Metrics of Faith - Barna Group](#)
2. Ibid.

Save the Date—Annual Business Meeting

Save the Date!



ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD
IN OREGON & SW WASHINGTON

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, July 17, 2021

Oak Park Church of God

2990 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting: 10:00 a.m.

(Minister's Meeting following Business Mtg)

Moving Forward @ Camp White Branch



**CAMP
WHITE BRANCH**

Greetings from Camp,

I hope you have heard the news that overnight camps will be able to open this summer. This last week we received the state COVID guidelines we need to follow for camps and rental groups. Things may need to look a little different, but kids will be able to come to camp. God is so good!

Many thanks to our faithful supporters—individuals and churches—who have been diligent in prayer, volunteering to serve, and continue to support our camp with financial donations. We have been making repairs for opening this summer and general maintenance with the help of volunteers from Albany, Salem, Springfield, Lynchwood, Woodburn, and Redmond. Rainier, Albany and Reedsport churches are also scheduled to come in May/June to complete other projects. We are still in need of volunteers to do a really good cleaning of the cabins and the dormitory in preparation for our camps. If you have a few free days to help with this, please contact us at: volunteer@campwhitebranch.org or call Paula at the District Office (503-393-3510) and she will connect us. Check out the photos of some of the things completed and volunteers on the next page.

We are really excited that volunteers have started to contact us to help support camp operations this summer. We have a lead cook, some assistant cooks, a registration coordinator, and a couple who have volunteered to stay at the camp from July-August to serve as maintenance and overall operations lead. We are still in need of a few assistant cooks and at least one volunteer or a couple per camp for cleaning/dishwashing. (I know cleaning isn't the most exciting role but is much needed with the cleaning guidelines we need to follow.) We will have the caretaker housing available for volunteers plus we have a couple RV hook-ups. Please contact us at volunteer@campwhitebranch.org if you can help or have questions. Appreciate your willingness to serve!!

Our Camp Coordinator, Danette Beisley, has been working diligently on plans for 2021 camps. Some camps are still in need of counselors, certified lifeguards, and first aid/CPR certified health staff (all need to be 18 yrs or older). Please contact Danette at danette@oakparkchurch.net if you are able to help us out.

2021 Church of God Camp Dates—Registration will Open in May

Intro Camp, July 23-25, 2021

Primary Camp, August 9-12, 2021

Junior Camp, July 26-30, 2021

Middle School Camp, July 19-23, 2021

Sr High Camp, July 12-16, 2021

Young Adult, June 17-20, 2021

Please continue to look on the website for more details about upcoming events, camps, and other needs at camp @ www.campwhitebranch.org

The Camp White Branch ministry is so important in saving and changing lives. Volunteer if you can, and encourage your children, youth and young adults to register for camps planned. **You can be a part of this!**

Blessings and Grace,

Lisa Switzer, CWB Chairman

CWB Volunteers & Work Completed



CWC Spring Connection Overview

Christian Women's Connection Spring Connection

What an inspirational blessing! It had been a year and a week for our organization to gather for a Connection. Lynchwood Church of God hosted our event in their gym. We were able to social distance and meet the state guidelines. A special thank you to Patty Deacon and Jocelyn Johnson for the prep work for our event.

Forty-five ladies, representing numerous churches in our Association, gathered to fellowship and worship. Jackie Scott and Sally Kuykendall led our inspirational worship. I was so blessed!

Jenny Dunbar/Mihsill (speaker) is a creative motivational communicator! I chuckled when her mom, Mary Dunbar, shared with me that Jenny, while growing up, would gather the neighborhood (Woodburn) children, sit them on a picnic bench and preach. Jenny is called by God and recognized this at a young age. She shared with our CWC group about their life in Cote D'Ivoire and the transitions a missionary family makes especially during a pandemic. In 2016 Christian of Promise launched a program in their country that Jenny and Bobby oversee. The stories of how the children and their families are helped were very interesting.

On my health journey, I needed to be reminded that when God is my source through struggles and suffering, His power is evident! God reconciliates and empowers us to reach out to others. 2 Corinthians 4:7 says "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." Jars of clay can be fragile and are made by hand. Jenny reminded us that the all-surpassing power from God gives us: 1. Peace over fear, 2. Hope over despair and 3. Transformation over stagnancy. God woke me up through her sharing!

There were 13 lovely baskets for our silent auction. It was evident that ladies wanted to donate without earning a basket and this enabled us to nearly reach our \$1000 scholarship. The scholarship will honor a young lady at Warner Pacific University who is studying for ministry or is in the nursing program.

Some churches in the PNA (the WA Association) are financially supporting the Mihsill family. I would encourage more Oregon churches to consider supporting them.

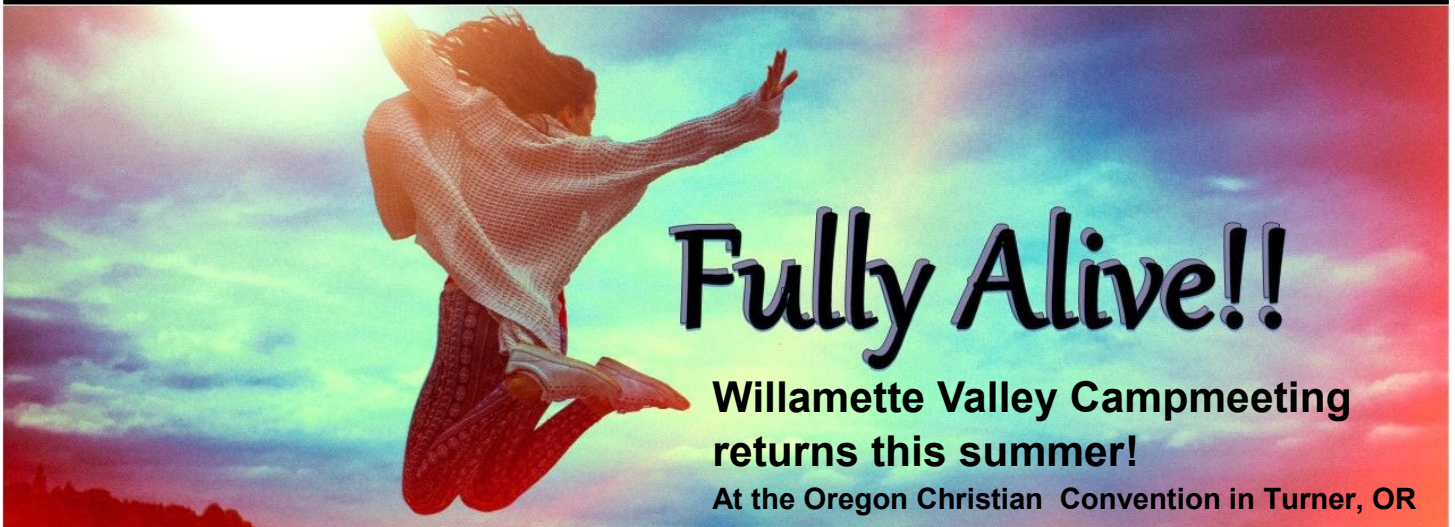
May the Lord continue to bless this young family as they minister through Children of Promise and teach at the West Africa Bible Institute called IBAO!

President Nancy Kernutt



SAVE THE DATE—CWC FALL RETREAT @ Camp White Branch, September 17-19

Willamette Valley Campmeeting - August 1-5, 2021



Like many other events, Willamette Valley Campmeeting was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, but we are planning on returning this August. Come join us for a week of worship, inspiration and fellowship!

Our theme is the call of every believer to be **“Fully Alive!”** Held on the historic grounds of the Oregon Christian Convention Center in Turner, Oregon, this annual week is a time to get away and get refreshed!

Marshall Snider, our main speaker, will be featured at all main sessions as well as the daily morning youth service. We believe you will be challenged and encouraged by him this year.

Daniel Ryan, Overseer of Music Ministries at Lynchwood Church of God in Portland, will lead worship at the main sessions.

While we will be operating under current regulations regarding COVID-19, we trust that we will be able to return to some “normalcy,” including ...

- ⇒ **Youth program** featuring daily youth worship times. Youth registration (\$75/person) includes lodging, programming, and food.
- ⇒ **Children’s programming.**
- ⇒ A variety of **recreation** opportunities (including a small creek that is great for Tubing down the river on a hot day!)
- ⇒ Affordable **overnight lodging options**, including cabins, RV spaces and campsites (only \$13/night per person age 4 and above; \$50 per day family max).
- ⇒ **Commuters** are also welcome (suggested donation of \$5/day for age 4 and above).
- ⇒ **Meals** available onsite on a donation basis.

This informal week is planned so finances are not an obstacle and is underwritten by offerings.

Marshall Snider has a mission: to encourage, equip, inspire and model greatness in life and leadership in people and organizations. This mission has driven every element of Marshall’s life, including his career. Through more than 30 years of work in the non-profit and for-profit business sectors, he has become a visionary leader, a sought after speaker, an expert in management and culture, and developer of people and communities.



Marshall is the founder of “Because People Matter,” an organization that brings key community influencers and change makers together in a movement that has transformed thousands of people. He also partners with several Portland-area churches in the area of leadership development.

He is married to Lesley and has two sons Samuel and Noah and resides in Portland, Oregon.

Registration is available on the district website: orwacog.org/events/willamette-valley-campmeeting-6/

Lynchwood Steps Up During COVID



Possibilities in Proximity: Leaders Look Across Street, Seize Opportunities to Serve

By chogministries Posted March 29, 2021 In All Church of God, CHOG, Leadership Development

Written by Grace Keohand Dyck

It all started with the question, “What can we do to serve our community?” recalls Annie Clark, Campus Life area director for Youth for Christ. Clark was part of a meeting at Lynchwood Church of God with leaders from the church, Youth for Christ, and other local ministries. They were looking for a way to help their community. They wanted to reach out and serve those that might need help during this trying time. They found the answer by looking out the window.

“We realized that we were uniquely positioned right across the street from Centennial High School,” Clark says. “We asked, ‘What can we do to help high school students who attend there?’” This is how the idea for Aspen + Gray came about.

Aspen and Gray is a new, completely free, boutique of on-trend clothing, shoes, and personal care items. The boutique encourages female students who are in need to contact them via Instagram, @aspengray_ for a personal shopping experience at no cost. The hand-selected clothing is new or gently used, and comes in a wide offering of sizes.

Clark describes the project as “a collaboration unlike anything I have seen before,” and she was excited to see many others contribute.

Lynchwood & More about Aspen + Gray

"We have had students volunteer to sort and wash clothing, community members who have donated clothing, complete strangers all over the internet who have donated hundreds of personal care items, a nonprofit who is staffing our interns, and a church who is funding the project," she continues. "It has been a labor of love to meet the needs of female youth in our community."

Even though the boutique is a brand-new initiative, it has already been able to serve a handful of young women. One recent client was particularly memorable for Clark. "She was shy and said she was just looking for a sweat-shirt. But I asked if there was anything else she needed," Clark recalls. The young girl looked at the wall of personal care items. "Do you think I could get a toothbrush...and maybe one for my mom and sister, too?" she asked.

Clark recalled being a teenager herself. "We weren't poor, but we didn't have a lot of extra money either, and I remember wanting to have some nice clothes at that age," she says. She believes a nice outfit and some good hygiene items can make a huge difference in the confidence of a young woman.



A variety of styles and sizes available!

"Our dream is that every student knows who we are and that they feel safe when they are at Aspen + Gray. If we can achieve this, I truly think we will be showing our community the love of Christ," Clark says.



Clothing ready to bless teen girls in style!

Aspen + Gray is still taking donations of gently used clothing, personal care items, as well as financial contributions to help them to purchase new clothing items in sizes when they don't have enough variety. They are especially in need of shoes.

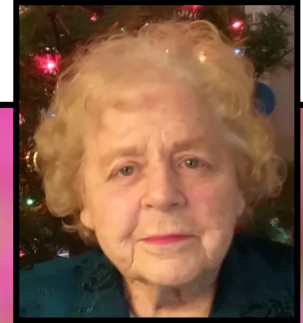
You can reach out to them via their Instagram page @aspengray_ or via email at aclark@yfc.net. If you are a student or know of a female middle or high school student in the east county area that needs clothing they would love to help. "I hope that every student we serve leaves knowing they are wildly worthy and loved," Clark says.

Aspen + Gray is a project inspired by the Chapter 4 Institute. Learn more about Chapter 4 at www.jesusisthesubject.org/chapter4. Article originally published by [Stark & Main](#).

Remembering Barbara Hyslip

In Loving Memory

Barbara Hyslip



Barbara Jean Livingston Hyslip **February 25th, 1933- February 13th, 2021**

Barbara Hyslip went to heaven on February 13th, 2021 at the age of 87. The family left behind is saddened but rejoice as they know she is in the arms of Jesus and with her husband of 58 years, Lewis.

Barbara was a sister, wife, mother, and had several grandchildren and great grandchildren that gave her much joy. As a pastor's wife she hosted many families in her home and was known for her gift of hospitality. Guests were assured of an excellent meal and most likely something chocolate for dessert. Barbara LOVED her chocolate. In her home in Woodburn hangs a sign that says, "A balanced diet is Chocolate in both hands" – that sums it up. She also taught Sunday school and sang in the church choir. After her stroke in 2019 she was not able to cook and bake anymore, and instead she lovingly wrote cards of encouragement to friends and family, mailing one almost every day. She enjoyed travelling, visiting all 50 states and several countries. One of her all-time favorite places was the Oregon Coast.

Barbara was born in Silverton Oregon in 1933 and was the 6th child to Alford and Lural Livingston. Her brothers Ray and Ursel, and sisters Lucile and Mildred preceded her in death. Sister Maxine Jones is the only surviving sibling and will soon celebrate her 90th birthday. She is also survived by her three children, Sonja, Tammie, and Edward; along with four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Barbara met Lewis Hyslip at Warner Pacific College and they married in December 1956. She served alongside Lewis in several churches across the United States: Portland OR, Redwood City CA, Colorado Springs CO, Seattle WA, and Baker, OR. In 1983, she moved with Lewis to Canada where they served with the Church of God in Western Canada in Camrose and Calgary. They lived in Canada for 26 years and then moved back to Oregon to be closer to family. Barbara cherished the many friends her and Lewis made throughout their ministry in North America. Her friends and family will remember her for her strong faith, hospitality, and kind spirit.

Due to travel restrictions, a memorial service will be set and announced at a later date.

In Memory of Chuck Ellis



Charles "Chuck" Ellis went to his heavenly home on April 5, 2021 at the age of 80. He was married to Pat and they were living in Nampa, ID at the time of his death. A memorial honoring his life took place at Cloverdale Church of God in Boise on April 24th. Chuck was not only the founding pastor of Cloverdale but had returned there to serve in his retirement.

Chuck and Pat were the pastors at our Lents Gilbert Church in Portland for two different periods of time. They also served in other locations in the NW as well as in Canada.

If you would like to send a card to Pat during this time of loss, please contact the Association Office for her address.

Update on Hannah Grace Family Ministry



The Hannah Grace Family Ministry, featured in our Jan/Feb issue of the Connection has great news!! After much prayer, fundraising, and lots of work, they are now operating effectively out of their new building. Their church family of Faith Rock Community (Jason Hood, pastor) is also using the facilities for worship.

Hannah Grace Family was awarded a gift from the Holladay Park Church Legacy DAF which helped provide for their new home. Hannah Grace Family works alongside families in the foster family process.



We encourage you to pray for this ministry and to go to their website to learn more, www.hannahgrace.org. If you would like to financially support them, they currently have a donor who will match donations up to \$2100 per mo for a year. There are many ways you can be involved. Check it out online!!



Do you have a story you would like to share about what God is doing in your church or community? We would love to hear from you. GOD is ALWAYS PRESENT and AT WORK and we would like to hear about it. Email your stories to Paula at districtoffice@orwacog.org

GLA Journey One: Not Just for Pastors

Dear Friends,

There is still room for you in the next Year One **Gravity Leadership Discipleship Cluster: Finding Your Center.**

Pastor Jerry Davisson is a certified Gravity Leadership coach, and from the experience of someone who has now signed up for Year Two, I want to encourage you to talk with Jerry about joining the next cluster. This discipleship training is like none other that I have experienced, and I, along with four others are now teaching Year One cluster groups in our individual churches using the transformative training we have received. Because ... it's that good!! **GLA is a 10-month coaching and training intensive for Christian leaders who want to bring lasting transformation to their own lives and to their church and culture. You can learn more about GLA by going to the link below:**

<https://gravityleadership.com>

Jerry is in the process of recruiting his next cohort. There is a cost for the 10-month training, however, there are some partial scholarships available through the Association that can help cover some of your cost.

To sign up or receive more information, please contact Jerry @ jdavisson@orwacog.org **TODAY.** He looks forward to hearing from you!!

Together in ministry,

Pastor Paula Wilson

You are never too young or too old to learn how to live more like Jesus!!

Jesusisthesubject.org—International News



*2021 Church of God
Women's Convention*

September 30 - October 3

You can download a registration form
@ Jesusisthesubject.org (events)

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

IYC2021 in Orlando, Florida has been rescheduled for
IYC2022 in San Antonio, Texas.

Registration for IYC2022 will open this fall. Logon to the
CHOG Website for more information.

