

A PUBLICATION OF
The Association of the
Churches of God in Oregon &
SW Washington



— CONNECTIONS —

Connecting our Churches, Ministries & Events



Greetings Friends!

I wanted to let you know that it is NOT TOO LATE to register for the FREE **Helping Small Churches Thrive Conference** at Oak Park Church in Salem on November 17-18th.

I had the opportunity to hear Karl Vaters present on this topic in January at a Regional Pastor's conference and I knew that he would be a blessing and encouragement to the pastors and leaders in our Association. Most of our churches fall into the category of small church which Karl defines as 25-350 people meeting in a

church building. He says you could narrow that down to 25-200 because there is a shift in dynamics that happens when a church reaches 200 but even at 350 some churches still act and feel like a small church.

In his book *Small Church Essentials* Karl makes the point that 'small does not equal broken' and challenges us to throw away the idea that small is something to be fixed and that bigger is always better. Karl reminds us that most, if not all of us will worship in and/or pastor a small church, and very few will ever pastor a large or mega church and that is okay! What we must do is learn the skills to pastor a thriving church of any size and that is what Karl will teach us how to do.

If you are tired of going to conferences led by mega-church pastors that get you excited only to be let down when you get home, you are not alone. As your district pastor, I understand, and that is why we are offering this conference. We value you and the effort you put in to lead your church every day and we want to equip you with some tools to help you thrive.

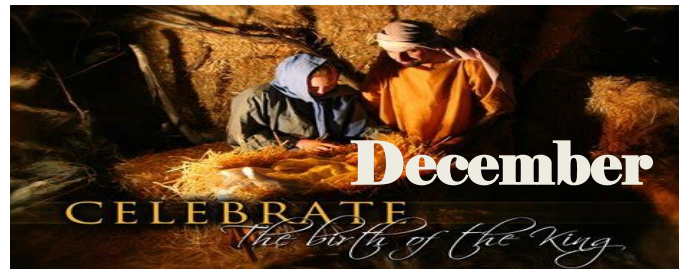


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www.orwacog.org | (503) 393-3510 | (800) 873-7729 | districtoffice@orwacog.org | Editor, Paula Wilson

District & National Events



Nov 5: Daylight Savings Ends (Fall Back)
 Nov 4: CWB 65th Anniversary
 Nov 7: Election Day
 Nov 11: Veterans Day
 Nov 17-18: Conference "Helping Small Churches Thrive," Oak Park COG, Salem
 Nov 23: Thanksgiving

Dec 3: First Sunday of Advent
 Dec 21: Winter Begins
 Dec 24: Christmas Eve
 Dec 25: Christmas
 Dec 31: New Years Eve

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Savior is given ..." Isaiah 9:6

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD
CHOG NEWS

Check out this event and so much more at Jesusisthesubject.org—



Bringing the Kingdom to Life...Together

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us next summer at one of our three collaborative events!

May 15-18—Los Angeles, June 18-20—Oklahoma City, October 3-5—location TBA



International Youth Convention
 Celebrating 100 Years Nationally
 Orlando, Florida—June 27-30

Pastor Jerry Invites to Sm Church Conference

(continued from page 1)

You might be asking, who is this conference for? The conference is designed for pastors, staff members, lay leaders and anyone who is interested in learning how to help your church be the best it can be NOW, not when it gets bigger. So, fill up a car, a van, or a bus and come be inspired. But there is one catch, we need you to register so we know how much food to prepare. Please register on our district website www.orwacog.org today!

Lunch will be provided by the youth at Oak Park as a fundraiser for their trip to the International Youth Conference in Florida next summer. So please, DON'T MISS the November 10th registration deadline. You will truly be encouraged.

Hope to see you there!

*Since this is the November-December issue I want to also wish you all a wonderful holiday season . . .
Happy Thanks Giving and a Merry Christmas to all!*

Together in ministry,

Pastor Jerry



Prayer Needs & 2023/24 Calendar Dates

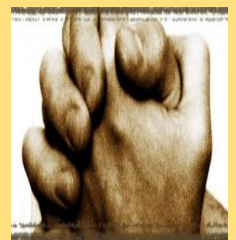
Please continue to **PRAY** for our churches in transition with pastoral leadership and for Camp White Branch. We greatly appreciate your prayers.

Redmond—Pastoral Search

Valley Hope, Hillsboro—in process of a restart, Ken Hoole, Interim Pastor

CWB—New Caretaker Needed

Remember we are stronger together!!



CWB 65th Anniversary Celebration November 4, 2023, pg 4
Small Church Conference @ Oak Park November 17-18, 2023, pg 8&9
Annual Business Meeting @ Oak Park July 20, 2024
2024 Summer Camps @ CWB pg 7
Willamette Valley Campmeeting @ Turner July 28th-August 1, 2024
Pastor/Spouse Retreat @ Newport October 13-15

Camp White Branch—65th Anniversary

Greetings from Camp White Branch,

Don't miss it!! November 4, 2023 from 11am to 5pm - COG Camp White Branch

65th Anniversary Celebration

It was 65 years ago that the Association of the Churches of God, Oregon and SW Washington purchased the camp from the Nazarene Church. We hope you are able to attend to help us celebrate! We are offering overnight stay in the cabins for Friday and Saturday (potentially by gender) for \$16.50/night and meals at \$6.50 each for those coming from far away or who want to experience sleeping in a cabin bunk again. Please check out the packing list should you stay. To

make a reservation scan the QR code or contact Faye at cwboptionsmanager@gmail.com or 541 632 3551.



You don't want to miss this!

CAMP WHITE BRANCH

65TH ANNIVERSARY 2023

Celebration Party

SATURDAY 4 NOV

11AM-5PM

\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION

Join us for Food, Stories & Fun to celebrate our 65th anniversary under the ownership of the Association of the Churches of God of OR & SW WA.

61500 Old McKenzie Hwy,
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413

To RSVP Scan the QR Code
or contact us for an Invite

www.campwhitebranch.org
cwboptionsmanager@gmail.com or 541-822-3511

What's been going on at camp?

Post the return of staff after the evacuation related to forest fires in the local area in September, Faye and Clayton have been hosting groups and preparing the camp for the winter season. We're sharing a few pictures to show the beautiful colors of fall at the camp.

We also had a group of men from the Crawfordsville Baptist Church by Sweet Home, Oregon, take time and spend a few weekends over the last couple of months to rebuild the office roof, which was taken off last summer when initial repairs first started. We are ready for the roofing company to come and put the metal roof on. What a blessing these men have been to Camp White Branch! We thank them from the bottom of our hearts! Volunteers play such an important integral role in getting projects completed at the camp!



CWB Staff Need, '24 Camps, Christmas Gifts

Farewell to Clayton Willbroad and family

As many of you have heard, we need to say 'farewell and thank you' to our current CWB maintenance specialist/caretaker, Clayton Willbroad and his family. He turned in his notice and will be leaving us Mid-November. God has opened other doors for them at this time. They have enjoyed the last year and a half and the opportunity to serve at the camp and to meet many of you. Please be praying for them and for the camp as we search for a replacement.

If you are interested or know of someone who might be in this position. Please contact Lisa Switzer at switzer112365@gmail.com.

2024 COG Summer Camps

Dates for next year's camps are set. Be sure and mark your calendar.

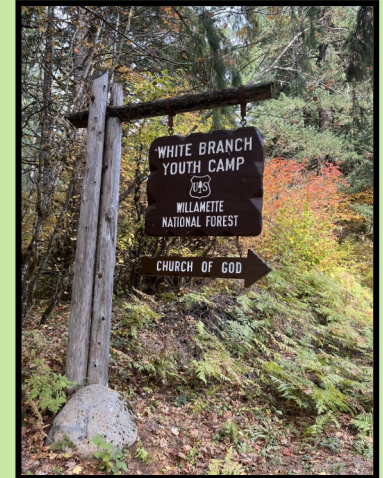
July 8-12, 2024 High School Camp

July 15-19, 2024 Middle School Camp

July 22-26, 2024 Junior Camp

August 5-8, 2024 Primary Camp

August 9-11, 2024 Introductory Camp



Give a Gift Certificate for Summer Camp to a camper this Christmas

Have you wanted to give your child or grandchildren the gift of going to summer camp? We offer gift certificates to do this. Check out <https://campwhitebranch.org/pay-for-campers/>. If you have questions, please contact Faye at cwboperationsmanager@gmail.com or 541-822-3511

Want to give Camp White Branch Gifts this Christmas?



Coming in Early November we are launching an online store! Looking for items for family members to remember Camp White Branch and give a perfect gift? We plan to have sweatshirts, hats, mugs and more! You will be able to connect to the online store through our website, Facebook and Instagram. These will be available through online purchase only at this time. Items are produced when ordered so please give at least 2 weeks for delivery. An announcement will be made through Facebook and Instagram when the store officially opens! We are excited to offer these options for the upcoming Christmas Season!

Blessings,

Lisa Switzer, Camp White Branch, Chair

Danette Beisley, Church of God Camp Coordinator

Karl Vaters Conference—November 17-18



**Pastors & Church Leaders,
REGISTER now for this conference!**

Fri, Nov 17th - Check in begins @ 6pm, Sat, Nov 18th - 9am-3pm

Location—Oak Park Church of God, Salem

Conference is available to you for FREE.

(Lodging, as needed, will be your only cost—with some scholarships available.)

The local church is the main way Jesus chose to bring hope and love to the world. By “church” we don’t mean denominations, buildings, organizations, sacraments or creeds. We believe the church is at its most profound and basic when it acts as an extension of Jesus’ command to love God and love others.

People getting together to love Jesus, each other and the world is what the church looks like when it is stripped back to its essential core. Or, as Jesus put it, “when two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

Megachurches are great! Not only do we have nothing against them, we believe the world needs more of them.

House Churches are great too! No one knows how many of them exist all over the world but, especially where the church is illegal, they are a vital spiritual lifeline for untold millions of believers. They deserve and need our prayer and support.

So, if megachurches and house churches are so wonderful, why is New Small Church all about the churches in between and what do we mean by “Small Church?”

Numerically, the boundaries between churches of each size are fairly fluid, but here’s a guide:

House Church: Less than 25 (and meeting in a house), **Small Church:** 25 – 350 (or under 25 meeting in a church building), **Big Church:** 350 – 2,000, **Megachurch:** Over 2,000

Helping Small Churches Thrive

WHY WE EXIST

Small Churches don't appeal to everyone. But, as it turns out, they do appeal to most people. More followers of Jesus have attended Small Churches in the last 2,000 years than any other type of church. That doesn't mean they're the best way to do church (we believe the "best" way is whatever works for the people who need it), but as the most popular type of church in existence, they need to receive more attention, support and encouragement than they typically have.

Small Churches make up 80% – 90% of the known churches in the world, but are the subject of probably less than 1% of the books and blogs about how to do church ministry. Small Churches are no better and no worse than churches of any other size. But they have been the most neglected, especially when it comes to pastoral training.

New Small Church wants to help fill that gap. We exist to encourage, connect and equip innovative Small church leaders. That's not just a slogan – it's what we actually plan to do. We want to see better, stronger, healthier Small Churches, led by passionate, prayerful, capable, innovative and loving pastors.

We believe being small is not a problem to fix, but a strategy God wants to use.

Most Small Church leaders have not been told that – or at least they haven't been told it enough. If we can help turn up the volume on that message, we will have done what we set out to do.

Karl Vaters is the author of four books.

[*The Church Recovery Guide: How Your Congregation Can Adapt and Thrive after a Crisis*](#)

[*100 Days to a Healthier Church: A Step-By-Step Guide for Pastors and Leadership Teams*](#)

[*Small Church Essentials: Field-Tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of Under 250*](#)

[*The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking That Divides Us*](#)

Want to know more about Karl Vaters and his ministry, go to www.karlvaters.com. There are many free resources available on his website.



Sessions at the November conference will include:

- *Redefining Success in Ministry*
- *Big Churches, Small Churches—What's the Difference*
- *How to Discover and Use What Your Church Does Well*
- *Finding & Mentoring Volunteers in Today's (And Tomorrow's) Small Church*

Plan now to attend!

Pastor Appreciation in Reverse @ Richmond

The Pastoral Staff at Richmond prepared and served a dinner to the congregation in observance of Pastor Appreciation Month. We reversed the meaning and billed it as "**Pastors Appreciate You**" dinner.

As the congregation gathered Saturday evening, October 14, in the Fellowship Hall, they were greeted with a cozy fireplace and soft Christian Praise music. The tables were decorated with silver and gold. Dinner chargers were on the table containing a prepared green salad. The glass goblets contained sparkling cider. The main course consisted of Trager smoked chicken breast, rice, steamed Asian vegetables and rolls. Chocolate cake and ice cream completed the meal.

The evening was planned, the food was cooked and served, and clean up was completed by the pastoral staff.

Submitted by Pastor Frank Clore



Hymnspiration/Ice Cream Social @ Lents Gilbert

"Celebrating the Timeless Power and Purpose of Hymns"

Fall descended upon Lents-Gilbert Church of God with an atmosphere of anticipation and jubilation as we inaugurated our first annual Hymnspiration and Ice Cream Social. The day was a celebration of both spirituality and community, and it commenced with a heartwarming service filled with the resonating echoes of hymns from our cherished Church of God heritage. The crowning moment of this musical congregation was a soul-stirring solo performance of "Amazing Grace" by the gifted Edy Hanke.

Amid the harmonious cadence of these sacred hymns, we were guided on a profound reflection of the significance of hymns in our lives by Eric MacCartney. In his thought-provoking reading, he elucidated that hymns transcend the realm of mere songs; they serve as a bridge to the divine.

The hymns were artfully grouped into five themes: "Praise to God," "Praise to Jesus," "Praise to the Spirit," and "Hymns of Prayer." Throughout the day, our esteemed Pastor Harry served as a spiritual beacon, using these thematic groupings to expound upon the importance of hymns in our lives. He eloquently conveyed how hymns are repositories of timeless truths from our faith, drawing from the collective wisdom of generations past. These melodious verses have the power to uplift our spirits, bringing solace during times of tribulation.

Our celebration extended beyond the boundaries of worship; it served as a testament to the unifying force of traditional hymns. These melodies not only fill the sacred space of our worship but also serve to unite us as a community of devout believers. Through their harmonious resonance, they enable us to forge deep bonds of fellowship and unity, strengthening the very fabric of our congregation.

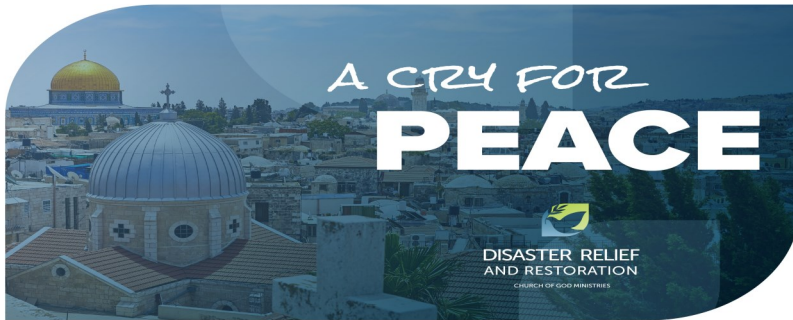
The Apostle Paul reminds us in Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." This verse underscores the vital role that hymns play in enriching our worship experience and deepening our connection with our Heavenly Father.

As the day concluded with an Ice Cream Social, the sweetness of fellowship and the resonance of the hymns lingered in our hearts. The first annual Hymnspiration and Ice Cream Social was a testament to the enduring power of hymns, offering a heartfelt reminder of their unceasing influence in guiding our faith journey and strengthening the bonds of our spiritual family.

Submitted by Jill MacCartney



A Cry for PEACE ...



Every day, but especially today, our hearts cry out for peace. A constant barrage of disheartening and horrific headlines leave even the most-connected and best-equipped among us feeling helpless, if not hopeless. We are reminded that “He’s still got the whole world in his hands,” yet that reality doesn’t remove the pain, the loss, the suffering, and the tragedy. God’s shalom is the only true antidote for a social landscape marred by violence and war, both physical and spiritual.

We therefore offer this “cry for peace” to our Lord whose heart also breaks for hurting ones in various locations, facing battles of differing types and intensity, across the globe. We share it with you, too, that you may join us on our knees.

As we continue to watch the unfolding conflict and violence in Israel and Palestine, we long for God’s shalom. We pray that precious human lives be spared on all sides and that world leaders exercise divine wisdom through every engagement and response.

As we pray for peace in Israel and Palestine, may we also intercede for peace alongside our global Church of God family enduring the following five conflicts:

Ever since a military coup in early 2021, the people of Myanmar have suffered extensively under the brutal *junta* regime. Widespread acts of violence against civilians, economic inflation, and restrictions that limit gatherings continue to greatly challenge the life of the Church of God in Myanmar.

This summer, the Church of God in Mandalay, Myanmar, welcomed low-income families from their community to shelter at their church facilities after the junta military government unexpectedly demolished 70 of their homes. Church of God Ministries (CGM) Disaster Relief partnered with the local body of believers in purchasing food, clothes, and school materials for the many children in their midst. They also walked with these families in securing new, safe housing options. Praise the Lord that each family has now been resettled through this ministry of hospitality and compassion!

In 2023, CGM Disaster Relief helped provide monthly stipends for the Church of God pastors and leaders in Myanmar. This small, yet significant provision equipped them to provide for their families and continue ministering to their church and community. As we draw near to the end of 2023, financial assistance under this brutal military regime is needed now more than ever; donations are needed to make this commitment possible.



In late 2022 and early 2023, conflict and violence in the wake of M23 rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) forced many individuals—including hundreds of Church of God families—to flee their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the country. Many of these men, women, and children remain displaced. The Church of God in Goma, DRC continues to minister to 387 displaced Church of God families and seeks partnership in providing them posho, rice, oil, and sugar.

Church of God Disaster Relief

Since the assassination of Haiti's president on July 7, 2021, the nation has experienced incredible socioeconomic and political instability resulting in a state of anarchy controlled by various rival gangs. High degrees of violence and widespread economic fall-out have resulted in a dire humanitarian crisis, leaving millions in desperate need of relief. Current assessments estimate that nearly half of Haiti's 4.9 million people are regularly going hungry, and the nation's children face grave risk of malnutrition.

The Church of God in central Haiti (where the situation is most dire) is stepping up to provide nutrition, especially for the most vulnerable. Local pastors network together to identify and provide bean and rice provisions to families most in need. Likewise, the St. Ard school, connected with the local church, started a feeding program that serves a substantial meal to the 300 children enrolled. For many of these children, this is the only large meal they receive each day. The St. Ard Hospital in Haiti also continues to meet critical health needs in the surrounding communities. However, assistance is needed to continue these vital ministries.



The global Church of God remains in solidarity with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters despite the brutally enduring nature of this war. The Hungarian Church of God continues to make multiple relief trips into Ukraine each month—bringing food, clothes, and other basic necessities to internally displaced peoples (IDPs) who remain in Ukraine. Agape Ministries, as part of the Bulgarian Church of God, continues to offer Bulgarian language classes and professional counseling services to Ukrainian refugees in their community. CGM Disaster Relief also partners with

Kinderhilfswerk in Germany to stipend a Ukrainian pastor's salary and equip him to continue his ministry among the Ukrainian Church of God community now residing in Calw, Germany. Additionally, winter relief activities alongside the German and Hungarian Church of God are already underway- preparing now by purchasing generators, sleeping bags, and coats, as well as by installing solar panels and extra insulation in the walls of churches where IDPs are sheltering.

Christians in Jaranwala, Pakistan witnessed a distressing wave of attacks, lootings, and burnings, which rendered many families displaced and churches destroyed. Within one week of this news being shared with the Church of God movement, sufficient support was received to not only provide immediate assistance—groceries, blankets, mattresses, sheets, and pillows—to 150 families—but also to equip the Pakistani Church of God to continue walking alongside the 20 Church of God families who lost everything in the flames. By the end of the year, these families will see their homes renovated and refurbished; more than that, they will know that they are loved and prayed for by their global Church family.



To equip peace-filled responses through the local Church of God globally, gifts can be made to [Church of God Ministries Disaster Relief](#). 100 percent of your donation goes to equip relief ministries in these five countries, as well as other Church of God communities affected by disaster globally. While there is no Church of God presence in Israel or Palestine, Church of God Ministries is exploring Christ-centered ministries to partner with on the ground.

Christian Women Connection Fall Retreat



CHRISTIAN
WOMEN
CONNECTION

Fall RETREAT in Review

Sept 15-17, 2023 @ CWB

Moving Forward... Psalm 119:105

Worship Leader,
Ashleigh Carnley



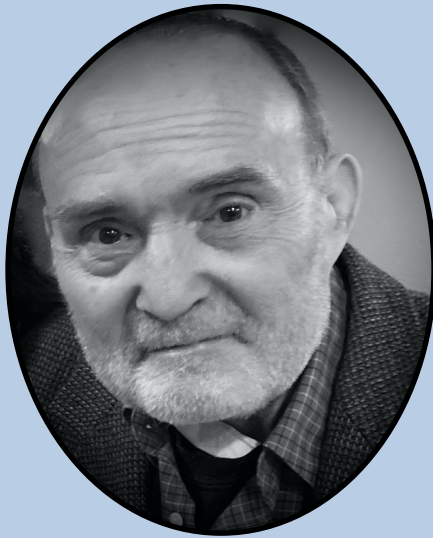
Dream new Dreams ~~~~
Hawaii CWC Resources on Website
Support Unwed Mothers
Mentoring Young Women into leadership
Resources for Mental Illness Suicide/Addiction/Prevention
First Aid
Prayer Line/Warrior Room - Website/App
Encounter/Support - Zoom/In Person/Facebook
More local groups active in CWC



Speaker, Janelle Irwin



Remembering Rev. Frank Yerden



Rev. Frank Yerden

March 23, 1949 – August 7, 2023

Frank Maurice Yerden was a beloved son, brother, faithful and devoted husband, father, pastor, mentor, and friend to many. Frank was well known for his friendly personality and his steady, laid back demeanor, his kindness, and his listening ear. Frank turned every willing stranger into a friend. He had a heart for the broken and found joy in meeting the needs of others. A recurring theme from those who knew him best is that there was never a time he spoke a bad word about anyone. Frank was an encourager, one who championed others in their gifts, and faithfully prayed for their best.

During his 53 years of church ministry, Frank often spoke of the importance of studying, memorizing, and meditating upon the Word of God and allowing the Word to influence every facet of one's life. Frank desired for everyone to experience the love of Jesus, striving himself to be like Jesus to those around him. Evidence of this desire was modeled in his character, but was also in the music that

Frank wrote, one of the most recognized of which is a simple chorus with this one phrase: "Let the people who live around me each day see Jesus in me."

An inspiring example of great faith in the midst of adversity, Frank battled Parkinson's Disease for 22 years until it finally claimed his last breath. As the disease slowly robbed him of motor skills and later basic functions, it was in 2019 that it impaired his speech, often leaving him unable to communicate with anyone but Jesus. Frank's amazing attitude during the last, most difficult years, of his life became a beautiful testimony to many. Though his disability stripped him from the functions of being a preacher, a worship leader, a counselor and friend to have conversation with — all things that he once considered to be a large part of his identity — he blessed his friends and family with the message that despite all he had lost, no one and no disease could take away his ability to pray. "It is the most fundamental ability and greatest gift of God we've been given as humans from the time we are born", he said to his daughter, Nicole, one day as he struggled to speak clearly over the phone. He then emphasized, "I can PRAY".

Frank was born March 23, 1949 to Maurice and Lenore Yerden of Allegan, Michigan. The family moved to Saginaw, Michigan where Frank spent his growing up years. Frank graduated from General Douglas MacArthur High School where he was a wrestling state champion, competed on the cross country team, and participated in the school choir. After high school, Frank attended Anderson College, in Anderson, Indiana where he met and married Ruth Ann Helbling in 1969. Transferring to Warner Pacific College, he and Ruth Ann answered the call to ministry in the state of Oregon, and then on to Southern California where Frank graduated from Azusa Pacific College, in 1978 with a degree in Music Theory and Composition.

The couple welcomed three daughters: Christina, Nicole, and Tiffany, who from a young age joined Frank and Ruth in ministry through music at their home churches, churches across the United States, and at camp meetings and similar events.

Frank began his role in church ministry at Friendly Street Church of God in Eugene, OR, where he served as the Minister of Music/Youth. At Inter-Community Church of God in Covina, CA, Frank served as Associate Pastor and Minister of Music. The Yerden Family ministered through World Gospel Crusades during their time in Southern California. From there, the Yerdens moved to Visalia, CA where Frank served as Associate Pastor/Minister of Music at the Church of God.

Frank was ordained as a minister of the Church of God in Visalia in 1981. He later served as senior pastor at the Church of God in Capitola, CA, as senior pastor in Chico, CA and as worship pastor at Vancouver Church, WA. He thoroughly enjoyed the excitement of the church's annual Singing Christmas Tree. After 7 years in Vancouver, Frank became the senior pastor at Holladay Park Church of God, Portland, OR and then in 2006, returned to the associate and music role at Rockwood Church of God in Gresham, OR where Frank served until his retirement 10 years later. Rockwood Church of God was the final and beloved church family who cared for Frank and Ruth in a way that only God Himself could have provided.

The name Frank means "Free", and he was truly set free and restored when he went to his heavenly home on August 7, 2023. He was preceded in death by his father Maurice Yerden, mother Lenore Yerden, and sister Kay Kruse. He is survived by his beloved and faithful spouse of 54 years Ruth Ann (Helbling) Yerden, their three daughters Christina Nail, Nicole Wells (spouse Steve), Tiffany Carlson (spouse Matt), and grandchildren Nicole (Nail) Clancy, Joshua Nail, Stephanie Nail, Chandler Wells, Landon Wells, Jonathan Nail, Isla Carlson, and great grandchildren Benjamin, Amelia, and Finley, and sister Connie Jensen.

The Awakening Series



The goal of the Awakening Series is to infuse voices and inspiration into the Movement of the Church of God here in our District and beyond. Pastor Michael Guzman has been interviewing leaders inside and outside our Movement and believes there is something important we carry in our historical roots that the worlds needs today. We encourage you to take a look at these videos found on Youtube at www.bit.ly/orwacog-awakening . There are currently 14 Episodes available.

Episode 1, **A Movement Captivated by Idealism** is a conversation with **Dr. Barry Callen**

Episode 2, **The Five Non-Negotiables** is a discussion with **Dr. Jim Lyon**

Episode 3, **Taking Back What Hell Has Stolen** is a second discussion with **Dr. Jim Lyon.**

Episode 4, **Embracing the Ways of Jesus** with **Bob Rognlien,**

Episode 5, **BibleProject for the Church of God** with **Mike McDonald**

Episode 6, **The Rooted Impact of Women in Ministry** with **Rev. Dr. Kimberly Majeski**

Episode 7, **We Must Align Our Orthodoxy & Orthopraxy** with **Bishop Timothy Clarke.**

Episode 8, **Pioneering Ministry & Bearing Fruit from Abiding** with **Andrew Chalmers**

Episode 9, **Missional Church** with **Dr. Jerry Davisson,** our District Pastor

Episode 10, **Decentralized Churches as a Way Forward** with **Dr. Lloyd Moritz**

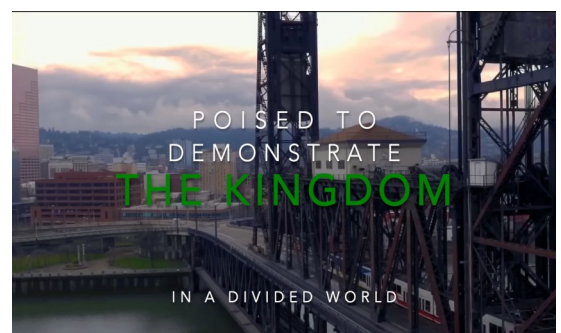
Episode 11, **Time for Rebirth at Warner Pacific University** with **Dr. Brian Johnson**

Episode 12, **Relationship Building at the Table** with **Fred Douglas**

Episode 13, **Immersing your Church in the Holy Spirit & Love** with **Matt Ingalls**

Episode 14, **A Breathe of Fresh Air for Small Churches** with **Karl Vaters**

**Our Movement was born with a vision
for change and the moment is ripe for our
Movement to be awakened again.**



Special Events for the Holidays

You are invited to the following holiday events ...

Live Nativity

More than just a birth!

December 9-10
Saturday and Sunday
5:00-8:00 pm

Lynchwood Church of God
3818 SE 174th Ave.
Portland, OR
lynchwood.org

We invite you to walk or drive by to view scenes depicting the life of Jesus Christ, from His holy birth to His glorious resurrection.

Lynchwood Church of God
3818 SE 174th, Portland

Forever Christmas

Sunday, December 17
at 6:30 pm

A Special Evening of Music and Drama

Lynchwood Church of God
3818 SE 174th, Portland, OR
lynchwood.org

Lents-Gilbert Church of God, 12230 SE Harold St, Portland

Nov 9 - Adult Game Night and Cookie Making, 2-4pm, downstairs in fellowship hall.

Nov 18 - YAHA (Young at Heart Adults) Thanksgiving Dinner, noon.

Dec 2 - Christmas Bazaar, 9am - 4pm, lunch sold from 11am - 1pm.

Dec 17 - Christmas Carol Celebration Service, 10:30am.

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Meal and Cookie Exchange, Following Service 11:30am

Hoodview Church of God, 1530 Mt Hood Avenue, Woodburn

Hoodview Church of God will hold its annual "**Living Christmas Story**" on Saturday & Sunday, December 9-10 from 6-8 pm each night. Instead of a drive-thru or walk-thru of "still-life" events from the life of Christ, this year it will feature an outdoor "pageant" of the Christmas story with a presentation every 30 minutes (6pm, 6:30pm, 7pm, and 7:30pm). Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

We also will have a **Christmas-themed Scholarship Concert** on Sunday, December 3 at 3pm. The concert features Don Feely, gifted organist and musician, along with his family, including Hoodview's own worship director, Hannah Healey. An offering will be received to support the David M. Dougherty Scholarship Fund.



The Church of God Worldwide ...

By Carl Stagner

Historic and catalytic, the [inaugural gathering of the Global Church of God Alliance](#) (GCGA) this year proved providential in agenda, scope, and trajectory. Wielding singular aspiration to strengthen the bonds of the Church of God movement around the world for the advancement of the kingdom, representatives of the Church of God, otherwise separated by location and language, worshiped together, wrestled common challenges together, and wrought

framework together by which the Church of God can embrace its collective calling. Though the GCGA met on the heels of the [Church of God Convention in Tampa](#) four months ago, echoes of the event can still be heard. Several such echoes take on the timbre of insightful and inspirational recollections and reflections of those who were there.

Leaderwell Pohsngap hosted the conversation over two days of meetings in Tampa. For Leaderwell, home is Shillong, Meghalaya, India. But for Leaderwell, home can be anywhere the Church of God offers its signature warm and inviting hospitality. “It never dawned on me [before this gathering] that the Movement is in *so many* countries of the world,” he reflects.

More than ninety countries, to be sure—one of which is Barbados. Lennox Boyce, representing the Church of God in Barbados, shares similar sentiment. “I will remember the camaraderie, unity, and sense of purpose that prevailed in the room,” he recalls. “While there were differences in the process of establishing the Global Church of God Alliance, there certainly was unity of purpose in its necessity, Importance, and relevance.... One of the things I enjoyed most, apart from hearing such interesting reports from each region of the world, was getting to know my brothers and sisters from around the world.”

Reports presented from each region of the world certainly connected listeners with fascinating statistics and captivating anecdotes summarizing the work of God outside the all-too-common confines of national communication. Part of what the GCGA will accomplish is the creation and continuation of communication (particularly in both English and Spanish, widely used across the globe—and therefore, also during the meetings of the GCGA). Without a doubt, God is still active in the whole world; testimony to that assertion tends to encourage both perseverance and affinity.

“Without a doubt,” Esteban Zapata insists in Spanish, translated into English, “it’s being able to share experiences with so many leaders from different continents, knowing what’s going on with the Church of God in other parts of the world, and hearing about struggles and victories, which are similar to the ones in our region.” Zapata, representative to the Global Church of God Alliance from Honduras, explains the vital next steps to stewarding such knowledge. “Being able to hear reports from different regions [means] having the opportunity to pray for one another.”



Global COG Alliance

In view of the worship, the dialogue, and the connections, Leaderwell suggests the best part of the event, though, was ultimately its simple purpose—“to launch it.” In the early stages of development, the GCGA aims not to provide one more event on the calendar for international Christian fellowship. The GCGA, as Leaderwell sees it, exists so the Church of God globally can “encourage each other, pray for each other, and serve as a platform from which we can think of joint missional efforts with others in the Movement.” He also points out the value of theological discussion concerning present-day issues confronting the Church of God in various contexts and cultures.

Lennox Boyce underscores this evident need for more than fellowship. “The world has become a very small place, and we have much more in common than we know,” he observes. “The devil has convinced people that it is more important to focus on what keeps us apart than what unites us. In the Church of God, we are looking for ways to unite. Global unity as a Movement is essential. Observing common trends and looking for ways to tackle them are necessary. Supporting each other with prayer and personnel is vital to the life and future of our existence. [Therefore,] cross-cultural ministry opportunities, which can develop from this Alliance, are important. We can do more together than we can do by ourselves.”

For Cyril Pillay, from the Church of God in South Africa, the profoundly beautiful moments of worship and prayer during the Tampa gathering were especially memorable. Meeting Church of God leadership from across the globe was an even brighter highlight. But he maintains focus on what yet needs to be accomplished as the GCGA moves forward. “Strategic planning is a must,” he asserts. While the Church of God presence in ninety-plus countries is encouraging, he says, “We must entrench the Church of God’s presence in *another* ninety countries!”

Pillay, Boyce, Zapata, and Pohsngap are cautiously optimistic about the possibilities. They pray for swift and decisive action as next steps are implemented. They anticipate solid leadership and clear direction. They look forward to the Spirit’s blessing upon meetings that will represent the world’s diverse locations and perspectives well, while fostering unity in Christ. They long to see just what the Lord can accomplish through a united Church of God.



Esteban Zapata and Abby Torgeson share a laugh amid Spanish-English translation at the GCGA meet-



Table discussion during the GCGA meeting in Tampa.

In September, the Ministries Council of the Church of God met to determine representatives to the Global Church of God Alliance for the United States and Canada. Among them are Tatum Osbourne, Andrew Gale, and Jim Lyon.

Stay tuned to CHOGnews for further developments as they emerge. Learn more about the international ministries of the Church of God in the United States and Canada at www.chogglobal.org.

District Prayer List for '23 & The Answer is...I AM

Be sure to remember our Church of God congregations in prayer during the year. (Below you will find our District Prayer List for the remainder of 2023.) There is power in prayer and we are stronger together.

"I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." ~ Mark 11:24 ESV

Portland - Community Church of God	11/5/23
Portland - Lents-Gilbert Church of God	11/12/23
Portland - Lynchwood Church of God	11/19/23
Portland - Maranatha Church	11/26/23
Portland - Neighborhood Church of God	12/3/23
Portland - Richmond Community Church	12/10/23
Portland - Rockwood Church of God	12/17/23
Our Pastors & Spouses—Active & Retired	12/24/23
District and CWB Staff	12/31/23



In this super-sized era where bigger is better and fast is too slow, it's time to become small and let God be great! Redefining success, Louie Giglio, in his book *'I am not but I know I AM'* shows you how to obtain the astonishing freedom and incredible rest that come from believing, like John the Baptist and Moses, that you must decrease while Jesus increases. "In the days to come, when you're questioning, needing, searching, wondering, asking, and struggling, you will find His sufficiency at the end of every desperate prayer. When you cry out all the things that you are not, you'll know His answer is, "I AM."

I need help. **I AM.**

I need hope. **I AM.**

Who could possibly be smart enough to figure this out? **I AM.**

Nothing's real anymore. **I AM.**

I'm not sure who's on my team. **I AM.**

Nobody's listening to me. **I AM.**

I'm pouring into others, who's pouring into me? **I AM.**

If we fail, who will get the job done? **I AM.**

I'm not sure why I'm here. **I AM.**

Somebody just hold me. **I AM.**

(excerpts taken from i am not but I know I AM, pages 143-147)

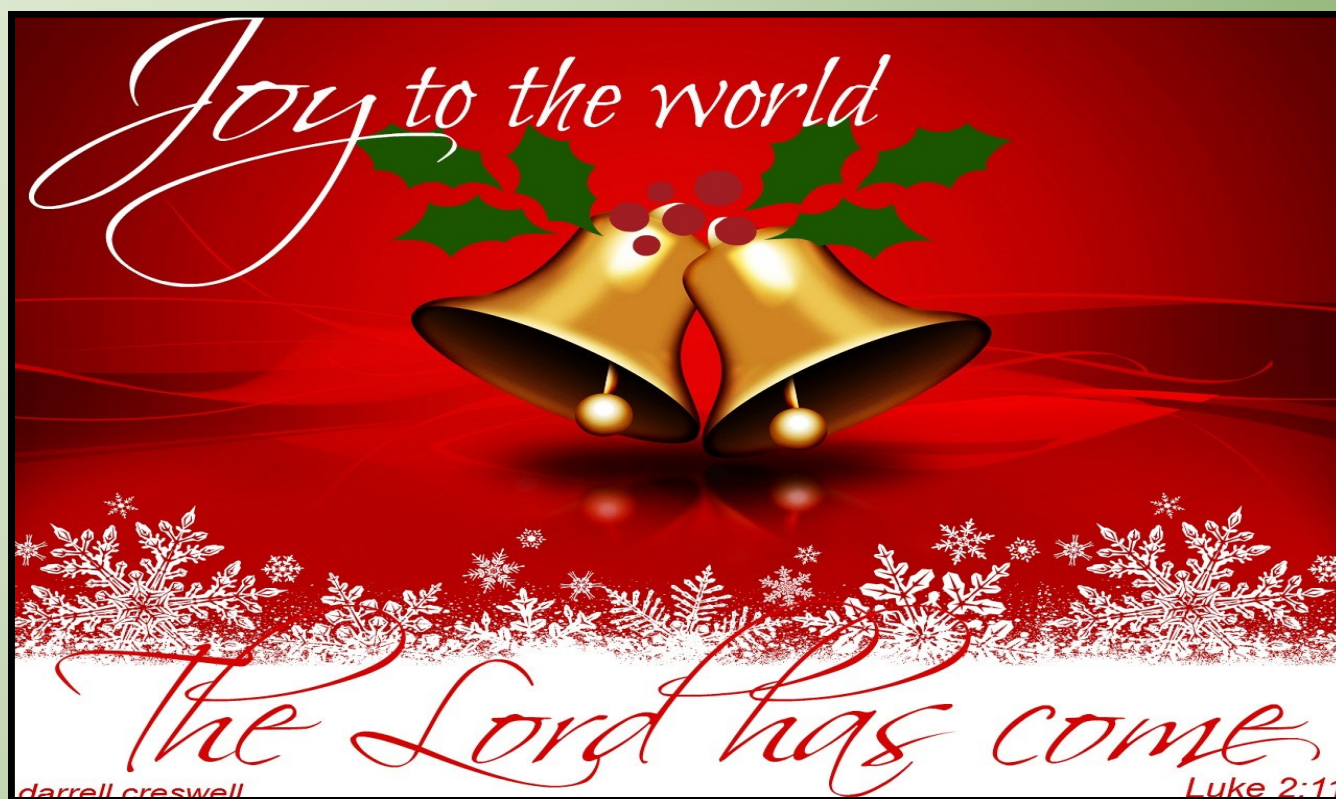
Holiday Greetings

All of us at the District Office and those on our
District Council wish for you a

Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!!

2023 has brought us new staff, new vision, and wonderful opportunities for connection. We encourage you this holiday season to find ways to draw deeper in your relationship with Jesus and each other. God—Father, Son & Holy Spirit—LOVES you very much.

Please know that WE care very much about YOU and want to be helpful in any way we can. Please reach out to us if we can pray with you or answer any questions.



We are GOD's CHURCH and We are Better Together!

Staff—District Pastor Jerry Davisson, Assoc Pastor Fred Douglas,
Media Pastor Michael Guzman, Office Admin Paula Wilson
Council—Glen Hossler, Randy Archer, Robbin Foster, Teresa Hellstrom,
Jim Minkler, Jason Mitchell, Steve Robertson, Jackie Scott, Aaron Sprunger,
Linda Tucker-Bays

THE PURPOSE

of The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and SW Washington 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.