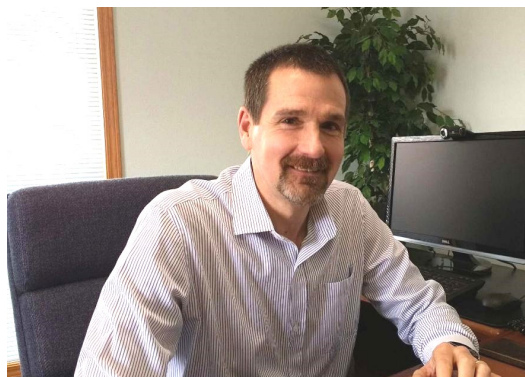




Raising up Disciples



Rev. Jerry Davisson, District Pastor

Welcome to 2018! I hope your holiday season was full of the celebration of Jesus our King.

In recent articles I have shared with you my passion for the missional church movement. A while ago I came upon a blog titled, "Why the Missional Movement Will Fail" by author Mike Breen. The title caught my attention. I had read several books by Breen on missional communities, so I was intrigued by what he might have to say. In short, he said the missional movement will fail unless we take seriously the task of raising up disciples.



Breen defined what a disciple is. He wrote, "A disciple is someone who, with increased intentionality and passing time, has a life and ministry that looks more and more like the life and ministry of Jesus. They increasingly have his heart and character and are able to do the types of things we see Jesus doing."

According to Breen, if we want to make disciples, the first step must be to **help people think and act like Jesus**. One of the problems we face in our pursuit of this

objective is that we have bought into the Western idea of disciple-making. We think making disciples of Jesus is simply about getting the right information into a person and they will start acting like Jesus. I've experienced a lot of people over my years of ministry who know a lot about Jesus but act nothing like Him.

Breen says simply giving people information about Jesus is like giving a bunch of civilians a handbook on becoming a soldier and then sending them off to the front line in a battlefield. He states, "Discipleship is not only the boot camp to train them for the front lines, but the hospital when they get wounded and the off-duty time they need to rest and recuperate. When we don't disciple people the way Jesus and the New Testament talked about, we are sending them out without armor, weapons or training. This is mass carnage waiting to happen."

I am not a fan of using military imagery to describe disciple-making, but the Bible explains we must be wise and gentle, ready to give an answer for the hope we have in Jesus.

(Matthew 10:16, 1 Peter 3:13-22). Jesus trained his disciple while doing life together.

Q1: What is our plan for making disciples?

Q2: Does our plan work?"

Dallas Willard is quoted as saying, "all churches must be able to answer two questions, first, **what is our plan for making disciples?** And second, **does our plan work?**" I believe if we are going to see a sustained missional movement in our Association, we need to begin by asking these two questions. Then we need to clearly define what a disciple of Jesus looks like, and reexamine how

(Continued on page 5)

Pastor Ken Long to speak at February Ministerial Retreat

The registration deadline is January 18 for the annual Minister and Spouse Retreat, to be held once again at the Best Western Agate beach Inn in Newport, Oregon.

Pastor Ken Long will serve as guest speaker, and Pastor Doug Beisley will serve as retreat worship leader. This year's theme is ***"Discipleshift: Becoming a Disciple Who Makes Disciples"***

Ken was born in Tulare, California. He attended Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion. He then attended Anderson School of Theology in Anderson, Indiana where he earned a Master of Divinity degree. Ken served as Associate Pastor at the Church of God in Muskogee, Oklahoma, before leaving to serve as Senior Pastor at Cornwall Church in Bellingham, Washington from 1985 to 1992. From 1993 to 2003 Ken was the Senior Pastor of First Church of God of Vero Beach, Florida. He is currently the Senior Pastor of North Shore Christian Church in Everett, Washington. Ken has stated that his life's mission is to "prepare people within his influence for the coming of Christ." Ken's personal goal is taken from John 15:8 in that he is committed to glorifying God by bearing much fruit for the Kingdom. Ken is quick to say that it is the life of God in him (not just the work of God through him) that remains the passion of his heart. Ken and his wife, Annette, have four children and three grandchildren.

Doug Beisley serves as Associate Pastor of Youth and Worship at the Oak Park Church of God in Salem, Oregon.



Ken Long
Guest Speaker

A retreat brochure including registration form is available online at <https://orwacog.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2018-Ministers-Spouse-Retreat-Brochure.pdf>. Pre-registration is \$50. Full registration fee is due prior to the retreat. The package includes two nights' lodging, two breakfasts (Tues. and Wed.) and two dinners (Mon. and Tues.)

Contact the district office 800-873-7729 to inquire about reserving an additional stay prior and/or after the retreat at the same group room rate on a space-available basis.



Doug Beisley
Worship Leader

Retreat Schedule

MONDAY, Feb. 19

3:00 PM Registration begins
4:00 PM Check into hotel room
5:30 PM Dinner & fellowship
7:00 PM Session 1

TUESDAY, Feb. 20

8:30 AM Breakfast
9:30 AM Session 2
12:00 PM Lunch on your own
Free Time
5:30 PM Dinner & fellowship
7:00 PM Session 3

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 21

8:30 AM Breakfast
10:00 AM Devotions/Communion
12:00 PM Check out of hotel room

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, Indiana;
- Provide support for the development of healthy Church of God congregations.

Newly Credentialed Ministers in 2017

Congratulations to Newly Credentialed Ministers!

Commission Renewals:

- **Rick Cunningham**, Associate Pastor of Worship & Family Ministries, Hucrest Community Church of God, Roseburg, Oregon.
- **Garth Hamilton**, Youth Pastor, Aloha Church of God, Aloha, Oregon.
- **Timothy Townley**, Senior Pastor, Gales Creek Community Church of God, Gales Creek, Oregon.

New Licensures:

- **Danette Beisley**, Associate Pastor of Family & Outreach, Oak Park Church of God, Salem, Oregon.
- **Jenny Elliot**, Associate Pastor, Friendly Street Church of God, Eugene, Oregon.
- **Sandra Salisbury**, Associate Pastor, Sunset Park Community Church of God, St. Helens, Oregon.
- **Robbin Foster**, Worship Pastor, First Church of God, Redmond, Oregon.
- **Chris Kainu**, Senior Pastor, Vancouver Church, Vancouver, Washington.

Recognition for Years of Ordained Service (2017):

- **Carl Buckle**, Portland, Oregon, 50 Years
- **John Good**, Portland, Oregon, 50 Years
- **Charlie Gray**, Portland, Oregon, 50 Years
- **Lorin Myers**, Eagle Point, Oregon, 50 Years
- **Hazel Brown**, Portland, Oregon, 40 Years
- **Ray Cotton**, Portland, Oregon, 40 Years
- **Michael Kernutt**, St. Helens, Oregon, 40 Years
- **Jerry Davisson**, Gresham, Oregon, 25 Years
- **Monica Monroe**, Portland, Oregon, 25 Years
- **Monica Phillippi**, Vancouver, Washington, 25 Years
- **Mary Ross**, Longview, Washington, 25 Years

Deceased (2017):

- **M. Orlo Kretlow**, 7/19/17
- **Emmett Hofer**, 9/24/17
- **Jerry H.L. Wilson**, 9/29/17
- **Troy Eastwood**, 11/1/17

Five Regional Conventions 2018



April 17–18, 2018



April 24–25, 2018



June 19–20, 2018



Sept. 18–19, 2018



Sept. 25–26, 2018

Plan now to attend one of five Regional Conventions of the Church of God: Phoenix, AZ, Oklahoma City, OK, Columbus, OH, Fairfax, VA, and Safety Harbor, FL. Early-bird registration is \$99 and only \$49 each for groups of 10 or more. Special rates available for retired pastors. Information is available now at <http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/regional-conventions-2018/>.



2019

CHURCH OF CONVENTION

JUNE 27-30, 2019
ORLANDO WORLD CENTER MARRIOTT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA



The Last Shall Be First to Hear Convention 2018 Speaker

By Carl Stagner, ChoG Ministries

Phoenix, Oklahoma City, Columbus, and Fairfax. . . The Regional Convention makes a stop at these four locations before it ever gets to Safety Harbor, Florida. But the event in Safety Harbor will be no afterthought; neither will be the opportunity to hear from the Lord through his servant Terry Rolen. The lead pastor of Bayside Community Church looks forward to hosting the grand finale Regional Convention next year, September 25–26. While much of the movement won't wait until then to receive, hear, and embrace all God has for them through 2018's Regional Conventions, those who do—and those who choose to visit more than one location—won't be disappointed.

Terry was radically converted to the Lord at age eighteen and introduced to the Church of God by a Catholic family friend, who had told him, "I don't know anything about the Church of God, but we recommend you try it because they are always smiling and seem friendly." Terry's pastor brought him to the Church of God Convention in Anderson two years later, only to witness this young Christian wide-eyed and in awe of the preaching and the fellowship of the gathered body of Christ. The convention theme that year was "Attention, Please, God is Speaking." Terry was listening, no doubt. The Church of God Convention would become the event where Terry Rolen accepted the call to ministry.

Terry Rolen has served 19 years as senior pastor, five of which have been at Bayside. He and his family moved from Breiel Boulevard Church of God in Middletown, Ohio, to Florida in the summer of 2012. Since then he's discovered in the congregation and community a sense of home and hope, even amid challenges along the way. "Bayside is a great church with a rich history in the Clearwater area," Terry reflects. "I count it a blessing to pastor here. In all honesty, the succession after a long-term pastorate here has not been easy by any means. It's been a difficult learning and growing experience in many ways. But now after five years we are truly seeing a new wind blowing through Bayside."



Terry Rolen

That new wind is sure to be felt by those who make the fifth and final Regional Convention a priority in 2018. The Holy Spirit's presence is palpable there, and the fruit of the church's labor is sweet. "Of course, seeing dozens of people come to Christ is

the most exciting thing of all," Terry reflects. "But we are also advancing some incredible partnerships with schools and other nonprofits in our immediate community, and I know that is pleasing to the Father. We are truly becoming a community church. That excites me."



Powerful moment of worship at Bayside

To host a form of the camp meeting where God called him to ministry is also a "thrilling" prospect. "To be selected to host one of the conferences along with the other four incredible congregations across North America is a great honor for us at Bayside. We've already begun to make plans for the Church of God family to visit us next September."

Have you made plans? It may be several months away, but September will be here before you know it. Terry wants to make sure you know where to eat and what to do apart from the convention to make your stay in Safety Harbor especially meaningful and enjoyable. He explains that there are many "fantastic" eateries there, some with water views. His favorites are Frenchy's, Ozona Blue Grill, The Sandwich on Main (in Safety Harbor), Bon Appetit in Dunedin, Rusty Bellies and Mr. Souvlaki Greek Restaurant in Tarpon Springs, and Whisky Joe's in Tampa. He also explains that vacationers enjoy Clearwater Beach, Honeymoon Island, the Sponge Docks in Tarpon Springs, Downtown Dunedin, and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (where "Winter" from the Dolphin Tales movies lives).

Terry is also excited to host the Church of God Regional Convention because he sees God's hand at work in the movement today. "I am just excited to

(Continued on page 5)

The Last Shall Be First to Hear Convention 2018 Speaker



Terry Rolan preaches at Bayside

(Continued from page 4)

see the Church of God allowing the Spirit to lead us in making Jesus' name great, one local community at a time," he explains. "I am energized by the fact that room is being made for new ideas and leadership."

As such, it humbles him once again to bring the message of Christ to the broader Church of God family (*Safety Harbor location only*). "I pray that, first of all, the church at-large feels at home and has a wonderful experience while at Bayside," he explains. "Along with that, I pray that folks are refreshed, encouraged and challenged through our time in worship and fellowship together. I pray that my message will inspire people to go after their dreams or, perhaps, to dare to dream again. Life has a way of taking the air out of our dreams if we aren't careful. But the kingdom comes when God-inspired leaders dream and then go for it. I truly believe we are most like God when we dream! So, my prayer is that dreams are birthed and brought back to life through the power of the Holy Spirit."

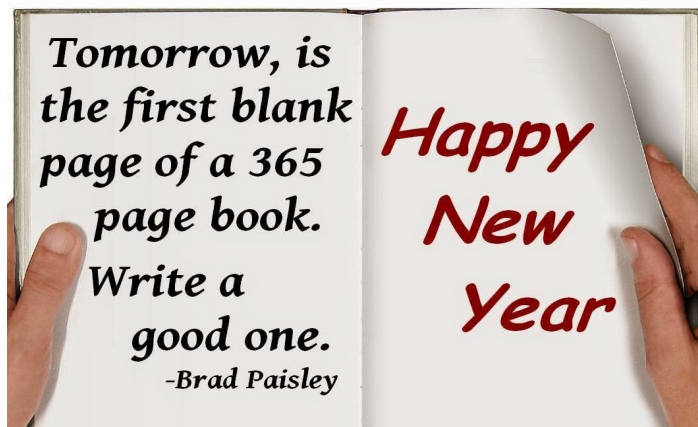
Register and learn more about the 2018 Regional Conventions at www.chogconvention.org.

Raising up Disciples

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus went about making disciples. We can't give what we don't have; and if we aren't living as a disciple of Jesus, carnage will be the outcome of going out on mission. We must be redeemed ourselves before we can hope to join God in his redemptive mission.

As we begin this new year, we all need to ask ourselves, ***do I look and act more like Jesus today than I did at the beginning of last year? If not, what do I need to change to become more like Him?*** I'm looking forward to a year of challenge and growth.



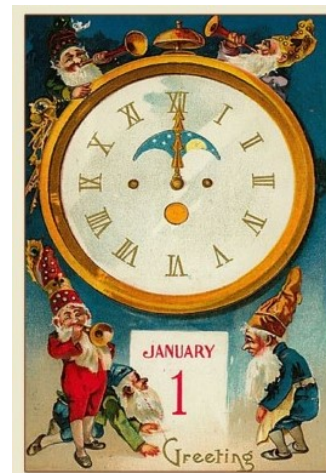
International Youth Convention IYC2018 ON TRACK



Youth: New Year's Eve-Eve All-Nighter

Hoodview Church of God youth from Woodburn, Oregon, joined with youth from Salem/Oak Park, to head to Mt. Scott COG in Portland Friday, December 29, for an all-nighter to celebrate the almost-new year.

A big thank you to Boston Jackson for organizing the event and inviting area youth to participate.



Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch

This has been a year of years, to say the least, at Camp White Branch. So many things have happened in all avenues. We started with many work camps to clean and help fix numerous things in and around camp. Our churches are so gracious and appreciated in all they do for the camp.

Our numbers for Senior High and Middle school camps were up from last year, and I know many of the senior high youths that gave their lives to the Lord returned this last camp season, or they let me know so. We were so very blessed to have each camp this year and we hope to see each camp grow in numbers this coming year. God is so very good to us!

We had a very busy fire season that started in late June. I am humbled at the ministry the Lord works at camp. In that very first group there were a couple of young men, one of them who the Lord was using to evangelize, and another the Lord sent to us the second week in housing the group. This young man was looking and found the Lord. He asked Leonard to baptize him in front of all twenty men and women. This also took place during the Introductory camp led by Julie and RJ Jackson. What a testimony!

We housed and fed fighters until August 27, when the initial attack team commander took over. Leonard, Katie and I were evacuated September 2 (along with a church camp in full swing), due to the proximity and danger of the fires. Leonard was able to stay in close relationship to the incident commander, which allowed him in to check on the camp several times during our evacuation status. We were then allowed to return on Sept. 11 while still under the Status 3 evacuation. Along with all the prayers of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord performed a miracle. Leonard's direct prayer would be that the

Lord would allow the forest to be cleansed if need be, but that He would direct the fires around Camp White Branch. The Lord sent rain in the third week of September. Five

inches fell and all evacuation restrictions were lifted. Looking at the map, the fires came approximately 1-½ miles from camp in a horseshoe pattern, fully answering prayer. I know those who come to camp this coming season will hear stories that Leonard will be so eagerly willing to share. For the Lord protects and provides!

We are grateful for all prayers and outpouring of love each of you has given to us. I would also like to thank the wildland firefighters that came in and cleared brush from all surrounding buildings and laid hose/line, along with putting sprinklers on each building to keep them moist to ensure Camp White Branch would be protected from embers from the nearby fires. The Lord sent three units in one day, these units consisted of 20 persons per unit, so 60 men and women were diligently working to keep the camp safe from fire debris. The Lord continued to send men and women to camp to ensure its safety and ours throughout the threat of fires. Many thanks goes out to our wildland firefighters in the dangerous job they do in order to keep us safe.

Blessings to you all.

Leonard, Stacey and Katie



Save the Dates: 2018 Summer Camps

- July 6 - 8, Intro camp, Jackson, \$165
- July 9 - 13, Senior High (9th-12th grades), Effingham \$250, includes rafting
- July 16 - 20, Junior (5th & 6th grades), Kuykendall, \$180
- July 30 - August 3, Middle School (7th & 8th grades), Beisley, \$205
- August 13-16, Primary (3rd & 4th grades), Graham, \$170

*Camp White Branch
61500 Old McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR*

Homeward Journeys

HOSSLER, Jeanne **9/27/1921-12/06/2017**

Helen Imogene Garwood was born September 27, 1921, in Mt. Carmel, Illinois, to Gilbert O. and Maude (Campbell) Garwood. She graduated from Mt. Carmel High School as valedictorian of her class.

On June 20, 1943, she married Charles Elmer Hossler, whom she met while attending Anderson College. Elmer and Jean (as she was known then) received Bachelor of Theology Degrees from Anderson College, and they were ordained by the Indiana Ministers on June 2, 1948.

Following graduation, they served as missionaries on the Toppenish Indian Reservation. Later, they were pastors of Churches of God in Norris City, Illinois; Depew, Oklahoma; Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Auburn, Washington, Toppenish, Washington; Orofino, Idaho; and Sequim, Washington.

After their retirement, they served as interim pastors in Montesano, Washington, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and short term missionaries in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela.

After Elmer's death on November 3, 1994, Jeanne continued in ministry, serving as interim pastor in



Montesano, Auburn, Tacoma and Onalaska, Washington, as well as pulpits in area churches.

Jeanne passed away at her home in Lacey, Washington on December 6, 2017, at age 96. She was preceded in death by her husband of more than 51 years; her sister, Florence Curran; and grandson, Mark Hossler. She is survived by her children, Ruth Palmer (Rev. Ron), Keith Hossler (Juanita Yoder), Rev. Glen Hossler (LaRene Wolkow), Rita Waters (Tom); and grandchildren, Tamara Robertiello (Dominic), Bryon Palmer (Aimee), Darrell Hossler (Marlo), Eric Hossler (Laura), Sheila Parker (Andre), Aimee Reynolds (Matthew), John Hossler (Jenny), Tim Waters, Scott Waters (Katie). She also is survived by her great grandchildren, Nick (Dominic, Jr.), Austin and Beth Robertiello; Caleb Palmer; Nicholas and Luke Hossler; Hailey and Morgan Hossler; Jeremiah, Isaac, Eli, Allison and Daniel Reynolds; Trinity, Sophia and Levi Hossler; Hallie and Wesley Waters. In addition, her sisters survive her: Nadyne Wooten of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Gerri Storey of Carmi, Illinois.

A funeral service was held Saturday, December 16, 2017, at the Olympia-Lacey Church of God, 5005 Lacey Blvd. SE, Lacey, WA 98503. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Lacey.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Olympia-Lacey Church of God, 5005 Lacey Blvd. SE, Lacey, WA 98503, or to Horizon International, 350 JH Walker Dr., Pendleton, IN 46064.

District Calendar

- **Jan. 1, 2018**, Mon., New Year's Day (District Offices closed)
- **Jan. 9, 2018**, Tues., Region #1, 10 a.m.
- **Jan. 11, 2018**, Thurs., Region #2, 10 a.m.- Noon
- **Jan. 18, 2018**, Thurs., Region #4, 10 a.m.-Noon
- **Jan. 18, 2018**, Thurs., Deadline for Ministers & Spouse Retreat registration
- **Jan. 20, 2018**, Sat., Eastwood memorial, 3 p.m.
- **Jan. 23, 2018**, Tues., Region #3, 10 a.m.-Noon
- **Jan. 25, 2018**, Thurs., Region #5, 12 Noon
- **Feb. 9-10, 2018**, Fri.-Sat., Warner Pacific College Homecoming
- **Feb. 18, 2018**, Sun., Freedom Sunday
- **Feb. 19-21, 2018**, Ministers' & Spouse Retreat
- **Feb. 19, 2018**, Mon., President's Day (District Offices closed)
- **March 11, 2018**, Sunday, Daylight Savings begins
- **March 20-22, 2018**, Tues.-Thurs., Senior Adult Retreat



For more events, see orwacog.org/calendar