

Association of
the Churches
of God
in Oregon and
Southwest
Washington

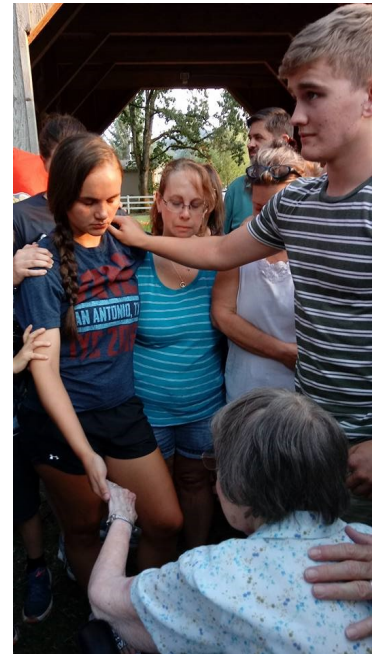
Charlottesville: A Word from Our Director

See Page 6

Bringing God Joy

"My heart is so full. Today my granddaughter was baptized and her grandpa got to participate in it, as well as my 95-year-old mother, Jeanne Hossler, who got to pray for her. So blessed!"

Ruth Palmer posted this wonderful expression of joy on Facebook along with photos of her granddaughter, Beth Robertiello, as the Hoodview Church of God gathered at Scott Mills City Park in Woodburn, Oregon, where several people followed the Lord in baptism August 27, 2017.



Meanwhile in Oregon City, Faith Rock Church gathered at Metzler Park, where Jason Hood, Dan Minne, Josh Hill and Joel Hood (pictured on page two) baptized many people whose public step of obedience expressed their faith in Jesus Christ and their commitment to follow Him. Tara Hood writes, ***"What a wonderful day to have church in the park! Many people were baptized today. Some never have been baptized and some re-dedicated their lives to the Lord. Psalm 118:24 ~ 'The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.'"***

Certainly God smiled!

Pastor Steve Chiles, of the Shartel Church of God in Moore, Oklahoma, shares daily devotional writings, including this timely word about baptism (August 28, reprinted with permission):

"Baptism Joy"

"After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'"



(Continued on page 2)

Bringing God Joy

(Continued from page 1)

(Matthew 3:16-17 NLT)

I love baptisms. They are actually one of the most exciting and joyful things I get to do as a pastor. The people I'm baptizing are usually a mix of scared and excited. Some like to share about their God-story and what brought them to this moment. For most, they remain quiet. Their commitment to God is personal and private, and they're terrified of speaking publicly, but they want to let people know where they stand and the commitment they've made. But something else happens for them as well. It seals the deal. Baptism is not usually the beginning of the journey for most people, but it is often a turning point. It gives energy to their commitment to Christ. It deepens their desire to be more Christ-like in their behaviors. It solidifies their resolve that this decision is going to be "for life." But most people don't realize what this moment of baptism does for God. It brings Him JOY.

Jesus was already perfect when He came to John to be baptized. Being dunked in the water didn't change His heart or His commitment to God. But it did signify the beginning of His ministry. He was now about to live in the fullness of why He was sent. His "growing up" days were behind Him, and He was about to embark on a journey that would eventually take Him to a cross. His public baptism was His proclaiming to His Father, "I'm ready." His Father responded by sending the Holy Spirit upon Him...and then stated for all to hear, **"This is my dearly loved son, who brings me great joy."** Jesus sealed the deal, and God stood up to cheer.

Have YOU been baptized? I encourage you to think about it. It won't dramatically change your life or your walk with God, but it might do more than you think. It might make you think about what this journey of faith really means to you. It might make a statement to those around you as to where you stand with God. It might make you feel better about being "all in" with God, rather than always being on the edge. It might give you more resolve and a deeper level of commitment. One more thing it might do: It might just make God's day. He already loves you, and He won't love you any more after you're baptized. But it might be one of those special moments when you make Him stand up from His throne and cheer. It's just one of those things that brings our Father great joy. You are loved! ~Pastor Steve Chiles

The Family of God rejoices together in celebration of these baptisms!



Enter the Culture with Open Ears and Closed Mouths

How many of you remember the little nursery rhyme with motions that went: *Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the door and see all the people?* For most of us that



Rev. Jerry Davisson
District Pastor

is our view of church. The building is the center of most of our spiritual activity and if we are challenged to get involved in Christian ministry it is usually in and for the institutional church. However, if we are going to truly change the world for Jesus we are going to have to change our understanding of church. Church is not a building. It is not a place where we go and participate in religious activities. Church is the people of God whether gathered or scattered. We are the Church. When we only view the church as a *place*, we lose sight of the Great Commission. For many churches, the mission becomes all about maintaining the institution. We begin to see ourselves as a distributor of religious good and services rather than a command center to train and equip missionaries for service in our neighborhoods.

Alan Hirsch wrote in his book, *Right Here Right Now*, *"Unless the church recovers its role as a subversive, missionary movement, by re-instilling the vision within the people of God that we are all indeed God's missionary people, the present and subsequent generations will find very little interest in our static agendas. A complete paradigm shift is essential for*

the Western church to avoid becoming an anemic shell of its former self." If we are truly going to change the world we are going to have to recapture our missionary calling. This is going to require a whole new set of skills.

As God's missionary agents in the world, we will need to first enter the culture we live in with open ears and closed mouths. Too often we have gone into our neighborhoods with a prepackaged agenda and have failed to answer the questions that were being asked or to see the true needs of the people we were trying to reach. Like a foreign missionary, we need to first learn the language of our culture. We need to find out what good news looks like to the people we are trying to reach. We need to find out what their greatest fears are; what their greatest needs are. We need to build loving, grace-filled relationships with people so that we have a platform to speak truth into their lives about Jesus.

The gospel of John tells us that, "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (1:14). I love that description of Jesus. He moved into the neighborhood. If we are going to make a difference, we should move back into the neighborhood and relearn the lost art of service and hospitality. We need to lead with grace. We have too often led with truth, without much grace, and done more harm than good. If we look at Jesus's life we see that people were drawn to him not because of the truth he spoke. In fact, the religious leaders questioned his truth. People were drawn to Jesus because of the grace he demonstrated. Understand, that didn't keep

(Continued on page 4)

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.

Enter the Culture with Open Ears and Closed Mouths

(Continued from page 3)

him from speaking truth. Just read again the story of the woman caught in adultery, or the woman at the well, or the rich young ruler. If we are going to change the world, we should enter our mission field with missionary eyes and ears.

Let me challenge you to take a different look at your neighborhood, your school, your place of employment. Ask yourself *where is God working in this place? Who has a heart open to the things of God? Who is hurting and needs a friend?* You may be asking yourself, *"who me, a missionary?"* Yes, you are! Again, Hirsh says, "It is an affront to the person and work of Jesus for any Christian to view himself or herself as a mere church member." You are an asset to the Kingdom of God! Go in the power of Holy Spirit. Lead with grace. Introduce people to Jesus who is the Truth, and see the places in which you find yourself transformed! -jd

A Special Gift of Assurance

by Steve Borst

My wife was away recently for a "girls' weekend," so I took this opportunity to visit our son's family's church in Salem. I was sitting there in the pew and for some strange reason my mind drifted back to the week before. It had been a really rough week at work, and I began replaying it in my mind. Silly, huh? Just before Pastor Glen gave his message that day, Pastor Doug (who leads worship at the church) had the congregation sing a song by Matt Redman called, "Never Once". I have always enjoyed that song, whether hearing it on the radio or in church; but today, it would turn out to have a very special meaning. I was singing along with the congregation when we got to the chorus and the following words:

*"Never once did we ever walk alone,
Never once did You leave us on our own,
You are faithful God, You are faithful."*

Suddenly I got real emotional as those words started to sink in, and I began to start losing it right there in the pew. Somehow, somehow I pulled myself together. I felt so alone in my struggles of the past week and hurt so badly. I felt like God had maybe abandoned me. But as the song played on, I started to feel like the Lord was almost right there beside me giving me a much needed dose of reassurance that I was not alone, no matter what I thought. In fact, he had not abandoned me at all. When the song ended, I felt so much better. That very song not only gave me a much needed shot of reassurance, but of hope as well.

Following that song, Pastor Doug told the congregation that there was someone there that

needed to hear that song. I was really shocked at his words, but they only reinforced what I knew was true. After the service ended, I wanted to approach him and let him know that it was me who needed that song and to thank him for having us sing it; but, things get in the way sometimes and it never happened.

You know, we're never alone, are we. Everyone walks that road occasionally where we feel beat up, bloodied and like maybe God has abandoned us. I know it's crazy to think like that, but we do. We're all human, aren't we. I know that I certainly feel this way sometimes. Whether you're not a believer, a new believer, or a veteran believer like me, none of us is exempt from feeling this way at times. It's ok to feel like this, but it's what we do with those feelings that matters. Do we get on our knees in prayer and cry out to God, or do we cash in our faith?

*"Never once did we ever walk alone,
Never once did You leave us on our own,
You are faithful God, You are faithful."*

I looked up the words of Matt Redman's song after I got home that day, printed them out, and now carry them in my shirt pocket when I am at work. I take them out occasionally and read them to remind me that I am not alone and that He is always with me, especially before a day that could possibly be filled with really stressful situations. Thank you, Matt Redman, for that wonderful song; and thank you Jesus, for picking me up off the ground that day.

Christian Women Connection Fall Retreat

Friday, September 15-17, 2017 ~ Camp White Branch

"Unplug to Connect with your Roots"

CWC's Fall Retreat speaker, **Leslie Duclo**, lives in Hillsboro, Oregon, with her husband, Gary. They have a daughter, Bethany. While they do not have any grandchildren they do have a grand horse, dog, two cats and a turtle with an attitude. Thankfully, only the dog comes to visit on occasion with Beth.



Leslie has attended Aloha Church of God since she was a junior in high school except for the three years that she worshipped with the First Church of God in Juneau, Alaska. It was while she was in Alaska that she began to love WCG, now Christian Women Connection. As she looks back, the connections she made with those women and the things they taught her have been invaluable as she faced the defeats and triumphs of the last forty years. Leslie has been very active throughout her life teaching Sunday school, leading Bible studies, serving others in the food pantry and as the woman's group leader in Celebrate Recovery. She served as State President of WCG and continues to serve as secretary to CWC.

Leslie continues to work part time as a dental hygienist. She is beginning to ask what God wants her to do with the rest of her life: continue working, retire, travel, sit back and take it easy? No matter what God has in mind, she is sure that it will require her to "unplug" in order to make a new "connection" doing what God is calling her to do.



Marva Adams, worship leader, also lives in Hillsboro, with her husband, Rick. Their three married children have given her eight grandchildren who are the joy of her life. Three of them have recently moved with their parents to Kenya on a short term mission assignment.

Marva has used her musical talents to lead worship at Aloha Church of God for over 25 years and still counts it a great pleasure to serve. In addition to leading at church she has lead worship for many retreats, and was the worship leader this year's Spring CWC Connection.

Marva also enjoys singing in the Portland Scandinavian Choir, where they sing in six different Scandinavian languages, loves bicycling, going to the beach and spending time with family and friends.

Let your roots grow down in him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

Check-in at Camp White Branch begins at 4:00 p.m. Friday, and concludes with Sunday brunch. A Saturday afternoon activity is planned, as well as the option to visit Belknap Hot Springs for a walk or to soak in the Hot Springs pool. The entrance fee for the pool is \$8 according to their website. As always, you can go with the group and walk the grounds for no fee. Whatever you choose to do we encourage you to spend time making new friend relationships and strengthening old ones.

Be Sure to Pack:

Sleeping bag or bed-ding and your pillow!
Towels and toiletries
Warm jacket and walk-ing shoes
Bible and notepad
Table games and snacks to share

Great expectations of:

Enjoying God's beauti-ful creation
Good food and fellow-ship
Receiving teaching and instruction
Wonderful worship in song

Note: A \$90 registration fee includes meals and lodging from Friday through Sunday Brunch.

For Friday and Saturday only, the fee is \$65.

Checks may be payable to Christian Women Connection and mailed to: Sherrill Goodeill, 3229 SE 116th Ave., Portland, OR 97266.

The Belknap Hot Springs \$8 fee is payable upon arrival at the pool.

Camp White Branch
61500 Old McKenzie Hwy.
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413
1-877-822-3964

Charlottesville: A Word from Our Director

By Jim Lyon, General Director, ChoG Ministries

Paul Goodloe McIntire was an investment genius, whose savvy management of stock portfolios in both Chicago and New York empowered him to be one of his hometown's preeminent philanthropists.

Inspired by the City Beautiful movement dramatically brought to life at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, he dedicated himself to funding monumental public spaces, city parks and squares, most often featuring heroic sculpture. He was born in 1860 and polished his fortune in New York City before retiring in 1918; he then returned to the beloved city of his birth: Charlottesville, Virginia.

McIntire was a son of the South. The Old South. His father was the mayor of Charlottesville during the Civil War and negotiated the city's surrender to Union troops, saving its buildings and leafy neighborhoods from the firestorms that engulfed Fredericksburg and Richmond. As a young man, he attended Charlottesville's famed University of Virginia, studying under Thomas Jefferson's elegant Rotunda. He would become one of the University's most extravagant donors, endowing chairs and schools that still bear his name.

And, McIntire gave Charlottesville a statue of Robert E. Lee, straddling the horse Traveler, commanding Lee Park in the heart of the city - the park itself a gift from this wealthy favorite son, who required that access to the park be for "whites only." He also gave the city Washington Park, named to honor Booker T. Washington, asking that it be reserved for "colored children." No statues there.

In the week following the unveiling of Lee's statue in 1924 (at a ceremony in which the Confederate general was proclaimed, "the greatest man who ever lived"), the Ku Klux Klan burned crosses across the town and set bombs around a Charlottesville church popular with the African-American community. Events in Charlottesville mirrored the tenor of the times, as the Klan was in its ascendancy. During the 1920s, up to 25,000 Klansmen, in full regalia-white hoods and all the rest-annually marched proudly down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., in a show of force not lost on the minority communities they sought to both marginalize and terrorize.

There were more black Americans living (and enslaved) in Charlottesville and the surrounding

Albemarle County, Virginia, before and during the Civil War than there were white Americans. When Lee's statue took the stage in the 1920s, about 35 percent of the city's population had descended from those slaves.

Memorializing the vanguard of the Confederacy and celebrated by the Klan, Lee Park and its statue received mixed reviews, then and now. People of color in Charlottesville during the McIntire years, and for years after, had no voice in municipal government, having been systemically denied effective representation by Jim Crow-era laws and processes designed to move them to the sidelines. African American slaves built iconic local landmarks (like Jefferson's Monticello and much of the University of Virginia campus) but were not represented as contributors in any public space, while those who owned people as property were raised up as heroes decades after losing the War.

In May 2016, after some years of community debate, the city of Charlottesville established a "Blue Ribbon Commission" to explore the future of the Lee statue (and another one similar, also a 1920s McIntire gift, of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, proudly on a pedestal elsewhere in town). The Commission managed many months of public conversation and research - often contentious and dubbed "a moment of rupture" by one Commission member - released its findings in December 2016. The City Council voted in March 2017 to remove and "reinterpret" the Lee monument; this decision was challenged in court; the case remains unresolved, before the bench. This controversy and the Charlottesville story became a cause for the erstwhile guardians of white supremacy, nationwide.

In May 2017, white nationalist (and University of Virginia graduate) Richard Spencer and about a



Jim Lyon, General Director

(Continued on page 7)

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Charlottesville

(Continued from page 6)

hundred others joined in an after-dark protest of the city's plans, chanting "Russia is our friend," "blood and soil" (a Nazi refrain), and "we will not be replaced" (white supremacist-speak declaring that ethnic diversity will render white Americans an "endangered" minority in "their own" country).

In August 2017, Spencer and others aligned with his tribe marched once more through town at night, torch-bearing, chanting the same, only this time hundreds strong. Defiant. Angry. And, armed. The newsreel captures of preppy and black-shirted white dudes snaking with torches through otherwise silent streets, loudly voicing toxic phrases like, "Jews will not replace us," are a chilling reprise of a world my father (and so many millions more like him) suited up to erase more than seventy years ago.

On the next day, Nazi and Confederate battle flags marched in tandem, ultimately destined for a face-off with protestors adamantly opposed to the racism and white supremacy both have been used to promote in two different centuries-and now a third. The violence, injury, and death that ensued has been the stuff of a thousand headlines and a stable of talking heads on TV in the days since, not to mention government officials, religious leaders, corporate execs, and so many more.

I share all this history to better understand the stage upon which these events have walked. The Civil War frame, the scourge of slavery, the context of the statue, a city's honest attempt to process how it should today tell its own story with public spaces and art, and the specter of racism which haunts the whole, all encompass the proscenium. Watching the drama unfold, it is time to speak up.

My Terms of Employment at Church of God Ministries specifically prohibit me from making statements that are political in tone or that carry politically-charged content. This parameter is rooted deeply in our Movement's DNA, historically apolitical and also fearful that any one voice be seen as speaking for church (in the way denominational hierarchies are prone to embrace). Consequently, Church of God Ministries during my tenure (and long before) has not issued statements in response to man-made headlines. However, in this instance, given the temperature of the controversies and requests from the field-and after consultation with our General Assembly chair Diana Swoope, and the Assembly's chair-elect, Tim Clarke,-I am releasing

this reply. I own the content, drawing from the General Assembly's actions and voice on behalf of the church, over time.

The Church of God must provide no quarter to racism of any kind and has consistently rebuked white supremacy. Its General Assembly has many times (beginning in 1956) unambiguously opposed racism, racial segregation, political and social barriers to racial harmony and reconciliation, and racial discrimination of all kinds.

"We base our stand toward basic human rights on the teaching of the Scriptures. God has 'made of one blood all nations of men' (Acts 17:26). 'For we are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ...for we are all one in Jesus Christ' (Galatians 3:26, 28). The first of these speaks as to origin, the second as to relationship. We believe that in the Church of God there should be no racial barriers because we are all brethren in Christ. We believe that man was made in the image of God, that every person is of intrinsic worth before God, and that every individual has a right to the fullest possible opportunities for the development of life abundant and eternal. We believe that these rights are given by God and that the church has a responsibility to defend them and work for their guarantee." (General Assembly Statement on Race, June 1964)

The Church of God has also consistently acknowledged the intentionality required to overcome hell's default temptation to divide on racial lines. Responding to racially charged injustice in 2015, the General Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed this text:

"We resolve to express our compassion and concern (in the face of racism and racial injustice) in the following six ways:

1. **Leadership** - we call on pastors and leaders to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit to live out a countercultural lifestyle that works to expose and repent of the sin of racial division and acknowledges the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. **Prayer** - we pray for healing, repentance, unity and peace, and we plead for God's mercy on our nation and on those who are compliant with the racial violence and racial disparities being manifested in the church and in the systems of this world;

(Continued on page 8)

Charlottesville

(Continued from page 7)

3. **Lament** - we mourn in solidarity and sympathy with the people of (Charleston's) Emanuel AME Church and the families, congregations and communities affected by the traumatic impact of these incidents, and we confess our past and present failure to walk faithfully and consistently in the light of our belief in a God who has no respect of persons;
4. **Forgiveness** - we affirm radical forgiveness of the persons whose motivation for doing harm to others is racial hatred and discrimination, acknowledging what Jesus taught and showed us by His death on the cross, that love is stronger than hate;
5. **Justice** - we acknowledge that ministers in our own General Assembly and fellow congregants have been victims of racial profiling, we stand for justice to be administered on their behalf in a fair and impartial manner, we urgently call for justice in all cases of racially-motivated violence, and we support those agencies and officials who enforce the law and administer justice equitably to ensure the safety and security of all of our citizens, congregations and communities;
6. **Vision of reconciliation** - we commit ourselves as people of Christian faith to envision, strategize and work toward the realization of a reconciled church, nation and world." (General Assembly Resolution on Race, June 2015)

In a world of soundbites and 140-character Twitter posts, it is easy to overlook the seminal contexts and histories of "moments of rupture." It is easy to drive by a story without pausing to explore the stage-framing events. We must all be committed to studying, listening, and thoughtfully responding in a world so desperately broken, divided, and tense. Charlottesville has become a kind of emblem, a marker for our time. It has already become a shorthand for controversy, media debate, tragedy, and the resurgence of ideas many thought vanquished years ago. But, whatever the lens, we stand united in our defiance of racism and our vociferous opposition to all ideologies and conduct clothed by white supremacy. As followers of Jesus, transformed by His Holy Spirit, we will be neither separated nor tiered by race, ethnicity, national origin, culture, gender, or economic station. We are loved equally by Him-and we must love others the same. Charlottesville's long journey to the present

hour, wrestling with a complex history that has not always honored all who call it home, has become a flashlight shining into every corner of the country. From Jefferson's plantation to Lee's defense of slavery to McIntire's vision of segregated public spaces crowned by Confederate statues to Klan autographs on twentieth century history to today's reality, let us "come to a thorough awareness that there is a disparity between our vision for reconciliation and the actual experience of many of our brothers and sisters; And, let us learn to listen to the stories our brothers and sisters share, express in word and deed our feelings of empathy, and commit to walk together as we boldly stand against every form of racism." (General Assembly of the Church of God, June 2015)

Be bold. Reclaim what hell has stolen. Jesus is the subject. The Way. The Truth. And, the Life.

I am, humbly, your brother in Christ.

Jim Lyon
General Director



CHURCH OF GOD
MINISTRIES

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To maintain compliance with new credentialing standards, log on today to manage and affirm your connection with Church of God Ministries, where Jesus is the Subject.

Questions or need assistance?

Email: customerservice@chog.org

Call: 800-848-2464

Longview Rolls Up Their Sleeves

Longview First Church of God held their annual campout and work event the weekend of August 11-13, 2017, tackling yard work, weeding and trimming parking lot islands, vacuuming pews, and removing defective heater units. It's been a busy summer, with a rummage sale, a traditional 3rd of July BBQ and firework celebration outreach, a first-ever classic car show, and the campout/work day, along with the regularly scheduled services. Several folks were able to attend *Summer Impact!* on the Warner Pacific Campus in July. Pastor Tom Akery and his wife, Marsha, graciously filled the pulpit and keyboard while Pastor Joe and Kay Tira travelled to Nebraska to spend time with family and welcome a new granddaughter.

The current Sunday adult/youth series is called "Is Genesis History?". Upcoming events include a "Boring BBQ" Sept. 2, a Sept. 9 parking lot patching party (ok, work day to power-wash and spread tar), a

youth overnighter Sept. 15-16, Fall Gathering Sept. 17, and Youth Kickoff September 19 with a parent/student event. Ladies' Monday evening Bible studies start up again Sept. 26.



Rainier Community Church Work Day

Many hands make light work, and Rainier Community Church of God pulled together to *get-er-done* during a workday Saturday, August 26.

Warm, dry weather gave plenty of opportunity to tend to the many tasks that build up.

Lots of work, and good fellowship.

Great job, Team RCC!

Photos courtesy of Pamela Burnett



Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch

Camp White Branch has been busy hosting and feeding anywhere from 46 to 100 firefighters as several fires burn in the area, some as close as four miles from Camp. Some days are smoky; others are clear, according to reports from CWB. Over 150 firefighters battled the large Cougar Reservoir fire, about 30 miles southwest of Camp White Branch. According to Mel Neu, the Forest Service is establishing fire lines and clearing underbrush along the roadside, taking measures to keep the fire from getting into Camp.



"We may have firefighters through the month of October if the weather stays warm and dry," says Mel. "Please pray for Leonard and Stacey, Megan, Margo, and the rest of the crew."

Meanwhile, Melvin and twin brother, Marvin Neu continue working with the sheetrock upstairs, hoping to start soon on the bottom floor.

As of August 28, Mel reports that the firefighters moved to a fire camp, "but today we got to see first-hand what they do in the woods. We had 60 firefighters here in camp clearing the short trees and bushes from around the camp. They gave the forest a 'butch' around the camp. They are preparing for a [worse-case] situation. At present we are in no danger. If the fire did flare up like some have, they would be ready to protect the camp."



Chris Miller and his family and Bob-the-water-truck-driver helped the Neus, Mel says, and they have the stairway almost completed. Duane Atkinson plans to tape and texture and help hang sheetrock in September.

Continue to pray for the good things happening with Camp White Branch, and for protection through the fire season. ~kt

Save the Dates: 2018 Summer Camps

- July 6 - 8, Intro camp
- July 9 - 13, Senior High (9th-12th)
- July 16 - 20, Junior (5th & 6th)
- July 30 - August 3, Middle School (7th & 8th)
- August 6 - 9, Primary (3rd & 4th)

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

Men's Advance: Living with Challenges and Change

Pastor Martin Shrout served as speaker for the 37th annual Men's Advance, held at Camp White Branch August 18-20, with the theme of "Living with Challenges and Change."

Chairman Jay Thornhill reports:

We had 12 men come up the hill to worship and praise the Lord. Pastor Martin did a great job of bringing our theme to life through God's word. Challenges come into our lives daily and so do changes, for example, the loss of or change in a job or career. And then the big change for us as men is to turn everything to God and let him handle it. We came to the conclusion as men that it is very hard for us to do that.

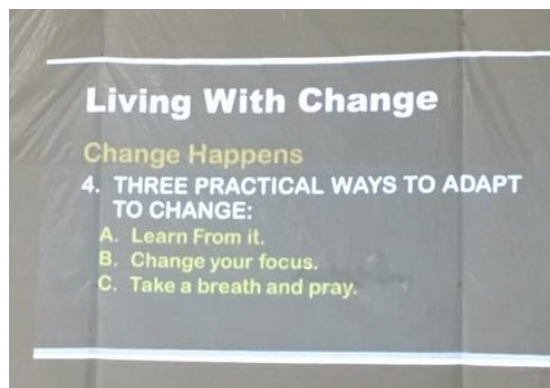
Another thing we learned as men: it's hard for us to turn it to God in prayer and trust that he will carry us through, even though we know He is able. We also learned as men it is hard for us not to want to fix everything. That seemed to be the biggest challenge for all of us. We learned from Scripture it's better to

let go and let God; His ways and timing are much better than ours.

It also came to light we're not the only ones

in the boat. Your Men's State committee is seeking your prayer as we plan our 38th annual retreat. (Yes, I did say *retreat*—not as to run away from, but to take refuge on the mountain for a time of renewal and refreshing, remembering that even Jesus even took time to seek the Father's will in everything He did.

That is what the retreat is for.



Photos Courtesy: Brad Lewis

District Calendar



- **Sept. 3, Sun.,** REGION 3 Picnic
- **Sept. 4, Mon.,** LABOR DAY, District Office closed.
- **Sept. 7, Thurs.,** REGION #2, 10:00 a.m.- Noon
- **Sept. 15-17,** Christian Women Connection Fall Retreat, CWB
- **Sept. 28, Thurs.,** REGION #5, 9am-Noon
- **Oct. 1-31,** Clergy Appreciation Month
- **Oct. 10, Tues.,** REGION #1 Mtg., 10:00 am-Noon
- **Oct. 19, Thurs.,** CWB Fundraising Dinner
- **Nov. 2, Thurs.,** REGION #2, 10:00 am-Noon
- **Nov. 5, Sun.,** Daylight Savings Ends
- **Nov. 11, Sat.,** VETERANS DAY
- **Nov. 23, Thurs.,** THANKSGIVING DAY
- **Dec. 25, Mon.,** CHRISTMAS DAY
- **Feb. 19-21, 2018,** Ministers' & Spouse Retreat
- **March 20-22, 2018,** Senior Adult Retreat

For more events, see orwacog.org/calendar