Issue 1
Winter 2015

OREGON CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

The Heritage

a ministry of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ

Elder-Pastor Conference: January 24, 2015; Saturday, 9 AM-3:30 PM

"Conflict Stewardship for Christian Leaders"

I will be casting a vision for how conflict is the single greatest opportunity to advance the kingdom of Christ in our time. However, we must become good stewards of the conflict opportunities God gives us. In this presentation we will learn a strategy how to do this. This material also contains the DNA that could virtually initiate a "new restoration movement." However, there is a critical piece missing for this to happen. Come and find out what it is.

We will also discuss the practical principles and steps to address conflict in our churches, marriages, families, missions, Christian non-profits, and any where Christians find themselves in conflict.

SOME OF THE THINGS YOU WILL LEARN ARE . . .

- Myths about Christian Peacemaking
- The proven biblical steps to "bridge" damaged relationships as far as it depends on you (Rom 12:18).
- A range of potential responses to conflict situations, including when and how to get outside help.
- How to integrate your leadership with various conflict styles.
- How to make the most of every conflict to be a disciple and make disciples.

Doug Marshall, M.A., Certified Christian Conciliator tm and Mediator with BBCR

Doug is professionally trained in mediation and conflict resolution through Clackamas County Resolution Services and is a Certified Christian conciliator™ through Peacemakers Ministries. He has practiced mediation and conflict resolution in numerous professional and relational contexts. Doug is a mediator with Bridge Builders Christian Resolutions, headed by Dr. Randy Kinnison in Beaverton, OR. Doug has also done volunteer work at Clackamas County Resolution Services (CCRS) in Oregon City, OR. Doug has been an ordained pastor for 34 years and is currently the lead pastor at Valley Christian Church in Wilsonville, OR. He has a B.A. in Biblical Studies/Preaching from Puget Sound Christian College and a M.A. in Theology/Philosophy from Lincoln Christian Seminary. Doug and his wife Lisa have been married 36 years and have two grown sons. They currently reside in Donald, Oregon.

In an effort to better serve the churches of the Northwest, OCC is offering this event at no cost. Your RSVP is needed as space is limited. Call the OCC office at 503-743-2101 to RSVP.

2015 Ministry Equipping Events

- January 24: **Elder/Pastor Conference**
- February 21: **Marriage Seminar**
- March 21: **Mission Seminar**
- April 16: **Office Professionals Retreat**
- May 7: **Seniorfest**
- May 22-25: **Nehemiah Project**
- June 30-July 5: **163rd Oregon Christian Convention**
- September 20: **Autumn Gathering!**
- October 13: **Pastor/Mentor Retreat**
- November 13-14 & 20-21: **Country Mouse Holiday Market**

Marriage Seminar
February 21, 2015
"Minding Your Marriage"
Led by Dr. Paul Alexander

Dr. Paul Alexander is a college administrator, ordained pastor, and licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who has been speaking on marriage and family life issues for the past 30 years.

This seminar entitled "Minding Your Marriage," focuses on the ways that our thinking can either drive us off the road or get us back on track. Using humor, lots of illustrations and a fast paced presentation style, Paul will lead us through discussions and activities designed to get us in touch with how we think about our thinking and learn to let the Lord mold us into more of what HE needs us to be in our marriages.

Topics include:

- intimacy stealers
- the most dangerous 30 seconds of the day
- communication commandments
- healing broken hearts
- the power of true forgiveness in marriage

"My wife and I have attended one of Paul's workshops and found it very informative, non-threatening and rich in resources for helping a good marriage be even better. "
Gene Sonnenberg, Newport Christian Church

One of the unique things in Paul's seminar is how many men enjoy their day. Husbands usually don't like these kinds of seminars. Men love this one. There is no blame allowed – each attendee will be challenged to make small changes that pay off in big ways in their marriage.

Cost is $30 per couple. Register online at www.oregonchristianconvention.org or call 503-743-2101 to RSVP. Space is limited so please register or RSVP early. Registration includes lunch.

"Tools and Resources to Help Missionaries Survive and Thrive"

Mission Seminar
March 21, 2015
9 AM-4 PM
led by *Cory and Janice Lemke*

THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS. The Church sends missionaries, both long-term and short-term, but missionaries need more than money to survive and thrive.

This seminar will provide tools and resources for more effective service. It will address the need and how churches can better help the missionaries they support. Topics will include burnout, preparation in sending, member care resources, and coaching techniques.

Cost: $15 will cover morning snacks, lunch and materials.
Register online at www.oregonchristianconvention.org

"...the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith…" Ephesians 4:12-13a

Office Professionals Retreat

April 16, 2015

"Serve Strong: Engaging Our Strengths for the Glory of God"

We all know what it feels like to be tired, drained of all energy, with nothing left to give. Yet, how often do we go home at the end of the day feeling completely exhausted yet surprisingly energized? Completing tasks and projects in a way that is life-giving allows us to be productive, which leaves us tired in a "good" way. Those are the days that you were most likely operating out of your strengths or "in the zone".

Understanding our strengths empowers us to use them in ways that glorify God, serve others, and contribute to the growth of the Kingdom. "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them," Genesis 1:27. Each person is created in the image of God and gifted with specific talents and abilities. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do," Ephesians 2:10. Leading with our strengths allows us to maximize our contributions in both work and life.

Based on ten years of experience in the field of career development in the context of Christian higher education, I am pleased to share what I've learned in an interactive workshop. By joining in a variety of activities, participants will identify a few of their top strengths and develop ideas of how to apply those strengths in their current roles, both personally and professionally. Come, discover your strengths and learn how to make the most of them as an act of service to the Lord.

Angela J. Doty,
M.A., GCDF, Director of Academic Services & Career Development, Northwest Christian University, Eugene, OR

Seniorfest! May 7, 2015

Thursday; 10 AM-4 PM

"Dare to Dream Again"

Elaine Scott and I stood at the bedside of dear old Dorr who was in a coma in the final hour of his life. I shared passages of scripture and we sang old hymns that he loved. We thanked him for the power of his life and his testimony for Jesus. After finishing another hymn about heaven, Dorr suddenly opened his eyes. *They were focused, not on us, but on Someone above us!* The light he was seeing was intense. He cried out, "Cover my eyes! Cover my eyes!" Elaine gently placed her hand over his eyes and just that quick Dorr was gone. The angels had carried him home.

That night is burned into my memory. As abilities failed him Dorr had taken stock of his situation and dreamed of how he could still serve Jesus. He decided that he could still show up on church workdays and crawl along, crutch beside him, pulling weeds. He also would continue to be a Bible-quoting encourager, a prayer warrior' plus use his voice to praise the Lord in song. All those things he did and did well. Even after he could no longer communicate I would take a hymnal, sit down beside his bed, and say, "Dorr, Let's sing!" As I sang the melody his rich bass voice would join in in perfect harmony and he could remember every word. Amazing!

As the years go by all of us make the discovery we cannot do all the things we used to do for Jesus, but we can do something. This year at Seniorfest we will investigate some of those things and you will be challenged to dare to dream again about what you can do for God. He is not finished with you yet! I hope to see you at Seniorfest.

Myron Wells
First Christian Church, Yucca Valley, CA

Music, workshops, fellowship, fun and great food will also be served in abundance.
COST: Early Bird (before May 4) ***$15 per person****. $20 after May 4. Registration includes lunch.*
Register online at oregonchristianconvention.org or download a registration form to mail or call 503-743-2101.

LIVIN'OUT LOUD "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; *make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt,* so that you may know how to answer everyone."
Colossians 4:5-6

163rd Oregon Christian Convention: June 30–July 5, 2015

Starts Tuesday, June 30, at 7 PM in the Tabernacle; concludes Sunday, July 5, with an all-church worship service in the Tabernacle. Picnic on the lawn immediately following.

I'm excited about the 2015 Week of Convention!

Every day will offer opportunities to **share in rich fellowship and worship** as we come together as the Body of Christ. This year's theme, **"Livin' Out Loud"**, urges us to represent the Lord in such a way that others can consistently see Jesus reflected in our lives and conversations.

Rick Grover (Senior Pastor at East 91st Street Christian Church in Indianapolis) will focus his evening keynote messages on Colossians 4:5-6, helping us to understand some ways we might embody the character of Jesus in the community and the marketplace so that others might also turn and follow Jesus.

Mark Krause (Dean and Professor of Bible and Ministry at Nebraska Christian College) is returning to the Northwest to help us consider a more biblical understanding of justice and righteousness. His morning Bible lectures will bring us to a new appreciation of God's passion to see both qualities represented in the lives of the faithful.

We have a fantastic line-up for the Youth and Children's convention. **Sean Thome', Cal Habig, Russell Clum,** along with **Luke & Nancy Bernard** and **The Band**, will lead the youth sessions while the children can thrive under the leadership of **Amber and Russell Grove, April Chapman, Margaret Cleveland** and others, including **students from Boise Bible College, Northwest Christian University**, and **William Jessup University**.

The **adult workshops** are already in the planning stages and touch on topics that will help us gain insights and habits for sharing the good news of new life in Christ, following the Lord when we can't see what lies ahead, and supporting persecuted believers around the world.

There will be a special **Puget Sound Christian College Reunion** during Saturday lunch—you won't want to miss it! While you're at it, be sure to sign up for the **Oregon Food Pack Event** and help fill a shipping container with emergency meals to alleviate world hunger. And did I mention the **Family-Style Fireworks** on the 4th of July?

I'm excited about the 2015 Week of Convention because **I hope you'll be there!**

Mary Ellen Pereira
President , 2015 Oregon Christian Convention

Register online at www.oregonchristianconvention.org Call the office to reserve camping/housing: 503-743-2101

Pioneer Renewal Project

"Plan your work, work your plan." The plans were made and the work has begun. Construction on Pioneer Lodge is underway!

A Construction Story

With the Civil War raging, President Lincoln encouraged the continued construction of the dome on the capital building, stressing, "If people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign we intend the Union shall go on." One man who worked on that construction was John Lewis Fishback. At the conclusion of the war, seeing the destruction and devastation on his home state of Virginia, John made the decision to set out west by himself on horseback.

John Fishback arrived in the mid-Willamette valley in 1868. With his background in construction John worked on what is today, Western Oregon University. He attended the Monmouth Christian Church where he became a deacon. He also became involved in the annual camp meeting in Turner. In 1886 Pioneer Lodge was constructed as the first little tabernacle. It later went on to be the central dining hall. In 1891 the Tabernacle was constructed and John Lewis Fishback worked to raise the beams and set the towers in place.

John's story is well over a hundred years old yet it continues. Today, Alan Fishback is the project manager for the Pioneer Renewal Project. Alan is John Lewis Fishback's great grandson. With his knowledge of construction and his servant's heart Alan is an invaluable asset to the project. The Fishback family is filled with missionaries, faithful volunteers, pastors and church leaders. It is a story that is still being written.

A ripple effect radiates from our lives. It continues through generations and it reaches back to our roots. One building being renovated is a thrill to us because it represents joy from the past and a vision for the future of the body of Christ. It builds the place so that the people will come to hear challenge, to worship, to be refreshed and to be rejuvenated.

Pioneers built a place and it links us to them in tangible ways yet their vision was for the future and with that we are proceeding forward so that as people see the Pioneer Renewal Project going on, it is a sign we intend unity in the body of Christ "shall go on."

Dianne McIntosh, OCC Admin.

Gifts in Memory...

Norman Brostrom
Marge Macdonald

Alger Fitch
Jerry and Becky Rudberg

Marlin Love
Dorothy Grover

Shelley Magnuson
Dorothy Grover

Louise Pulsifer
Dorothy Grover
Galen and Joann Siddall

Ray Pulsifer
Dorothy Grover

In Honor of...

John and Dianne McIntosh
Bob and Betty Gregory

Nehemiah Project
May 22-25, 2015

* Camp Free
* Eat Free
* Work Hard

What happens at Nehemiah Project?
It's a weekend of work and worship, of fellowship around meals and of relationship building projects.

Everyone is welcome to participate. There is no cost. Simply RSVP so we can buy enough food.

The blessing that God pours out "when the people have a mind to work" is always amazing!

A project list will be posted on the website as the date gets closer.

Please call Dianne at 503-743-2101 or email dianne@oregonchristianconvention.org to sign-up and secure housing.

Circle of Worship: 2014 Nehemiah Project

Oregon Christian Convention
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Turner, Oregon 97392-0413
(503) 743-2101

Email: info@oregonchristianconvention.org
Website: www.oregonchristianconvention.org

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Upcoming Events–Details Inside!

Elder/Pastor Conference-January 24
Marriage Seminar-February 21
Mission Seminar-March 21
Office Professionals Retreat-April 16
Seniorfest-May 7
Nehemiah Project-May 22-25
Week of Convention-June 30-July 5

Oregon Food Pack Event

Miracle Sunday Offering: February 15, 2015 Packing the Food: June 30-July 3, 2015

The 2015 Oregon Food Pack Event is sponsored by the Oregon Christian Convention and the International Disaster Emergency Service (IDES), a ministry of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ.

THE MIRACLE SUNDAY OFFERING IS SET FOR FEBRUARY 15. Monies are being raised to pay for the food, supplies and shipping container that will be packed during the week of the Oregon Christian Convention. Church families are coming together to make the goal of $30,000. Thus far we are over half-way to the goal! The totals will be posted on miracle Sunday on the OCC Facebook page. Did you know that one dollar buys four meals? Think about the impact a dollar can make! Keep giving the dollars. We can do great things when we work together! It's not too late to participate. Contact Linda Shearer at lshearer3612@gmail.com for promotional supplies and more info on being a part of the miracle. Send contributions to OCC, PO BOX 413, Turner, OR 97392 (memo: "Oregon Food Pack").

PACKING THE FOOD HAPPENS JUNE 30-JULY 3 DURING THE WEEK OF CONVENTION AT THE TURNER CHRISTIAN CHURCH. This is a hands-on experience that will put you right in the middle of the action! Two packing times each day are scheduled for Tuesday through Friday. This is a wonderful time of coming together as the body of Christ to show his love around the world. Use this event as a ministry outreach to those who don't know Jesus. Feeding the hungry is a universal language that Jesus used to demonstrate his love for humanity. Invite your friends to participate.

YOU ARE PART OF THIS EVENT! God is working through your dollars, your hands, your prayers and your faith to bring about a miracle that will be a blessing of life to people around the world.
Contact Linda Shearer at lshearer3612@gmail.com for more information.