

Message from John

For the past couple of weeks International Youth Forum (IYF)/SPEC has been consuming a lot of time at the Mission Center office. Jennifer Brock Olson and JoAnn Fisher have been collecting YES Fund applications, registrations for the events and arranging travel for the youth and staff who will be attending.

We have heard comments and concerns from youth leaders, pastors and parents throughout the mission center. One of the big concerns is cost. I want to take this opportunity to talk a little about cost. To help put things in perspective I'd like to share some results from the 15 minutes of research I did on the internet. I found that football, baseball and art camps are \$130 to \$315 for a three to four day camp. Campers must provide their own meals, travel and lodging for the duration of the camp.

The total cost of IYF/SPEC this year is \$635 dollars for a 12 day camp that provides meals, local transportation, housing, uniforms, and an outstanding life changing experience. The experience includes spiritual formation, arts, leadership, and sports all in an environment of faith, good sportsmanship, and community. Youth who attend these camps meet church leaders through classes and mealtime table conversations.

What I am trying to say is that IYF/SPEC is a bargain. What is the price for a life changing experience? One class at the university costs more than SPEC or IYF. Campers don't even have to write a paper! Instead they learn how to live in community and develop life long skills for living in the world. They have a great time learning these things while fully immersed with other youth of their faith community.

Another aspect that I don't want to miss is the volunteers who make all of our camping opportunities possible. This year at SPEC 1000

youth will be served by 200 adult volunteers from around the world who pay their own way so that they can share with your youth what they know about sports, art, leadership, and faith. We have been challenged to concentrate on what is important (D&C 163:11b). These types of experiences are important.

The Inland West Mission Center has once again been able to support this excellent program by paying the travel expense for each participant from our Mission Center. This is only possible because of generous donations to the YES Fund from individual members and congregations. It is not only the adults who are supporting the fund, youth have organized and executed fundraisers to donate to the YES Fund. As you plan your giving for this year, please consider your contribution to the YES fund,

God bless,



John G. VanDerWalker

Remember, June 10th is the final deadline for IYF /SPEC Registration, YES Fund Application and fees payment. For more IYF/SPEC information the Community of Christ website www.cofchrist.org

Mission Center Summer Reunions

Register now for reunion and please contact your directors to volunteer your talents in teaching, washing dishes, providing music, helping in worship services and cleaning toilets. Reunion dates, directors and guest ministers are below.)

- June 19-25 **Echo Valley Reunion** - Avon, MT
Directors - Carol Ann & Terry Reiff
(docdoman@gmail.com or 406 287-5510)
Ministry – Bill & Barbara Gardner, Pat Moon, and Frank Young

- June 27 – July 3 **Red Cliffe Reunion – Huntsville, UT**
Directors – Glen & Jean Bruch (801 479-9594)
Ministry – John Chatburn & John VanDerWalker
- June 27 – July 2 **Samish Island Reunion - Bow, WA**
Directors – Mark Olson
(jmbjolson@comcast.net or 509 838-3663)
Judy Polly (judy_polley@comcast.net
or 509 927-2885)
Ministry – JoAnn Fisher, Jan Kraybill and Robin Linkhart
- July 7 – 13 **Cascade Reunion – Cascade, ID**
Directors – JoAnn Fisher
(joannfish@mindspring.com or 208 392-4595)
Ministry – John Chatburn and Dale Luffman

Information about all Reunions and Camps for Children and Youth was featured in our spring edition of Inland Stream. You can also find this information at www.cofchrist-iwest.org.

CCLI Reminder

Camp directors and worship leaders please remember that all music used at camp in printed or projected format needs to have our Christian Copyright Licensing Number **CCLI # 2488734** displayed.

Fall Spiritual Growth Retreats

Plan now to attend one of the two spiritual growth retreats offered within the mission center on the weekend of September 4 – 6, 2009. Sites, directors and guest ministry printed below:

- Camp Red Cliffe in Huntsville, UT
“Renew my Spirit”
Director: Harriet White harrietwhi@mac.com
Guest Ministry: Bob Slasor
More information at <http://www.cofchrist-iwest.org/bb/2009.redcliffe.sgr.pdf>
- Echo Valley Campground in Avon, MT
Director: Gil Martell gilin70@peoplepc.com
Guest Ministry: Carolyn & David Brock
More information will follow.