

# THE HORTON'S CHRISTMAS 2017 NEWSLETTER



**Assisting Youth  
Leaders in  
Developing Life-  
Changing Youth  
Ministries**  
Preparing Students  
for a life of Service

- Training  
Volunteers
- Partnerships
- **RURAL MISSION  
TRIPS**
- Mentoring
- **STORYTELLING  
WORKSHOPS**
- Consulting
- Networking
- **TIMELESS  
MINISTRY  
PRINCIPLES**
- Developing  
Student  
Leadership

*"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me  
and I will make you fishers of men.'"*  
Matt. 4:19

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Dear Family & Ministry Friends:

Judy and I received a Christmas card the other day which I thought would be good to share. It went like this: **"JESUS – The Wonderful One. He is greater than any ruler...mightier than any warrior...nobler than any king...wiser than any sage...bigger than any kingdom...better than any crown...lovelier than any name...worthy of worship...deserving of praise."** by Roy Lessin. I know most people send out Christmas family newsletters rather than a card (we do) but sometimes what we want to emphasize at Christmas time is often said best by someone else like a saying quoted in a card. Christmas is so very important and it is right to celebrate what God did on that day. We hope you are able to.

It is always exciting for us to hear what God is doing in the rural towns where a mission team has gone to serve and evangelize. This past November, I was invited for lunch to meet with the leaders of the mission team to south central Ukraine. What a wonderful time of sharing and vision casting.

Mark & Joanne Mackey, Dr. Vladimir Degtyaryov, Gretchen & Dan Jester



The students and leaders of the Zaporozhye Bible College and Seminary were so impacted by what Dan and Gretchen taught them and then modeled for them when they went on a rural mission trip, that they not only ran several mission trips of their own during the summer but have invited Dan and Gretchen back for follow-up ministries next April. They not only hope to revisit this year's rural towns but also **expand the training and mission ministry** into some other areas of the Ukraine, possibly inviting some other Christian leaders from Poland and Hungary. **Amazing. Praise the Lord!!!**



Tim Vincent, pictured below, is a veteran youth leader serving at the Journey Church in Federal Way, WA. He has led a rural mission team (for the past 14 years) to the remotest parts of Vancouver Island, Canada, a 45 minute ferry ride from Trofino to Flores Island owned by the Ahousat First Nation. This past summer he saw a major breakthrough take place with several of his students and a Native American family. After all these years reaching out to the youth on the island, two boys were invited to stay overnight in an Indian boy's home.

They did and it has now led to these two boys planning to go back for a whole school year to help lead the youth group (which had been started several years



earlier). The missionary said that **nothing like this has ever happen on the island before**. Tim is currently discipling these two young men to return to Flores Island to serve as missionaries. Again Amazing, Praise the Lord!

**Just a quick note** to say that many of next year's rural youth mission trips are shaping up very well as it is always a real joy and blessing to see how the Lord continues to put these trips together. This is still the main way we serve churches, pastors and youth leaders. **Thanks for praying as every partnership is an answer to prayer.**



There has been some exciting progress made with the original bookmark ministry resource materials that I started to work on last spring. I think we have moved into another level of development with this, so I thought we needed to make a change in the title to "TIMELESS MINISTRY PRINCIPLES". The chapters are the same which are Christian Leadership, Evangelism & Discipleship, and Youth Ministry.

All the materials are on our web site [www.ruralchurchym.org](http://www.ruralchurchym.org) (please check it out) so anyone can download the material at no cost. Hopefully this notebook will enhance and deepen the ministry of many leaders, both full-time and volunteer.

#### 2018 STORYTELLING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

**Feb. 10** @ The Journey Church, Federal Way, WA

**April 7** @ Multnomah University, Portland, OR

**April 28** @ New Creation Church, Spokane, WA

**May 5** @ The Henry Building, Cashmere, WA

**May 19** @ LA Grande 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist, LA Grande, OR

All workshops start at 9am & end at 12:30pm



Pictured is the Horton family taken when we were visiting Judy's family in West Kelowna, B.C. Canada this past August. Top row: Tom & Judy, our son Nathan with his wife Amber and their youngest adopted daughter Kailyn. Bottom row: Justin with our daughter his mother Stacie with Nathan and Amber's other two adopted girls Annika and Emily. Judy and I are truly blessed with our children and grandchildren, who all live within 45 minutes of us. They are all active in their local churches and we often get together throughout the year for many occasions.

**PRAISE GOD FOR THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF HIS SON JESUS!!!**

**Merry Christmas**

**FROM YOUR FELLOW WORKERS FOR**

**CHRIST, Tom & Judy**

