

United Methodist Online

The voice of United Methodism in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

June 2008



Bishop Bob
Hoshibata



Submit articles

The July issue will be the post-Annual Conference issue; deadline is June 30. Submit articles, no longer than 300-500 words, to Linda@umoi.org. Please include your name, position, local church or ministry, a photo or two in .jpg format, and the name of the

Bishop Hoshibata's Column

The last couple of paragraphs of Bishop Hoshibata's column, "With Faith Like a Child," on page 2 of the June United Methodist Online sent yesterday, were inadvertently omitted. Below is his message in its entirety.

Dear Members and Friends of the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference,

Confession: I have never been to a "Jars of Clay" concert! But as the vision of a concert for youth and young adults at our Annual Conference emerged I did some research. There are many contemporary Christian rock groups in the marketplace today! In the effort to determine who we would invite to come to Salem, people of varying ages were consulted. Jars of Clay was one band that was mentioned often.

So I listened to their music and I was attracted by the sound, the lyrics, and the personal testimony of Jars of Clay.

☐ From their song, "Like a Child":

*Dear God, surround me as I speak,
The bridges that I walk across are weak
Frustrations fill the void that I can't solely bear
Dear God, don't let me fall apart,
You've held me close to you
I have turned away and searched for answers I can't understand.*

*They say that I can move the mountains
And send them crashing into the sea
They say that I can walk on water
If I would follow and believe
With faith like a child.*

photographer.

Have you found yourself turning to God with similar words? When we are faced with challenges that threaten to undo our lives, when we feel frustration and loneliness and we ask God to comfort us, to hold us and support us, and to offer us answers to the difficult and nagging questions in life. In some of those moments, it is the experience of our faith in Jesus Christ that lifts us up out of our depression.

Youth and young adults are no stranger to these feelings. They know the pain and frustration that comes to young people as it does to all of us. Words such as these which speak of faith in God in difficult times are meaningful to our young people. Put to music that rocks with rhythm and instrumentation that sends youthful spirits soaring, these words help proclaim our faith to a younger generation. I am pleased that we can offer this concert as one way in which our Annual Conference reaches out to youth and young adults.

The Jars of Clay concert is presented free of charge. I am deeply grateful to those who have generously given to the Bishop's Fund for Boldness so that this concert can be presented free of charge and open to the general public. In addition, special one-time grants were received from the Oregon-Idaho Faith and Ministry Fund and the Oregon-Idaho Igniting Ministry Fund.

An energetic team has been working tirelessly to plan and promote this concert. These persons have provided excellent leadership in this venture: Jennie Pitney, Sandy Holt, Paige Flanagan, Chris Kester, Christy Dirren, Courtney McHill, Chad Caubin, Cesie Delve Scheuermann, Melissa Berry, Scott Harkness, Eilidh Lowery, Jeff Lowery, Marcey Balcomb, Bekah Sullivan, Linda Sullivan, Pat Breen. We are grateful for the in-kind donation of graphic artist Bill Helwig, Graphic Ingenuity, Salem, who designed the posters, postcards and e-card for the concert.

I am thankful and in awe of the energy and commitment these persons have as they work to make a dream become a reality. Jars of Clay will be at Annual Conference! The concert is free for all! I hope and pray that God will bless this concert. So...

- Invite all to the celebration!

- Come and experience the music of this acclaimed Christian rock group!
- Join in this expression of love for our youth and young adults!
- Commit or recommit your life to Jesus Christ!
- Proclaim to all that Jesus Christ is alive in The United Methodist Church!

Like the doors flung wide to admit the crowd into God's heavenly banquet, the doors of The Pavilion at the Salem Fairgrounds will open wide on June 21 so the crowd can enter to receive the gift of the spirit and the music of Jars of Clay.

YOU are invited and welcome to come!

In Christ,

Robert T. Hoshibata



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