MCCS is actively planning its biennial Philmont Conference which will be held at the Philmont Training Center (PTC) in the foothills of the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northeastern New Mexico. Our conference is listed as the “Scouting in the Church of Christ” conference. The dates are August 3-9, 2014. Register online by June 30th! To register, go to www.myscouting.org and register under the Events link.

Please refer to the Philmont Training Center website www.philmonttrainingcenter.org to learn more about your week at PTC.

This conference is for members of all MCCS affiliated programs and will provide valuable information for leaders affiliated with BSA, TLUSA, AHG, GSUSA and youth ministry. If you are interested in attending, please email Kent Barnett at kent.barnett@goodservant.org or call Kent at 325-370-1679.

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During May, five MCCS trustees attended national committee meetings during the Annual BSA meeting in Nashville. We are currently planning for the August 3-9 conference “Scouting in the Church of Christ” to be held at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico.

As we enter the summer months our donations typically go down. We rely on your dedicated support and need you to prayerfully consider supporting MCCS this summer. Your contributions develop young people spiritually through this ministry. You can donate via mail or our website: www.goodservant.org using the “About Us” link.

In service to youth,

Kent Barnett
MCCS National Executive Director

Good Servant Curricula Revision

MCCS has always recognized that it needs to keep its curriculum current and relevant to today’s youth and families. We want to empower young people with biblical knowledge, understanding and a desire to embody the servant leadership principles that Jesus Christ personified. In 2013, Dr. Jerry Strader, former chair of MCCS, led a group consisting of the board of trustees and advisory board working with biblical scholars and educators in exploring how we might revise the Good Servant program to make it more age-appropriate for the targeted middle-school audience.

This was a year-long effort that has yielded a remarkable new curriculum with our first ever counselor guide. Our goal was to create a new program that was biblical, achievable and engaging to bring young people to a greater understanding of the servant-hood that Jesus Christ models for all of us.

After discussion, consultation, and prayer, we decided to focus the curriculum on the Gospel of Mark and we used that book to form the requirements and discussion of servant leadership. It is our hope that this new curriculum will help sixth, seventh and eighth graders engage with the Bible and understand and internalize that the call to servant leadership is one that is rooted in the very character and nature of Jesus Christ and that he exemplified it throughout his ministry. The text consistently presents Jesus in terms of the “servant” mentioned in Philippians.

We released the revised curriculum and counselor guide in time for the LTC and Lads to Leaders Easter weekend events. It is now available by request through our website, www.goodservant.org.

From our earliest discussions on the Gospel of Mark:

Crucial to understanding Mark’s Jesus is the underlying theme of his being misunderstood. His closest disciples, the crowds, and Roman leaders view him as a Jewish insurrectionist who would defeat the Romans dominating the country, overthrow corrupt Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, and set up the kingdom of Israel much as it had been centuries before under King David. It is precisely this mistaken view that leads Jewish leaders to try to destroy Jesus’ growing influence among the people, and to begin seeking ways to kill him.

Throughout Mark, when a person or group misunderstands Jesus, there always follows an account in which Jesus helps—serves—heals a leper, a deaf man, a sick woman, a boy with an unclean spirit. Jesus models his view of discipleship.

As the Gospel of Mark moves toward the final week of Jesus’ life, Jesus begins to state more pointedly, his understanding of discipleship in terms of being servants. Jesus’ view comes to a head at Mark 10:43-45, “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the servant of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” As one scholar said regarding Mark’s Jesus, “Service is not the path to greatness, it is greatness.” In Mark 16 the final statements of Jesus are with the necessity of confessing and being baptized. Here is a great place for the counselor to have a more complete discussion about just what it means to be baptized and the Christian journey of being a servant.

By concentrating on this motif in the Gospel of Mark, one can see clearly from the life and teaching of Jesus himself how important service is to genuine discipleship and clearly in instance after instance how Jesus went about doing service. Ample accounts in Mark would enable one to reflect on ancient situations and draw parallels to how Jesus might approach current situations. This would make possible genuine servant leadership.

We are excited about this new curriculum and we welcome feedback from counselors, youth and parents as they work with it and MCCS.

MCCS is off and running in 2014! Our first big event occurred in February when many of the trustees descended on Abilene, TX for the annual trustees meeting. A two-day workshop was held prior to the meeting during which trustees polished the recently revamped curriculum for the Good Servant Award. Bible study for the new version will focus on the book of Mark. If your son or daughter is currently working on the older version of the Good Servant curriculum, don’t panic. They will still earn the award.

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TAYLOR KULASZEWSKI, CARRIE SIMMONS AND MOLLIE KATE CREECH WITH LONGTIME GIRL SCOUT LEADER ELLIE VERMILLION AT THE GIRLS’ JOYFUL SERVANT AWARD CEREMONY IN MARCH. ALL THREE YOUNG WOMEN HAVE ALSO EARNED THE LOVING SERVANT AWARD.


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Houston joined Cub Scout Pack 50 of Pitcairn, Pennsylvania, in 1959 and has had continuous membership since that time. So if you are counting he has been in the program for 55 years. He is an Eagle Scout who earned his God and Country Award in 1965. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and was elected Anicus Lodge Chief in 1980. He was honored by the Silver Beaver Award and has served on the Council Executive Board since that time. He currently serves on the council executive committee. He has attended 17 World and National Jamborees and currently also serves as the Southern Region Area1 Jamboree Chairman.

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In 2013, MCCS was able to fulfill one of our longtime goals. The trustees decided that it was time to step out in faith and provide college scholarships to deserving young people involved in the scouting movement who had been active in earning MCCS’s Servant Leadership Awards. This year we established a separate endowment to help us in this new endeavor to continue to serve youth. The board feels that this is one more way that MCCS can serve young people and encourage them to earn the top-level Servant Leadership Awards.

The young people pictured here are three outstanding scouts from across this country who applied for and received scholarships from MCCS ranging from $1000 to $2000. All of these young people earned the top award in their branch of scouting and they all earned either the Good Servant or the Giving Servant awards from the MCCS Servant Leadership Series.

MCCS is proud to announce that in 2015 it will again be offering scholarships to entering freshmen. You can obtain application information from the scholarship link on the MCCS website, www.goodservant.org.

The MCCS Board of Trustees is thankful that it has the opportunity to serve young people in their educational pursuits and hopes and prays that it will continue to be able to provide young people with scholarships that will enhance their futures. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship endowment please contact MCCS Executive Director Kent Barnett.

Pictured are the Weisses, A Livermore, CA, Scouting Family. On Scout Sunday on February 2, at the Tri-Valley Church of Christ mom, Orinda, and dad, Philip, received their Faithful Servant Awards and sons, Garran (L) and Jonathan (R) were awarded their Giving Servant Awards. Both young men have earned all four Servant Leadership Awards!

Girl Scout Kendra Bounds of Kilgore, TX, was awarded her Giving Servant at the Chandler Street Church of Christ. She is pictured here with her family and youth minister.

MHC members Riley and Jaylyn Gustafson of Chantilly, VA, earned their Loving and Joyful Servant Awards respectively.

Will and Landon Boyd of Huntsville, AL, earned their Eagle Scout ranks.

Chris Murphy of Ankeny, IA
Eagle Scout, Good Servant
Iowa State University

Cora Wilson of Rickman, TN
AHG Stars and Stripes Award, Giving Servant
Tennessee Tech University

Nathaniel Glaze of Waynesville, OH
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FAITHFUL SERVANT MIKE FLOWERS was honored at a Saturday February 15th dinner in Oklahoma City. Mike is the Point Man for Trail Life USA for Oklahoma where he has been instrumental in organizing 20 NEW TRAIL LIFE TROOPS. Mike was present at a commemorative rifle and leather shield inscribed with the Colombians 1:10 which contains the Trail Life motto “WALK WORTHY.” Former MCCS Trustee Gayle Reams is shown presenting Mike with the shield and Douglas Fletcher is pictured presenting him with the rifle.

REPORT FROM NEW MCCS CHAIR

DURING the weekend of February 13-15, 2014 the trustees of MCCS convened on the campus of Abilene Christian University for their annual business meeting. On Thursday under the guidance of Dr. Jerry Strader, the trustees completed the revision and review of the GOOD SERVANT religion award curriculum. Additionally, they compiled the draft copy of the Counselor/Mentor Guide for the Good Servant curriculum which will serve as the template to develop additional guides for the remainder of the award curricula. On Friday, standing and special committees convened to develop plans for the 2014 Philmont Conference, Chaplaincy, and Communications. Later that evening a general working session for all Trustees and Advisory Board members included discussions on the relationship between MCCS and Trail Life USA, MCCS branding and marketing, and suggestions for the way-ahead for MCCS.

At the beginning of our business meeting on Saturday, we were pleased to be welcomed to campus by Dr. Phil Shubert, President of Abilene Christian University. The remainder of the day was completely filled by committee reports and the review of financial standing and adoption of a budget for 2014. Two new trustees were added to the board, Roger Tate and John McCollum. At the 2013 National Scout Jamboree, Roger served as a Subcamp Chaplain while John served on the MCCS booth exhibit staff. We are excited to have their perspectives as trustees. Duvan Brock, SteveLeddy, Nathan Williams, and I were re-elected as trustees to a four year term. Additional topics that generated lively discussion included the use of social media and the implementation of the new MCCS website which will enable on-line donations and marketing of MCCS products. Thanks to Dr. Denise Barnett at the wonderful lunch she prepared, we were able to continue working. During lunch, Phil Waldron of Mission Upreach presented aspects of an outreach effort in Honduras which may provide an opportunity for Churches of Christ/MCCS members to evangelize a lost world. Phil has translated the Good Servant curriculum material into Spanish for use by those congregations that might have a desire to reach into their Spanish speaking communities.

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I am honored to serve as your chairman and “will endeavor, so far as in my power lies” to serve the cause of Christ in a lost and dying world. I ask you to keep our young people, their families, their congregations and MCCS in your prayers. Oh, by the way… I hope to see you at Philmont this summer.

J. HUSTON COSTOLO MCCS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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The week includes various exciting educational experiences for the entire family. Conference schedules permit ample time for family activities in the evenings. The participants will have Wednesday off to do Philmont activities such as hikes, horseback rides, handicraft, museum tours, shop the trading post or drive to nearby mountain towns such as Red River, Eagle’s Nest and Taos.

There are staff-led programs for all ages during the day and afternoons and there will be opportunities for worship and singing. Barnett said, “obviously, we’ll have plenty of fellowship.”

The Servant Leadership Series includes Loving Servant - Grades 1-3, Joyful Servant - Grades 4-6, Good Servant - Grades 6-8, Giving Servant - Grades 9-12 & Venturers. The curricula are designed to be used in a one-on-one format or in a group setting where one counselor works with several youth. Each curriculum level can also be adapted to serve as a Bible Class curriculum. All young people will benefit from the habits that they develop in these programs. They do not have to be enrolled in a scouting program to participate.

For those family members not attending the seminar, Philmont offers various staffed activities for the entire family. As an option, youth aged 14 - 20 whose parent(s) attend(s) the Philmont 2014 conference will also be guaranteed a backpacking experience on a Mountain Trek, at an additional cost. This is a great backcountry experience for young people.

PTC offers exciting, educational experiences for the entire family. Conference schedules permit ample time for family activities in the evenings. The participants will have Wednesday off to do Philmont activities such as hikes, horseback rides, handicraft, museum tours, shop the trading post or drive to nearby mountain towns such as Red River, Eagle’s Nest and Taos.

Conference participants will cover topics such as, developing relationships with local congregations to promote a scouting ministry and encouraging youth to utilize and earn the Servant Leadership Religious Awards.

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MCCS loves it when a young person completes one of our servant leadership awards, but we do not want their Bible study to stop there. We provide curricula that will enrich a young person’s spiritual walk throughout their formative years. The Servant Leadership series is designed to help and reinforce an attitude of prayer and Bible study in young people that will create a pattern of spiritual growth that will last a lifetime.

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Go to www.goodservant.org to order the Servant Leadership Series, and look for more information about the programs.