



ARIZONA
MINISTRY NETWORK



August 2020
AZMN Publication

www.azag.org

Table of Contents

3	Preach the Word <i>By Stephen Harris</i>	13	Kid's Ministry
5	Ministry During Covid-19 <i>By Ron Rockwell</i>	14	Arizona School of Ministry
7	Church Administration Essentials <i>By Leigh Metcalf</i>	15	Intercultural Ministries
8	Note to Self: Be Willing to Not Know <i>By Jeff Peterson</i>	17	Teen Challenge
10	Men's Ministry	18	Network Information
11	Women's Ministry	19	Ministry Statistics
12	Youth Ministry		





Stephen Harris, Superintendent
sharris@azag.org

PREACH THE WORD



As I sat down at my computer to write this article for August, my mind was swirling with so many issues and grappling with what the Holy Spirit might want to say to pastors and others who may read this article. I realize several of you actually do read the articles, for which we are grateful, but I know with the press of time, you might often just skim an article in this publication, view the photos, and quickly flip to the last page just to be certain you haven't missed something vitally important. I am guessing that my thoughts are fairly close to your own, Pastor, as you consider next Sunday's message in this perilous time. What can I possibly say to those under the sound of my voice to encourage peace, bring hope, and comfort in a world that screams anything BUT hope, comfort and peace.

I remember my Dad saying to me at a critical juncture in my life, **"Always go to the Word of God. It contains every answer to every possible question you could have. It will always give clear direction, and help in time of need!"** Guess what? He was right – again! Thank God for Godly parents who modeled Christ.



My family and I buried my precious Mom two weeks ago. In 1957, Mom and Dad left behind their families against my grandmother's wishes to board the Queen Mary leaving behind their Moms, Dads, and siblings to sail to Africa with their three young children, me being one of them, to begin their first term as missionaries. I know for a fact that the Word of God sustained them, gave them direction, and became God's voice in the darkness of the night as they labored on African soil, so far from home.



My Mom, Enola Ruth Harris, lived to be 94 years old. Her body wracked and weak, bound to a wheelchair, but she could still quote scripture and call on the Lord in prayer for her children, grandchildren, and siblings. She would tell you herself that the Word of God was her anchor. It is mine as well.



I give an instructional charge to our Ordination candidates every Network Conference that always stirs my own heart concerning the high calling of God to ministry:

"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead and in view of His appearing and His Kingdom, I give you this charge: 'Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; Correct, Rebuke and Encourage.. .with great patience and careful instruction.'" -2 Timothy 4:1-2

Please notice these key words and phrases:

- 1. Preach the Word**
- 2. Be prepared in difficult seasons as well as the mountain top seasons**
- 3. Correct & Rebuke from the foundation of the truth of the Word of God**
- 4. Encourage with 'great' patience and 'careful' instruction that lines up with the precepts of the Word of God.**

Marjorie and I are enjoying our sabbatical and are so grateful to the Executive leadership team as well as the entire Presbytery Board for this privilege. We pray daily for you, Pastor, and are so appreciative for your faithfulness in this challenging time for our Nation, and most certainly the body of Christ. My encouragement to you is simple. PREACH THE WORD. The Holy Spirit's anointing will make it exactly what your people need to hear, will bring hope, encouragement, conviction, and life! We love you each one and hold you close to our hearts.

Sincerely,
Pastor Harris

MINISTRY DURING COVID-19



The challenges pastors have been facing during this season have been overwhelming, to say the least. Should we open? Should we close? Should we have youth/children's ministries or not? Should I go and pray for the sick or stay home? Are people watching online or do they simply jump on for a few minutes just to make you think they're watching online? (Sneaky!)

Will donor fatigue set in? And is this the time to downsize staff? Will people come back to church when the doors open again? Why do people get so easily offended when all you're trying to do is something you've never done before? It seems impossible to plan for future events. Will the pandemic ever end?

After a while my heart begins to grow weary and my spirit becomes discouraged. It was the wisest man on earth who wrote, "**Hope deferred makes the heart grow sick.**" **Prov. 13:12** This verse seems completely rational considering the things the church has experienced over the past five months.

A difficult part of navigating COVID-19 for me has been my inability to "shepherd" people face-to-face. Phone calls are good, Zoom meetings are fine, and online, digital ministry is OK, but I'm not the kind of pastor who's satisfied with only hearing of people's troubles and trials. I want to be able to give a personal human touch. As a shepherd, I miss hugs, water baptisms, altar services, personal prayer & anointing ministry, and small group experiences where we do life together.

I know in time things will get better but during these difficult days, I want you to know that you are not alone in your struggle, Pastor. Right now, God has His church and His shepherds on a trust journey and if you're feeling isolated and alone, please remember, others are walking in your same footsteps. As we continue to **“Trust in the Lord!” (Prov. 3:5)** as our first line of faith, I would also like to remind our pastors that our Network leadership, along with Jeff Peterson, are always available to talk and pray with you. I want to share my personal cell number and if you need someone to hold up your arms during this season, please call me. (623-330-1267). In the end, we're going to win, and this trial of faith will make us stronger and better equipped to reach the lost.

Speaking of the lost, I'd like to remind our pastors that our missionary force has also been under a heavy load during this time as well. Their lives and ministries have been upended as well and if you can, please send them an email or text of encouragement. I know they would really appreciate your words of encouragement.

Finally, I need to announce that Lauren Digiambattista has prayerfully decided to step away from her missions and has returned stateside. She has been an exceptional missionary helping indigenous people learn about God's love through teaching and friendship. The seeds Lauren has sown will continue to produce a wonderful harvest. She will be living in California and continuing on in ministry at the local church.

Thank you again and again for your faithful support, love and prayers for our Network Missionary Team.

Love and prayers, Ron & Sue



“And now, may the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” 1 Thess. 3:12-13



AUGUST 2020

Secretary/Treasurer | Leigh Metcalf



Church Administration Essentials

2020 ONE-DAY TREASURER'S AND CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 20, 2020
Desert Springs Church



Hosted by
Choco De Jesús
General Treasurer

Join us for a free, one-day regional conference at Desert Springs Church, Chandler, AZ. We would love to have your pastors, treasurers, bookkeepers, lay leaders and board members attend. The conference will bring together qualified voices to address topics that concern the local church such as compensation, IRS law, budgeting in the post-Covid world, as well as many other topics.

This is one day you will not want to miss!

REGISTER NOW

<https://agusa.brushfire.com/GT/470038>

MINISTER'S PORTAL

Use your Personal Login to register for events, update your contact information and schedule your giving online.

FOR LOGIN HELP

Call us at (602) 343-4012
Email us Jrosado@azag.org

LOGIN NOW

MY.AZAG.ORG



**AZAG MINISTERS
GROUP**



NOTE TO SELF...

BE WILLING TO NOT KNOW

"God delights in concealing things; scientists delight in discovering things." Proverbs 25:2 The Message

One of the challenging aspects of pastoring is the pressure to always feel we must have an answer. Remember the 'ol Shell Answer Man from commercials? Sometimes I feel that way on a Sunday as I move in and out of conversations with the flock. The truth is: **people want answers**. There is a certain comfort when authority figures can provide opinion and information on a given subject.

Our current circumstances surrounding Covid-19 have heightened the uncomfortable reality that sometimes only God knows—period. Our highest authorities, the experts, have vacillated on their projections, recommendations, and speculations about the virus. How many times have you said to someone recently, “Only God knows”? Truthfully, such a saying is potentially frustrating to the inquirer, but to you as a pastor it can feel freeing.

David sang with his harp, *“My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me”* (Ps. 131:1). This cuts both ways in application. First, allow yourself the freedom to live David’s premise here. Yes, even as a pastor on Sunday morning! There truly are some things we just don’t know, can’t know, and possibly God may never allow us to know. Second, be slow then, to speculate on matters. Why must we always have an answer? Quite possibly the inquiry is yet another perplexity that God is not divulging the answer to. Social media has promoted everyone to the position of opinion columnists on life...and politics, and religion, and...oh my.

So, here are a few recommendations for you, pastor:

- Allow yourself these words, "I simply don't know." It just might be a good sermon title right about now.
- Allow God to be esteemed as the great "mystery keeper" that He is. Lead your people in the worship of this unique aspect to His nature.
- Be careful with what you do know. Hold your opinion to yourself, even if you "know" the answer sometimes.
- Social media? Just be careful. Love people with it. Build up, don't tear down. Before you weigh in, ask yourself, "Do I know all the facts on this matter?" You most likely don't.
- Sure, seek God to know about the given secrets surrounding our lives. James 1 says He does not hold back giving us His wisdom. As leaders, wisdom may be our greatest need in this hour.



Stay healthy in ministry,
Pastor Jeff

"How do I find an elder?"

Download the *Arizona Ministry Network* app from the Play Store or App Store. Under the tab "A Safe Place", scroll through the elder names, pictures and phone numbers. Then, simply reach out via text or phone call.

You can also find the list of Elders and their contact info through the azag.org website [HERE](#).



To Do:
Contact
an Elder

AZ MAN CAMP

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2020

REGISTER AT: AZMANCAMP.ORG

Attend in Person or Watch Online!

COURAGE • STRENGTH

**MEN'S
MINISTRIES**

ENDURANCE

ENDURANCE

*"For you have need of **ENDURANCE**, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."*

HEBREWS 10:36



Dale Gray, Men's Director
dgray@rockag.com

FALL RETREAT 2020

— she — STANDS

September 17-19 @ Granite Hills Campground

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us in September!
This is the perfect opportunity to step away, take a deep breath, encounter God and meet new friends. There will be amazing speakers, powerful worship, breakout sessions, campfires, zip lines, rock walls, after parties, shopping, coffee and more!

Speakers



Lindsay Petri



Kay Burnett

Other speakers:

Becky Davis
Marjorie Harris
Linga Ndambasha
Amy Rinta
Elise Wood

Activities



Pricing

Full Conference
\$160

**Friday/Saturday
Only Conference**
\$150

Conference
(no lodging)
\$150

Conference
(no lodging or meals)
\$110

Prices increase by
\$20 on Aug. 1.
Register today!

**Find more info and register at
azagwomen.org.**



Griffin McGrath

Youth & Young Adult Director
gmcgrath@azag.org

f t i @azagym + @griffinmcgrath



YOUTH CONVENTION 2020



ARIZONA YOUTH CONVENTION 2020

RADIANT CHURCH / OCT 23 - 24

www.azagyouth.org/azyc



SEU Worship



Allen Griffin



Terry Parkman

We need a move of God's Spirit for this generation to take hold of the promises of God and be personally responsible to His mission for the world. This generation is counting on the church in unconventional times to raise up an unconventional generation of SAINTS for the work of the ministry. That's why we're moving forward with Arizona Youth Convention, our two-day annual youth conference on October 23-24, 2020 at Radiant Church in Surprise, AZ.

One encounter with God will change everything for this generation, and we want to invite you to call the sons and daughters across the state to join us for a remarkable weekend of ministry in the presence of God. Creating a safe environment for students to encounter God is a priority, and we are taking every measure to ensure a healthy environment for teenagers to gather in person with responsible standards for screening and sanitation.

Registration for Arizona Youth Convention 2020 is now open with special pricing incentives for early-bird registrants.

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

YOUTH ALIVE ONE DAY August 22	NATIONAL STL DAY October 18	NETWORK CONFERENCE October 26-27	YOUTH LEADERS' SUMMIT January 8-9, 2021
---	---------------------------------------	--	---

Kirstyn Rempel, Kid's Director
krempe1@azag.org



GROW

KidMin Conference DIGITAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

**Kids ministry looks different than ever before and for that reason
Grow Kidmin Conference 2020 will look different than ever before!**

Completely digital, it is more than a conference, but an online resource library to help you grow your team, your creativity, and your skills in kid's ministry. Instead of a one day event, registration to Grow 2020 will give you access ALL YEAR LONG to workshops, trainings, devotionals, curriculum, encouragement, and so much more!

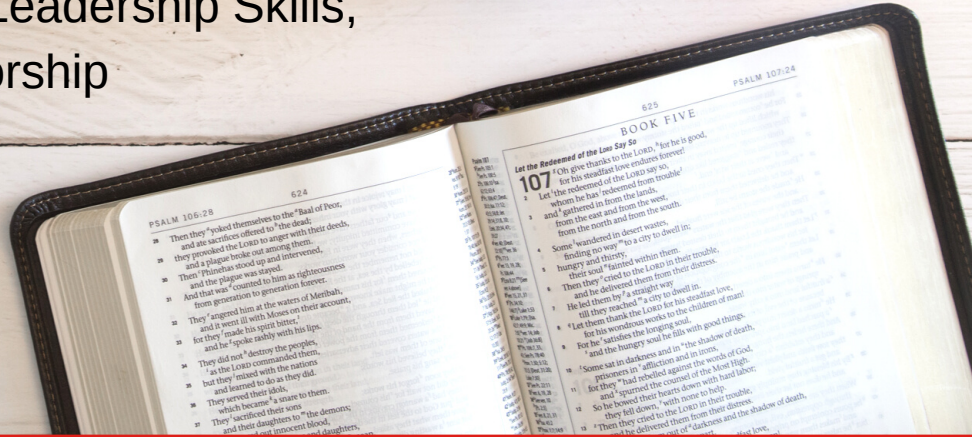




ARIZONA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY



Upcoming September Classes: Spirit-Empowered Church, Leadership Skills, Theology of Worship



We are thankful for the ability to offer our classes ONLINE for the next couple months, ensuring the health and safety of our students and teachers.

We hope you'll encourage your congregation and staff to take advantage of this opportunity to work towards the educational requirements for credentialing!

ASOM is also a great choice for leadership development and personal growth. Please reach out if you have any questions!

**For more info and to register for classes
please visit AZASOM.com**



Jeremy Naranjo, ASOM Director
jeremy@azag.org



RICK RYAN
Director

A photograph of several African drums, likely djembes, arranged in a row. The drums are made of wood and have a textured surface. The text 'HEAR THE AFRICAN DRUMS IN ARIZONA' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

HEAR THE AFRICAN DRUMS IN ARIZONA

In Africa, the beating drums can carry a message from one village to the next. They are used to celebrate and they are used to express sorrow. It is the “drum-talk” that communicates. I believe the African Drums are now beating in Arizona to communicate the Gospel message to the lost!

Arizona has graciously opened its doors to war refugees from various parts of the world. The Arizona Ministry Network has extended its heart and hand to five African churches. God is doing something vibrant and exciting among our African brothers and sisters. The pastors of these churches have faced incredible dangers to get to the United States. They are experiencing growth and a missional calling in Arizona. Two of our pastors have earned doctorates, one of the churches now owns its building and all see God doing amazing things.

I want to encourage you to pray for these churches. They need God’s continued favor and supernatural help. Please pray for their safety. Many of their people work in care facilities and other essential services. Several members have contracted COVID-19. One pastor and his wife, who was 8½ months pregnant, contracted COVID-19, but Praise to God all three have been touched by Jesus. Your prayers for these committed pastors will insure their ability to faithfully beat the drums with the Good News “to all people, every tribe, and every tongue”!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR AFRICAN PASTORS



Pastors Theo Mucuranyana & Aimee Nkinzingabo
Republic of the Congo

Hope of Life International
8037 N 43rd Ave
Phoenix AZ 85051



Pastors Fanuel & Pascasia Nyanshoshi
Republic of the Congo

Bethel International Church
8801 N 43rd Ave
Phoenix AZ 85051



Pastors Simon & Nagenza Kabunda
Republic of the Congo

Good Shepherd Community Church
3518 W Calavar Rd
Phoenix AZ 85053



Pastors William & Esther Abaidoo
Ghana

Kingdom Keys Prayer Chapel
1200 W Speedway Blvd (ASDB)
Tucson AZ 85754



Dr. and Pastors Edmond & Awurama Eghan
Ghana

Jesus Power Assembly of God
835 E Warner Rd
Chandler AZ 85225



Rev. Snow Peabody
Executive State Director

Teen Challenge of Arizona



Teen Challenge of Arizona has been reaching out to communities and individuals around our great state with a message of hope for over 50 years. We want you to know, during these difficult and uncertain times, our mission to help those who are struggling with addiction is more clear and important than ever.

Our Intake Coordinators and staff stand ready to offer help to individuals and families that you may know.

Please let them know that they are not alone, we are here to help.

We have spaces open, right now, and will start the process at the first point of contact with those seeking addiction recovery services. Thank you for standing with Teen Challenge and helping those who are in need at this time.

To get help today please reach out to someone at our centers or visit

For men 18 years of age or older:

Phoenix Men's Center 602.271.4084

Tucson Men's Center 520.792.1790

For women and women with children:

Home of Hope in Casa Grande 520.836.5030

For teenage girls:

Springboard in Tucson 520.887.8773



Network Information

ARIZONA MINISTRY NETWORK

2601 E Thomas Rd., Ste. 210
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-8228

Phone: 602.343.4000

Fax: 602.252.5527

Website: www.azag.org

Email: districtoffice.azag.org

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Stephen L. Harris Superintendent

Ron Rockwell Assistant Superintendent

Leigh Metcalf Secretary-Treasurer

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

Jesus Garza

Dale Gray

Todd League

Kirk Sorensen

GENERAL PRESBYTERS

Stephen L. Harris

Leigh Metcalf

Ron Rockwell

OTHER PRESBYTERS

Jeremy Naranjo Under 40 Representative

Jackie Holgate Native American Representative

Sue Rockwell Women's Representative

DISTRICT PRESBYTERS

Richard Bush Canyon North Section

Bob Sainz Central Valley Section

Travis Schroeder East Section

Allen Tyson East Central Section

Jeremy Peters North Central Section

Kathryn Pierce Northeast Section

Bruce Rahlf Northwest Section

Ralph Morris Phoenix Metro Indian Section

Pete Cordova Southeast Section

Dave Beach Southeast Valley Section

Eric Young South Section

Alan Puccini Southwest Section

Keith Howard West Valley Section

Darin League Northwest Valley Section

DIRECTORS & LEADERS

Griffin McGrath Youth Ministries

Kirstyn Rempel Kids Ministries

Dale Gray Men's Ministries

Lindsay Petri Women's Ministries

Jeff Peterson Pastoral Care

Jeremy Naranjo Arizona School of Ministry

Rick Ryan Intercultural Ministries

Jim Lopez Native American Ministries

Denise Ryan Network of Women Ministers

Bill Weaver Royal Rangers

Doug & Lynda Young Retired Ministers

Snow Peabody AZ Teen Challenge

Stephen & Jill Valentine Deaf Ministries

Statistics for June/July 2020

OPEN CHURCHES

Camp Verde, First A/G
Fountain Hills Christian Center
Glendale, Hope City Church
Holbrook, Faith A/G
Houck, Bethel Navajo A/G
New River, First A/G
Page, First A/G
Rainbow Mtn., Navajo Mtn.
Sacaton, River of Life A/G
Scottsdale, Salt River Indian Church
Sells, Papago A/G
Shonto, Victory A/G
Winslow, First A/G

TRANSFERRED IN

Robert Smith from Minnesota
Gary Weik from Southern California

TRANSFERRED OUT

Aaron Kayser to New Mexico
Amanda Miller to North Texas

DECEASED

Terry G Hannah on 5/28/20
Gerald S Bellstein on 6/11/20

Thank you for being a part of the Arizona Ministry Network!