

OCTOBER 2023

AZMN

# PUBLICATION



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# Updates & News

I was privileged this past month to be in attendance when our own Megan Kronstedt was officially recognized in Springfield, Missouri at the U.S. Missions Celebration Service as our newest Youth Alive missionary. She is currently in the itineration process. Once that process is complete and Megan is fully funded, she will represent Youth Alive, along side our Network Director, Yoyo Garcia. They will be joining their efforts and calling to reach the youth in our high schools across the state of Arizona. I was personally blessed to see Megan honored.



Pastor, if you have not taken Megan on in support, would you please consider doing so? No matter the size of the pledge to her ministry, it all counts and gets her closer to becoming a fully appointed missionary for Youth Alive. She is worthy of your consideration. Please use this QR code to get involved now with Megan's missionary journey.

Immediately following that ceremony, I flew to Lancaster, PA to attend a class reunion of Rift Valley Academy in Kenya, where I graduated high school. This was an honor for me, and one that stirred very fond memories of those days spent at RVA. I was not necessarily friends in high school with several of the classmates that attended, but there is a connection, a heart connection, to these people whose parents were serving in Africa as missionaries just as mine were. It is almost an unspoken connection, and we understand each other in a deeper way than perhaps most young people feel about their high school classmates.

I am proud to be a graduate of Rift Valley Academy and to be in relationship with these fellow students many years later. We each share many of the same wonderful experiences as students at the academy. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been in Lancaster for this special time.





Minister's Renewal2023 is upon us with the first service beginning on the evening of October 23 and the final session being completed by 3:00 PM Tuesday, October 24th. Revolution Church in Tolleson is hosting this event.

Pastor/minister, if you have not registered and made plans to attend, please go to our website today and get registered. The event is FREE to all of our credentialed ministers. On Tuesday, we will offer a boxed lunch catered by Chick-fil-A. When you register, you will need to let us know your intention to have lunch with us and select which option from Chick-fil-A you would like for yourself.



I am extremely excited to have as our guest, Pastor Greg Ford and his wife Shalyn. You will find Pastor Greg to be relevant and fully understanding your role as a minister/pastor. I know he will resonate with your spirit and bring a refreshing word from the Lord. Don't miss this opportunity to quiet yourself and sit under his ministry.

Likewise, someone who has become a personal friend to Marjorie and myself, Cathi Herrod, President for Center for Arizona Policy, will have a morning session on Tuesday. She is bringing part of her team and will update us on the issues we face in Arizona and across the nation. It is a great opportunity to hear Cathi in a smaller intimate setting. I can tell you she will motivate you with the work the Center for Arizona Policy is doing and the victories achieved because of their work on our behalf.



Pastor Greg will finish the renewal with the afternoon session.

So, Pastors, ministers, and leaders - we offer this renewal at no cost to you, other than a hotel room and travel expenses. Leigh and I, along with our other leaders, are praying that this will be an oasis in the desert for all of you who make the effort to attend. The fellowship alone is immensely valuable, and it will be 8 to 10 hours well spent.

Marjorie and I are increasingly grateful for this blessed privilege to serve the Arizona Ministry Network. Our days are limited now, as we look forward to Network Conference 2024 and the election of your new Network Superintendent. Please join Marjorie and I in our sincere prayer and fasting to know God's perfect will for this position that in many ways that will determine the future direction of our network.

We are so blessed to serve you and love each one of you.

**Register for Minister's  
Renewal [HERE](#) or  
Scan QR Code:**



Sincerely,  
Pastor Harris and Marjorie Harris



# The Missionary Call



Often, we think of our calling as what we do for God. But the Bible speaks of it as a calling to God. When God calls, He chooses us for Himself.

In 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, the Apostle Paul points to the fact that God did not call the wise, the powerful, or those of noble birth; rather, He called the weak, the foolish, humble nobodies to demonstrate in them His sovereignty, wisdom, and power. Suffice it to say, the call is not about us, whether we feel qualified or if we look the part. It's about the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ. **The soul-saving gospel is always at the heart of everything the missionary is called to do.**

Pastor, may I remind you to preach often about the missionary calling? I believe there are individuals in your sphere of influence the Holy Spirit is already speaking to and are ready to answer **YES!**

## *New Missionary Associates!*

Introducing our newest AZ Ministry Network missionary associates, **Bradley & Nichole Green:**

*Hello! We are Bradley and Nichole Green and we have been appointed as Missionary Associates to the unreached people of Central Eurasia. For the past 4 years we have been US missionaries to college campuses through Chi Alpha but after 2 years of prayer and seeking the Lord we felt God strongly calling us to World Missions. We saw firsthand the incredible lack of access our friends in Eurasia have to the Gospel.*



*97% of the population of Central Eurasia is still unreached and the country we will be serving contains over 50 unreached people groups.*

*Our vision is to see a church planting movement among the people of Eurasia so that generations can have the same access and blessings of the Good News of Jesus that we are so fortunate to have in America.*

*We will be joining a church planting team in a large city full of universities where we will be attending language school to better contextualize the gospel to locals and where we have greater opportunity to reach the younger generation. They are beginning to walk away from the religious strongholds of Islam and start seeking truth and relationship with Jesus. We are looking forward to using our experience in college ministry to meet the demand of hundreds of locals who have signed up to receive New Testaments and want to start meeting to talk about Jesus. Working together, we believe we will see this ancient and influential region of the world as a pillar of the Church, giving glory to King Jesus once again.*

It's our desire to whole-heartedly invest in this young couple and propel them forward in the call of God on their lives. They are available for services, conversations, coffee, etc. and would welcome every opportunity to share with you, your missions board, and of course, your church. Let's get behind them and see what God can do!

Tim & Janela Meacham (Russia) are also currently itinerating and looking to connect with pastors and churches. If you have not yet had the opportunity to meet with them or have them share in your church, please do so. Tim and Janela have rich history here in Arizona and we're thrilled to call them "our own."

As always, we thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of all AZ Ministry Network missionaries and associates. May the Lord bless our combined efforts with supernatural effectiveness and fruitfulness.



**Ron Rockwell**  
**Assistant Superintendent**

# Attributes of a Healthy Church:

## *Emphasis on Mission*

Church Mission is a Vital Component of a Healthy Church. A church is more than just a place of worship; it is a vibrant community of believers brought together by a common faith and a shared mission. At the heart of any thriving church is a deep emphasis on its mission. A healthy church is passionate about reaching out to the community and sharing the love of Christ. This mission-driven focus encompasses evangelism, service, and support for global missions. We should encourage all members of our congregation to use their gifts and talents to advance the mission of the church. Emphasis on church mission is crucial and contributes greatly to the growth and well-being of a congregation.

### **Evangelism: Spreading the Good News**

One of the primary aspects of our church mission is evangelism, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. A healthy church places a strong emphasis on evangelism because it recognizes the transformative power of the gospel. Evangelism involves sharing the message of salvation and inviting others to experience the love and grace of Christ.

Evangelism can take many forms, from personal conversations and community outreach to organized events and digital platforms. Members of a healthy church actively engage in these activities, recognizing that it is their responsibility to bring the message of hope to a world in need. Through evangelism, churches grow both in numbers and in spiritual depth as new believers join the community of faith.

### **Service: Meeting the Needs of the Community**

Service is another integral part of a church's mission. A healthy church is deeply committed to serving the needs of its local community. This can involve outreach programs, volunteer initiatives, and partnerships with local organizations. The emphasis on service is rooted in the teachings of Jesus, who demonstrated the importance of love, compassion, and selflessness.



Service not only benefits the community but also strengthens the bond among church members. When individuals come together to serve others, they experience a sense of unity and purpose that enriches their spiritual journey. This aspect of church mission not only benefits those in need but also fosters a strong sense of community within the congregation.

## Global Missions: Making an Impact Worldwide

A healthy church does not limit its mission to its immediate surroundings; it also extends its reach to support global missions. This involves partnering with Assemblies of God World Missions and US Missions to spread the message of Christ in different parts of the world.

Global missions enable the church members to see the broader scope of God's work and understand that their faith has a global impact. The financial and prayer support for these missions help to make a tangible difference in the lives of people in around the world. This emphasis on global missions also fosters a sense of responsibility for the well-being of all humanity, reinforcing the church's commitment to its mission.

## Utilizing Gifts and Talents: Everyone Has a Role

A healthy church recognizes that every member has unique gifts and talents to contribute to the mission. Emphasizing the use of these gifts and talents encourages active participation and engagement within the congregation. When individuals feel that they have a valuable role to play in the church's mission, they are more likely to become committed and dedicated members.

Church leaders play a pivotal role in helping members discover and utilize their gifts. By providing opportunities for service, leadership, and personal growth, a healthy church empowers its members to be effective ambassadors for Christ.

In conclusion, the emphasis on church mission is not just a peripheral activity but a vital component of a healthy congregation. A church's mission extends beyond the walls of the building and into the hearts of its members, challenging them to live out their faith in tangible ways. Evangelism, service, global missions, and the utilization of gifts and talents all contribute to the growth and well-being of a church community. When a church is passionate about its mission, it becomes a beacon of hope, love, and transformation in a world that desperately needs it.

**LEIGH METCALF**  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER**





*Note to Self...*

## Keep Righting Your Way

**Blessed are those who have set their hearts on pilgrimage...as they pass through the valley of Baca...they go from strength to strength til each appears before God in Zion. Psalm 84:5-7**

Life and ministry is an amazing journey! John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress gives us an allegorical view of the child of God's pilgrimage from the "city of destruction" to the "celestial city." It is a good reminder of the pitfalls that await any child of God—including pastors/leaders—as we strive to find our way through faith to ultimately see our God in heaven.

Carla and I have been blessed to do some sailing on occasion. It too, is an excellent picture of the vigilance it takes to leave one destination and arrive safely at the other. The captain has to constantly make adjustments according to the shifting winds and be aware of any oncoming obstacles beneath and above the sea.

I recently was made aware of a moral failure of a pastor friend of mine from another network. It has underscored the various pitfalls, moments of decision, and ignoring of the Holy Spirit's voice that leads one to such a place. Had this man made **the right adjustments** along the way, I firmly believe he could have altered his course and saved himself, his family, and so many others from the destruction that awaits. It is heart-wrenching to observe.

Our ministry lives will constantly face challenging winds and temptations to take us off course spiritually. God graciously provides us the instruments and means to right our way, including:

- His encouraging and correcting word
- Constant, immediate access to His throne in prayer
- The Holy Spirit's power and leading
- Godly friendships and relationships
- Countless examples of shipwrecked lives
- Countless examples of faithful lives

Pastors, evaluate your journey toward heaven. If you are getting a little off course, take the steps to right your course. Heaven is not only worth it, but so are all the blessings of “life and life more abundantly” on our earthly journey.



### **Stay healthy in ministry, Pastor Jeff**

#### **Ways to keep righting your way:**

- **Continually bring your heart to the Lord in prayer for evaluation and change**
- **Establish one ministry relationship that can “go there” in loving accountability**
- **Stay in the word—daily, relentlessly, devotionally**
- **Reach out to me or an elder in our network for a confidential meeting**
- **If you would like to discuss these thoughts, feel free to give me a call: 480-579-9998.**



# Man Camp RECAP



# Fall Retreat

## THAT'S A WRAP!



Our 2023 Women's Fall Retreat was a transformative experience that touched the hearts and souls of so many of our ladies! In a few short days at Granite Hills Campground, miracles happened, faith was ignited, and lives were forever changed! There were nearly 700 in attendance over the two weekends and 46 women made a first-time decision for Jesus! Women experienced physical, emotional, and spiritual healing, some were called into the ministry, and countless marriages were transformed and renewed through the power of faith and God's grace!

Women have already shared stories of how the Spirit moved, how God spoke through our fantastic speakers, and how much fun they had connecting with like-minded women who share their faith and values.

We are so thankful for the partnership of our BTG members who allowed us to scholarship women from Teen Challenge to join us at this event! We also want to thank our Dream Team crew of 90 women! It takes hundreds of hours to put on an event like this, but, when we see the faith-changing movement of the Spirit of God in such abundant ways, we rejoice at the effort! We get to do this!

# ARIZONA YOUTH MINISTRIES



**THIS MONTH!**

**National Speed the Light Day**  
October 15, 2023

**Arizona Youth Convention**  
October 27-28, 2023



+



**WE ARE BELIEVING FOR A RECORD-BREAKING OFFERING!**

We are going ALL IN to spread the gospel through *Speed the Light* in East Africa in 2023. In February, 50 students responded to the call of God on our regional tour to be a missionary, and over \$400,000 was promised in faith to Speed the Light in 2023. We've never given with that kind of generosity in one year, but we see this as a divine invitation to chase that goal as a leadership team personally and publicly. If all of our 200+ churches gave \$2,000 to STL by the end of this year, we would surpass this faith promise! We know this would be a miracle, so we're asking you to join us in this BOLD prayer and effort to be ALL IN.

We've already given nearly \$100,000 this year, but we still have over \$200,000 in STL projects on our list. These are our US and World Missionaries waiting on the resources from our churches. What could happen if we cleared our entire project list by the end of the year and propelled the gospel forward in this way!?

At Arizona Youth Convention October 27th and 28th, we will be highlighting the ministry of Scott and Sarah Berkey in East Africa. The Berkey's will be with us for all of our students and churches to witness a miracle offering. We are putting our best plan before the Lord, asking His blessing on our missions strategy. We can already see His hand at work! *WorldServe International* partners have committed that every dollar given through *Speed the Light* from now to the end of the year will be matched! These are businesses and athletes like Myles Garrett (Cleveland Browns) and Malcom Brogden (Boston Celtics) who've heard what Arizona students are sacrificing, and committed to match their giving! This means that if we gave only \$150,000 by the end of this year, we would meet our faith promise. I know it's ambitious, but we believe ALL things are possible with God. To break it down, the cost for one well in Kenya is \$50,000. If one church gave \$25,000, through matching funds, that's one community receiving a sustainable water source and hope for another generation knowing Christ. If five churches have \$5,000, together that's one well for another community transformed with a compassionate demonstration of the gospel. I believe with God's help, we can do this!

Will you consider preparing your students and church for National STL Day on October 15 (or a day of your choosing), and join us in a special offering in our Youth Convention missions service on Saturday, October 28th? We have from now to the end of the year to send our best for 2023.



**GRIFFIN MCGRATH**  
gmcgrath@azag.org



@azagym + @griffinmcgrath

[azagyouth.org](http://azagyouth.org)

# GROW

20  
23

## KidMin Conference

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>

at 2911 Church



**THE KIDMIN CONFERENCE FOR ALL  
THOSE WHO SERVE OUR NEXT  
GENERATION OF LEADERS!**

**Location:**

**1137 E WARNER RD, TEMPE, AZ 85284**

**More Info &  
Register Here**

# OCTOBER ASOM CLASSES

CERTIFIED: SPIRIT EMPOWERED CHURCH  
LICENSED: INTRO TO MISSIONS  
ORDAINED: MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY

REGISTER TODAY AT [AZASOM.COM](http://AZASOM.COM)



# NWWM

*Called to Lead*

NETWORK OF WOMEN MINISTERS

## OCTOBER 20, 2023

RADIANT CHURCH - SURPRISE, AZ

DOORS OPEN: 6:30PM | STARTS: 7:00PM

15522 W PARADISE LN  
SURPRISE, AZ 85374



TRACY  
PORTER

&



JODI  
MURLATT

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF WORSHIP &  
A CONVERSATION WITH:



Arizona Network of  
Women Ministers

# Spring RETREAT

MARCH 15-16, 2024

29:11 CHURCH  
1137 E Warner Rd  
Tempe, AZ 85284



**Dr. Melissa Alfaro**  
Newly Elected Female Executive Presbyter

2911+ WORSHIP



***Only God can do this!***

*With a packed auditorium of excited Vietnamese people, it was a phenomenal launch Sunday with **Vietnamese Mission Outreach**. And then one week later, it was a privilege to meet and pray with the President of the **Vietnam Evangelical Alliance**, **Pastor Ho Tan Khoa**, who was here from Vietnam to meet with Pastor Levi Ly. God is up to something **BIG!***

***Hope of Glory Assembly of God** is setting attendance records as people are being saved and baptized in water. **Pastors Benny and Lydia Vergara** are leading a true move of God!*





***Pastor Luther Bolung  
Glad Tidings International Church  
Indonesian Service***

*God is moving in the Indonesian community in Arizona. It was a powerful time of worship and ministry with these amazing Asian Americans.*



***Pastor Levi Ly and Pastor Ho  
Tan Khoa and leaders from  
Vietnamese Mission Outreach***

*Revelations 7:9 ... After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*

**NEW HORIZONS ARE COMING INTO FOCUS! GOD'S LAST DAY REVIVAL IS BREAKING OUT!**

***Pastor Genaro Venalanzo, Sr., his son, Genaro Jr. and his daughter, Anali are leaders of a new hispanic church in Tucson that is coming soon into our Network..***



***A MOVE OF GOD IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IN ARIZONA!  
MORE EXCITING NEWS COMING SOON!***



# Blessed

TEEN CHALLENGE OF ARIZONA

“Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing  
in the heavenly places”  
Ephesians 1:3



# Fall Fundraising Banquet Tour 2023

Featuring the  
Teen Challenge Choir &  
Powerful Stories of  
those who have been  
**BLESSED** with  
New Life!

## TUCSON

*To Benefit Tucson Men's Center  
& Springboard Home for Girls*

**MONDAY, November 6, 2023**

RECEPTION: 6PM // BANQUET: 7PM

El Conquistador

10000 N. Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ 85704

TICKETS \$62 / TABLE \$496

CONTACT: TUCSON (520) 730-4265  
SPRINGBOARD (520) 404-4561

## PHOENIX

*To Benefit Greater Phoenix Teen Challenge*

**FRIDAY, November 17, 2023**

RECEPTION: 6PM // BANQUET: 7PM

Radiant Church

15522 W. Paradise Lane, Surprise, AZ 85374

TICKETS \$67 / TABLE \$536

CONTACT: (602) 478-7704

## EAST VALLEY

*To Benefit Greater Phoenix Teen Challenge*

**THURSDAY, November 16, 2023**

RECEPTION: 6PM // BANQUET: 7PM

DoubleTree Hilton Phoenix Mesa

1011 W Holmes Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210

TICKETS \$67 / TABLE \$536

CONTACT: (602) 478-7704

## SCOTTSDALE

*To Benefit Christian Life Ranch*

**SATURDAY, November 18, 2023**

RECEPTION: 6PM // BANQUET: 7PM

Scottsdale Plaza Resort

7200 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85253

TICKETS \$67 / TABLE \$536

CONTACT: (602) 309-4391



# 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](http://www.azag.org)

Email: [districtoffice.azag.org](mailto: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	Intercultural
Dale Gray	Central Area
Todd League	North Area
Kirk Sorensen	South Area

## GENERAL PRESBYTERS

Stephen L. Harris  
Leigh Metcalf  
Ron Rockwell

## RESOURCE BOARD MEMBERS

Jackie Holgate	Native American Rep.
Griffin McGrath	Youth Director & Under 40 Rep.
Jeff Peterson	Pastoral Care Director
Lindsay Petri	Women's Director
Kirstyn Rempel	Children's Director
Christina Vincent	Women's Rep.

## DISTRICT PRESBYTERS

Richard Bush	Canyon North Section
Bob Sainz	Central Valley Section
Marty Paxson	East Section
Allen Tyson	East Central Section
Brad Davis	East Valley Section
Jeremy Peters	North Central Section
Kathryn Pierce	Northeast Section
Bruce Rahlf	Northwest Section
Caden Metcalf	Northwest Valley Section
Ralph Morris	Phoenix Metro Indian Section
Ken Cosentino	South Section
Eric Young	South Metro Section
Josh Lane	Southeast Section
Paul Lavino	Southeast Valley Section
Paula Milner	Southwest Section
Keith Howard	West 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
Yoyo Garcia	Youth Alive
Yisrael Vincent	Arizona School of Ministry
Rick Ryan	Intercultural Ministries
Jim Lopez	Native American Ministries
Denise Ryan	Network of Women Ministers
Jason Dyer	Granite Hills Camp
Bill Weaver	Royal Rangers
Snow Peabody	AZ Teen Challenge
Stephen & Jill Valentine	Deaf Ministries

## Recent Network Statistics

### OPEN CHURCHES

Cedar Creek, Assembly of God

(Interim: Ron Burnett)

Denneshotso, Trinity Assembly of God

(Interim: Isaac Todachine)

Golden Valley-Abundant Grace Fellowship

Houck Bethel Navajo, Assembly of God

Page, First Assembly of God

Polacca, Assembly of God

Rainbow Mtn., Navajo Mtn.

Sacaton River of Life, Assembly of God

San Manuel, Assembly of God

San Carlos, Apache Assembly of God

Sedona, Canyon Trails Cowboy Church

Welton, Assembly of God

(Interim: Ron Kobs)

### TRANSFERRED OUT

Jennifer Smale to Tennessee district

### DECEASED

Norita Ayers 8/29/23

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