

AZMN *Publication*



Oct 2021



ARIZONA
MINISTRY NETWORK

www.azag.org

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The Apostle Paul was clearly a man of faith. His life was not his own. He found himself in danger many times and scripture bears out that Paul battled fear. Acts 23 tells the story of Paul brought before the Sanhedrin. The word says that the commander feared in his heart that Paul might be torn to pieces as the debate between the Pharisees and the Sadducees reached a dangerous height. The scripture says in verse 11:

“The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

Even though Paul was battling fear, I do not believe the Lord was telling Paul to ‘buck up’ pull yourself together! Instead, I believe the Lord was saying, “Here Paul, take courage!” Paul continually received courage from the Lord and His faith was always growing. Isn’t it a picture of where our fear meets our faith? God has given us the gift of Courage, and it is on us to receive that gift! We must be people who are not succumbed by fear! We live in such dramatic changing times, and fear abounds, at times in our own lives as well as all of those we minister to; however, the good news is that God has promised us courage.

A little later in the Acts narrative, Paul is on a boat in the midst of a horrendous storm. The people on the ship with him had no way of knowing what was going to happen to them. They feared the worst of being tossed into the water in the violent storm and losing their lives.

Paul stands before them and says, *“Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you. So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me!’”* Acts 27:25.

We are able to hear and believe the promises of the Father, whether it be His promises through His Word, through His Holy Spirit speaking directly to our hearts, through fellow believers, or sometimes through dreams, visions, or songs. We are able to ‘give the gift of courage’ to others when we ourselves claim the courage we have through our Lord Jesus Christ. Courage is a gift that will keep giving and giving again. We have the ability to help people move past their fear, and realize the God of courage.

Let me encourage you in these tumultuous times we find ourselves in, to give the gift of Courage! Lead the way. YOU take the gift of courage the Lord so graciously offers us.



Sincerely,
Pastor Harris and Marjorie Harris

Ministers Renewal 2021

Mon, Oct. 25 @ 7 pm until Tues, Oct. 26 @ 4 pm

Location: Generation Church in Mesa

If you have NOT registered, please do so right now!

We need an accurate head count for the boxed lunch on Tuesday.

Also, If you need preschool childcare, please fill in the necessary section of the registration form so that we can be properly staffed.

[Register Here](#)

How can we move our churches forward in being generous for the Kingdom of God? The renewal will answer that question and much more. Monday evening there will be ministry with Pastor Rob Ketterling and Tuesday will have the 'Generosity Accelerator' teaching by Pastor Rob and his staff. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS this renewal!**

Featured at Minister's Renewal:

**LED BY PASTOR
ROB KETTERLING**

GENEROSITY ACCELERATOR



INCREASE YOUR GIVING!

River Valley Network is excited to partner with AGWM to host one-day Generosity Accelerators around the country! We will be discussing how to grow the tithe and increase over-and-above generosity. We have personally seen God grow our church from \$157,000 to over \$6,000,000 above the tithe, which has helped build unified local communities, plant more churches, and has sent more missionaries around the world!

Around the Network

by Pastor Harris

A TRIBUTE TO A GIANT IN THE FAITH



It was my wonderful privilege a few weeks ago to preach the memorial service for Pastor Simon Mataratara. Pastor Simon was a man of God that many would say of, “He was a giant in the faith!”

Pastor Simon was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1922, and he served as both a deacon and an elder in the church and became a pastor in 1975. He served three different churches in the Congo and was a church planter. When he came to the United States 20 years ago as a refugee he realized that there was no African church for him and his family to attend, so he decided that they as a family should plant a church.



In 2011, Pastor Simon came to my office along with his son-in-law, Dr. Kigabo and through an interpreter and asked if he could plant an Assemblies of God Congolese Church. I so loved Pastor Simon’s passion and love for his people. We were excited to grant them permission to plant the church. They planted Hope of Life International Church. Today it is not only one church but also many churches as most of his children are either pastors or spouses of pastors. I want to honor this great man of faith. People came from all over the world to pay honor and tribute to this man of God.



I thank God for Pastor Simon and for his family. I wanted you to know about this wonderful man of God and his family. Many great men and women of God seem to go unnoticed because of their humble spirit and almost fly under the radar, but I thank God for Pastor Simon and the many other great men and women of God who have gone on before us. Hebrews 11:13 says, “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.”

SAGU AIC'S NEW PRESIDENT, JONATHAN GANNON

It was a delight to be a part of inauguration day for Pastor Jonathan Gannon as the mantle of leadership for SAGU American Indian College was passed to him. Many of those in leadership of Southwestern Assemblies of God University attended and participated in this monumental day, including of course, President Kermit Bridges. Jonathan preached a powerful message in acceptance of his new responsibility. Former President, Dave Moore, participated in the passing of the mantle to Pastor Jonathan. It was a blessed morning, from the beginning song, beautifully sung by Jeff Mayo. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ONE OF OUR OWN, Pastor Jonathan Gannon, his wife, Monica and their 5 children.**



CHURCH MORTGAGE PAID OFF!

Another highlight in the last few weeks was to minister at Mesa Baseline Christian Fellowship with Pastor Brian and Jim Hartman and to rejoice with them in the 'Burning of the Mortgage' on their building. We praised God together, and celebrated with a delicious meal following.



The "Left Behind" Bible!



In this month's newsletter I thought I'd share a recent missions story you can share with your congregation. A Chinese student named Poni shared this amazing story on August 26th this year. While completing her classes online, Poni moved from Milwaukee to Michigan to help her Chinese friend, Cindy, care for a newborn baby. After staying two months as a volunteer nanny, Poni returned to China near the end of the summer in 2020. However, to manage her luggage for the overseas flight, Poni left the Chinese/English Bible the missionary gave her (provided by Light of the Lost) at Cindy's home in Michigan.

Following the birth of her son, this young Chinese mother slipped into a severe depression. She described her life as an "island" with a phone as the only way to communicate with others. Meanwhile, baby Avery grew into a toddler. One day he found this Bible and opened it. When his mom saw him with a book, she took a look at the pages. Several words suddenly caught Cindy's attention. She then began reading, and reading, and reading some more.

An idea flashed into her mind: I should bring my son to a church so he can find a playmate. She found a local Chinese congregation and attended the service. Cindy felt warmly welcomed as they shared Bible stories with her. The sad mood she had been experiencing for months began to lift and soon the depression was gone altogether. She then made a decision to follow Jesus! Cindy continues attending the church and growing in faith. God healed and save a lifelong atheist through a "Left behind" Bible! (The above names have all been changed) but the story is a 100% true.

It is always amazing to me how smallest seeds sown in love and faith have the potential to change lives. As ministers of the gospel, may we continue with our mission to "seek and save the lost." And thank you for your ongoing prayers and support of our Network missionary team.

**Love and prayers,
Ron & Sue**





75th Anniversary

Granite Hills Campground



In 1946 The Arizona District Council purchased 17 acres of land for Granite Hills Retreat and Conference center for \$2,000. There was one cabin on the property. Over the last 75 years many buildings have been built to facilitate ministry at the camp. Currently the camp owns approximately 30 acres with many beautiful buildings and recreation facilities.



Countless lives have been spiritually impacted through many ministries at the camp over the years. This summer alone there were 849 decisions for Christ, 358 baptized in the Holy Spirit, 1,262 healings both physical/spiritual, and hundreds feeling a call to the ministry.

Churches and individuals have given sacrificially for 75 years to the ministry of the camp and many of our current minister's lives are a reflection of the spiritual impact from their time at camp. As I reflect on the impact the camp has made in my own life, I remember the days I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and a call to the ministry. I will also forever be impacted by the many lifelong relationships that began at camp. When I attending my first youth camp at 11 years old I was approached by Mark McGrath who recruited me to be in his dorm and he became the only counselor I ever had all my years of camp.

I can't think of a better return on the investment of our time and resources than the camp. The consistent impact on our young people and adults will forever affect families, churches, communities, and the kingdom of God.

In 2010 at the annual Network Conference the ministers of AZ voted to approve a new bylaw asking all churches to contribute 1% of their general tithes and offerings to support the mission of the camp. We currently have 110 churches participating and we are believing for every church to begin contributing to the camp.



May God continue to bless all the ministries of the camp and every person that attends one of the camps, conferences, or retreats.

Thank you for giving and for praying for Granite Hills Retreat & Conference Center.

May the next 75 years be even more fruitful than the last.

**Blessings,
Leigh Metcalf**



NOTE TO SELF...

Keep a Weekly Sabbath

Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”

- Mark 2:27

I remember the season so well. I had pastored in Mesa for 16 years. The church had grown. I had “given my all” to a church I loved, endured two building programs, and continued to battle all the typical ministry challenges that marked day to day ministry. Yet, I would often remark to many, “I am the healthiest I have ever been in my time here at Red Mountain.” Why was that the case?

Over those 16 years I had often overextended myself in every way. Aside of always taking a solid day-off each week, the amount of hours and sacrifices often exceeded my physical and mental limitations. I was not good with boundaries. A doctor friend was often concerned with my health. Yet, the little grey haired woman named “Bonnie” made the most lasting impression by constantly reminding me, “Take time to smell the roses, Pastor Jeff.” I now know her wise counsel sprang from a keen eye on my pace and rhythms.

One of the most prudent adjustments by year 16 was a weekly sabbath. I was not legalistic with it, yet I tried to carve out as much of a day as possible in addition to my usual day off. This day — or as many hours possible — were spent with what Dr. Peter Scazzero calls “Sabbath delight...in which we stop work, enjoy rest, practice delight, and contemplate God.” I found it the key to feeling so much healthier in my personal and ministry life.

Have you considered trying to add Sabbath time into your weekly schedule? In a conversation with Peter Scazzero years ago, he told me that even if he can only pull off a few hours of Sabbath in addition to his usual day off, it was worth it for him. He stressed the spirit of the Sabbath, not the legality. I found it so refreshing to intentionally rest in God and enjoy His graces in my life every single week!

A few other thoughts from Scazzero (taken from *The Emotionally Healthy Leader*):

- *God's Sabbath rhythm is a reflection of the rhythm that undergirds all of creation.*
- *Instead of thinking of the Sabbath as an imposition, we need to embrace it as an essential delivery mechanism for God's love.*
- *Play is important because it is an indicator that we really do believe life is more than work.*
- *Sabbath observance can be rich and beautiful, but we have to be willing to create the protective container—the boundaries—that make it possible.*

If you have questions or would like to just discuss your weekly schedule/rhythms, just give me a call.



**Stay healthy in ministry,
Pastor Jeff**

Reach Out to an Elder Today!

To speak confidentially with an Elder, find their contact info on the *Arizona Ministry Network* app or at www.azag.org.



Visit men.ag.org for men's ministry resources and discipleship material!

TARGETED SERIES

Celebrate the Light

FREEDOM AND FIRE

CELEBRATE THE

Light

**360
IMAN**

JOURNEY
THROUGH

SERIES

Daily Devotions
FOR MEN

SIGN UP NOW

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

AZ
**MENS
MINISTRIES**
MAN MISSION

Fall Women's Retreat Recap

2 Retreats - Over 650 Ladies - Over 50 Decisions for Jesus!



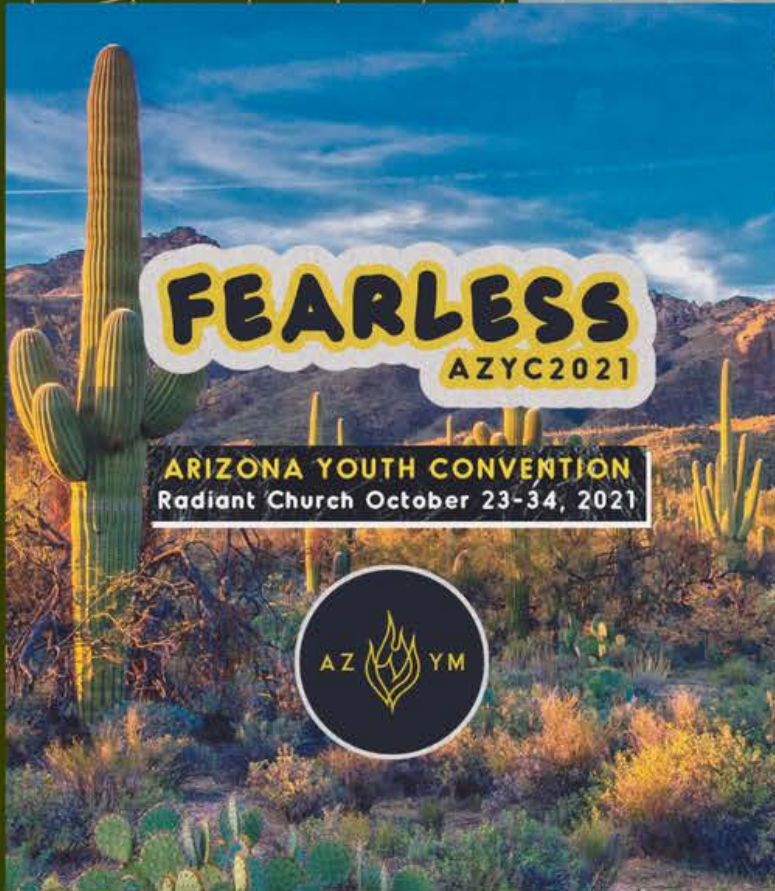


Lindsay Petri, Women's Director
lindsay@azag.org

Arizona Youth Ministries

OCTOBER

**AZYC
2021**



CHRIS ESTRADA



MANNY ARANGO



RIVER VALLEY WORSHIP

REGISTER AT
WWW.AZAGYOUTH.ORG/AZYC

**YOUTH
LEADERS,
SUMMIT**

WITH
SPECIAL
GUEST

**JACOB JESTER &
RADIANT NEXT GEN WORSHIP**

Friday, January 14th, 2022 6:00 PM -
Saturday, January 15th, 2022 4:00 PM
Register @ azagyouth.org/yls



GRIFFIN MCGRATH

Youth & Young Adult Director
gmcgrath@azag.org



@azagym + @griffinmcgrath

× ×

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

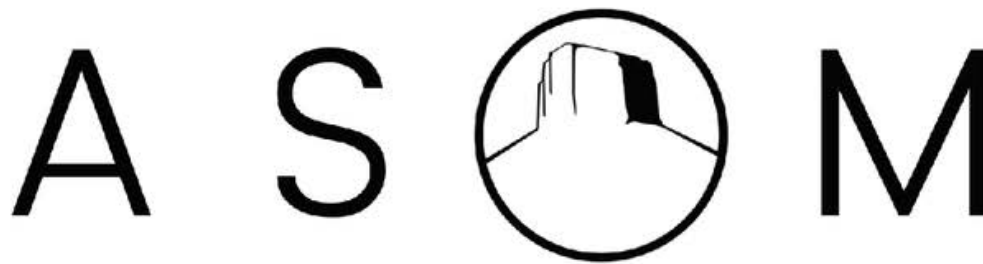
GROW 2021

▲ ▲ ▲

KidMin Conference



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



THE ARIZONA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

INTRODUCING ASOM + GOOGLE CLASSROOM

This year ASOM has teamed up with Google to help provide the best experience possible for our students.

Now when students sign up for a class with ASOM they will be invited to our google classroom space which will serve as the one-stop-shop to receive and submit assignments, see grades, and interact with teachers in real-time.

We are always striving to make ASOM over the top good for our students. Sign up for a class today!



602-343-4000



asom@azag.org



azasom.com

NOVEMBER CLASSES

Ministerial Ethics

Conflict Resolution

Biblical Counseling



Yisrael Vincent
Director



Jeanna Willis
Coordinator

LOOK WHAT THE LORD HAD DONE!

*We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and Who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.
Revelation 11:17*

We are grateful to announce that in November, **All Tribes Christian Fellowship** and **Nuevo Nacimiento Church** are becoming Parent Affiliated Churches (PAC) under the direction of **Revolution Church**. The building at 1710 West Highland Avenue in Phoenix is being completely remodeled so that two vibrant intercultural churches will present the Gospel to the whole Alhambra neighborhood! With almost 166,000 people in this community, 76,000 are Hispanic and over 6,000 are Native Americans. These churches will provide services in English and Spanish and be able to reach into the very fiber of these neighborhoods for God's glory!



LOOK WHAT THE LORD IS GOING TO DO!

Intercultural Ministries of the Arizona Ministry Network and Men's Ministries have planned their first completely Spanish speaking Men's Retreat on October 8 - 9 in Prescott. If men will make a commitment to follow God's Word with all of their hearts - their families, their churches, their spiritual influence in the work place and world will be undeniable. If you have men who are Spanish speaking, please encourage them to go visit: www.azmensministries.org/event/2021-man-camp-spanish/ and register. Pastor Mark Vega will be bring a tremendous Word to challenge Hispanic Men to become the leaders that God wants them to be.



PASTOR MARK VEGA



OCTOBER 26 | 12 NOON - 1:30PM



A PANEL DISCUSSION

Join us for an informative time of discussion from some of our Network women ministers. We will address relevant issues we are all facing.

We want this to be an encouraging gathering as we hear from others and have time to engage with each other at our tables.

Please register for the MINISTER'S RENEWAL and this lunch by visiting www.azag.org

Denise Ryan, Network of Women Ministers

dryan@azag.org



NWM GATHERING

Time to Talk! Time to Connect!
Get Back in the Groove of Being Together!

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 1, 2021 | 7:00 PM

**GENERATION CHURCH
SOUTH MOUNTAIN CAMPUS
11832 S. WARNER ELLIOT LOOP
PHOENIX AZ 85044**

- A FREE Event
- Invite a credentialed friend or someone who is seeking credentials
- Please Register: <https://bit.ly/3y17LKL>



Amy Visconti, host
Generation Church



Denise Ryan
Network of Women Ministers

TEEN CHALLENGE OF ARIZONA



SING

*Sing to the Lord a new song,
sing to the Lord all the earth
Psalm 96:1*

a virtual tour of songs & stories

MONDAY - November 15, 2021 - 7PM
to benefit the Tucson Men's Center & Springboard

FRIDAY - November 19, 2021 - 7PM
to benefit the Phoenix Men's Center

SATURDAY - November 20, 2021 - 7PM
to benefit the Christian Life Ranch



For more information, visit: tcaz.org/sing

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Network Information

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

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Ron Rockwell Assistant Superintendent

Leigh Metcalf Secretary-Treasurer

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Jesus Garza

Dale Gray

Todd League

Kirk Sorensen

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Jim Lopez Native American Ministries

Denise Ryan Network of Women Ministers

Jason Dyer Granite Hills Camp

Bill Weaver Royal Rangers

Doug & Lynda Young Retired Ministers

Snow Peabody AZ Teen Challenge

Stephen & Jill Valentine Deaf Ministries

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

Recent Network Statistics

OPEN CHURCHES

Page, First A/G

Rainbow Mtn., Navajo Mtn.

San Manuel, Assembly of God

Scottsdale, Salt River Indian Church

FILLED CHURCHES

Holbrook, Fath A/G, Kenneth Clay

Mountain View, A/G, Josh Lindsey

New River, A/G, David Barnhart

Sacaton, River of Life A/G, Joe & Lesly Merlos

San Carlos, Apache A/G, Veda Cota

Springerville, Momentum Life, David Carter