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## Stephen Harris, Superintendent sharris@azag.org





OCTOBER
26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>
RADIANT CHURCH
Surprise, Arizona



We are anticipating gathering at Radiant Church, the evening of October 26 for our Ordination service and we welcome Pastor Doug Clay, our General Superintendent as our honored guest for the evening's service. We will be recognizing all levels of credentialing candidates, but of course, the highlight of the evening is the honoring of two ministers who have been ordained 50 years as of 2020, and then the Ordination ceremony for this year's candidates. Affirming the call of God on these individuals and their perseverance in reaching Ordination is something we celebrate with joy!

Tuesday, October 27th is a day set aside for ministry, prayer, Commissioning of Elders, Missions emphasis, Women's Ministries presentation, LOGOS will present, and we will hear once again from Pastor Doug Clay as he shares from his heart to pastors. I have the privilege of speaking myself on Tuesday morning. We are featuring 'lunch hang outs' and the chance to fellowship around the table. We hope you plan to be with us. Register, if you have not done so. Go to our website or the phone app, and register today.

Please make note that our Fall Retreats, for both the women and men of our network have full plans to move ahead with their retreats, with necessary adjustments in place. This decision to move ahead was done with prayer and Godly counsel. We are grateful for the leadership of Pastor Dale Gray and Pastor Lindsay Petri. We pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in these two retreats, and for healthy people coming and going.

Can I brag a bit? Youth Director Griffin McGrath, as well as KIDS Director Kirstyn Rempel, and Youth Alive Director Christian Chambliss adjusted scheduled camps/events this summer and worked so hard, along with their capable, talented staff to bring life-changing ministry whether online or in person on the campground to young people and KIDS in Arizona. The challenges were great, but these young leaders were up for the challenge. I am so appreciative of their efforts, and the sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit that gave us a summer to remember! When you have any opportunity, be quick to express your love and appreciation for their ministry.

"I want to take some space in this month's communication to say a huge, heartfelt THANK YOU to the executive leadership and presbytery board who granted the sabbatical Marjorie and I have so enjoyed over the months of July and August. We felt humbled repeatedly for the privilege of pulling away from the responsibilities of our office to rest our bodies, our hearts and minds, and to refresh in the presence of the Lord. Thanks to my friend, Leigh Metcalf, for overseeing the network's business and office personnel in my absence. Thanks Pastor Jeff Peterson and his ministry to our pastors and the office staff; for the help and support of Pastor Ron Rockwell, and for the administrative assistants, Emily, Jennifer, and all of the others who stepped up and took on extra work in Marjorie's absence. It was a blessing to be away. It seemed a strange time to do it, with Covid and all of the fall out that is happening as a result, but God was faithful to us and we have special memories of this time away. We love you and thank you for giving us this time of rest."

Sincerely, Pastor Harris



Pastor, November 3rd is National Election Day here in our nation. What a privilege is ours to allow our voice to be heard by the simple act of casting a ballot on Election Day. Currently, we have such a volatile atmosphere here in America and getting out our vote is as critical as any time in our history.

We face crucial issues in this nation that this particular election will underscore. As a body of Christ, we stand firm in our opposition of Abortion at any stage of development. We cherish our religious freedoms. We stand unequivocally with Israel and pray for the peace of Israel as encouraged in Scripture. There are other pertinent issues at stake in this election. God bless you for calling for united prayer for our Nation and our leadership as we are now in the final days before the elections. My prayer is that every born again believer will exercise their freedom to vote, and that Biblical principles will prevail in this election and that we, together push back the darkness that threatens our Nation. God Bless America!



"If there was ever a time in history that our nation needs prayer, now would be that time. The season that lies before us will determine our destiny for future generations. You know, as well as I, that the activity of prayer opens the portals of heaven and releases God's grace, goodness and guidance.

I can't begin to list all the prayer needs of our AZ Ministry Network and missionary family. What I'd like to do is call our pastors and churches to bombard heaven with cries of urgency and help. I'm reminded of the word of the Apostle James, "Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops." Jam. 5:17-18

Elijah's earnest prayers <u>stopped</u> the rain and <u>brought</u> the rain. (Point #1 of a message waiting to happen) Often our church family at Harvest will hear me say, "What's true in the natural is true in the spiritual." After a long season of drought, the rain that fell from heaven must have been so refreshing to those living in the land. Likewise, I believe the church has been experiencing a long season of drought and desperately needs heaven's spiritual rain. We need times of salvations, reconciliations and a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our land. ALL THIS TAKES PLACE WHEN WE PRAY!

A "call to prayer" is being heralded throughout the country and I would ask you and your church to join our together in promoting two strategic prayer initiatives that will take place in a few short weeks. Both events will originate in Washington D.C. and the first is a prayer march headed up by Franklin Graham.

The second event begins on the same day and it is entitled, "THE RETURN." These global prayer meetings coincide with 40 days leading up to the election. Both events will be simulcast free of charge and I would encourage all of our AZ Ministry Network pastors to join with millions of prayer warriors across the land to begin petitioning heaven remembering the words of King Solomon, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Beloved, the land cannot be healed without <u>rain</u> and the rain won't come down unless we <u>pray</u>. (Point #2) We don't want to look back three months from now and grieve about the state of our union, knowing we could have done something to change the course of history. I'm reminded of the words of the late E.M. Bounds, "Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world." E.M Bounds

**Sometimes all it takes is just "ONE" prayer to change everything.** (Point #3) Just think what would happen if one billion prayers were offered to God over a 40 day period of time leading up to the election? "I think I hear the sound of abundant rain!" Hallelujah!

Gratefully, God is already doing amazing things throughout the globe and I wish I could share with you each and every one of our missionaries' testimonies of God's provision, protection and power during this season of COVID-19. Unfortunately, because many are serving in sensitive countries, this is not possible. But be assured, pastor, your prayers are making a difference. **Please keep on praying!** 

Allow me to give you one snapshot coming from our Regional Arab Peninsula Director. "For decades, the Arab Peninsula has presented an almost impenetrable wall to Christian outreach. The area represents the heart of the Islamic world. While foreign workers have met in small Christian groups for years, local communities have had very little gospel witness. That is beginning to change. In the midst of much disturbing pandemic news, God is opening new doors for outreach. The Arab Peninsula is one of those slowly opening doors." - Omar Beiler, AGWM Eurasia Regional Director

In closing, let me report that almost all our missionary families have returned to the field and others will be leaving shortly. Even in the midst of a pandemic Arizona churches stepped up in a big way and supplied the need. I cannot begin to thank you enough for your continued monthly financial support and now may we continue to hold them up in our prayers as they adapt to the culture, navigate the challenges learning the language and reengage in a multitude of ministry endeavors?

#### SEPTEMBER 2020

Secretary/



## YUMA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF

**AZMN Featured Church** 



Paula Milner was recently elected as lead pastor at Yuma First Assembly. She will succeed her father, Paul Killingsworth, who served with his wife, Karen, as First Assembly's pastor from 1985-2020. Paul Killingsworth's father, O.W. Killingsworth and his wife, Lillian, pastored First Assembly of God in Yuma from 1952-1967.





A third generation AG minister, Paula is both honored and humbled to step into the pastorate filled by her father and grandfather, both who served as district officials in our network, influencing and impacting many ministers within our fellowship.

Paula and her husband, Kelly, are deeply grateful for the heritage of this ministerial family and look forward to serving at YFA where the mission remains the same as their father and grandfather - win souls for Christ and be

Pentecost in Yuma.



LOGIN NOW

FOR LOGIN HELP

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





"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice" Ephesians 4:31 ESV

Last month we weighed the notion that it is okay for a pastor to simply admit, "I don't know." I'd like to further that this month with a bold addendum, "Pastor, you simply don't know as much as you think you know." And, I stress this within a given context...

Cynicism is like a cancer within the heart. It erodes trust. It wreaks of pessimism and disbelief, leading to discouragement. It weakens us. Immobilizes us. Poisons us.

Cynicism can simply happen or it can slowly entangle us over many years. Sadly, ministry has a way of injecting it into our veins, unknowingly. At the heart of cynicism is a critical attitude toward others, typically regarding their motivations. Pastors must be wary of it as it relates to those we serve (the church), those we serve alongside of in the kingdom (other pastors), and even the God we serve.

It seems as if the cynical dial has been turned up a notch in 2020, or maybe since 2016, or possibly long before that. Consider recent conversations you have had in which politics or BLM or Covid-19 has been aired. Even discussions surrounding "the Church" open the door for cynical quips or more severe tongue lashings to follow.

The truth is, we simply don't know. A writer recently stated, "Critics judge things based on what is outside of their content of understanding" (Shannon Alder). How true. Jesus told his audience to not judge others, because it would result in themselves being judged and with the same measure it was divvied out (Mt. 7:1-2); The apostle Paul warns us to not judge others because we are guilty of the very things we judge them about.

Pastors, we really don't know. We can't truly know a person's motives, background, cause for their disposition, or factors that went into a decision. We don't know a person's capacity for even making a better choice or reasoning of a matter. As leaders, it saves us a lot of mental and emotional gymnastics to just take people at face value and leave the rest to God. He is the Judge.

#### As we head into this fall, let me recommend a few things:

- Stay positive. Be positive. Talk positive to your flock. Don't be cynical.
- Avoid judgments. Don't be cynical.
- Admit that you can see an action, but not know the motive. Don't be cynical.
- Avoid arguments and disputes ("clamor"-Eph 4:31). Don't be cynical.
- Leave judgment's heavy lifting to God. Don't be cynical.



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.







# AZ MAN CAMP

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2020

REGISTER AT: AZMANCAMP.ORG

Attend in Person or Watch Online!
All Social Distancing Guidelines Will be Followed.



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



## September 17-19 @ Granite Hills Campground

#### **FALL RETREAT IS SOLD OUT!**

It is our hope to provide online options for those that are unable to attend. If you would like to be added to our waitlist, should we have any cancellations, please e-mail women@azag.org! Please join us as we pray for a life-changing weekend!

## Speakers





Other speakers: **Becky Davis** Marjorie Harris Linga Ndambasha Amy Rinta Elise Wood

## activities









The Gre

Find more info at azagwomen.org

## Pricing

**Full Conference** \$160

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

> Conference (no lodging) \$150

Conference (no lodging or meals) \$110

Prices increased by \$20 on Aug. 1.



## **Griffin McGrath**

Youth & Young Adult Director gmcgrath@azag.org



@azagym + @griffinmcgrath



# **YOUTH CONVENTION 2020**



**ARIZONA YOUTH CONVENTION 2020** RADIANT CHURCH / OCT 23 - 24 www.azagyouth.org/azyc



a Worship







Terry Parkman

# azua vov uv

AN ARIZONA YOUNG ADULTS GATHERING **DESERT SPRINGS CHURCH / OCT 22** 



**REGISTER AT AZAG.ORG/AZYAPOPUP** 



Addison Bevere



**UPCOMING EVENT DATES** 

SEE YOU AT THE POLE NATIONAL STL DAY September 23

**NETWORK CONFERENCE** . October 26-27

YOUTH LEADERS' SUMMIT January 8-9, 2021

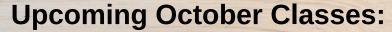


Kids ministry looks different than ever before and for that reason Grow Kidmin Conference 2020 will look different than ever before!

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!







A/G History and Doctrine, Introduction to Missions,
Multicultural Ministry



- Classes offered in-person at the Network Office will have a limited number of students to allow for social distancing.
  - The online class option will now be open to everyone but will only be available for the Saturday class session.

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



Jeremy Naranjo, ASOM Director jeremy@azag.org

# Teen Challenge of Arizona



Please join us online as we celebrate our largest graduating class ever!





Keynote Speaker Rev. Gary Blackard, President ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE USA



Saturday, September 19, 2020 - 2 pm

https://www.facebook.com/Christianliferanch https://www.youtube.com/user/AZTeenChallenge



800-346-7859 / tcaz.org

#### **Network Information**

#### **ARIZONA MINISTRY NETWORK**

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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 Summer 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**

Adrian & Eliza Valencia from New York District Crea Copeland from SoCal District Christina & Yisrael Vincent from So. MO District Taylor Norris from Rocky Mountain District

#### **TRANSFERRED OUT**

Joshua Fitzwater to Kansas District

#### **DECEASED**

Nancy Smith on 6/13/20
Earl Ostrom on 7/21/20
Rodger Cree on 7/22/20
Estel Morris on 7/29/20
Danny Briles on 8/7/20
Hugh Middleton on 8/22/20

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

