

SEPTEMBER 2023

AZMN

Publication



www.azag.org



ARIZONA
MINISTRY NETWORK

Table of Contents

3	General Council Recap & Minister's Renewal Info <i>From Stephen Harris</i>	15	Kids Ministry
6	World Mission's Passing the Baton <i>From Ron Rockwell</i>	16	Arizona School of Ministry
8	Attributes of a Healthy Church: "Worshipful Atmosphere" <i>From Leigh Metcalf</i>	17	Teen Challenge of AZ
10	Note to Self: Be Secure in Yourself & God <i>From Jeff Peterson</i>	19	Network of Women Ministers
12	Men's Ministry	20	Intercultural Ministries
13	Women's Ministry	21	Network Info & Leadership
14	Youth Ministry	22	Church & Minister Stats



RECAP



Stephen Harris, Superintendent
sharris@azag.org

GENERAL COUNCIL - 2 0 2 3 -

Everyone that attended General Council 2023 will agree with what I am writing this morning. It was a refreshing time in the presence of the Lord from start to finish. The services were especially crowned with the precious moving of the Holy Spirit. Our pastor, Doug Clay, gave a rich word of encouragement in his message that resonated in my spirit all day long. It was a joy to be a part of the business sessions, Influence Conference, Fine Arts, luncheons and General Presbytery meetings. As always, I was so extremely privileged to represent the Arizona Network Family! Thank you for this honor.



I want to encourage you, pastor, if you did not attend General Council this year or maybe never have participated. I can tell you it will be a win-win for you and your ministry to save for this event and be a part of the gathering of our Nationwide Assemblies of God Family. You will leave enriched and encouraged. General Council 2025 will be held in Orlando, FL.

You may view the General council videos at this link:

<https://generalcouncil.ag.org/Resources/Videos>

For additional information regarding business sessions and resolutions during General Council, you may visit this link: <https://generalcouncil.ag.org/Business/Resolutions>.

As always, the General council position papers are available at:

<https://ag.org/Beliefs/Position-Papers>.

Thank you to our General Secretary for making these links available in such a timely manner.

MINISTER'S RENEWAL

OCTOBER 23-24 • REVOLUTION MINISTRIES CHURCH

It's my privilege to take this space to encourage you to be in attendance for Minister's Renewal 2023. We are honored to have Pastor Greg Ford, who leads a progressive, fast-growing congregation in Columbus, Ohio. Well-known for his high energy, visionary leadership, and innovative thinking, Greg's passion is to develop Christ-centered, people-focused churches that transform communities. He is one of YOU! He grew up in a pastor's home, and now through God's grace and favor is leading ONE Church.



In 2011, One Church was recognized as the 'New Church Plant of the Year' by Church Multiplication Network. One Church is now home to more than 3000 people in the greater Columbus area and continues to grow. Pastor Greg has great insight, and it is my heart that you will be challenged and inspired by his ministry.



As well, I have invited a friend, Cathi Herrod. She serves as president of Center for Arizona Policy, a nonprofit advocacy organization committed to promoting and defending the foundational principles of life, marriage/family, and religious freedom. A total of 200 CAP-supported measures have been passed since CAP made its first appearance at the state Capitol in 1996.

As a mother, lawyer, and family advocate, Cathi knows that what happens at the state Capitol directly impacts our daily lives. She is recipient of the Family Champion Award from Focus on the Family. She is recognized and honored with those leading Alliance Defending Freedom. She has led the effort to pass significant pro-life legislation, including the Abortion Consent Act, Abortion Clinic Regulations, a 15-week abortion ban, and the Mother's Health and Safety Act.

Cathi will come to us in her morning workshop with significant updates in what is happening or being considered in our legislative system. She will take questions as well at the end of her presentation. I believe this will be critical information for our pastors.

Pastors, our leadership team offers this to you at no cost. No registration cost. We want to offer a boxed lunch on Tuesday, and for that reason alone, we will need you to register for this renewal to ascertain the amount of boxed lunches we will order. Thank you for cooperation in this. You can go to our website and register from there, click the link on the next page or this QR code can be used right now.

We hope to see you there.

**Register for Free [HERE](#)
or Scan QR Code:**



Sincerely,
Pastor Harris and Marjorie Harris



Passing the Baton



“Leadership is more like a baton than a trophy. You keep a trophy, but you hand off a baton.” - Bruce Miller

It has happened during the past several Summer Olympics and it will probably happen in the next one as well. In the 4×100 relay, it’s not only about how well you run your portion of the race, but also about successfully handing off the baton to the next runner. **If you drop the baton during the handoff, it doesn’t matter how well you ran your race.** It’s very simple. If you drop the baton, you are disqualified.

A relay race requires full participation from every member. Everyone giving it their all for their assigned section and then passing on the baton. It’s never the fastest runner or the last runner that wins the race. **It’s the team that works together and trusts each other.**

This is especially true in missions and world evangelism. Fruitful decades of soul-winning, discipleship, church planting and ministry training can be attributed not only to teamwork and comradery, but to the careful and confident passing of the baton. We see this throughout the Bible in the following examples: Moses to Joshua, David to Solomon, Elijah to Elisha, Jesus to His disciples, and Paul to Timothy. For men and women of the faith, it’s not enough to run the race. We also must pass our mission to the next generation. We must hand off the baton, at the right time, and we must do it well.



Currently, the Assemblies of God World Missions Executive Leadership is in the process of effectively passing of the baton and they are doing it well. It has been my privilege as District Missions Director to serve under Greg Mundis, AGWM Executive Director (2011-2023).

Greg and Sandie have led the AGWM family with great love, sacrifice and service, and the “world missions” baton has been competently held in their hands as they faithfully ran their leg of the race. The Lord has now led them to step away from their role as executive directors and begin a new season in their lives and we wish them the very best, God’s best.

Now for the all-important exchange! In Columbus, Ohio at General Council last month, we had the privilege of prayerfully selecting the next AGWM Executive Director. With the confirmation of the Holy Spirit, we witnessed this leadership baton exchange. Allow me to introduce John & Cheryl Easter:

- **John Easter, Ph.D., has most recently served on the AGWM’s Executive Committee as director of Partnership Development (since 2021). In this position, John helped church leaders and ministry networks align God’s people with the mission of establishing the Church among all peoples everywhere.**
- **Prior to God calling John and his wife Cheryl and their family to Africa, they pastored in the United States for 10 years.**
- **The Easters were appointed in 2000 as career missionaries to Malawi, Kenya. They took on various training and educational roles during their 20-plus years serving in Africa.**
- **In 2011, John was appointed as a strategic leader with AGWM Africa and Executive Director of Africa’s Hope. This organization supports educational initiatives in 46 African nations through more than 380 schools equipping over 23,000 students annually. John also served as Executive Director of the Association for Pentecostal Theological Education in Africa.**
- **John earned an M.A.B.S. from Reformed Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.**
- **John and Cheryl have three sons: Kevin, John-John, and Mitchell. Mitchell and his wife, Alyssa, have four children.**



Network family, we are excited and anticipating great things ahead in the area of world missions and know you will join us in prayer as John steps into the role of AGWM Executive Director in October 2023.

To Greg and Sandie, we say, “THANK YOU!” And to John and Cheryl, we say, “GO IN THE STRENGTH AND ANOINTING OF THE LORD!” Together we will win the race that is marked out before us, and we’ll see souls saved, nations discipled, and the Church established among all peoples everywhere.



Ron Rockwell
Assistant Superintendent

Attributes of a Healthy Church:

Worshipful Atmosphere

A healthy church creates an atmosphere of worship - where members are free to express their love for God and encounter His presence. Worship is focused on God and not on performance or entertainment. It is always a joy to visit many of the churches in our Network and experience the diversity of worship styles. There are some areas of worship that I believe help us in creating a great worship experience:

Authenticity: Encourage everyone to express their love for God genuinely and authentically. Worship is not a performance, and people are free to be themselves when worshiping. This authenticity fosters a deeper connection with God and with one another.



Encounter with God's Presence: Worship should be a time when our congregation can encounter the presence of God. This might involve moments of deep spiritual reflection, a sense of God's peace, or feeling a strong connection with God. Encounters with God's presence can be transformative and spiritually nourishing.

Teaching and Understanding: A worshipful atmosphere can be enhanced by teaching and understanding. When our people have a solid understanding of the biblical foundations of worship, it can deepen their engagement and appreciation for the worship experience.



Service and Outreach: True worship extends beyond the church walls. A healthy church also engages in acts of service and outreach to the community, demonstrating God's love in tangible ways. This sense of mission and purpose can also enrich the worship experience.

A worshipful atmosphere in a healthy church is usually characterized by a deep, genuine focus on God, authenticity in worship, freedom of expression, encounters with God's presence and a commitment to service and outreach. It's a space where individuals can connect with God in a meaningful and transformative way, free from distractions and self-focus.

Creating a worshipful atmosphere in a church requires intentional efforts from both the leadership and the congregation. Here are some practical steps to help establish and maintain a worshipful atmosphere:

Seeking God's Guidance:

Begin by seeking God's guidance through prayer. Ask for wisdom and insight on how to create a worshipful atmosphere specific to your church's unique context.

Teaching and Understanding:

Educate the congregation about the importance and biblical foundations of worship. Regularly offer teachings on worship to deepen their understanding.

Diverse worship styles:

Be open to diverse worship styles that resonate with your congregation's cultural and spiritual backgrounds. Many of our Network churches have a focus on being intercultural and adjust the worship styles and languages to accommodate the diversity.



Remember that creating a worshipful atmosphere is an ongoing process that may evolve over time. It requires a collective effort from the church leadership, worship team, and congregation to cultivate an environment where members can truly encounter God's presence and express their love for Him authentically.

LEIGH METCALF
SECRETARY/TREASURER





Note to Self...

Be Secure in Yourself & God

**For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10**

In a recent Zoom call with pastors, we were wrapping up a closing chapter to Craig Groeschel's book, "Lead Like IT Matters." Groeschel was stressing the importance of us being centered as leaders and put forth three behaviors that reveal us as being off-centered:

- Annoyingly insecure
- Consistently unpredictable
- Distastefully self-absorbed

He went on to offer three traits then, of a centered leader:

- Inwardly confident
- Strategically consistent
- Mission driven

It is so important as leaders that we do self-evaluation on such matters and these types of discussions can be painfully productive for us! I am thankful for the many pastors willing to hang out and discuss such things in our Pastors' Zoom calls. Interestingly enough, when both groups (about 20 pastors) opened up on which of the three areas they are most prone to struggle in, virtually every pastor first cited "annoyingly insecure" and the need to be more "inwardly confident."

That moment has stuck with me. What is it within us all that if we are honest with ourselves and other leaders, insecurity runs in all of our veins? It is comforting to think that the likes of Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah overtly illustrate this reality among some of the greats of Scripture. Again, what is it about us humans that we tend to struggle so much with insecurity?

This is too great a subject to unpack in a brief blog. I would say the heart of the matter is that word “human.” It is inherent to our humanness that we lack confidence in ourselves. And thankfully Groeschel immediately turned us to the answer as he asserts our confidence must originate not from ourselves, but from a confidence in God! When we embrace His creation of us, His calling upon our lives, His promises, His faithfulness, His Spirit’s presence, His love, etc. that is when we find the much needed confidence we require to do His work!

I’d encourage you to pick up Groeschel’s book as a good fall read and why not join us in our next Zoom call sessions when they open up again. Such self-reflection is vital to our health.



Stay healthy in ministry, Pastor Jeff

Ways to gain fresh words from God...

- **Meditate upon Psalm 139 as it relates to you and God throughout your lifetime**
- **Do a study of Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah and other examples of insecurity in Scripture**
- **Look for insecurity in other great leaders’ biographies**
- **Reflect on the security Jesus revealed in His Father during His earthly ministry**
- **If you would like to discuss these thoughts, feel free to give me a call: 480-579-9998.**



Man Camp

September 29 & 30, 2023

EQUIP



Dale Gray
Arizona Men's Director



Gordon Houston
360Equip Director

GRANITE HILLS CAMPGROUND | PRESCOTT
SEPTEMBER 29-30
\$139 INCLUDES LODGING AND MEALS



**Register
HERE**



Activities

- Golf Tournament
- Fishing Derby
- High Ropes Course
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Worship Service
- Archery
- Lawn Games
- Camp Work Day

MUCH MORE THAN JUST A RETREAT

Fall Retreat

September 14th - 16th

September 21st-23rd

You're invited!

Our annual Fall Retreat is the perfect opportunity to escape the heat, step away from the distractions, connect with God and take a deep breath. There will also be opportunities to meet new friends, attend breakout sessions, enjoy outdoor activities and join the late night after-parties!

Space is limited - so reserve your spot and register today! Same experience, two dates to choose from!



Campfire Worship



Amazing services!



Connect with friends



The After Parties



Shopping



Outdoor Fun

Register HERE



ARIZONA YOUTH MINISTRIES

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

We are excited to introduce our NextGen administrative team for youth and young adults. Each of these new staff members will be part-time, serving with specific assignments to advance the ministry and serve our youth and young adult leaders effectively. Although this staff is new in their positions, they are not new to our network.

This team has worked closely together as volunteers alongside Monica Hortiales (Assistant Youth Director) and Yoyo Garcia (Youth Alive Director) at past events, and we are excited to welcome them to this NextGen team.



Bethany McGrath,
Administrative Assistant



Asheley Ouimet,
Ministry Coordinator



Blare & Elise Wood, Youth &
Young Adult Associates



Megan Kronstedt,
Event Coordinator

Check out the AZYM website for full bios of the team!



GRACE CITY MUSIC

LIKE JESUS
AZ YOUTH CONVENTION 23

OCT 27-28 @ RADIANT CHURCH
AZAGYOUTH.ORG



GRIFFIN MCGRATH
Youth & Young Adult Director

✉ gmcgrath@azag.org

MAKE SURE TO GO TO
AZAGYOUTH.ORG
TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL
THAT IS HAPPENING!



GROW

20
23

KidMin Conference

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th

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**

September ASOM Classes

Certified: New Testament Survey
Licensed: Leadership Skills
Ordained: Theology of Worship

register today at azasom.com



It has been a great start to the new school year. This last week I had a chance to visit Jesus Power AG in Chandler and attend the graduation ceremony for their school of ministry. These students will be continuing their education with ASOM in order to pursue ministry credentials. It's never too late to start. Hop in anytime at azasom.com!

-Yisrael

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:





Rick Ryan
Director

417-849-0539
RRyan@azag.org
AZRickRyan

A dark green rectangular card with a white circular profile picture of Rick Ryan on the left. To the right of the photo is his name and title. At the bottom right are icons for phone, email, and social media (Facebook and Instagram) with their respective contact information.

SEPT

SAVE THE DATE

9TH

INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING
REVOLUTION CHURCH - TOLLESON

A graphic for a 'Save the Date' announcement. It features a blue vertical bar on the left. The main area is divided into several colored blocks: a brown block with 'SEPT', a teal block with 'SAVE THE DATE', and another brown block with '9TH'. Below these is a brown block with the event title 'INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING' and location 'REVOLUTION CHURCH - TOLLESON'. A green background with a white and yellow wave pattern is visible behind the text blocks.

Our Newest Congregation

**VIETNAMESE MISSION
OUTREACH**

PASTOR LEVY LY

Pastor James Brown and Full Life Church in Chandler have joined to plant our first AG Vietnamese church in Arizona.

AZ MINISTRY NETWORK

RETIRO DE HOMBRES

6-7 DE OCTUBRE

HOMBRES 360



PASTOR SERGIO DE LA MORA

\$139

Columbus, Ohio

GENERAL COUNCIL 2023

Connected with Bishop Bismark Osei Akomeah, who originally planted Jesus Power Church in Arizona now pastored by Dr. Edmund Eghan with at least 12 African nations represented.



FIRST ETHNIC FELLOWSHIP WORSHIP GATHERING General Council 2023

People from over 50 nations glorified God in worship and testimony. Statistically, 45% of the Assemblies of God is of ethnic diversity.





Teen Challenge of Arizona

Thankful!

Colossians 4:2

FALL GRADUATION 2023

Saturday, September 16, 2023 - 2 PM

Grace to the Nations Church
6180 E. Pima Street, Tucson, Arizona

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REV. OBED OROZCO

Pastor Obed, pastors a vibrant and multicultural church, Grace to the Nations in Tucson, Arizona. The church has emerged as a model for multicultural and multi-generational ministry in the nation, leading in gathering, lifting, and uniting people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

He is a part of the Latino Alliance of Pastors of Arizona, the Foursquare Church, Dash Latino, and the Hispanic Pastoral Leadership Committee for the Family Research Council in Washington, DC.

Pastor Obed has a BA in music from the University of Arizona and a master's in pastoral ministry at California College. He is also an ordained Bishop with the Church of God and holds ministers' credentials as well with the International Church of the FourSquare Gospel.



Pastor Obed has been a faithful supporter and friend of the ministry of Teen Challenge of Arizona for many years. We consider it a high honor to receive the Word of the Lord from his heart to our graduates this fall.

Reception for Graduates and their Families following the Ceremony.



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

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	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



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

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

Rainbow Mtn., Navajo Mtn.

Sacaton River of Life, Assembly of God

San Manuel, Assembly of God

Welton, Assembly of God

(Interim: Ron Kobs)

Polacca, Assembly of God

TRANSFERRED IN

Floyd Lee from New Mexico district

TRANSFERRED OUT

Gregory Collier to the Tennessee district

Morgan Flores to the North TX district

Kenneth Kermode to the Alaska district

DECEASED

Jeanette Decker 8/14/27

Carl Miller 7/19/23

Joe Ann Craver 7/27/23

Wayne Jones 7/26/23