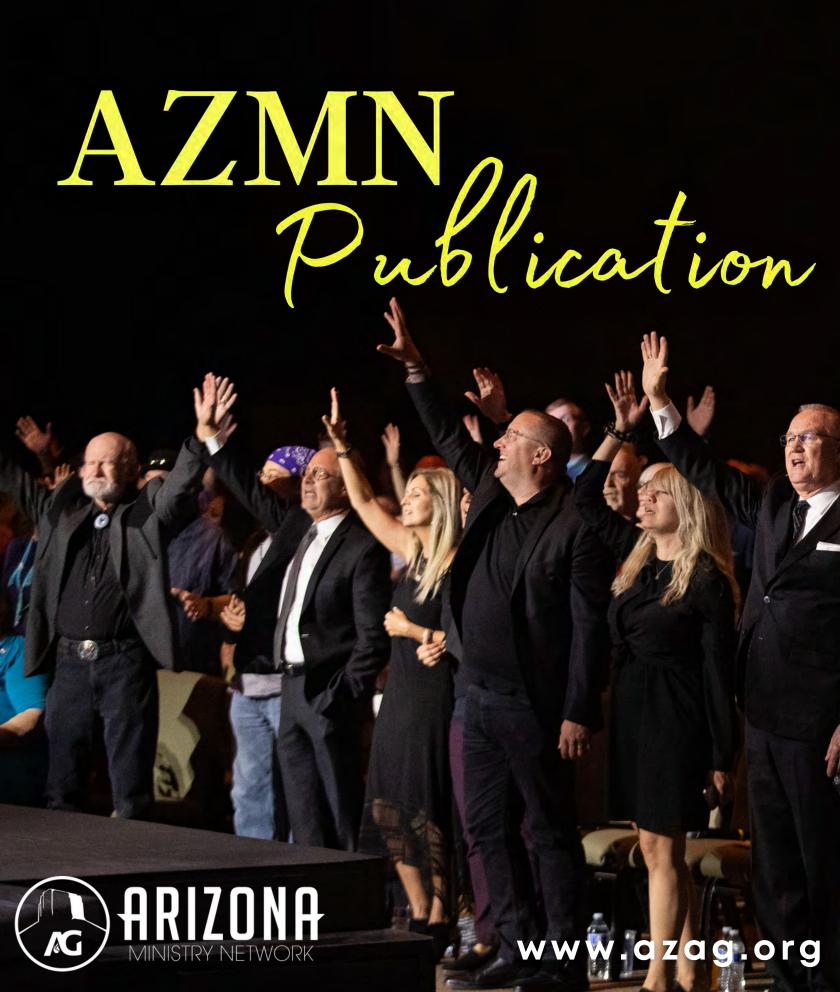
June/July 2022



# **Table of Contents**

3	"Time for Everything," Network Conference Recap & Around the Network	20	Youth Ministry
	From Stephen Harris	21	Kids Ministry
10	How to Pray for our Missionaries  From Ron Rockwell		
13	Church Highlights & Reports	22	Arizona School of Ministry
	From Leigh Metcalf	23	Intercultural Ministries
15	Note to Self: Stay Teachable From Jeff Peterson		
17	Elder Ministry (Info	24	Network of Women Ministers
17	Elder Ministry Info	25	Teen Challenge of AZ
18	Men's Ministry		
		27	Network App Info
19	Women's Ministry	28	Network Info and Stats





One of the most quoted portions of scripture has to be Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. The message in this passage of poetry centers on God's ultimate authority in heaven and on earth. We humans have mastered many things in this world, but there are some elements of our existence far beyond our control. We cannot conquer time! God is the one who appointed time from the very beginning. He appoints each moment.

Our lives contain a mixture of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, harmony and struggle, and life and death. Each season has its appropriate time in the cycle of life. Nothing stays the same, and we, as God's family, must learn to accept and adjust to the ebb and flow of God's design. As all of you have experienced, some seasons are difficult and we may not understand what God is doing. In those times, we must humbly submit to the Lord's plans. We must trust that He is working all things out for us and working out his good purposes in our life.

He not only established time, but He set the seasons for the benefit of all life. For those of us desert-dwellers, no one has to tell us we are in the summer season. Just caught the bit of news this morning that today's high, 107, would occur around 2:45 this afternoon. Yikes, triple digits have come soon. Next week, we will hit our first 110 of this particular summer.

Here are some facts about the summer months that probably won't surprise you, but things you may not have stopped to think about recently. Brought to you by Cambridge Research Center.

- There is a reduced rate of heart attacks in the summer months
- People just naturally eat more fruit.
- Summer activities increase agility.
- There is increased water consumption.
- Summer helps regulate sleep disorders.
- Kids take a break from school and enjoy play time, pool time, vacations, etc.
- The days of summer are the longest days, and the nights the shortest of the other seasons.

If I had permission, I would add another fact about summer that has the potential to alter the lives of thousands of teens and kids. Our camping programs!! Summer after summer, the testimonies are real and the young people experience the power of God like many will not have the privilege to do at home.

Already, just after the first week of camp, our Youth Director, Griffin McGrath reports outstanding statistics that make you wanna shout Hallelujah! All the Praise goes to our God!

- Over 100 decisions for Christ
- 70 Baptisms in the Holy Spirit
- 200+ accounts of Divine Healing
- Over \$2200 given to Speed-the-Light in Botswana

Thank you, Pastors and churches, for sending your youth/kids to camp. Thank you for your investment in their future. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. Thank you for your support of the 1% initiative. This fund keeps Granite Hills Retreat & Conference Center alive and well, operating in the black, and not struggling to make ends meet. Your investment is for eternal purposes. Your treasure not of this world. Your reward is the souls of young people and kids. My heart is stirred by any opportunity I have to be on the campground and a part of their worship. It is so encouraging to see with my own eyes their zeal for God, their 'no compromise' spirit, and the smiles that only reflect what Jesus has done deep in their heart.

Thank you, Lord, for the seasons. Thank you for the summer! Thank you for the planting of seed year-round and the beauty of the harvest.

Thank you, Catie Naranjo, for editing and designing this beautiful publication that comes to us 11 times a year. We made the decision to make June/July a double edition in one. Catie works long hours to give us this publication. We are so appreciative.

Make it a wonderful summer and God bless you and your families with good health, and lots of laughing and memories to last a lifetime! Marjorie and I love you and grateful for this network family we serve.

Sincerely, Pastor Harris and Marjorie

# 2022 NETWORK CONFERENCE



# RECAP

























# Around the Network

From Pastor Harris: "It is our privilege to travel the state on the weekend and attend services in our churches of which we have oversight."

We have been doubly blessed in recent Sundays to worship first with Pastors Kirk & Kim Sorensen in their churches' 60th Anniversary Celebration as well as celebrating their 20th Year as the lead pastors in Benson, Arizona.



They had a beautiful Sunday morning, and invited former pastor's wives,
Lavinia Middleton and Bernadine Clark. What a privilege to see these two ladies,
and to share in the joy of their memories of pastoring in Benson.



The Southwest Superintendent's try to meet annually for a time of fellowship and deepening relationship. We were missing several couples, but we gathered with four couples for a fun-filled two days in San Diego. We treasure the friendships of these servants of God.

We traveled to Yuma to officially recognize Pastor Paula Milner and her husband Kelly in a special service of dedication of her ministry as their new Lead Pastor. Pastor Paul

Killingsworth and his wife Karen, handed the baton to their daughter, Paula, and she willingly took it and is running with it! A very precious time in the Lord's presence as we prayed over Pastor Paula, and an added treat was to have Pastor Paul & Karen join us for the prayer time.



# Around the Network

From Pastor Harris: "It is our privilege to travel the state on the weekend and attend services in our churches of which we have oversight."

Pastor Harris participated in the Pastor Adventure Trip that took them on a river adventure down the Green River in Utah in canoes. Blessed time with no mishaps! The scenery was breath taking, and gave one pause as to the creative power of our God.









Marjorie and I were so privileged to join our Grandson for his high school graduation in Poth, Texas. So proud of Eli Tanner Harris. He is a fine young man and will be a freshman at Texas State this fall.



I would first like to say 'THANK YOU' for your faithful prayers for my recovery from my recent cardiac arrest. Sue and I are so grateful for every encouraging text, scripture, email, and phone call. We have felt your love and support and know how blessed we are to be a part of the Arizona Ministry Network.

Our missionaries feel the same way! As you know, the life of a full-time missionary is not for the faint of heart. They leave their homes, families, and everything they know for one purpose: to share God's message of hope and love with the world. In so doing, they need monthly financial support, ministry resources, curriculum, and equipment. They also need our words of encouragement. Sometimes they even ask for our physical presence to help with projects and outreaches.

But if you ask any missionary what they need the most, you will get one consistent, resounding request: "Please pray for us!" Allow me to share the following prayer points and scriptures that Sue and I often use as we pray over our Arizona missionary family. We pray for:

1. STRENGTH & PERSEVERENCE. Missionaries can often feel as though they've sown much with little harvest. Pray for their strength and endurance to run the race — that the Lord would remind them He is working deep in hearts even when it seems like nothing is happening.

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." – Isaiah 40:31

**2. ENCOURAGEMENT.** Pray against discouragement, disappointment, fear, and doubt. Ask the Lord to bring people across their path who would encourage and uplift them. Be that person yourself!

"Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord." – Psalm 112:6-7

- **3. PROVISION.** On a tight, missionary budget, the smallest, unexpected expense can create a major financial strain. Pray for God's provision over their family and ministry. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19
- 4. PROTECTION AND SAFETY. Pray for our missionaries' safety and protection. Ask the Lord to protect them against illness, injury, and danger.

"The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." – Psalm 121:8



**5. JOY IN TRIALS.** The joy of the Lord is our strength! Pray that the joy of the Lord will sustain our missionaries in every trial and setback.

"Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them." – Psalm 126:5-6



**6. DARKNESS LIFTED.** Missionaries walk boldly into some of the darkest areas of the earth. They confront spiritual and physical oppression that we can't imagine. Pray that the light of God would shine through them, lifting darkness and oppression as they share His love.

"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." – Isaiah 61:1

**7. DIVINE OPPORTUNITIES.** Ask God to set up divine appointments and open doors for ministry that only He can make possible.

"Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." – Colossians 4:3-4

**8. OPEN HEARTS**. Like the seeds that fell on fertile soil in the Parable of the Sower, ask the Lord to make fertile ground and prepare hearts to receive the gospel.

"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart." – Jeremiah 24:7



Pastor, thank you for praying! Thank you for interceding and lifting our missionaries' hands by praying for them. Those prayers remain the greatest way we can support those we are sending out, invoking the very power of God to intervene in ways that are beyond our human limitations to save the lost.

Love and prayers,
Ron & Sue



### Leigh Metcalf, Secretary/Treasurer

### Radiant & 2:TEN Church Second Saturday







It was so great to see Radiant Church take their Second Saturday to serve another church in the Network and bring hope to 2:TEN Church!

We celebrate what God is doing through both of their ministries!

### Twentynine Eleven Church - NEW BUILDING!



Twentynine Eleven Church's Grand Opening in their new facility was on February 27th, 2022. There were over 600 people in attendance on that Sunday, including Pastor Stephen Harris and Marjorie. They recently opened escrow and will finish the journey into full ownership closing on June 1st, 2022. How they got from losing their space somewhat suddenly to being able to purchase a permanent home in a matter of months is nothing short of a miracle!

Their journey toward ownership has been challenging and has certainly stretched the faith and endurance of the entire staff and church. Tempe is a landlocked city with nearly all of its available land accounted for. New builds predominantly come from old buildings being demolished and then construction taking place on those pieces of property. This was the exact situation that forced them to move from the space that had been their home for over 5 years. The night before they had to be out of their building, they were given the green light to start meeting at the campus at 1137 Warner Rd on Sunday afternoons. That first Sunday was historic and powerful as vision filled the auditorium and leadership sensed that this was their new home. In early January, they were given the opportunity to fully take the campus, signing a lease with the intention to own within 12 months. Twentynine Eleven is living in a miracle that only God could accomplish! They will be full owners of the property within 6 months of when the lease papers were signed.







Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. - Proverbs 9:9

We just concluded our fifth book in our pastors' Zoom calls. I love these times of weekly fellowship and personal growth with my fellow pastors in our network. Key aspects to every week's discussion are introspection and application of what we read and discuss. In the end, we are all learning new things about ourselves and our ministries. It requires a teachable heart.

My mother instilled a thought into my young heart, "Jeff, I can gain something from every sermon I hear, no matter how good the delivery is." That stuck with me and I have found myself rehearsing that conviction many times through the years. It runs akin to a much needed discipline for healthy pastors: pastors need to remain teachable with an open heart to the Lord.

When I was a student at CBC (a long time ago) one of my classmates said to me, "I don't ever take him [a certain professor] because I can tell he stopped learning a long time ago. He is using the same material he's used all these years." The point? The professor had stopped learning and had nothing fresh to offer his students.

God wants us to remain teachable for a number of reasons. First, we all have blindspots. Until we reach perfection, God wants to continue His sanctifying work in us. We will not only hurt ourselves, but affect our families and flocks through a stubborn heart that denies the need for personal, ongoing change and growth.

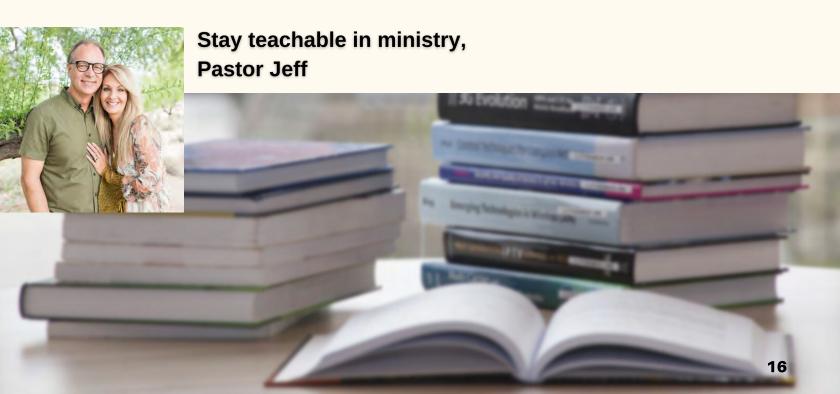
Second, we need to change to meet the demands of today. In the same way that we grow and evolve over time, the world around us continually changes. We need to keep learning in order to remain effective in meeting the needs of our world.

Third, we need to stay fresh in life. Contrast these words in the context of being teachable: inquisitive/closed, creative/stuck, contemporary/codgy, humble/prideful, growing/complete, and expanding/shrinking. A teachable spirit approaches every day with the mindset that God has something new to share with His kids. We need to embrace it.

I have left many a conversation thinking, "Now that guy is still learning. Still growing." It's an attractive trait. Imagine what that does for not only our congregations, but our spouses and family members and close friends.

#### **HOW TO REMAIN TEACHABLE:**

- Ask yourself: "What did I learn today? This week?"
- Invite the Holy Spirit to help you in daily, personal growth.
- Talk to a friend about your desire to keep growing.
- If you ever want to talk about these things, I'm always available at: 480-579-9998.



# PASTORAL CARE

# **ELDERS MINISTRY**

Do you need confidential support, encouragement, or prayer?

Elders are here to help for CRISIS, CARE, COACHING!

Meet our Elders (nine men and three women) by viewing their bio videos on the Arizona Ministry Network website or smartphone app.

# PASTORS' ZOOM CALLS

# Join our 1-hour weetly zoom calls!

- Discuss a leadership/pastoral book with pastors from across the state
- Build relationships
- Prayer



Here To serve you! CONTACT: Jeff Peterson

Pastoral Care Director 480-579-9998 jpeterson@azag.org



# SIRENGIA

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 1

GOLF TOURNAMENT FISHING DERBY HIGH ROPES COURSE ROCK CLIMBING WALL SWIMMING WORSHIP SERVICE MOTORCYCLE RIDE ARCHERY LAWN GAMES CAAMP WORK DAY

### SPEAKERS:



Dale Gray Arizona Men's Director



Rick Allen National Men's Director



Caden Metcalf Lead Pastor - Radiant Church









# YOUTH CAMP IS OFF TO A POWERFUL START! THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS.

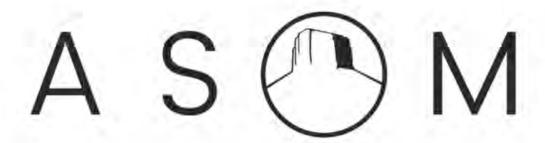




Griffin McGrath
Young Adult and Youth Director







### THE ARIZONA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

### SUMMER BREAK

This year we had nearly 1,000 individual classes completed by students across the state. That's a big accomplishment and reflects the hard work of student pursuing their calling. This Spring I also finished a PhD in Biblical Interpretation and Theology from AGTS. This degree will help serve ASOM and our students by continuing to provide a quality experience for our network.

ASOM will break for the summer but start again in the Fall. If you or someone you know is interested in taking classes then please join us in August when classes start again.

Have a great summer! Yisrael Vincent, PhD

### SAGU PARTNERSHIP

Interested in getting your master's degree? SAGU offers a discounted Masters of Organizational Leadership to AZ pastors. Email asom@azag.org for more info!



602-343-4000



asom@azag.org



azasom.com



Dr. Yisrael Vincent Director



Claire Willhite Coordinator







# **Leaders Lead**

BY REACHING PEOPLE BY MAKING DISCIPLES BY SENDING DISCIPLES

One of our missional goals with Intercultural Ministries is to disciple and build our international pastors and leaders. We want them to excel in their God-given anointing by reaching, discipling and sending their people to every tribe, language and nation represented in Arizona!

We recently had our first Intercultural Ministries Leadership Seminar. We had three leadership breakouts with Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry and Pastors with Church Leadership. KidsMin director, Kirstyn Rempel, Network Secretary/Treasurer, Leigh Metcalf, Network Superintendent, Stephen Harris along with myself invested in training and teaching 86 international leaders from 38 of our Intercultural Churches!









### **BOTSWANA MIRACLE**

Haven Springs Assembly of God under the direction of Pastor Benny and Lydia Vergara sacrificially gave \$1450 to the Network Botswana Project. In January 2022, this church was just officially planted. With a great missionary vision, we believe God will bless them as they reach out to their community surrounding their church!!







### What's New?

Here is a new opportunity for you to connect with other women in our National Network of Women Ministers Network. Visit www.womenministers.ag.org for free register!



### LISA POTTER

Join me and my guest on these quarterly connections over your lunch hour from anywhere in the world on Zoom! These calls are the perfect opportunity to learn from an expert on a topic that is important to you and your ministry, and then to connect with other like-minded women in ministry to talk about it together! Over the course of the year, we'll cover topics in each of these four categories: core self, communion, calling, and community. We can't wait to connect with you!

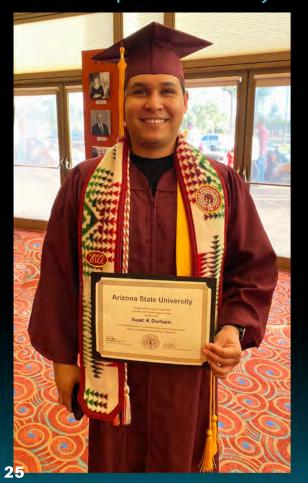
Lisa Potter is a passionate leader of women who lead, a grace downloader, and a generational bridge builder living out her passions through speaking, writing, and mentoring the next generation of female leaders. The Executive Director of Women Who Lead, she has a MA in Leadership and Ministry from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, and is the author of *The Collective Journey*.





## Special Recognition

This year we are proud to honor Isaac K. Durham, a 2016 Graduate who will begin a master's program in global management at ASU. Read his powerful testimony!





Rev. Snow Peabody, Isaac & Rev. Jeff Richards

The Lord brought me to Teen Challenge after I spent several years of struggling with addiction. Alcohol consumption at the age of 12 quickly escalated to me using meth at the age of 14.

Homeless and intravenously using meth and heroin at the age of 18 left me in a place of despair! After several arrests and hospitalizations, my only hope was for the Lord to intervene.

While doing time in jail, I reached out to my pastor friend and asked if he would help me get into Teen Challenge. After pleading with the judge, I was given the opportunity to be released early with the agreement that I would enter the program.

Upon completing Teen Challenge, I decided to commit to an internship and serve as a staff member.

Working at Teen Challenge became an advantage for me while going to school. I have a godly community and a wealth of wise council.

While serving as a staff, I was able to obtain my GED, an associate, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management with a concentration on American Indian Studies. Currently, I'm utilizing a full-ride scholarship at TCMI (Training Christians for Ministry International) for a master's degree in organizational leadership and practical theology.

In August 2022, I will also begin a master's program in Global Management at ASU.

I'm so grateful for Teen Challenge teaching me how to follow Christ and strive for excellence. *All glory to God!* 



Teen Challenge of Arizona's

# SUMMEREVENTS







GREATER PHOENIX TEEN CHALLENGE 1515 GRAND AVE, PHOENIX, AZ

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL: (602) 478-7704 OR VISIT TCAZ,ORG/B2SB

GAMES PRIZE GIVEAWAYS



# STAY CONNECTED WITH THE ARIZONA MINISTRY NETWORK APP!



### Get easy access to:

- A Safe Place List of elder contacts for times of crisis + coaching
- Events detailed information/ easy registration
- Ministries links to all network ministry websites
- Leadership network leadership/presbytery contacts
- Inspiration daily scripture + network pastors' blogs
- · Giving easy giving link
- · Media of network events



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD OUR APP



### **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**

Jackie Holgate Native American Representative

Sue Rockwell Women's Representative

#### **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

Ralph Morris Phoenix Metro Indian Section

Pete Cordova Southeast Section

Dave Beach Southeast Valley Section

Eric Young South Section

Paula Milner 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

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

Doug & Lynda Young Retired Ministers

Snow Peabody AZ Teen Challenge

Stephen & Jill Valentine Deaf Ministries



#### **OPEN CHURCHES**

Cedar Creek Assembly of God
Dennehotso, Trinity Assembly of God
Eloy, First Assembly of God
Kayenta, Living Word Assembly of God
Page, First Assembly of God
Payson, Restoration Church
Rainbow Mtn., Navajo Mtn.
San Manuel, Assembly of God
Scottsdale, Salt River Indian Church
Shonto, Victory Assembly of God
Welton, Assembly of God
Wilcox, Restoration Church

#### **TRANSFERRED IN**

Richard Doty from N. California/Nevada Daniel Reinhardt from Northeast

#### TRANSFERRED OUT

Jillian Girner to S. Missouri Norman Knoodle to S. Texas Cheryl Knoodle to S. Texas Gregory Marquart to S. Missouri James Morey to Rocky Mountain

#### **DECEASED**

Philip E Gabel on 4/26/22

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