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We are grateful for the wonderful Easter Sunday reports from around the network. Many of you saw increased attendance, and the opportunities were numerous in touching families with the Gospel on this special weekend. We prayed over you and your churches in our devotional time here at the office, and personally, Marjorie and I prayed over our pastors and churches. It is a grueling weekend, when it comes to ministry, but the rewards of every effort made are in the faces of people coming to receive your ministry and knowing you gave it your all. HE'S ALIVE!!

Sincerely, Pastor Stephen Harris







































## **Honoring One of OURS!**

Pastora Helia Martinez is our pastor in the border town of San Luis, Arizona. She was recently recognized as the 'Woman of the Year' in her city. Pastor Helia has led her congregation in ministry to their community, even with the border crisis, especially as it pertains to children. She is truly being the hands of Jesus extended to the massive needs around her.

Pastora Helia's husband had been the lead pastor of San Luis-Templo Cristiano "Vino Nuevo" until he passed away with cancer. Sis. Martinez felt led of the Lord to become the lead pastor of the church. It has been our privilege to watch the growth of the ministry in San Luis, and it is our honor to congratulate Pastora Helia in this recognition.



# LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT NETWORK CONFERENCE, 2021!

We are anticipating our time together in just a few days. If you have not registered, jump online to our website, azag.org, and get registered, or if you prefer, registration will open on Wednesday morning, 9:00 AM in the foyer of Radiant Church in Surprise, Arizona. Here at the network office, we have been praying over our conference for several weeks, and praying an anointing on our guest speaker, Choco De Jesus, our General Treasurer, as well as Crystal Martin, the Director for the Network of Women Ministers in Springfield. Other special features will be part of our conference, and one of the annual highlights is to see the Ordination candidates realize what they have worked towards and now accomplished in being ordained into the ministry.

We will have our 'In Memoriam' service for all of our ministers who have passed in this last year, to begin the afternoon session on Wednesday at 1:00 PM. Our business session will immediately follow. Our lunch hangouts on Thursday will offer something for everyone. Part of Pastor Chocó's ministry on Thursday afternoon will include time for prayer and we know this will be a sweet time in the presence of the Lord.

We are extremely grateful for Radiant Church, Pastor Greg Marquart, and their hospitality extended to us in hosting this conference. Please, when you see Pastor Greg, let him know of your appreciation.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER - THERE WILL BE REGISTRATION ON SITE AS WELL

## 2021 Network Conference



Radiant Church | Surprise, AZ April 21-22, 2021



## **SPEAKERS**

Choco De Jesus
General Treasurer for the
Assemblies of God

Crystal Martin

National Director for

Network of Women in Ministry



## **SCHEDULE**

## Wednesday

1:00 pm Business & Ministry Session

4:30 pm Dinner break

7:00 pm Ordination Service, Speaker: Pastor Stephen Harris

## Thursday

9:00 am Worship & Speaker: Choco De Jesus

10:15 am Speaker: Crystal Martin

11:15 am Speakers: Marc Cargill, Griffin McGrath, Yisrael Vincent

11:45 am Lunch Hangouts

1:45 pm Worship & Speaker: Choco De Jesus

3:30 pm Close

For a full schedule and to register, click HERE.

## Ron Rockwell, Assistant Superintendent teamrockwell@aol.com

# 10 Reasons Why You Should Be A Missionary

Recently I read an article written by Rodney Pennigton with (OMF) who serves as Vice President for Mobilization and former missionary to Thailand. In his article Rodney lays out 10 reasons why people pass on the missionary life, and 10 reasons why cross-cultural missions still works today. His answers were insightful and I thought I'd pass this information along because each of us at one time or another have wondered why we continue to send missionaries to the field. Also, it is our ministry privilege to encourage others who might be considering full time mission's work and this information would prove most helpful as they consider that calling. (Answers #5 & #8 rocked me!)

## 1. Learning to live in a new culture.

It is true that living in a new culture can be incredibly stressful. However, it's also enriching as you experience the joys of cross-cultural work and get to see the diversity God created in humanity. Throughout scripture you will find God sending his messengers of truth into new cultures (Abraham, Joseph, Daniel, Peter, Paul). It was never easy, but God has always desired to reach the nations through his children. (Psalm 67).

## 2. Learning a new language.

The time, energy and stress that comes with learning a new language can be quite draining. However, it is a time-proven gift for those willing to take on such a task. Learning a new language enables you to build deep relationships with people as you communicate God's truth in words they understand. Think about it: we love to hear God's word in our language, don't we? Why would it be any different for others?

## 3. Giving up comforts.

Throughout much of the world, the true god of our lives can be found in our comforts—things like sports, TV, surfing the Internet or new toys. Comforts are not necessarily bad things. However, when they replace the joy, excitement, time and sacrifice that we have for God, they become the real god of our lives. Jesus himself didn't live in what most of us would call a "comfort zone" (Isa. 53; Luke 9:58), nor did his disciples or the early church.



## 4. Living on support.

Many Christians would say that they want to serve God, but support raising ... no thanks. Truth is, support raising is difficult and it doesn't get any easier. But there is truly something special about learning to place your wholehearted trust in God for your daily needs and watching how he provides. Not to mention that raising financial support for ministry work has a biblical foundation. The apostle Paul had no problem asking the church to fund his work, even as he trusted God to meet his every need (Rom. 15:24; 2 Cor. 8:1-5; Gal. 6:10).



## 5. Meeting your community's needs.

Yes, there are many needs in our own backyards that are not being met. Christians would do well to address them. However, are our own needs greater than those in a foreign land? When did Christ ever teach us to focus on our own needs, desires, longings or really anything that isn't driven first by the will of God? Of the \$700 billion given to Christian causes worldwide every year, 96.8 percent goes to the local church, 2.9 percent is used for home missions in the same Christian nation and 0.3 percent is spent going to unevangelized non-Christian people. Even less (0.06 percent) goes toward the unreached. We need to address this imbalance and recognize that God desires for BOTH our local and global communities to hear the gospel.



## 6. Family and friends

What greater call for celebration than lives being radically changed by the Holy Spirit and lived out faithfully no matter where that might take them? Leaving our family and friends or giving our children over to the will of God isn't easy and never will be. However, God is great and he promises to bless us through the sacrifices we offer before his throne. Trust in God's will and his alone.

#### 7. Time

Why you should be a missionary: Imagine sitting in church and suddenly hearing the voice of God saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then what? Does everyone in the room sit there quietly, thinking they don't have the time? Maybe some start volunteering that one "radical" in the congregation because he or she doesn't quite "fit in." Maybe people start saying, "First, let me go and \_\_\_\_\_" (Matt. 8:21) or find they can't give up their possessions (Matt. 19:21-22). Our time on earth is limited. How great is it for those who say "Here am I, send me," and then go out and spend their time as though it really belongs to God?

### 8. Are missionaries needed anymore?

Unreached people groups, which are populations with less than 2 percent evangelical Christian witness, make up 42.2 percent of the world's population (3.11 billion people).1 Many of us forget that there was a time when our own countries and people were without the truth of Christ. We are so used to the blessing of having the gospel abundantly available to us on TV, the radio and weekly church meetings. But this reality doesn't exist for billions around the world. The Apostle Paul once asked some important questions that the church must continue to ask and answer to this day such as, "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" (Rom. 10:14-15).

### 9. Living with risk, trials or persecution.

Risk is a part of everyone's life. For the Christian, risk, trials and persecution should be expected from time to time. The Bible tells us that people will insult us and that persecution will come (Matt.5:11; 24:9) and that the cost of discipleship is great (Luke 9:23-26). However, the Bible also promises that God's children will be looked after and that he has a great plan for all who follow his ways (Jer. 29:11; Matt. 11:28-29; Phil. 4:19).

#### 10. Matthew 28:18-20.

If the final commandment of the one whom Christians call the Lord and Savior of the world was to "go and make disciples of all nations," don't you think that should be a high priority within the church? It's true that not everyone is going to serve in a foreign land, but all are called to be a part of the Great Commission: (Matt 28:18-20).



This article has answered many of my own personal questions about missions and I trust it will be helpful to you as well. We're excited for Network Conference this year and can't wait to see everyone. Until then, thank you again and again for all your prayers and support for all our missionaries. Many Blessings!

Love and prayers,
Ron & Sue



## **Church Spotlight on 2:TEN Church**

The purpose of the Church is simple: Help others discover their purpose in life and walk with them in accomplishing it. Both Antione and Amanda know that the only way that a person can discover their purpose, is to first accept Christ in their heart as both Lord and Savior.

That is why 2:TEN Church was born. 2:TEN Church gets its name from Ephesians 2:10, where the Bible reads: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)



2:TEN Church was approved by the Assemblies of God on May 28th, 2020. Since then, Pastor's Antione & Amanda have been blessed to lead a growing congregation that has been able to serve 26 families, with a total of over 75 people, both in person and online. Over the course of this last year, 2:TEN Church has been able to see 10 decisions for Christ and 10 baptisms. 2:TEN has also been able to donate over 600 pairs of socks and thereby bless the men and women of Arizona Teen Challenge and Casa Fenix.

Currently, 2:TEN Church is developing their discipleship process to ensure that people will have a solid biblical foundation. They are also looking to develop a leadership team to serve in the youth and children's ministry (Generation 2:TEN). 2:TEN is also looking to transition to a permanent location where they can more effectively serve the community that the Holy Spirit has placed on their heart.



Pastor Antione and Amanda have been married for 15 years. They have a blended family with three children: Kiara, Antione "AJ", & Aliyah. They believe our greatest witness to our personal relationship with Jesus Christ is our pursuit and discovery of God's plan for our lives, while walking in relationship and sharing life with others.



Antione gained experience by serving in an organization that provided behavioral health services for at-risk youth. Utilizing his skills to grow and develop others, he eventually served as the Vice President of the organization.

Antione & Amanda co-founded Directing Footsteps LLC. Through Directing Footsteps, the Anderson's are able to provide personal coaching (helping others discover potential and accomplish goals) and business consulting (helping business owners with growth and development strategies, while improving operations to increase efficiencies and revenues).

During this time, the Anderson's became committed members of a local church, where they were able to serve for over 10 years. Antione served in a variety of roles including: Board Trustee, Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader, Leadership Development Team, Pastoral Executive Team, and Executive Minister. Amanda served in the Children's Ministry, while pursuing a career in child development. Additionally, she was the Director of a Daycare Center and started her own business called Abba's Little Treasures, LLC.

Beyond serving in the local church, Antione was blessed to have authored and published two books: *Bargain Basement Jesus: The Cost of Following* (2015); and *Prepared: Journey to Fulfill Your Destiny* (2019). These books opened the opportunity to travel nationally and abroad to preach, teach, and encourage others to fulfil the divine calling that God has for individuals.



Antione and Amanda truly believe that God created each of us on purpose. So, in the fall of 2019 the Holy Spirit spoke to both Antione and Amanda, instructing them that it was time to step out and plant 2:TEN Church. They are so thankful for all that God has been doing and look forward to all that is yet to come!



## DON'T WALK ALONE

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work." - Ecclesiastes 4:9

Like you, I can identify many great seasons of ministry and then a few that I would just as soon never think about again. Actually, there are those I must forget in order to not get stuck there and miss out on what good things God has for the future.

I can reflect on two extremely difficult seasons of my life and ministry. The first I walked through virtually alone, aside of my dear wife. The second I had three pastors to talk and pray with on a weekly basis—and what a difference it made!

#### GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR US TO WALK ALONE...PERIOD.

One of His earliest decrees about man was that it was not good for him to walk this life in isolation; and God took significant action to remedy the situation! (Gen. 2:18) Yet, so often as pastors, we choose to do just that: walk it out on our own. Why do we do that? What is it about us that our first inclination is isolation?

Many factors lend to this seclusion of self: pride, fear, embarrassment, self-reliance. Yet, none of these are God's choice for us. It may sound trite, but walking alone only fosters loneliness. Loneliness plagues ministry today. Most pastors feel they do not have anyone to turn to for their deepest personal and ministry struggles.

Several years ago, I discovered a simple life-giving discipline. I began praying with a pastor friend for just 15 minutes every week. I barely knew him when we began, but we are close friends today. Can you spare 15 minutes in your week? Do you know just one other pastor that might need to pray with someone? I'm sure you can and do; and I urge you to not walk alone for one more season of your life and ministry!

## **The 15-Minute Pastor-to-Pastor Prayer Time**

- Find another pastor willing to commit to a 15-minute weekly call.
- Find a slot in your week that works for both of you.
- When you call, talk a little "life" and then, swap prayer needs.
- Take turns praying for one another.
- Believe God is going to answer your prayers!
- As always, if you're really struggling, don't hesitate to give me a confidential call: 480-579-9998.





Rock Climbing Wall High Ropes Course Swimming Archery



Father - Son Time Stump Preaching Worship Service Lawn Games



Dale Gray "The Man" Men's Director



Bill Weaver "The Music" **Royal Rangers Director** 





Rick Ryan "The Father" Intercultural Ministries Director









**Location: Dream City, Phoenix** 

Register: Click HERE or text "fight like a girl" to 623-500-6868.



## ARIZONA YOUTH MINISTRIES



to spread the gospel around the world.



April is Fine Arts month! The ministry of Fine Arts happens all year long but is highlighted in April as Arizona host their state-wide Fine Arts Festival.

Fine Arts Festival is a discipleship tool of AG Youth Ministries designed to help students discover, develop and deploy their ministry gifts.

Each year, over 65,000 junior and senior high school students begin preparing their entries for the district and National Fine Arts Festivals.

Students may enter as many as 80+ categories offered in 7 main divisions: Art, Communication, Dance, Drama, Instrumental, Vocal, and Writing.

Our culture has hundreds of avenues for students to discover talent. Fine Arts positions the Church to help students understand the divine purpose for their gifts.

AND THAT'S A WRAP ON

## **2021 REGIONAL TOUR**

Each year AZYM partners with churches to host a series of FREE youth rallies across Arizona. This year's tour was centered on the theme of prayer.

National Youth Director Josh Wellborn, along with two District Youth Directors Spencer Speed (North Texas) and Austin Westlake (Southern Missouri) flew out to share with Arizona students. With 6 different tour stops all over Arizona we have seen God do incredible things!

Students were given an opportunity to make a difference in missions globally through Speed the Light and locally on their school campus through Youth Alive.







AZAGYOUTH.ORG/YOUTHCAMP



**GRIFFIN MCGRATH** 

Youth & Young Adult Director gmcgrath@azag.org







@azagym + @griffinmcgrath



KIDCONZ









18

KidCon 21 was a huge success this year. Over 550 attendees from 30 churches came together to encounter God in an unforgettable way! There was exciting worship with Generation Worship and engaging messages from Kaitlyn Hoorneman and her incredible speaking team.

AZ kids were reminded of Jesus' love and compassion for them after all the challenges and

disappointments of the past year. And not only that! The Holy Spirit desires to be WITH them going forward into whatever this year will hold. The kids participated in a BGMC serve project by making care packages for the homeless in our city as well as raised almost \$4000 for BGMC.



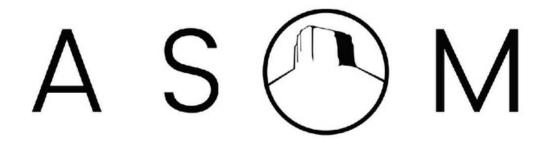
## Kid's Camp is an experience like nothing else!

Camp is a week to get away from normal life, and encounter God in a new way! Kids, ages 7-12, will experience the best week of their lives with fun competitions, exciting adventures, and engaging services! Give God an opportunity to change you from the inside out at Kid's Camp!



For more info and to register click HERE.

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



## THE ARIZONA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

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Our ASOM school year comes to an end in May. It's been a great year getting to know students.

Although ASOM takes a break for the summer we will launch up again in August. Please note that our leadership team and presbytery have approved a tuition increase which will be reflected in next year's tuition.

## **MAY CLASSES**

Evangelism and the Local Church Eschatology Church Growth and Development

## SAGU PARTNERSHIP

Interested in getting your master's degree? SAGU will be launching a special Master's in Organization Leadership this Fall. Email asom@azag.org for more info!



602-343-4000



asom@azag.org



azasom.com



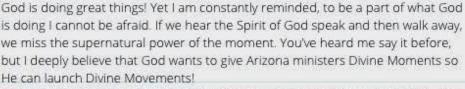
Yisrael Vincent Director



Jeanna Lonergan Coordinator

## THE GOD OF GREAT THINGS





Let us choose consciously to not fall victim missing God's Divine Movement. May we reach across the street, across town, across language groups, and present Christ to thousands in our great state. Here are some exciting examples of our Arizona ministers seeing God do great things:

- · Two Yuma churches, Foothill Assembly of God and First Assembly of God, are one month away from launching Spanish services.
- Two new Samoan Churches started. New Manna Pentecostal Assembly of God in Mesa (Greenfield and Main) with Pastor Job and Teresa Sepetaio planted the church several months ago and God is moving. Samoan Christian Fellowship in Phoenix (23rd Avenue and Camelback) with Sister Kuini Atafau is faithfully leading this small flock that started just a few weeks ago.



Pastor Nehemie was one of the founding pastors of Good Shepherd Community Church of the Assemblies of God in Phoenix. At age 93, he has now entered into the presence of God. Pastor was a great singer and leader. He was well known in his native country of the Congo. Upon coming to the United States, he along with Pastor Simon Kabunda and another brother started Good Shepherd. It was our first African Assemblies of God church in Arizona. We presently have seven African churches. Well done, good and faithful servant!

#### Support Team

Thank you to all the individuals and churches that are helping us monthly! Denise and I remain overwhelmed and encouraged by your faithfulness. We are excited that in one month we moved from 60% of our budget goal to just over 75% raised. Your generosity is appreciated! If you would like to become part of our Support Team, please visit www.azag.org and click the GIVE button. You can scroll to Intercultural Ministries (Rick Ryan) to support us. Please do not send your giving to the National office, as we are Arizona Ministry Network Missionaries. If you would like us to visit your church to promote missions, please call 417.849.0539 to schedule a service.





...we have subtly and tragically taken the costly command of Christ to go, baptize, and teach all nations and mutated it into a comfortable call for Christians to come, be baptized, and listen in one location.





Rick Ryan, Intercultural **Ministries** Director

rryan@azag.org



The Faith Based Solution for the Drug Epidemic

Hello Ministry Network Family!

We are so excited to share this month, what the Lord is doing through the ministry of Teen Challenge. As most of you know, over 65 years ago, the Lord spoke to a man by the name of David Wilkerson, He started a place called Teen Challenge to help young gang members and drug addicts. Over the years, Teen Challenge has grown into the faith-based solution for the drug epidemic. With an astonishing 80% success rate, Teen Challenge has been helping youth, adults and families to overcome their addictions and be productive members of the community.

Despite the COVID restrictions and canceled events over the last year, we recognize that the Lord is still in control and with our theme, **55 Years Trusting God**, we have had many opportunities to take that into practice and Trust God with Leading the Ministry of Teen Challenge.

Over the last year, the Lord has allowed us a way to stay connected through our online network, causing us to think out side of the box. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have had the privilege to not only develop some pretty cool ways to continue to reach the community but have had a blast while doing it!

We have had four successful Virtual Banquets just this year! We also hosted a Virtual Easter Sunrise Service.



We encourage you to log on and check it out!! The Teen Challenge Statewide Choir has come together and we even had a special guest speaker from the ministry of City Psalms.

If you have not caught one of these amazing banquets online, we encourage you to visit our **YouTube** page at **AZTEENCHALLENGE**. There you will find our Easter Sunrise Service, Fall & Spring Banquets, Graduation, and what started as a way to pass time at the Christian Life Ranch, during COVID, THE RANCH LIVE!

We have two more banquets this spring, which will go to support our Christian Life Ranch in New River, Arizona. If everything continues to move forward we will see you in person again for our fall banquets!!

Thank you so much for your continued support and Prayers.

Jamianne Roy, State Public Relations Director

# VIRTUAL SPRING BANQUETS 2021

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord. whose conrfidence is in Him. Jeremiah 17;7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US ONLINE AS WE SHARE POWERFUL STORIES OF LIFE CHANGING MIRACLES OVER THE LAST 55 YEARS!

FLAGSTAFF APRIL 9 - 7PM TO BENEFIT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE RANCH

PRESCOTT MAY 7 - 7PM TO BENEFIT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE RANCH



For more information go to: TCAZ.ORG



Corporate Office - P.O. Box 5966 - Tucson, AZ 85703 800-346-7859

## **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**

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

Christian Chambliss 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

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

# Recent Network Statistics

## **OPEN CHURCHES**

El Mirage, Life Springs Church
Holbrook, Faith A/G
Houck, Bethel Navajo A/G
Sierra Vista, Mt.View A/G
New River A/G
Page, First A/G
Rainbow Mtn., Navajo Mtn.
Sacaton, River of Life A/G
San Carlos Apace A/G
Scottsdale, Salt River Indian Church
Shonto, Victory A/G
Winslow, First A/G

## TRANSFERRED OUT

Marcus Ramirez to North Texas Matthew Earle to Northwest Vanessa Phillips to Michigan Amanda Miller to SoCal Jonathan Argue to Northwest

#### TRANSFERRED IN

Matthew Voss from Rocky Mountain Aida Meacham from SoCal

#### **DECEASED**

Margaret Hartman 2/4/21