



**ARIZONA**  
MINISTRY NETWORK

***April 2020 Publication***

*Faith Arises*

**IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS**

[www.azag.org](http://www.azag.org)

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# The Church Deployed

What astounding changes in our lives have occurred since March 1, 2020 to this day, April 2, 2020. One month crossed off the calendar and we find ourselves under the grip of COVID-19 and it has altered our lives and forced us to re-think how we do church and to identify our 'new normal' in our everyday existence. The challenge of it all has brought some stress to be sure, but I am thankful to say that you have responded in incredible ways and rather than complain and sit back hoping it will pass over quickly, you've thrown yourself into this new normal and flourished in it. The reports we are receiving daily have caused us to throw our hands in the air in genuine heartfelt praise to the Lord and gratitude for His anointing, His comfort, and His creativity through our pastors and churches to continue taking the Gospel outside of the church walls and into a world crying for hope.

I could not help but think of the persecuted church around the world that for a very long time has met in secret, in basements, hidden away from public view. We have been so very privileged to have the liberties that our United States of America has afforded us. We are not necessarily under persecution in this hour as a nation, but we certainly have to rethink church and the fact that our buildings, for the moment, are empty and not buzzing with activity and worship on Sunday morning.

I have read many statements on Facebook, Instagram, personal emails that have resonated with my spirit, but none more than this statement, "**The church is NOT empty – The Church has been DEPLOYED.**"

From the moment I read that line, my heart began to beat a little faster, and the truth of the statement resounded in my mind. . . 'We, the church of Jesus Christ, has been deployed!'

**DEPLOYED:** To spread out so as to form an extended front or line;  
To arrange in a position of readiness, or to move strategically or appropriately;  
to come into a position ready for use!

Hallelujah! Do you sense God speaking to your heart? We are being spread out to extend the front line of the Gospel. We are being rearranged in a position of readiness, moving strategically, coming into position to be used of the Holy Spirit for such a time as this! That will preach, Pastor.

I want to encourage each one of you with this word. Pastors, some of you have everything you need at your fingertips in place to go online and to be doing what you are doing now as church. Others have part of what is needed and are making it work. Still others have no online presence, but you are finding ways to be in touch with your congregations, and to continue your outreach to your community. I see many of you reaching beyond the walls of the church to be a blessing in so many ways in your towns, cities, and counties. People are moving in their gifting's and allowing the Lord to use them in such varied ways.

I am like a proud father of his children. Arizona Ministry Network has and is responding. Stay focused, be assured of God's power at work in you, and press on knowing that we are being positioned, strategically positioned to be used like no other time. You are reaching people you would have never preached to on a Sunday morning service from your pulpits. The world is literally your audience.



Praying for you, cheering for you, trusting God with you.

We love you!

Pastor Harris and Marjorie

Network  
Conference  
has been  
rescheduled.  
Please save this  
new date!

**2020** **ONE DAY**  
**NETWORK**  
**CONFERENCE**

Ordination Class of 2020

**MAY 18, 2020**

**RADIANT CHURCH**

Surprise, Arizona



**PRAY MORE!**

Our son, Kyle, turned 30 last December and I was reminiscing about his life and how God had brought him through some incredible difficult seasons, much like the season we're in right now with COVID-19. 30 years ago we served under Craig and Jeannette Carter as associate pastors in San Diego and the Lord opened a door for us to begin our first pastorate in Silverthorne, Colorado. At the time we were waiting for the birth of Kyle, but once he was born we moved from Southern California (sea level) to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado (9,000 feet of elevation).

We arrived 8 days after Kyle was born and sadly, within days, he became seriously ill, stricken with RSV, a respiratory virus that could be fatal for babies in high altitude. We took Kyle to the only small clinic in town and after being evaluated, his doctor first shared with us that two infants had succumbed to the virus. He then gave us the news that Kyle didn't have much of a chance for survival. As you can imagine, Sue and I were heartbroken to think we would lose our child. Sue spent the night in the clinic with Kyle and prayed nonstop, asking God for a miracle. Kyle survived the night but because of our recent move, we didn't have insurance and we were discharged from the hospital.

A board member, who was also a commercial refrigeration technician, came to our house and built a makeshift oxygen tent, and for the next two weeks we cared for Kyle 24/7, asking God to free his little body of this deadly virus. Then it happened. God showed up and a miracle happened before our eyes. Kyle went from being critically ill to thriving as a newborn infant.

We took him back to the doctor and after listening to his lungs, he said to us, “Your son has had something happen to him that I can’t explain.” Then he said, “I hear no evidence that he has ever had the virus in his lungs; what did you do?” And we said, “We didn’t do anything except PRAY MORE!” Then he said, “Keep doing what you’re doing because it’s working!”

Network Family, I share this miracle story to remind all of us that prayer is the answer to get us through this crisis. I know from a natural perspective, things seem desperate, but as God’s chosen people, we must turn our minds and hearts to the things that work. Throughout the bible you’ll find a God who desires to move on behalf of those who cry out to Him. **“If my people!”** I believe, now more than ever, the church should be calling out to God, asking Him to heal the land of this virus. Prayer changes everything! During this time of social distancing, let’s build altars of prayer in our homes and cry out to God, as did the saints of old.

When you’re praying, please remember our missionaries. Because of the coronavirus, many have been asked to return home or have been relocated to less contagious places in the world, while others are in complete lock down. This is a difficult time for our missionary family, including those who are itinerating to raise the necessary funds to be released to the field. I encourage you to not only continue your support for our missionaries, but to also pray fervently for their protection and courage. We know God is sovereign and in control of everything that happens in our lives, but we are also invited by Him to offer intercessory prayer in this critical time in history. Thank you for your faithfulness!

**It’s time for God’s family to PRAY MORE!**

Love and prayers, Ron & Sue



*Tech driven Church*

# A NEW HOPE



## DISRUPTIONS ALMOST ALWAYS CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The same bad events and circumstances that produce inconvenient and difficult moments also open the door to other potentially good outcomes. When we, the national Assemblies of God leadership team, prayerfully considered the impact of the COVID-19 virus we saw several potentially good outcomes that could be harvested, if we identified them and acted quickly. We saw the dismissal of services as an opportunity to prepare for a relaunch of the church when it reopens. We saw the extended family time as a chance to reestablish or expand the family altar and Bible reading. And we saw it as an opportunity to come alongside our district leaders and local pastors with information and resources that would enable our churches and families to make the most of these opportunities.

- Rick Dubose

# RESOURCES

[RIGHTNOW MEDIA  
CHRISTIAN STREAMING  
SERVICES](#)

[TAKE YOUR CHURCH  
LIVE IN 24HRS](#)

[WEEKLY DIGITAL  
KID'S LESSONS](#)

[THE CARES ACT -  
BY RICHARD R HAMMAR](#)

[FREE SOCIAL MEDIA  
DESIGNS FOR CHURCHES](#)

[MORE PASTOR'S AND  
CHURCHES RESOURCES](#)

For those of you veiwing this online You can click on a reource and it will take you to a link. If you have a physical copy of the publication please go to [www.azag.org/covid19](http://www.azag.org/covid19) to find these resources.

life.Church Network testimony

# GOD'S CHURCH CAN'T BE STOPPED

Pastors, you held 20,258 church services this weekend on the Church Online Platform. That's four times the services churches were running just four weeks ago! We thank God every day that we get to partner with you to make ministry happen. What we love most is seeing all the variety and unity in the body of Christ. And in just two days, pastors like you from different countries and backgrounds helped 31,166 people find Jesus and click on the Salvation Moment

Even amidst a global crisis, God finds ways to turn our situations into good. To redeem people, love them, and give them life. You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.—Genesis 50:20  
Thank you for being resilient and tenacious enough to tackle online ministry and help people find Jesus no matter where they are.

**20,258**  
*Church services*

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**31,166**  
*Salvation Moments*

## OTHER WAYS WE ARE REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

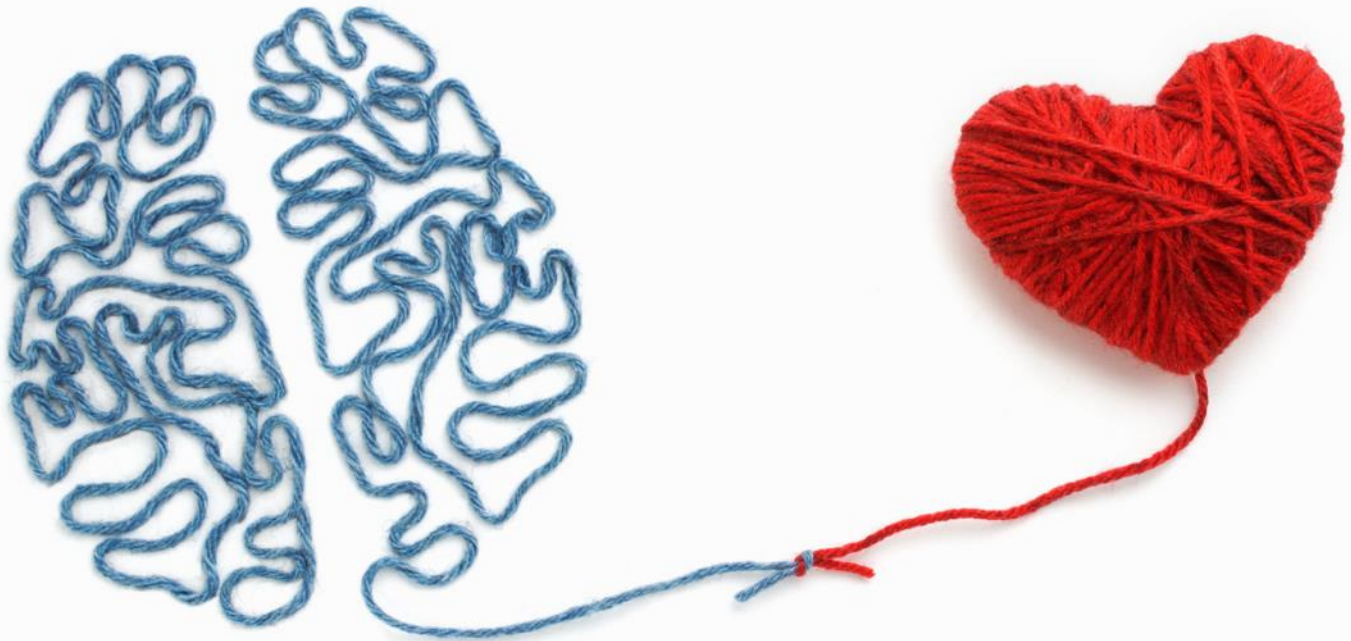


**Drive-In Church**



**Drive-Thru Pantry**





## **NOTE TO SELF... MIND THE EMOTIONS!**

**"Remove grief and anger from your heart..." Eccle. 11:10**

**"Jesus wept." John 11:35**

How fitting this subject is in light of our current world-wide crisis! As of this writing, we are all under a governor-imposed quarantine in our homes, posting online services and day to day ministry, and wondering how long this pandemic will last and its ultimate, residual impact. Amidst it all we are reminded that we truly are emotional beings.

As we walk through the P.I.E.S.S. (physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social) reflection of how God created each of us, emotions may be the most challenging to understand. No question, as we move through the early chapters of Scripture—from Noah to the Exodus—we recognize that indeed, we are made in the image of God. For, He indeed, is an emotional God!

Yet, the two extremes cited in our verses above reflect how many approach human emotions. Some want to stifle them "remove grief and anger..." and others are willing to release them "Jesus wept." Which is correct? Both, actually. Proverbs warns us that "a fool always loses his temper" (29:11) and "he who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city" (16:32). Yet, Jesus' open display of tearful grief speaks heavily to our license (and need) to release our deepest emotions.

As a pastor just said to me yesterday, “by keeping busy in this quarantine, my emotions stay up and more positive.” I am sure we all can relate. The “cave” experience in Scripture often led to a sense of loss, and even depression. Elijah (post-Mt. Carmel) and David (the psalms) are great examples. Our homes can become “caves” in this strange season. So, yes, we must be aware of our emotions.

**A few suggestions have come from my recent dialogues with pastors:**

**Contemplate your emotions with God** - The psalms are a template. I recall George Wood stating how in many ‘seasons’ of his life, he found the psalms perfectly reflective of where he was at in his emotions.

**Stay busy** - That pastor had it right:cooped up for days/weeks can lead to too much contemplation and inward thought. Keep outward-focused, other-minded.

**Exercise** - Sure, you can do it. One pastor mentioned that some gyms are offering free on-line exercise programs for all physical levels during this quarantine. Keep moving!

**Schedule your day(s)** - Another pastor said his typical week has flipped in this strange season. So, stop to organize your daily and weekly rhythms.

**Embrace the ‘moment’** - We have never seen this before and may never again. Make it an adventure with your spouse or kids. You can grieve it or celebrate it. You know which will bring the best out of you and all around you!

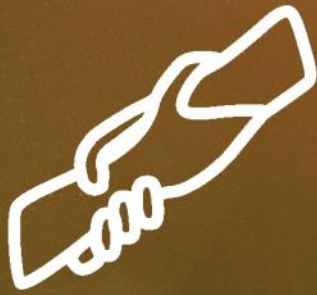
**Practice joy** - If it is a fruit of the Spirit, then now’s the time to experience God-given joy! The best definition of joy a pastor-friend gave me years ago is: “The confidence in knowing God is in control of my circumstances” (i.e. Paul to the Philippians).



Pastors, you are rocking it across our great state! You are doing ministry like never before. It’s exciting to see...and the more positive we remain, the better off we will be both inwardly and outwardly.

Stay healthy in ministry,  
Pastor Jeff





# ELDER MINISTRY

**ARE YOU EVER IN NEED OF  
"A SAFE PLACE" TO SHARE  
YOUR HEART?**

Times of personal crisis

Seasons of ministry strain

Just needing someone to talk to

Looking for ministry advice

Seeking confidential prayer and counsel

*Our Elders are here for you!*

- Over 50 AZ Pastors met confidentially with an elder in 2018
- Easily accessible through our AZMN website or smartphone app
- Thoroughly confidential and discreet in connecting with you
- Ladies! - 3 female elders are available to you

*You are not alone!*

CRISIS + COACHING




Home | Themes | Ministry Resources | Blog | Shop | Give



**Free Online Resources!**

**Did you know that the National Women's Ministry Department has online resources, a blog and creative ways to help you reach out to women in your church and community?**

*[www.Women.ag.org](http://www.Women.ag.org)*

**Visit their website to find more info about these amazing opportunities:**



Did you know our AZ women's ministry is partnering with our national women's office in giving to "Light the Way"? The 2020 mission's project is *Calcutta Mercy*.

Encourage ladies from your church to read through the Bible in Year with the "Chasing Truth" reading plan.



Lindsay Petri, Women's Director  
[lindsay@azag.org](mailto:lindsay@azag.org)



# Free Online Discipleship for Men



Visit [azmensministries.org](http://azmensministries.org) for small group studies created to help men grow in four dimensions of manhood: Identity, Relationships, Vision and Purpose.

**There are three spiritual growth levels for each of these elements:**

**Courage** – This level focuses on men who are discovering Christ or taking their first steps in Christ. The courage level will give application and implementation exercises for spiritual growth.

**Strength** – This level assists men who have a relationship with Christ and are in the local church. The strength level will focus on discipleship growth applications and implementation resources to strengthen their relationships and encourage men as they serve Christ in their church and daily life.

**Endurance** – This level gives encouragement and engagement of Kingdom principles so those who are currently serving in key leadership assignments will find a deeper sense of their spiritual purpose in ministry.



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Dale Gray, Men's Director  
[dgray@rockag.com](mailto:dgray@rockag.com)



## Griffin McGrath

Youth & Young Adult Director  
gmcgrath@azag.org

f t i @azagym + @griffinmcgrath



# SPIRITUAL FORMATION IN A TIME OF ISOLATION FAMILY DEVOS

VISIT [AZAGYOUTH.ORG/PARENTS](http://AZAGYOUTH.ORG/PARENTS)

Download **FREE** devotions for adults, youth, and kids. Produced by AG leadership from around the nation to help your family and ministry during this new season.

## AZ YOUTH CAMPS

[www.azagyouth.org/youthcamp](http://www.azagyouth.org/youthcamp)

Our team is responsibly planning ahead in faith for an incredible summer of Youth Camp ministry. We already have three camps at full capacity, so get your deposits in ASAP to secure your church. In the event that recommendations are extended from national and local municipalities surrounding the risk of spreading the coronavirus, causing our Ministry Network to cancel a youth camp, we are prepared to issue a refund to your church per request. We want to give you every reason to feel confident in your decision to send students to Arizona Youth Camps. Our commitment as always is to provide a safe environment for students to encounter God together.

# AZ YOUTH CAMP

ENCOUNTERING GOD TOGETHER  
W/ SEU WORSHIP



**ALLEN GRIFFIN**  
EVANGELIST, DAYTONA BEACH  
MAY 27 - MAY 30



**RYAN ALLEN**  
DESTINY CHURCH, ROCKLIN  
MAY 31 - JUNE 3



**LUKE CHAFIN**  
HILLSONG CHURCH, NYC  
JUNE 3 - 6



**MEESH FOMENKO**  
THE CITY CHURCH, VENTURA  
JUNE 7 - 10



**ALEXA PINEDA**  
VIDA CHURCH, AMARILLO  
JUNE 10 - 13



**SHADDY MELU**  
CHURCHOME, KIRKLAND  
JUNE 14 - 17

[AZAGYOUTH.ORG](http://AZAGYOUTH.ORG)

## ADDITIONAL 2020 EVENT DATES

**NETWORK CONFERENCE** May 18  
**YOUTH ALIVE ONE DAY** August 22

**NATIONAL STL DAY** October 18

**YOUTH CONVENTION** October 23-24

# GAME CHANGER



## KIDCON20



**KidCon was a powerful weekend! Kids and leaders enjoyed worship, creative messages, a service project, gave sacrificially to BGMC, and many made first-time decisions to follow Christ!**



**For info on about this ministry, please visit [azagkids.org](http://azagkids.org).**

Amy Visconti, Kid's Director  
[avisconti@azag.org](mailto:avisconti@azag.org)





## **Classes are still being offered online!**

We are excited and thankful for the ability to move our English speaking classes entirely online for both our April and May classes! (We have temporarily postponed our Spanish certified class until we can make necessary arrangements.)

Students will still submit their completed study guides and take their test online. In place of the class instruction time, students will be asked to watch a teaching video and write a short response paper interacting with the content. We hope you'll encourage your congregation and staff to take advantage of this opportunity to work towards the educational requirements for credentialing!

ASOM is also always a great choice for leadership development and personal growth. Please reach out if you have any questions!

### **April Classes:**

Pentecostal Doctrine, Church Planting, Church Administration

**Register for classes by clicking [HERE](#).**



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Jeremy Naranjo, ASOM Director  
[www.azasom.org](http://www.azasom.org)



# Teen Challenge of Arizona



## *A special message from our Executive State Director*

Dear Friends,

As we go through this difficult time we are all facing regarding the COVID-19 crisis we are **TRUSTING GOD THROUGH PRAYER!** We are so thankful that those in need are still finding the hope and healing they need through our programs statewide. We are very grateful for your prayers and support for Teen Challenge of Arizona. Please pray and also seek The Lord for guidance regarding how you might be able to help us at this time. As you can imagine, we've had to cancel many of our events and fundraising activities that we normally are able to have during this season. This has placed a financial hardship on our programs. Please consider how you are able to give to ensure that we can continue ministering to those who are in our programs seeking help and hope for a new start in life.

You can visit our website at [tcaz.org](http://tcaz.org) to find out more!

We also want you to know that ***we are praying for you and your loved ones!***

*Psalm 55:22 - Give your burdens to The Lord, and He will take care of you...*

*Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything pray...*

**Be encouraged. When we pray, we will receive the Peace of God.**

**Thank You!**

We Love You, We Are Praying For You, and God Bless You,

*Rev. Snow Peabody*  
Executive State Director



# 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](http://www.azag.org)

Email: [districtoffice.azag.org](mailto: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 Department
Amy Visconti	Children Department
Dale Gray	Men's Department
Lindsay Petri	Women's Department
Jeff Peterson	Pastoral Care
Jeremy Naranjo	Arizona School of Ministry
Rick Ryan	Intercultural Ministries
Jim Lopez	Native American Ministries
Denise Ryan	Women Ministers Facilitator
Bill Weaver	Royal Rangers
Doug & Lynda Young	Retired Ministers
Snow Peabody	AZ Teen Challenge
Stephen & Jill Valentine	Deaf Ministries

## Statistics for March 2020

### OPEN CHURCHES

Fountain Hills Christian Center

Glendale, Hope City Church

Holbrook, Faith A/G

Houck, Bethel Navajo A/G

New River, First A/G

Rainbow Mtn., Navajo Mtn.

Shonto, Victory A/G

### NAME CHANGE

Apache Junction Pathway Christian Fellowship  
changed to Rock Church

### TRANSFERRED IN

Andrew Gyasi from New York

Micah Yazzie from New Mexico

Margaret Mills from Southern California

### TRANSFERRED OUT

Louanne Doody to Virginia

Jill Valdez to Oregon

Yancy Valdez to Oregon

### DECEASED:

Sharon Jimenez

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

