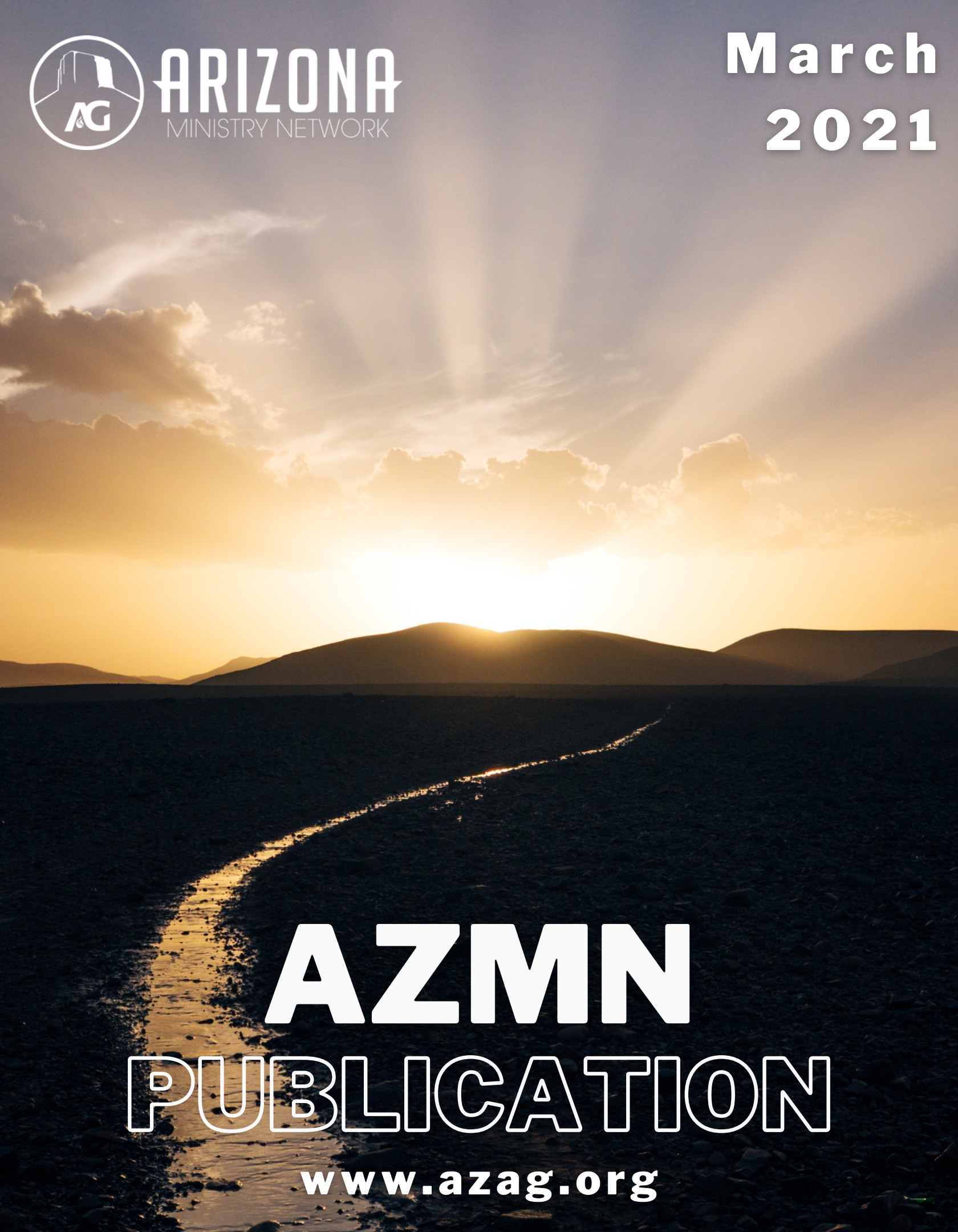




**ARIZONA**  
MINISTRY NETWORK

**March**  
**2021**



**AZMN**  
**PUBLICATION**

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

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# A Reason to Rejoice

Every single day I live and breathe, I have a certain level of urgency to intercede in prayer for several issues. As you know, life takes turns and twists we sometimes never expect. Years ago now, Author Oscar Wilde wrote, “To expect the unexpected shows a thoroughly modern intellect!” We must all be astute ‘intellects’ by now!

The Apostle Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 5:16-18, *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* Too many accompanying scriptures to write in this space. The message is clear, however. An attitude of prayer is Godly and is necessary for the believer and certainly for this world.

I don’t know about you, but I am gripped in my spirit most days at the condition of our Nation, and the liberal leadership that is now steering the ship. The rising cost of fuel, the bills being considered in congress that will most assuredly affect the freedoms the church now enjoys, and the darkness that you literally feel at times crouching at our doorstep. There is despair that one suffers when we fail to keep our eyes on the ‘Author and Finisher of our Faith!’ Prayer gives us Heaven’s perspective, and it changes our thinking and our attitude.

We have urgent prayer needs called in to the office on a regular basis. So many still suffering with Covid and lingering issues, churches displaced because schools are not welcoming them into their facilities any longer! Lack of finances that have put a strangle hold on moving forward at this point and time. Wayward children, life-threatening diagnosis from the doctor, isolation that has put our loved ones behind glass doors and windows, no human touch from family.

So rather than wringing our hands, fretting to a point of raising our blood pressure, allowing the doubts and fears to mount in thinking of what the future may hold, giving way to our imaginations running untethered to the point of breaking! Let us instead come back to ‘center’ and know what His Word has promised us through anointed writers. Rejoice always! Pray without ceasing! Give thanks in ALL circumstances! Why? Because it is the will of God for you. WOW!

The Lord promised that He would never leave us nor forsake us! That promise if for YOU, Pastor. For every believer on the planet. His presence will go with us and like the great Biblical leader, Moses, we declare, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here!"

The Lord said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest!" Exodus 33:15. In this case, 'Presence equals Rest'. Grateful for the Lord's presence in our lives.

See you at Conference 2021, Radiant Church, April 21 & 22!

Sincerely,

Pastor Stephen Harris



Hey, I wanted to highlight in this article a wonderful young man of God, who is carrying the Presence of God with him as he attends the university. Matthew Holgate, son of Jackie and Lenora Holgate was honored recently by Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California.



Vanguard University wrote, "Congratulations to the 87th student body president elect in Vanguard's history, Matthew Holgate and Executive Vice President, Phoenix McGee! Thank you to all of the candidates, voters, and the elections committee for participating in this year's presidential elections. We are excited to see these two build our story together next year!" –Vanguard Press

"Matthew, we are so proud of you! One of our very own, in leadership at the University of your Choice, Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California. Matthew, our network family congratulates you, and pray for God's favor to be upon you as you serve your institution. I love what you wrote following the announcement of the election. . . 'This Navajo kid just became student body president of his university, thank you for all the support and showing out to the voting polls! Dine' represent! Let's do this Phoenix!' God bless you, Matthew, and Congratulations Mom and Dad!" –Pastor Harris

# 2021 Network Conference



# ARIZONA

MINISTRY NETWORK

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



**Crystal Martin**  
National Director for  
Network of Women in Ministry

## SPEAKERS

**Choco De Jesus**  
General Treasurer for the  
Assemblies of God



## 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](#).**

# To the Ends of the Earth

One of my fondest memories of growing up in church was when missionaries would come and share their stories of life on the mission field. I distinctly remember those who served in Africa and how many times they would bring with them different artifacts that piqued my interest.

One missionary in particular, Charity Harris, preached a powerful sermon and then, as he began to close the service, brought out a long snakeskin he had killed while living in Tanzania. As he shared, my eyes grew bigger, and I could almost feel like I was there on the hunt with him in person.

Recently, Superintendent Steve Harris' father went home to be with the Lord. His life and legacy will remain in my heart and in the hearts of a multitude of others who were inspired by his example to take the gospel of God's love "To the ends of the earth!" I believe Tanzania has a strong Christian foundation because of the work and ministry of Charity Harris.



Dear hearts, as we start coming out of this pandemic, it is my prayer that we continue to press forward in our mission to "seek and save the lost." May we not grow weary in our priority to reach, teach and send forth laborers into the Master's harvest field.

Brother Harris' passing reminded me of another missionary story I recently read. It's the story of Mary Slessor who grew up in the slums of Aberdeen, Scotland. Sadly, she was raised by an alcoholic father and had little hope of changing her circumstances. But for Mary Slessor, her childhood taught her a tenacity and a strength that would serve her well in her years spent living in Nigeria.



Mary grew up hearing her devout mother read the mission paper every month. In her heart grew a desire to share Jesus with others. She was 27 when David Livingston passed away, and she decided that she would go and continue his work to reach all of Africa. Mary's work began in Calabar, and she lived and worked in places where no European had ever been. She faced life-threatening illness and hardship, but "Mighty Mary" did not once consider giving up. (I love that name: Mighty Mary!)

She lived with the Okoyong and Efik people for 15 years, learning their languages and helping them settle disputes; working tirelessly to educate and overcome superstitions, such as twin-killing and women's rights. She earned their love and respect and as a result was able to spread the gospel to areas no other missionary could. (1848-1915)

I share these stories because I know God is still calling missionaries to take the gospel "To the ends of the earth!" And I firmly believe everyone can pray, give and go. A new season has already sprung forth! The Lord of the harvest is looking for new laborers and it's our turn to say, "Here am I Lord, send me!"

Pastors, I implore you to allow missionaries to share in your pulpits so that the next generation can hear the stories of what God is doing on the field and then prayerfully respond to a missions call. And missionaries, don't forget to bring with you a snakeskin (or any other artifact) because you never know who God has ordained to be in that service, it could even be a little boy named Ron Rockwell.

**Love and prayers,  
Ron & Sue**





We are coming to the Southwest Section this year.  
Your church can join us at Yuma Foothills Assembly.

For more information please contact us at [edelacruz@azag.org](mailto:edelacruz@azag.org) (602) 343-4018

## WHAT IS THE ACTS 2 JOURNEY COHORT?

The **Acts 2 Journey** Cohort is a yearlong process of discovery, discernment, and development that builds on the strengths of the congregation to learn from the past and envision the future. Church leaders engaged in the cohort will seek God in prayer together as they dream about the future of their churches.

The **Acts 2 Journey** Cohort consists of four weekend retreats over the course of a year.

### RETREAT

1

“Why do we exist?”  
and “Where are we going?”

The team focuses on congregational realities; embraces its mission; and develops the unique, motivating, and guiding vision statement.

### RETREAT

2

“How should we behave?”

The team discovers the church’s individual DNA and the values that will determine how the church utilizes its resources.

### RETREAT

3

“How do we achieve our goals?”

The team constructs a strategic plan based on the Acts 2 template: (Connect, Grow, Serve, Go, and Worship).

### RETREAT

4

“Launching the vision”

Each team presents its three-year strategic plan and receives instruction on practical ways to communicate vision.





**NOTE TO  
SELF...**

## *ACKNOWLEDGE MENTAL & EMOTIONAL NEEDS*

---

**“He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle.” - Isaiah 42:3**

Bearing the burdens of others (Gal 6:2), welcoming the weary (Matt 11:28), bearing others' sorrows (Is 53), and walking with others through their doubts (Jude 1:22) are all pictures of the activity of Jesus Himself and His Church.

Most of us are familiar with Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV), which boasts of 32,000 people in attendance each weekend. This powerful church focuses each year on a missions project, but kept their sites on home at the close of 2020. In light of the mental and emotional toll of Covid-19 on people of all ages in the Valley, they initiated the “Press On” campaign to raise funds for the counseling needs of others. Over \$1.8 was initially raised and more continued to pour in. They committed to cover 80% of the counseling costs for 10 sessions with a vetted Christian counselor. For example, our own ordained minister, Penny Rivera's Mesa office has ministered to many people as the result of this great initiative.

Counseling was once held in general disdain in our church circles. Thankfully men like Dr. James Dobson and our own Dr. Richard Dobbins championed the cause of talk therapy within the Church. In 1972, Dr. Dobbins established Emerge Ministries as a faith-based center for mental and emotional health services. I remember as a teenager in the Illinois district, hearing Dr. Dobbins speak and theologically defend the need for such ministry. Decades later we have witnessed the blessing this has been to countless pastors, missionaries, and other leaders in our movement.

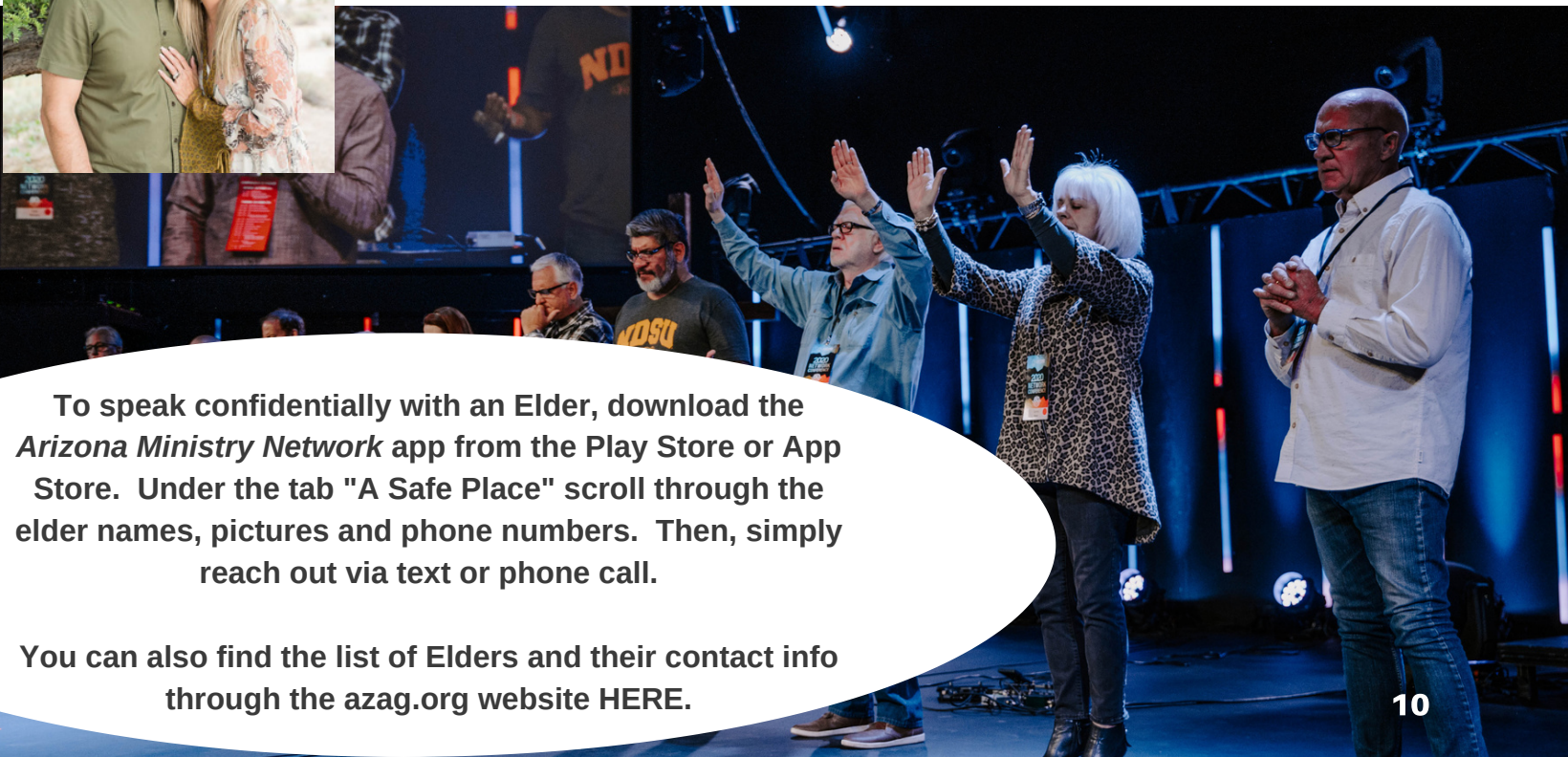
As a pastor I prioritized time every week to meet with hurting people under my spiritual care, but also recognized the need at times to refer certain ones to a professionally licensed counselor. I do the same for you in our ministry network, as I maintain a list of Christian counselors that I have vetted as a counseling resource to our ministers. Our elder ministry is step one in this process by their availability to you in times of crisis or just general weariness in ministry. It all points to one truth: as followers of Jesus, we have mental and emotional needs that when met, “fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal 6:2).

### TIPS FOR MEETING THE MENTAL/EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF YOUR CHURCH:

- Consider a series of messages on related topics. Peter Scazero is a great resource.
- Allot monies in your church budget to help with the cost of church members needing professional help.
- Do your own personal study on the emotions of God, Jesus His Son, and others in Scripture. It is a fascinating topic!
- Remember our elder ministry is here for you! Just go our AGWM website or phone app and you can explore this great resource for our ministers.
- I am always available to share with you about these and other needs you may have.



Stay healthy in ministry,  
Pastor Jeff



To speak confidentially with an Elder, download the *Arizona Ministry Network* app from the Play Store or App Store. Under the tab "A Safe Place" scroll through the elder names, pictures and phone numbers. Then, simply reach out via text or phone call.

You can also find the list of Elders and their contact info through the [azag.org](http://azag.org) website [HERE](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

Rock Climbing Wall  
High Ropes Course  
Swimming  
Archery

Father - Son Time  
Stump Preaching  
Worship Service  
Lawn Games



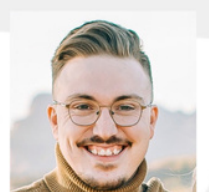
Dale Gray "The Man"  
Men's Director



Bill Weaver "The Music"  
Royal Rangers Director



Rick Ryan "The Father"  
Intercultural Ministries Director



Nathan Schaffner "The Son"  
Middle School Pastor



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

**SPLENDID WOMEN'S  
CONFERENCE 2021**

Use the code  
**azagwomen** to get \$10  
off your ticket price!

**FIGHT  
LIKE A  
GIRL**



**DAWNCHERE  
WILKERSON**  
VOUS CHURCH



**LEANNE  
MATTHESIUS**  
AWAKEN CHURCH



**AUBREY  
MATTHESIUS**  
DREAM CITY  
CHURCH



**MOLLY KATE  
KESTNER**  
MUSICAL GUEST

**APRIL 30TH  
& MAY 1ST**

**Location: Dream City, Phoenix**

**Register: Click [HERE](#) or text  
"fight like a girl" to 623-500-6868.**



# ARIZONA YOUTH MINISTRIES

REGISTER TODAY

2021 EVENT DATES



## FINE ARTS

[AZAGYOUTH.ORG/FINEARTS](https://azagyouth.org/finearts)



## YOUTH CAMP



[AZAGYOUTH.ORG/YOUTHCAMP](https://azagyouth.org/youthcamp)

## FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

April 10th

## YOUTH CAMPS WITH SEU WORSHIP

Camp 1: May 30 - June 2 with Peter Reeves

Camp 2: June 2 - 5 with Nate Schatzline

Camp 3: June 6 - 9 with Meesh Fomenko

Camp 4: June 9 - 12 with Shaddy Melu

Camp 5: June 13 - 16 with Chris Estrada

Camp 6: June 16 - 19 with Noah Herrin

## YOUTH ALIVE ONE DAY

August 21

## NATIONAL SPEED THE LIGHT DAY

October 17

## YOUTH CONVENTION

October 22-23



@azagym + @griffinmcgrath



[www.azagyouth.org](https://www.azagyouth.org)



## GRIFFIN MCGRATH

Youth & Young Adult Director

[gmcgrath@azag.org](mailto:gmcgrath@azag.org)

# WILD

**JUNE 21-25**

**JULY 5-9**

**JULY 12-16**

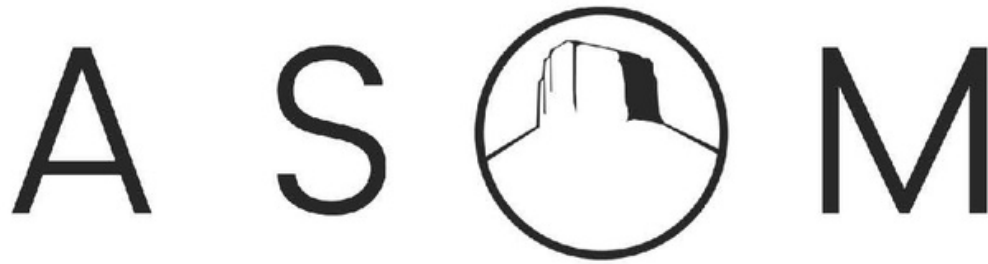
**Kid's Camp is an experience like nothing else!**

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  
krempe1@azag.org



THE ARIZONA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY


# DISCIPLESHIP LEADERSHIP GROWTH

## APRIL CLASSES

Intro to Pentecostal Doctrine  
Church Planting  
Church Administration, Finance,  
and Law

## COME SEE US AT NETWORK COUNCIL!

We are looking forward to connecting with you at Network Council. Be sure to stop by our ASOM table and say hello. We'd love to get to know you and answer any questions regarding ASOM for you and your team.

 602-343-4000

 [asom@azag.org](mailto:asom@azag.org)

 [azasom.com](http://azasom.com)



Yisrael Vincent  
Director



Jeanna Lonergan  
Coordinator



## GOD'S DECREE

Yes indeed, it won't be long now. God decrees. Things are going to happen so fast your head will swim, one thing fast on the heels of the other. You won't be able to keep up. Everything will be happening at once—and everywhere you look, blessings! Blessings like wine pouring off the mountains and hills. I'll make everything right again for my people Israel: They'll rebuild their ruined cities. They'll plant vineyards and drink good wine. They'll work their gardens and eat fresh vegetables. And I'll plant them, plant them on their own land. They'll never again be uprooted from the land I've given them. God, your God, says so.

*AMOS 9:13-15 MSG*

Jump into the waters, friends. God has plans and purposes that are way beyond your present situation. We don't need to wait for God, for He is waiting for us. He wants to set in motion a movement that dethrones the work of the enemy and establishes His vibrant life in you to reach your city. We are seeing new ministries starting and new vision being embraced by churches. God's plan through your ministry is only one prayer away. Let me say, we, the Ryans, are only one phone call away to assist if we can.

We thank God for an incredible start to 2021 with the international churches of the Arizona Ministry Network.

Pastor Raul Salgado is in the middle of putting up a 25,000 square foot building. Many neighbors and pastors from other churches have come to see what God is doing. Amidst the pandemic, where many things have stopped, God's plan keeps moving forward! For Revolution Church in Tolleson, with Pastor Raul, we see God doing a miracle before our very eyes.

Pastor Theo Nkinzangabo of Hope of Life International, one of our African churches, is reaching many nationalities. Within a 2 mile radius of 43rd Avenue and Northern, there are 79 different languages spoken. Pastor Theo now has an English only service. He has started offering English as a second language classes (ESL), as well as a monthly food give-away where church members build relationship with their multicultural community. The English service is exploding.

It has been a great blessing to meet and encourage many AZAG pastors. Pastors Greg and Kim Ramey, from Praise Center, Picture Rocks, Tucson, have started a second service. Community leaders are now using their church for meetings. The Ramey's thank God for a spiritual vibrancy He is bringing which has invaded their church services. Pastor Gary and Julie Floyd of Foothills Assembly, and Pastor Paula and Kelly Milner of First Assembly of God in Yuma, are adding Spanish services to their churches ministry to have greater impact to reach Yuma.

We are grateful to have just passed 58% of our budget. If you would like to fiscally support us, please contact the Arizona Ministry Network or visit [azag.org](http://azag.org) online and go to the "Giving" portal. Thank you in advance for your support and prayers toward what God is doing in Arizona.



Revolution Church in Tolleson



Pastor Theo  
(right)  
at a food  
distribution



# TEEN CHALLENGE OF ARIZONA

 55 years

## Trusting GOD

### VIRTUAL SPRING BANQUETS 2021

**LAKE HAVASU CITY** FEBRUARY 26 - 7PM  
To benefit the Phoenix Men's Center

**SIERRA VISTA** MARCH 5 - 7PM  
To benefit the Tucson Men's Center

**CASA GRANDE** MARCH 12 - 7PM  
To benefit the Home of Hope

**YUMA** MARCH 19 - 7PM  
To benefit the Tucson Men's Center



For more information go to: [tcaz.org](http://tcaz.org)  
Corporate Office / PO 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](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 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



## Recent Network Statistics

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

### 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 Apache A/G  
Scottsdale, Salt River Indian Church  
Shonto, Victory A/G  
Winslow, First A/G