

# AZMN PUBLICATION

May 2021



**ARIZONA**  
MINISTRY NETWORK

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



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# Network Conference

## Highlights



It was a joy to gather in person for our Network Conference 2021! There was excitement in the air from the beginning of registration, and an anticipation of meeting together in the presence of the Lord not only to do business, but also to hear from Him through our speakers, fellowship, and altar time.

We did NOT come away disappointed in the least, did we? From the opening moments, in our Memorial time of sharing photos of those who have been promoted to Heaven in these last 15 months, honoring their loved ones present, to the business session, and the honoring of our Elders; our office support staff; the Directors who keep our departments going strong; honoring Pastor Greg Marquart and his excellent staff who so willingly opened the doors of Radiant Church to host our conference yet again, to the closing prayer and praise, it was glorious!

We re-elected Leigh Metcalf on the nominating ballot to another 4-year term as our Network Secretary Treasurer, and director of AZUS Missions; and the numerous other responsibilities he gives oversight to. "Thank you, Pastor Leigh and Jodi for your willingness and commitment to this network!"

We unanimously passed the one resolution presented to divide the large Southeast Valley section into two separate sections. Our newest section is East Valley Section, and their newly elected Presbyter, Pastor Brad Davis and the other officers, Pastor Bryan Durrett and Christina Vincent were elected in that afternoon caucus.



We rejoiced together in God's faithfulness in the giving of the Financial Report! Even in the face of Covid, and the limitations of many churches and pastors, giving remained strong, and we were able to continue in full the ministry from our network office. To God be the Glory!

We were challenged, blessed, inspired with the ministry of our Guest speaker, Pastor Choco De Jesus, as well as the ministry of Crystal Martin. It was my honor to preach the Ordination service where we Ordained 19 candidates for ministry. Always a highlight of our conference. We honored two men of God in Dan Franke and Douglas Young who as of this year celebrated 50 Years of Ordained Ministry! What a blessing to rejoice with them. We rejoiced over 13 newly Certified Ministers and three Licensed Ministers. God continues to call and people continue to answer that call!



Radiant Worship Collective was especially anointed this conference and truly were instrumental in ushering in the presence of the Lord in our midst in every session they were involved. Our own Pastor Marc Cargill spoke to the 'Power of the Word', Griffin McGrath spoke to the 'Teaching of the Word' and Yisrael Vincent spoke to the 'Studying the Word.' All three were anointed and did excellent with their assignment, their ministry. I don't know about you, but I could not take notes fast enough to get it all. My gratitude to these fine preachers of the Word.

Our altar times were meaningful and led of the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Word is one thing, but when the Holy Spirit directs a praying altar time, it meets us at the point of our need. God's Word, and Prayer!

Sincerely,  
Pastor Harris and Marjorie Harris



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Sincerely,  
**Enjoy the first of our conference photos! More to come in our next edition of the AZMN Publication.**















# Around the Network


**Pastoral dedication of Jason & Celeste Brown as new lead pastors over Cornerstone Christian Center in Avondale**



**Pastor Joanne Wall of Winslow First Assembly was officially recognized by Pastor Harris for her new role as Lead Pastor.**







# Praying for Missionaries During Covid

As churches and ministry networks across the US continue to “re-open” and rebound following an unprecedented year of COVID, have you thought recently about how the coronavirus pandemic is still affecting our missionaries?

Many of these “heroes” are well acquainted with isolation, shortages, fear and uncertainty. But that doesn’t always make facing these challenges easier. Consider these five ways to pray for missionaries.

## **1. Pray for those who've stayed on the field.**

In 2020, the US State Department advised Americans to return to the US or prepare to remain where they are indefinitely, which means many are stayed in the countries that have become home to them. Pray they have what they need to stay safe and healthy when outside help is unavailable.

## **2. Pray for missionaries who returned to the US.**

With borders and airlines shutting down, missionaries felt they had no choice but to leave their countries of service quickly, long before they had planned to travel. They were unable to say goodbyes or make careful arrangements. Most (if not all) had to put treasured dreams and plans on hold. Pray for these workers and others feeling grief and loss.



### **3. Pray for those navigating new travel and visa restrictions.**

Lift up international missionaries with visas requiring them to exit their countries of service at regular intervals. Every hour new restrictions are put in place that could make it impossible for them to leave the country or be stranded in another country. While the height of the drama seems to be past, we can expect restrictions to continue changing in coming months. Many are living with heightened uncertainty in this area.

### **4. Ask God to guide and provide for missionaries raising support.**

Pray for all of our missionaries who are implementing new strategies to connect with supporters. It can be difficult and discouraging to try to cast vision for a new life overseas when you don't know when the doors will open up—and when going overseas at may look impossible.



### **5. Look for unprecedented ministry opportunities.**

Recent research showed, over a period of a few weeks, an 85% increase in Muslims responding to messages on Facebook. Many missionaries are reaching out, checking on friends, praying and exploring scripture with local friends using technology. Across the world, house churches and traditional churches are connecting online—in some cases more often or more personally than they had before. Praise God!

In closing, let me say thank you for praying for our AZ Network missionaries during this continued season of pandemic. Let's also pray for believers worldwide to persevere and grow in their faith as well as share it with others. Closed borders, canceled meetings and events, lockdowns and quarantines can't stop the spread of God's Word.

**Love and prayers,  
Ron & Sue**





# WHY *Ordination?*



**ARIZONA**  
MINISTRY NETWORK

Leigh Metcalf

May 2021



**UPGRADING YOUR CREDENTIAL IS A GREAT WAY TO SHARPEN YOUR SKILL SET THROUGH ONGOING EDUCATION WHILE MOVING TOWARD THE BIBLICAL PRECEDENT FOR ORDINATION. BELOW IS A BASIC OUTLINE OF THE CREDENTIAL PROCESS SO YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.**

- CONTACT OUR CREDENTIALING ASSISTANT FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE APPLICATION PACKET & PAPERWORK AT [JROSADO@AZAG.ORG](mailto:JROSADO@AZAG.ORG)
- UPLOAD ALL DOCUMENTS TO YOUR MINISTER'S PORTAL
- ATTEND A COMMITTEE MEETING - ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR PACKET & INTERVIEWS, APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR RECOMMENDATION OF FINAL APPROVAL.
- THE GENERAL COUNCIL WILL PREPARE YOUR CERTIFICATE AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AT THE ORDINATION SERVICE IN APRIL.



## NOTE TO SELF...

### *MY HEALTH MATTERS!*

For several years now the A/G's Influence and Enrichment magazines have placed an emphasis on the mental and emotional health of pastors. Now, our movement has established the AG Mental Health Committee. What a need!

Sure, I have an unusual propensity among most pastors; I have absolutely loved pastoral counseling since my early days as a youth pastor at Phoenix First Assembly. Ten years ago, in my opening months at Central Assembly, my admin asked me one day, "Do you always meet with this many people in a given week?" I smiled and answered simply, "Yes." For me, pastoral counseling is a form of discipleship. Crosby references it as a form of sanctification. I have celebrated it as helping people move from where they are to where God wants them to be, and often the struggles are in their minds and emotions and relationships. I have found one-on-one meetings to greatly add to the other ministries our church offers.

I realize this isn't for all pastors. My father loathed counseling in his ministry, something we often laugh together about. Yet, as Crosby states, "Counseling is not some option for the weak, but a strong resource for the wise." He is reaching out to pastors on two counts: for their church members and for themselves. I want to do the same in our great ministry network...

**DEAR FRIEND, I PRAY THAT YOU MAY ENJOY GOOD HEALTH AND THAT ALL MAY GO WELL WITH YOU, EVEN AS YOUR SOUL IS GETTING ALONG WELL. 3 JOHN 2**



# CONSIDER

1. **Please consider your own emotional and mental well-being.**  
If you are struggling, please do not walk alone. Your health will impact the health of your church (and more importantly your marriage and family.)
2. **Please consider those same needs in the congregation you serve.**  
Studies reveal 1/3 of all Americans are suffering with anxiety. Depression is rampant in our churches. People love Jesus, yet suffer in these areas.
3. **Please consider giving a sermon series on related topics.**  
I am finishing up my Masters in Professional Counseling at GCU. Over these past several years of classes, my personal reading time has exploded in awareness of such topics in God's Word! If you are mindful, God will lead you with biblical answers for your flock.
4. **Please know our network leadership has prioritized your health** by providing for you: elders (for confidential meetings on any topic), myself (for the same), and a list of counselors we refer pastors to on a regular basis (for the same). You are not alone in life and ministry! Every Wednesday morning in our network staff's prayer/devotional time, we pray over a small segment of our pastors and churches. By December, every ordained pastor and every network church has been interceded for. Our prayer is that in 2021 you will be healthy and blessed in every way!



Stay healthy in ministry!

Jeff Peterson



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](#).



Visit [men.ag.org](http://men.ag.org) for men's ministry resources and discipleship material!

**TARGETED SERIES**

**Celebrate the Light**

**FREEDOM AND FIRE**

CELEBRATE THE

*Light*

**360  
IMAN**

JOURNEY  
THROUGH

**SERIES**

Daily Devotions  
**FOR MEN**

**SIGN UP NOW**

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

AZ  
**MENS**  
MINISTRIES  
MAN MISSION



TEEN CHALLENGE OF ARIZONA'S

# Springboard

HOME FOR GIRLS

## AZ Women's Ministries 2021 Project



Springboard, a shelter home for young ladies ages 12-17, is located in Tucson's northwest area. They exist to help young ladies become mentally stable, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive!







# A Z Y M

ARIZONA YOUTH MINISTRIES

Arizona Youth Camp kicks off this month and we are so excited! Students will hear dynamic preaching from amazing speakers, worship by SEU, & experience a life-giving community with new friends from around the state. Jesus is certainly much closer than we see. God wants to fill the spiritual deficit in this generation especially in a year where social distance is promoted. The closer we get to Jesus, the more clearly we see His work, & we're going to make every effort to encounter Him together.

# CLOSER

with  
**SEU WORSHIP**  
& SPEAKERS...



**Peter Reeves**



**Nate Schatzline**



**Meesh Fomenko**



**Shaddy Melu**



**Chris Estrada**



**Noah Herrin**

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



**GRIFFIN MCGRATH**

Youth & Young Adult Director  
[gmcgrath@azag.org](mailto:gmcgrath@azag.org)



@azagym + @griffinmcgrath



# WILD

**JUNE 21-25**

**JULY 5-9**

**JULY 12-16**

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

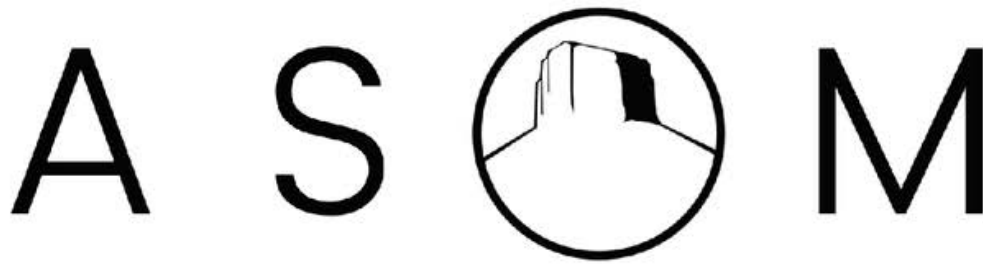
Camp is a week to get away from normal life, and encounter God in a new way! Kids, ages 7-12, will experience the best week of their lives with fun competitions, exciting adventures, and engaging services! Give God an opportunity to change you from the inside out at Kid's Camp!

**For more info and to register click [HERE](#).**



Kirstyn Rempel, Kid's Director  
krempe1@azag.org





## THE ARIZONA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

### WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN

Thanks for all of your support as we wrap up our 2020-2021 school year. ASOM will launch again in the Fall with cohorts around the state. We had a great time at Network Conference and were pleased to give a \$1,000 ASOM scholarship to Mia Morales from Chandler First Assembly for her achievements in Fine Arts.


At the end of the day, this is what we are here for: to recognize the call of God on others and do everything in our ability to invest in it. Our team is always brainstorming on how to do this more effectively.

If you have suggestions or have people in your ministry setting looking to further their education we'd love to talk!


Best Regards,  
Yisrael

### 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](mailto:asom@azag.org) for more info!

 602-343-4000

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

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



Yisrael Vincent  
Director



Jeanna Lonergan  
Coordinator





God is doing something profound in Arizona churches as they embrace the diversity around them. Instead of racial division, we see churches extending their influence to all nations, tongues, and people. An example of this is in the Yuma region. When considering the city and county demographics of Yuma, Pastor Paula and Kelly Milner of First Assembly of God, and Pastor Gary and Julie Floyd of Foothills Assembly of God saw that over 55% of the population was Hispanic.

With that understanding, Pastor Floyd approached Pastor Andres and Carmina Noris, executive pastors in the Southwest District of the Assemblies of God, to join his team and launch a new church called Iglesia Foothills. It remains a Southwest District affiliated church (the Hispanic district in Arizona), but together these English and Spanish churches are saying to the city, *every language group is welcome at Foothills*. At the end of May, they will launch the new church and already new Hispanic families are attending Foothills Assembly.




Gary & Julie  
Floyd




Andres &  
Carmina Noris

Frank & Maria Gutierrez



Pastor Milner, also with a heart to reach Yuma, knew a Hispanic home Bible study that had outgrown Pastor Frank and Maria Gutierrez's home. At the first of May, Pastor Milner and Pastor Gutierrez are launching Iglesia First Assembly. These new Hispanic churches will combine their youth and children's ministry with their English counterparts. All four churches believe together they can do more than being separate. In a time of racial tension in America, these Yuma pastors are combining efforts, and stewarding facilities to bring a stronger testimony to their region!



Paula &  
Kelly Milner

Below is a recent article in *Influence Magazine* helps us understand how to embrace the diversity.



# FOUR BENEFITS OF GROWING YOUR CHURCH'S DIVERSITY

**Expand your reach for the Kingdom, and become better in the process.**

America is more diverse than ever according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Between 2015 and '16, every race and ethnic group grew — with minority populations leading the way. Does your church reflect these trends? Maybe not. After all, people usually gravitate toward those who are more like them. But there are some advantages to increasing the diversity of your church. Not only is it a mandate from God to include all people in His calling (Matthew 28:18-20), but it will also make your church better. Below are four ways growing in diversity will benefit your church.

## **1. MORE TALENT, SKILLS AND GIFTS**

More diverse people will bring a greater variety of gifts. It's just a fact. When you include people from different cultural backgrounds, you open your talent pool to musicians who have studied different styles, to speakers with different emphases, and to leaders who have faced different challenges. Diverse congregations are much more creative. They know what it takes to cast a wide net because there is more representation within their midst. If you want to increase your creativity, make sure you are increasing your diversity.

## **2. MORE OPEN DOORS**

The world is coming to America's doorstep. When your church is more diverse, those who are visiting, immigrating or just working in the country for a while will be more comfort-able coming inside. That means a wider front door. You should always be looking for ways to increase the number and type of disciples your church is making. That means reaching out to people from different cultural backgrounds, ethnicities, races, socioeconomic levels, and age groups. The better represented each group is in your church, the better equipped you will be to attract even more.

## **3. MORE SENSITIVITY TO GOD'S HEART**

God created human beings in His own image. From Adam and Eve sprang all the people of the earth — with our various races, languages, personalities, passions and perspectives. The more diverse your church is, the more clearly you can see God's image on display. That will also increase the sensitivity of your heart for God's people. You begin to see them not as demographics, but as precious souls in need of a Savior. And there's no better way to view another person than that.

## **4. MORE HELPFUL PERSPECTIVES**

By having a more diverse church and staff, you will have a wider perspective to see the problems of your community and the needs in your world. It will take intentionally listening to those perspectives. But when you do, your church will be better off for it. Though you may not realize it, failing to interact with people who are different from you limits your ability to communicate, lead and evangelize. Prayerfully broadening your scope will increase your capacity to disciple all kinds of people, meet their needs, and help them apply God's Word to their lives.

Growing in diversity takes intentional effort, but the advantages are well worth the investment. God has placed you in your community for a reason. Take steps to bring into your congregation the diversity you see outside the church walls.

If you are wanting to embrace the diversity around you, please let us know. We have Filipino, African and Spanish churches not only looking for a place to meet, but want to join hands with another church to reach people for Jesus.

God is on your side and so are we.

**Rick Ryan, Intercultural Ministries Director**

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

417.849.0539





We want to share with you what God has been doing in our Ministry over the last few months. We have listed each Teen Challenge Center in hopes that you will see the amazing things that God is doing, God has done, and what God will continue doing through the Ministry of Teen Challenge.



God is still working and restoring families at the Home of Hope.



The Springboard drive thru BBQ was a great success!!



Phoenix Center had an amazing crowd with over 90 bikes and nearly 200 people at their 14th annual Bike Run!!

Tucson Center  
Virtual Easter  
Sunrise Service



Christian Life  
Ranch



Sharing Testimonies  
and proclaiming  
God's goodness!!





# 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

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

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

### **TRANSFERRED OUT**

Brian Jamerson to Potomac  
Blair Hill to Minnesota

### **TRANSFERRED IN**

Norita Ayers from Texas

### **DECEASED**

Rolland Havener, Feb 12, 2021