



**ARIZONA**  
MINISTRY NETWORK

**May 2020 Publication**

# *Reaching Out*

**AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

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

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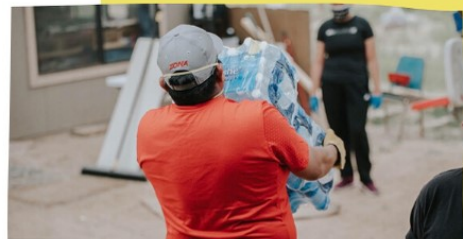
# Meeting Needs Across Arizona

We've just closed the door on probably one of the most unusual, challenging, and odd April's we have ever lived through in our lifetime. No one could have predicted what 2020 would hold in store on December 31, 2019. Yet, here we are, peering into a new month with new possibilities and a fresh appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy here in America.

In spite of all of the thoughts whirling in one's brain during this COVID-19 pandemic, the overriding peace of Heaven has filled our hearts and minds. 'Thank You, Jesus, for Your PEACE that gives us rest in troubled times and assures us of Your presence!'

Overnight, our pastors were forced to find ways to stay connected and to continue to minister to our church families and preach the Word of God that liberates and sets the soul free. You've done it! It is amazing and we stand in awe at the creativity of our pastors, even to the most remote areas of our network, ministry has continued. You have found a way; equipped or not, you've persevered. We at the network leadership level have done what comes natural and that was to cheer you on through our consistent prayers and words of encouragement. I've never been more proud of a group of people than right at this moment. Arizona Ministry Network, you are the BEST!

Beyond the preaching of the Word and sharing online in worship, you have reached outside the walls of the church. You have been Jesus to your community and searched to find the needs of people and found ways to honor those on the front lines. The hundreds of photos that have flooded Facebook and other social media sites have brought tears more than once. From our Reservation land and our Native people to the Border areas, from our cities to every corner of the state, ministry has happened with a smile and an encouraging word of hope. Enjoy the photos on these pages. It's just a smattering of the actual ministry that has happened across the state.







Pastor Jackie Holgate and Mountain Top Project Hope has taken supplies all over the Navajo Nation and brought smiles and gratitude to those receiving. Several churches who have Food Pantry Ministry and who regularly feed those needing a meal have had cars lined up in some cases for miles. It's been amazing to watch the moments of ministry that this pandemic season has given us as we look to those on the front lines, serving us and continuing their jobs in spite of the risks. What I am saying is that **YOU HAVE FOUND A NEED AND MET THAT NEED** in abundance with the heart of Jesus shining through.



We are looking ahead with great anticipation to meeting together in our church buildings once again as the great big family of God in this network. I believe we will gather with a fresh perspective of how blessed we are to gather in one place and to share in corporate worship and not only listen to the Word, but to see the one proclaiming in person, and to respond to the preached word.



We love you, we pray for you, we cheer for you in our hearts and words, and we are eternally grateful for the privilege to share in leadership for this beautiful Network of ministers!

We love you!  
Pastor Harris and Marjorie



Please register  
**HERE.**

There will be a  
practice vote on  
Monday, May 11.

**2020**  
**VIRTUAL**  
**BUSINESS**  
**SESSION**

**MAY 18, 2020**  
**10:00AM-12:00PM**





# WORLD MISSIONS UPDATE

Greetings, Network Family! I trust you are staying safe and healthy during this season of COVID-19. Like you, I don't particularly care for some of the adjustments we've had to make during this time of social distancing. For example, everyone's personal grooming is suffering during quarantine. Last week I heard about a couple who were eating dinner together and the wife said to her husband that he had a bit of food caught in his mustache and he replied, "So do you!" (Sorry, I couldn't resist sharing that post I recently saw on Facebook. 😊)

This week we received the good news from our World Missions department that all newly appointed and itinerating missionaries would be allowed a three-month extension. Due to the quarantine, our missionaries cannot participate (except online) in church services and are limited in all contact with others, just as we are.

Pastor Steve, Leigh and I realize many churches are experiencing financial shortcomings and are having some difficulty in fulfilling their monthly missions commitments. As a pastor, I understand the constraints on finances and am very sensitive to the needs of all. I stand with both pastor and missionary during this difficult season and assure you, we will get through this together and the Lord will be exalted in every effort to bring the gospel to the world.



**Allow me to share the following guidelines as you navigate through the season of economic downturn:**

- Continue to sow in faith, believing God can and often does, make up the difference.
- If needed, try to slow support incrementally and equally.
- Even if you cannot send the full amount or any amount, please do not remove the missionary's name from your A/G giving statement. Once removed, they have to make up that budget loss by longer itineration periods.
- Trust God to help you start over again with whatever your budget can afford. This might mean \$10, \$20 or \$50 at first, but with God's help, your church can return to your original commitment.

I want to thank you in advance for your prayerful support in these matters and I know that our missionaries greatly appreciate your consideration during these unparalleled times.

As you are aware, is it necessary to hold our Arizona Ministry Network Conference online this year on May 18th. The adjusted format will present a few challenges for our missionaries as this event often generates a sizable boost in funds raised for those newly appointed, as well as those on furlough. Because of these extraordinary circumstances, I'd like to ask every pastor and missions board to consider how they might continue to offer support to all missionaries. I've included a list for your prayerful consideration.

And now may the God of all peace flood you with grace and strength as you continue to do your part to bring the Gospel to the entire world.

Love and prayers, Ron & Sue



## *Meet Your Itinerating Missionaries*

**Newly appointed missionaries:** Scott Berkey, Jacob Jester and a sensitive country missionary \*\*

**Missionaries on itineration cycle:** Michelle Towns, Jennifer Walters & two sensitive country missionaries \*\*

\*\* There are 3 missionaries that I cannot publish online because of security purposes, but please call or email me to receive their information. We hope to show a video during the conference highlighting this request with more detailed information on how you can support and give.



**MAY 2020**

Secretary/Treasurer | Leigh Metcalf

**CHURCH RELAUNCH RESOURCES**

**RESOURCES FOR RE-OPENING  
YOUR CHURCHES**

*Click the links below to access online resources*



[Church Relaunch Kit](#)



[Arizona recommendations for faith based organizations.](#)



[Spiritual first aid](#)



[Leading Virtually.](#)

*\*if you are viewing a printed version of our publication please visit  
[www.azag.org/resources](http://www.azag.org/resources)*





## THE NEW NORMAL

It will soon be time to re-open the doors of your church to your communities. Here are a few things your members will need from your church.

### To feel welcome

We understand how much you have missed seeing your congregations and its okay for them to know that too. It is important for your members and families to know how much they mean to the church and how big of a part they play in your ministry by attending every Sunday.

### To feel safe.

It is important we continue to keep up with the recommendations and guidelines put forth by the State and taking extra precautions to keep our members and their families safe.

### To be encouraged

The message of hope is so essential to your congregations through the problems they may be facing during this pandemic. Your church should continue to promote the hope of christ and present the gospel of salvation every week.

## KEEPING YOUR ONLINE AUDIENCE

Many churches have reported a growth in their online church. Online church is also seeing an increase of giving. It is important not to lose the momentum of your online presence. We encourage you to keep all of your online resources active and updated, including online giving and livestreaming. Since this is now a new ministry in your church, it is a great time to raise up a leadership team for online ministry. This is great way to reach many who are unchurched and may never step into a church building. You can still give them an experience with Christ in their homes.



Pastor Leigh Metcalf

@AZAGMN

@AZAGMN

AZAG.ORG





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

**"May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" - 1 Thess 5:23b**

I was introduced to the "spirit of a man" or the "human spirit" in my mid-thirties. Oh sure, I was familiar with it, but not in the way a mentor of mine opened it up to me and applied it to myself, my marriage, and relationships. Years later, I discovered the Hebrew of the word "spirit," which furthered solidified this powerful truth.

The word *rûah* basically means wind or breath, and as well is used for God's Spirit or the human spirit. Its richness is furthered in many lexicons stating it refers to a person's temperament, attitude or frame of mind. The book of proverbs helps us frame a better understanding by stating a person's spirit can be "crushed" "bruised" "broken" "grieved" "happy" "weighed down" "anxious" and actually "ruled". We see Caleb had a "different" *rûah*, Ahab a "vexed" *rûah*, Pharoah a "troubled" *rûah*, and Moses a "bitter" *rûah*.

As we consider the P.I.E.S.S. for our health (physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and social), we need to pause to capture this meaning in the 127 O.T. verses that reference a person's *rûah*/spirit. When we do, it helps us pull together what a healthy spirit looks like.



## Let me give you a few ideas:

- It's healthy when I am aware of my own spirit's condition. The first step to health is awareness. It's why we do screenings and blood work. The same is true with our own spirit. As David asked himself, "Why so downcast O my soul, put your hope in God." It was a moment of self-awareness of his *rûah*.
- It's healthy when I am aware of how others impact it. How else is our spirit broken or crushed? How else is our spirit lifted or encouraged? It's in our *rûah*/spirit, and people impact ours on a daily, moment-by-moment basis.
- It's healthy when I am aware of how I am impacting others. Think about it! Everyone you interact with on a daily basis has a *rûah*. It may be discouraged and you can bring encouragement. It may be broken, and you can bring healing. It may be anxious and you can bring assurance and peace. God wants us to be sensitive to the spirit of others!
- It's healthy when I focus on the Holy Spirit's communion with my own spirit. Of course, this is the most basic premise of our relationship with God. His Spirit bears witness—touches, confirms, joins with—our spirits. So, as we live out our lives in worship to God, we are celebrating this beautiful Spirit to spirit relationship with Him!

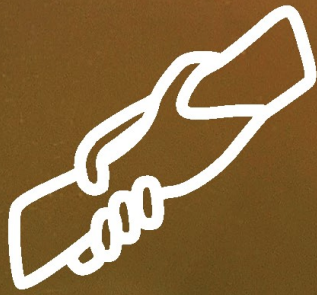


Pastors, consider the health of your spirit (*rûah*) today; not just for your own sake, but for those all around you!.

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)



# AZ MAN CAMP

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2020

REGISTER AT: AZMANCAMP.ORG

# ENDURANCE



DALE GRAY  
MEN'S DIRECTOR



ARIZONA MEN'S  
MINISTRY TEAM

- GOLF TOURNAMENT
- FISHING DERBY
- HIGH ROPES COURSE
- ROCK CLIMBING WALL
- SWIMMING

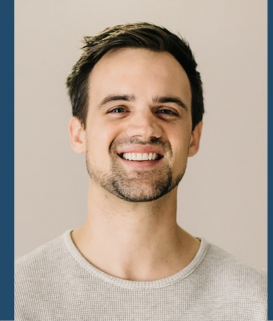
- DIRT BIKE RIDE
- MOTORCYCLE RIDE
- MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE
- LAWN GAMES
- CAMP WORK DAY

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





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



f t i @azagym + @griffinmcgrath

## ARIZONA YOUTH CAMP 2020

# ALL IN

Visit [AZAGYOUTH.ORG/YOUTHCAMP](http://AZAGYOUTH.ORG/YOUTHCAMP) for our summer 2020 dates and info!

Our team is responsibly planning ahead in faith for an incredible summer of Youth Camp ministry. 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.

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.

### ADDITIONAL 2020 EVENT DATES

**NATIONAL STL DAY**  
 October 18

**YOUTH CONVENTION**  
 RADIANT CHURCH SURPRISE  
 October 23-24



ARIZONA YOUTH CONVENTION 2020



# NEXT LEVEL



KID'S CAMP 2020

Week 1  
**JUNE 22-26**

Week 2  
**JULY 6-10**

Week 3  
**July 13-17**

**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!**



**Register today at [azagkids.org](http://azagkids.org)!**



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







**Classes are still  
being offered  
online!**

## **Thank you!**

As our online May classes wrap up this Spring semester, we just want to give a huge thank you to all of our students, host churches and teachers for their flexibility and dedication over these past couple months. We have had to make changes and adjustments in a relatively short amount of time and are so thankful for the prayers and support of our amazing Ministry Network!

God is raising up church leaders across our state and we love that we get to invest into their lives through the classes of the Arizona School of Ministry.

**Classes are starting up again in August!**

**Registration will open up in July.  
For more info, please visit [AZASOM.org](http://AZASOM.org).**



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





# Teen Challenge of Arizona



Rev. Snow Peabody  
Executive State Director

Teen Challenge of Arizona has been reaching out to communities and individuals around our great state with a message of hope for over 50 years. We want you to know, during these difficult and uncertain times, our mission to help those who are struggling with addiction is more clear and important than ever.

Our Intake Coordinators and staff stand ready to offer help to individuals and families that you may know.

**Please let them know that they are not alone, we are here to help.**

We have spaces open, right now, and will start the process at the first point of contact with those seeking addiction recovery services. Thank you for standing with Teen Challenge and helping those who are in need at this time.

**To get help today please reach out to someone at our centers or visit**

### **For men 18 years of age or older:**

Phoenix Men's Center 602.271.4084  
Tucson Men's Center 520.792.1790

### **For women and women with children:**

Home of Hope in Casa Grande 520.836.5030

### **For teenage girls:**

Springboard in Tucson 520.887.8773







# Your Destiny

Your Destiny is not defined in your Adversity! In fact, your Destiny is their Eternity. Pastor Helia Martinez and her husband, Victor, came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior in the late 90's. Victor was a border patrol agent and Helia was a teacher. With the encouragement of their pastor they started a home Bible study in the home town of San Luis, AZ. Soon the growth of the Bible study, developed into Templo Cristiana Vina Nueva (New Wine Christian Temple). They saw many miracles and the church grew.

Then eight years ago, Victor was told that cancer was in his body. He was elevated into the presence of Jesus after an eight months of fighting. Suddenly the church was without a pastor.



**Helia and Victor Martinez  
on their wedding day**

There was not many that wanted to come to San Luis and pastor the growing congregation.

Members of the church gathered with Sister Martinez to ask her to consider becoming the pastor. In her heart she knew that God could help her do it but there seemed to be so many hurdles. The members were so convinced of her call to be the pastor that they formed a caravan and traveled to the Network office from San Luis and asked the Network leadership for the permission to put her into the role. The Network Leadership said, "yes" but told her she needed to get a credential.



**Helia being installed as pastor  
of Templo Cristiana Nueva Vina  
by Supt. Stephen Harris.**



**The Martinez Family, Helia and her daughters, Leah and Galilea and son Israel.**



The day she went to take the final test, her oldest daughter was involved in a car accident. At the hospital, she was in a quandary ... to take the test for her credential so she could be come the pastor of her church or stay at the hospital while the operated on her daughter. When she told the doctor her quandary, he said, "Go and take the test. I will wait till you are done. Your daughter will be fine." Of course she passed.



**Helia receiving honor from city officials for her VBS to immigrant children in her city.**

Last year she finished her degree in theology at Shiloe Bible College in San Luis Rio Colorado. Now eight years later, the church has grown even more. Because of the impact of their outreaches and a summer VBS they do for immigrant children, Pastora Helia is part of several city committees. She is truly pastoring her city.

No matter what you are facing today, God has a Destiny for you and your church to reach your city for Christ. Do not let your circumstances overwhelm your Destiny. God is with you.

If you are desirous to start a another language service in your church to embrace the diversity around you ... get in touch with me at the Network office. We want you to see God touch every soul in your city, no matter with their language is.



**Pastora Helia Martinez in the ministry. To God be the Glory!**

**RICK RYAN**  
Intercultural Ministries  
Arizona Ministry Network





# 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



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

## **Statistics for April 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

### **TRANSFERRED OUT**

Aaron Kayzer - New Mexico

### **DECEASED:**

Alfred Nettles - 4/13/20

Jerry Roberts - 4/25/20