"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

- Acts 2:17
Spring Council Tour – 2013
One of our greatest joys in traveling the state and visiting each section and personally having the opportunity of visiting with our pastors and their wives is the strengthening of the relationships that comes as a result. The fact of the matter is, we NEED each other. It is one of God’s special blessings to give us brothers and sisters in the family of God who encourage and strengthen us in ministry. We, as the district leadership felt encouraged and strengthened as this year’s council tour came to a close. It is my sincere prayer that you also felt strengthened and encouraged as you returned to your place of ministry. Thank you to every host church who prepared and served the wonderful meals we enjoyed.

District Council – April 16-18
We are anticipating our 73rd district council to be held at Victory Assembly, Tucson, Arizona. Among the high points of this council will be the ordination of 20 ministerial candidates on the first evening. Wednesday will be dedicated to the elections, our District Ministries Luncheon, and finally our World Missions service with Greg Mundis as our honored guest. The service will be followed with an outdoor BBQ meal. Thursday, we are privileged to have church planter, Scott Hagen join us for the morning plenary session, followed by workshops, boxed lunch, and finally a closing victory rally where Scott will once again be ministering. Make every effort to join us for this inspiring time and opportunity to once again build relationship.

Keeping the Vision Alive
Ephesians 1:17-19 "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your understanding may be enlightened in order that you would know the hope to which he has called you, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance is in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power!"

Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians reflects God’s highest desire for every believer in Christ. He prays that the Spirit might work in them in greater measure. The reason for this increased measure of the Spirit’s impartation is that believers may receive more wisdom, revelation and knowledge concerning God’s redemptive purposes for present and future salvation and experience a more abundant power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

In my years of ministry, it’s been my experience that the only way to keep the ‘vision’ alive is to stay close to the Savior, and my heart in line with what the Holy Spirit is saying to me and leading me in. Paul said, “I keep asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation!” That is my prayer for you. May you increase in the spirit of wisdom and revelation and may your vision be the driving force as you move forward in this critical time. Marjorie and I love each one of you and pray for you, and rejoice with you in what God is doing among us.

Stephen L. Harris • Superintendent

Superintendent’s March Schedule
Feb 24-March 4th......Israel Tour
Mar 17 – Installation Service Oracle Assembly

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground.

- Isaiah 44:3

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602.343.4014 • sharris@azag.org
ordination

John 15:16 says, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

To be chosen by Jesus and appointed to serve means a life that is separated to God and marked with holy purpose. It is also a realization that God’s calling does not begin with us; it begins with Him. He chose us before we chose Him. Neither is this calling for us; it is for Him. Jesus does not choose and appoint us to a self-serving success but to eternal significance, to “Fruit that will last.”

Ordination means “appointment” or “setting in order.” In other words, ordination publicly affirms the ministry calling of a person chosen by Jesus who commissions that person to Kingdom service and lasting fruitfulness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ordination brings together God’s calling and His anointing. It integrates leadership, gifting and spiritual experience.

Ordination involves three elements, the physical laying on of hands, the community affirming God’s calling and proven ministry, and spiritual impartation commissioning for ministry in the power of the Spirit.

Just as we cannot baptize ourselves, neither can we ordain ourselves. We believe the laying on of hands and prayer at ordination is a spiritually imparted authority.

“Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you,” 1 Timothy 4:14; and “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying of my hands,” 2 Timothy 1:6. In scripture, we see for Timothy ordination is the reference point for his future regardless of the obstacles he would face or the intimidation he would feel. It defined his youthfulness, and imparted a supernatural power, love, and self-discipline which helped him to overcome family history, health problems, opposition, and personal feelings of inadequacy.

Ordination takes us beyond our own ability. It is commissioning for ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is why ordination is required or expected for many leadership positions in churches, missions, chaplaincy, and other areas.

In Arizona, we have 749 ministers who are credentialed, of which 388 are ordained, 242 licensed, and 119 certified.

We encourage you all to be actively involved in ministry, continue in education, and pursue ordination. It’s not about status or position; it’s about being commissioned body, soul, and spirit to serve the king in the power of the Holy Spirit.

More information about ordination can be seen in the Assemblies of God Position Paper “Pentecostal Ministry and Ordination.”

Leigh Metcalf • Secretary-Treasurer

March 2013

Transferred In
Kayser, Aaron (L) from Southern Missouri
Jester, Jacob (O) from Southern Missouri
Ray, G Dean (O) from Hawaii
Reid, Marylee (L) from Hawaii

Transferred Out
Whitmore, Lyons (C) to Northern California-Nevada

Credential Status Change
Bouyer, Leonard D (O) to Retired Active
Colton, Sandra A (O) to Retired Active

New Pastor
Nogales – Abundant Life Assembly of God
David Lopez

Church Location Changes
Surprise – Family Worship Center
12133 W Bell Rd Ste #201
Surprise, AZ 85378

Open Churches
Apache Junction – Desert Springs
Bagdad – Christian Life Assembly
Globe – Calvary Shadows Assembly of God
Maricopa – Assembly of God
Mesa – Church on the Journey
San Carlos – Apache Assembly of God
Teesto – Crossroad Assembly

In Memorium
Cruse, Zelma I (O) – April 11, 1929 – March 17, 2012

It is wonderful partnering together with you in building His church. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “… I will build my church; and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” He had a great idea in using the church to reach the world with the good news.
Pastor Kirk Sorensen, pastor in Benson, shared with me a great missionary emphasis that they conducted. I was intrigued by it because I realized that this missions emphasis could be conducted by any church large or small. I’ll let Kirk tell you what they did.

To begin the year out we started with the Week of Prayer with prayer every evening. Then we followed with a emphasis on missions. January 6th we ministered on Faith. Faith Promises and prayer are the foundation to build upon. I invited all the missionaries we support, both World Missionaries and US Missionaries, to be a part of a “Skype Family Reunion”.

We had an overwhelming response from our missionaries with 18 missionaries wanting to join in the visits. I set times with each based on their availability and our schedule. We had a schedule for both our morning service and our evening service, calling them “Visits Around the World”.

We endeavored to keep our Skype calls to just five minutes. We took our congregation on a journey as we “traveled” from Morocco, to Spain and Romania, then on to Austria, Phoenix, Alaska and then to Paris. There was such variety in personalities, cultures and ministries as stories were shared. Questions from the congregation were answered personally and we shared prayer requests and future plans and strategies. By the time we finished the visits, our faith was challenged and we closed in worship. God touched the hearts of our congregation and three people responded to a salvation altar call making it a great morning.

The evening service continued the visits with candidates to Estonia and Bible Colleges in Asia Pacific, then to Myanmar, Latin America, Chi Alpha, Turkey, Native American reservations and an itinerating missionary preparing to go back to Germany, Skyping from a McDonald’s. After the evening service I was approached with several serious interests in a mission’s trip this year.

The visits during a single day displayed the spectrum of ministry that the Lord is doing around the world. Seeing faces, hearing their voices and being with them live and via the video visits has made the missions program personal to the congregation.

Skype calls can allow you to conduct a missions emphasis in your church with very little cost to the church. If you’re interested in how to do this I’m sure that Pastor Sorensen would be more than happy to talk you through the process.
Women’s Department

AZ District Council: April 16-18, at Victory Worship Center, 2561 W Ruthrauff Road, Tucson, AZ 85705

AZ Women of Influence Conference: June 14-15, at Radiant Church, 15522 W Paradise Lane, Surprise, AZ 85374. Our speaker is Author Lisa Bevere. Be watching for more information.

Register by April 29th: $60
April 30th-June 3: $70
Onsite: $75
Single Session $25
Register at AZWI.org today!

Kay Burnett • Director
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“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name; You are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

National Women’s Department Theme:

602.343.4000 • kayburnett1@me.com
youth department

I’m writing with the understanding that God not to any specific leader or church in mind. I write what I feel God is showing me through the emerging youth culture in Arizona. I write out of fear, but a conviction in my spirit of you to pray with me. I’m careful to note that this generation.

I’m encouraged to hear how God is already working and stirring hearts of students in the Church and an awakening of a revival in the Church and an awakening of Christ’s return, we know creation and salvation. We are stronger together as the body of Christ to accomplish His mission. If we are to see revival happen in our churches and communities, then we must commit to serve together. You will hear me say my life calling more than once, but I’m compelled with a vision to activate disciples. I desire to serve the youth leaders of Arizona so that we can continue to build upon the rich legacy we have. This is why I’m passionate about Fine Arts: helping students discover, develop, and deploy their ministry gifts. This is why I’m passionate about opportunities like youth camp and convention: giving students opportunities to impact eternity by serving the heart of God in His global mission.

I believe the best is yet to come for youth of Arizona. I encourage you with this: Romans 10:14-15 “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news.’”

is more disheartened than I am, but what disheartens us today can become tomorrow’s greatest opportunity. God is building His Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18 paraphrased)

1. This generation is biblically illiterate. A recent study showed that Phoenix was the 8th-worst “Bible-minded” city in the country, and only 17 percent of residents know their Bible well. A seasoned theology professor at one of our Assemblies of God universities said he’s concerned each year by the biblical ignorance of incoming freshmen. We’re living in a day when God’s Word is unfamiliar, much like that before the reign of Saul. 1 Samuel 3:1b “And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.” When God spoke to Samuel, as a young man, it was Eli that taught him God’s voice. We need more Eli’s in Arizona. Despite his weakness as a leader, God used him to point a young man in a direction that would change the course of history. I pray for leaders who commit to preach God’s word and live it out with integrity.

2. Satan has the largest youth ministry. I’m reminded of Jesus in Matthew 9, when He sees the crowds. His heart is filled working and stirring hearts of students in the presence of God. I’ve seen a true desire for revival in the Church and an awakening of this generation.

I am disheartened by three key issues, but I offer three focused prayers that I’m inviting you to pray with me. I’m careful to note that before I share my concerns, I’m not writing out of fear, but a conviction in my spirit of what I feel God is showing me through the emerging youth culture in Arizona. I write in broad generalities within our district and not to any specific leader or church in mind. I’m writing with the understanding that God is more disheartened than I am, but what disheartens us today can become tomorrow’s greatest opportunity. God is building His Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18 paraphrased)

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2013
Fine Arts Festival
Phoenix First Assembly
April 13, 2013

District Council 2013
Victory Worship Center
April 16-18, 2013
Youth Thursday Breakout Sessions ($20)
Register at www.azag.org

Youth Camps
Granite Hills Campground
Camp #1: May 27-31, 2013 (Allen Griffin)
Camp #2: June 3-7, 2013 (Jeff Deyo - Fine Arts emphasis)
Camp #3: June 10-14, 2013 (Jason Alvarado)
Camp #4: June 17-21, 2013 (Brian Pozio)

More Upcoming Events
For a full calendar with all the district youth event dates for 2013, visit www.azagyouth.org.

Griffin McGrath • Director

Let us know if there is ever anything we can do to better serve you and the youth of Arizona. We are praying for you!

Griffin & Bethany McGrath
Recently I had the honor to sit in a room filled with incredible leaders, we chatted about where to find the best tacos, where we grew up, it was your typical conversation. Then someone posed this question to the group, “Can you remember when God became real to you.” A pretty interesting question, one I had never really thought about. As we went around the group I expected long deep answers, but what I heard from most were stories of a sweet grandmother that made them come to church, a funny Sunday school teacher or a great sermon. The common thread in many of the stories was this one phrase, “when I was a kid...” In that moment I realized that this room full of great leaders had come to know God when they were kids. Some couldn’t remember a time without knowing God. I couldn’t help but think of God legacies that where in that room because someone took the time and love to help a kid understand who God is and what He did for us out of love.

This conversation reminded me of how important children’s leaders, pastors and teachers are. As a Children’s Pastor I’m very aware of how important children’s ministry is, but after that night God remind me how important it is that we prepare those leaders. My heart is filled with vibrant and creative ideas but it’s also filled with a passion to serve our churches and children’s leaders. I would love to see us set the bar for refreshing and equipping our current children’s pastor, leaders, teachers and volunteers.

I am so excited to see what God has prepared for the entire AZ District in 2013 and I look forward to serving you and your church.
Light for the Lost Provides for Teen Challenge

Light for the Lost helps provide for curriculum and resource tools used by Teen Challenge U.S.A. Here are a few recent testimonies from individuals who have used these materials:

The Personal Studies for New Christians curriculum has helped me realize what total forgiveness truly looks like. A huge burden has been lifted from me. It caused an extreme breakthrough in my life. Group Studies for New Christians presents an outline for a relationship with God and what it’s supposed to be like. It has taught me how to pray, how to strengthen my faith and how to be a better man. -Eric G.

The Group Studies for New Christians curriculum has strengthened my relationship with the Lord and helped me understand Scripture more clearly. The Personal Studies for New Christians curriculum has helped me examine Scripture more deeply, which I never realized I could do before. -Tim K.

Personal Studies for New Christians curriculum has developed certain character qualities in my life that I didn’t know I had before. It has been very helpful because it touches on a deeper level of self-application for the qualities that I need. -Reece T.

Teen Challenge has helped me figure out what God’s plan is for my life and helps me understand His Word better. The curriculum really helped me become a better man and accept responsibility for my past actions. I now know how to raise my children the way God wants me to. -Rod H.

Teen Challenge has given me a better understanding of the Bible and tools that I can use when I am able to go home and be with my family. The Teen Challenge courses are teaching me and helping me apply lessons to my personal life. -Matt D.

Teen Challenge has helped me determine what character qualities are, which ones I need to work on and which ones are my strong points. -Tyler D.

Because of the Personal and Group Studies for New Christians curriculum, the boundaries of a Christian Life have become more defined, the love of God more evident and my salvation more secure. -Joshua W

Being able to study on this personal, deep level helps me realize that I can accomplish more things that I ever thought I could. For instance, I have learned to memorize scripture, and one of my favorite verses is Phillipians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” -Ryan D.

Dale Gray • Director

Mark your calendar. Third Annual Arizona Fire Bible Summit. Three days and two nights at the “Boulders Resort” in Scottsdale Az. May 16-18. Contact dgray@rockag.com for more info. Thanks. You are awesome. Blessings Dale

“Look at the fields... they are ripe for harvest.”

John 4:35
At American Indian College, we embrace four key values. Academic Excellence, of course, refers to our commitment to high academic standards. The college years provide a unique opportunity to read great authors, learn experienced instructors, and wrestle with significant questions.

Through Ministry Experience, we find that some lessons can best be learned in the practice of serving the church, the community, or the individual. AIC continues to conduct an intentional student ministry program.

Our heritage as a Spirit-filled people deeply informs the value of Spiritual Empowerment. To do the work of God requires the power of God.

Finally, we desire for every student, faculty member, and staff member to have a Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ. To know the Lord and be formed in the image of Christ is a requirement of every Christian leader. As I write this column, we are engaged in Spiritual Emphasis Week, a time devoted to nurturing that formation.

Arizona District, we are deeply indebted to your generosity. With your financial support, your prayers, and other means of support, we could not continue to train native American leaders. Because of your partnership, American Indian College alumni are making a difference!

David DeGarmo

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Chi Alpha

Dear Arizona District friends,

A brand new freshman is leading one of our small group Bible studies. Isn’t that ridiculous? How can we take chances like that? Well, she may be in her first year at Northern Arizona University, but she isn’t new to Chi Alpha. In fact, she has been involved to some degree for the past 12 years. That girl is also currently the youngest credentialed minister in the Arizona Assemblies of God.

Her name is Eliza, and yes, she is my daughter.

We were hesitant to let her lead a small group in her first semester, but we relented when she came and sat in my office. “It’s too bad I’m not leading a small group,” she said, “because I just talked to a girl at the bus stop who I could have invited.” That was it. She had a small group. Eliza had a dilemma this week.

She had prepared a dozen gifts to give her small group girls during this week’s bible study. She did such a good job inviting people throughout the week that she needed Kelly to go to the store to buy more stuff because she was now expecting up to 17 girls!

I say all this not solely to brag on my daughter, though I am doing that as well. I tell you Eliza’s story so you will realize there is hope for our kids. Even on secular university campuses, there is hope for our kids. They can serve Jesus. They can be evangelistic. All those years in Sunday School, Missionettes, Youth Group; they were not in vain. Our kids can take the gospel to the ends of the earth. God is big enough to answer our prayers and send our kids out as missionaries in our universities.

Be blessed,
Ryan Ribelin

I baptized Tyler, Violet, Rachel and Nate in the cold, murky waters of Lake Mary during our Fall Retreat Camp out.

Kiahree assisted me with Nate’s baptism. Nate has a powerful story of God’s redemption in process.
On Thursday April 18 at 12:30pm at district council, we are hosting our first annual credentialed women’s luncheon!

The newly formed credentialed women’s group, known as the Deborah Association, is excited to announce our launch!

Over 120 women are credentialed for ministry in the Arizona District of the Assemblies of God. In 2012, the Arizona District had the highest percentage of women in lead or pastoral roles in the Assemblies of God. The Deborah Association seeks to meet the needs of women called of God to the ministry. Our purpose is to encourage credentialed women and those aspiring to become credentialed. We exist to encourage and challenge women in ministry to embrace the fullness of their biblical calling with integrity and vigor. Following the biblical model of Deborah the prophetess, we believe women who are answering God’s call can be mightily used for His kingdom!

We believe Mordecai’s challenge to Esther remains the same for women serving in ministry today. “...you have come to the kingdom for such as time as this.” Esther 4:14b (NKJV). It is our prayer that this association will be a source of much needed encouragement, relationship building, and working together for the kingdom of God.

If you are a credentialed woman, please feel free to join our facebook group page - http://www.facebook.com/groups/263029247064267/

For His Kingdom,
Debbie Fulthorp,
Chairperson
The Deborah Association
DISTRICT CALENDAR

MARCH

1-2 Kidvention
7-9 National Men’s Conference
8 Teen Challenge Banquet-Sierra Vista
9 Royal Ranger District Derby
10 ASOM Education
11 Executive Presbyters
14-16 National Royal Rangers Leaders Conference
15-16 Teen Girls Retreat
17-18 Men’s Event
19 Presbyters Retreat
23 JBQ/ TBQ State Finals
24 GM Daises-Prims Spring Fling
27 Palm Sunday
28 Calendar Planning 2014
29 Good Friday
31 Easter

APRIL

5 Teen Challenge Banquet Prescott Valley
6 JBQ State
6 ASOM Education
12-13 Teen Challenge Banquet Casa Grande
13 Fine Arts Festival
16-18 District Council
19 FCF Adventure
26-27 Stars Retreat Prescott
27 Rangers kids Day
29 WBC Commencement

MAY

3 Teen Challenge Banquet-Lake Havasu
3-4 JBQ/TBQ Regions
3-5 District RR camp
4 American Indian College commencement
8 Teen Challenge Banquet - Yuma
9 Teen Challenge Banquet-Flagstaff
10 ASOM Education
13-15 Presbyters Retreat
17-18 Men’s Event
18 Teen Challenge Spring Graduation-Phx
24-27 FCF Family camp
27-31 Youth camp #1

NEWS & NOTES

Cabin for Sale
$48,000 2 br. 1 1/2 bath. Completely remodeled. All furnishings included. Enclosed garage with attached work room. Two bedrooms, one is detached garage. Central heating and cooling. 775 sq ft with approved addition of 250 sq ft on west end of home for a potential total of 1029 sq ft. call 602 738 4959 for additional info and Andy Swinford will show.

Cabin for Sale
1600 sq ft cabin two bedrooms and 1 and 1/2 baths on view double lot #348 for $130,00.00. Home recently remodeled with new cabinets and wood floors in kitchen, dining and hallway. Dual pane windows recently installed. Wood burning stove and two garages, one for rv. Central air and heating. Lot has oak and pine trees and peach and apple trees. Low utility bills with wood stove providing most of needed heat. Andy Swinford will show and you can call me at 602 738 4959 for any other questions.

American Indian College is requesting donations for Golf Carts or Multi-Purpose Carts. Please call Debbie at (602)944-3335/ext.221 or email dneugent@aicag.edu if you would like to make a donation.

Ministers Available for Ministry or Fill-in

Arizona Vision • 11
Retired Ministers/Widowed Fellowship

March 14 Harvest Church - 8340 W Northern Ave. Glendale, AZ 85305
April 11 Evangel Church - 10701 W Boswell Blvd Sun City, AZ 85373
May 9 Cornerstone- 11301 W Indian School Rd. Avondale, AZ 85392

For more information call Brother Eastin 480-733-3889