“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
How do seasoned pastors surmount the perennial difficulties of their assignment—difficult people, challenging board members, irate parents, less than ideal facilities, staff conflicts, balancing home and pastoral responsibilities—and recapture the spark that ignited their passion for ministry long ago? What do you say to a pastor who’s ready to chuck it all, and do something else?

Recently a friend gave me a book, written by Mark Buchanan, entitled, The Rest of God. Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath. I’ve not finished the book, but what I have read and meditated on resonates with my soul.

One of my favorite stories is from Mark’s Gospel in describing the feeding of the five thousand. (Mark 6:30-46) As the story begins the disciples have just returned from their first teaching and healing missions. They are on a spiritual ‘high’ but totally worn out. Can I get an Amen? Even though their mission is over, needy people still sought their help. In a ‘telling’ comment Mark writes, “for many are coming and going, and they had no leisure to even eat!’ Pastor, do you multi-task during lunch time? Check email, look at Facebook, listen to phone messages, return calls, all while scarfing down something for your body’s sake? Can you even remember most days what you had for lunch? Do you miss lunch entirely some days?

I think it’s easy to become victims of our own success. Our quest for excellence in ministry can be detrimental to our physical health, personal relationships, and yes, our ministry. I believe Jesus saw that in spite of their faithful ministry, his closest followers were near burnout. Jesus knew that to continue without rest and retreat could result in their ministry suffering. So, Jesus does something counterintuitive; he takes them on a retreat! “Come away to a deserted place and rest awhile”, he tells the disciples. We’re not told how long this retreat was, but what we do know for fact is that they were spiritually prepared to meet the masses that awaited them on the shore. Mark writes that Jesus had compassion on them. In ministry we often experience compassion fatigue, rest and retreat will refresh our spirits, renew our energy, and revive our imaginations.

When we are weary and anxious, our imagination is strangled. Times of prayer and rest releases creativity that leads to insight and unique solutions to challenges we face in ministry. A renewed imagination can feed the multitudes and revive an entire congregation.

Do you feel like you’re running on ‘auto pilot’? Only scratching the surface and never going any deeper? Moses asked of God, “Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Mark Buchanan writes, “If I only had more time,” is the mantra of our age. But is this the real problem? What we’ve really lost is “the rest of God—the rest God bestows and with it, that part of himself we can know only through stillness. We have forgotten the ancient wisdom, rooted in God’s own rhythm of work and rest, of Sabbath. Sabbath is elixir and antidote. It is a gift for our sanity and wholeness—to prolong our lives, to enrich our relationships, to increase our fruitfulness, to make our joy complete. Sabbath restores our bent and withered parts. God, knowing that, and knowing how easily we might neglect it, made it a command. We’ve neglected it anyhow. We’ve lost the rest of God.

A Sabbath keeps us holy. We tend that which tends us. We feather the bed we sleep on. We feed the goose that lays the golden eggs. Listen to this invitation from our Lord and Savior, “Come, all you who are weary and heavy-laden. Come, and I will give you rest. Come, join me here.” Ah, the rest of God.

This article is not meant to ‘add something to your already hectic schedule’, or something else to pile on the guilt of what you’re not doing right. It’s an admonition from your superintendent’s heart to yours. It’s simple. If Jesus needed rest and retreat, you most certainly need it. Take time regularly to restore your soul with rest.

“ A grand opportunity to do just that is provided for you October 15 & 16 at Granite Hills Retreat and Conference Center in beautiful Prescott. Our annual Minister’s Renewal will take place and you will be enriched, refreshed, and renewed by the ministry of Les & Darice Welk. I’m hoping you will make this special time a priority. Registration details are online at our web page, azag.org. See you there!

Stephen L. Harris • Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT’S OCTOBER SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 24-October 5</td>
<td>Missions Trip to Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>TC BBQ-New River</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15-16</td>
<td>Ministers Renewal</td>
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<td>October 17-18</td>
<td>SAGU Credentialing Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Intercultural Ministries Dinner</td>
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For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground.

- Isaiah 44:3

www.azag.org • OCTOBER ‘12 • 602.343.4014 • sharris@azag.org
The Ministers Adventure in Zion Park on August 12-15, 2012, was an exciting adventure. It’s always good to get away from the busyness of life for a couple of days and enjoy one of America’s most amazing parks. Sixteen of our Arizona ministers spent time together, hiking, rappelling, and mountain biking.

We look forward to future trips together, enjoying the beauty of God’s creation.

Arizona District Affiliated Church Pastor/Advisory Council Meeting

We have just completed our first annual Arizona District Affiliated Church Pastor / Advisory Council meeting. The feedback from these meetings has been extremely positive. For convenience purposes, there were sessions held at three locations across the state. My special thanks are extended to Pastor Ron Rockwell and the staff at Harvest Church in Glendale, to Pastor Zane Anderson and the staff at Victory Worship Center in Tucson, and to Pastor Barry Hagerty and Pastor Myrna Yellowhair and staff at First Assembly of God in Flagstaff. The hospitality at each meeting site was exceptional and greatly appreciated.

Each participating church was given a copy of the newly revised Arizona District Council Bylaws for District Affiliated Assemblies, the new Operations Manual, and a Supplemental Forms packet. These documents were prepared with counsel from our attorney, and we believe the information in these documents will be very helpful to our churches in the daily operations of their local assembly.

Information in these documents, especially the Operations Manual, could also be beneficial to those churches having sovereign status. Included in the Operations Manual are medical release forms, parental consent forms, and background check authorization, etc. All of the documents are posted online, or printed copies will be made available for churches upon request.

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.
The theme this year for Assemblies of God World Missions is, “So That All Can Hear.” Truly, this should be the heartbeat of every Assembly of God church. Our Lord, Himself, gave us His final commandment in Matthew 28:19 when He said, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature...” Our passion should be Christ's passion and that is to provide every human being on this planet an opportunity to hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the ONLY hope for mankind. What are you doing to fulfill the Great Commission? Do your programs maintain attendance or is your congregation actively reaching out with the Gospel message to the lost? God blesses those churches that move according to his heartbeat and His heart beats for missions!

To help you in your endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission, the Arizona District Council, along with Assemblies of God World Missions, are hosting Arizona’s first Missions Awareness Seminar. To facilitate travel, this conference will be held first at Harvest Church in Glendale on November 12 and then at Celebration Church in Mesa on the 13th. We will be hearing from our new executive director, Dr. Greg Mundis (via Skype), practical workshops, such as:

Where does the money go when you give to missions
How to organize an annual missions convention
Partnering with missions
The importance of supporting the missionary over projects
And much more !!!

We will also have plenty of time for questions and answers, hear challenging messages from Omar Beiler, Area Director for Eurasia and enjoy a wonderful lunch and great times of fellowship.

Pastor, you don’t want to miss this opportunity. Please share this information with your missions committee. Invite them to be in attendance. This will be a monumental event to help you grow missions in your local church.

Pastor we stand ready to help you with your missions program. My family and I have served for more than 20 years as Assemblies of God missionaries in Europe. We were the first AG resident missionaries in Romania and then served a number of years in Western Europe. About two years ago, we were asked by AGWM to accept the assignment of Missions Awareness Director for the SW Region of the USA. If you need a missionary speaker, need help organizing a missions convention, want someone to sit down and explain how missions works in our movement to your missions committee, etc. don’t hesitate to contact us. We are here to serve you! We can be reached at 1-480-414-4835 and by email at wayne.huffman@agmd.org
Run4Rescue
10k, 5k or 1 mile Kids Fun Run
Saturday, November 17, 2012

LADIES’ FALL RETREAT
September 21-22
(Optional Thursday evening)
At Granite Hills Campground
For more information and to register, go to AZWI.org

“What great love the Father has lavished on us!”
(1 John 3:1, NIV)
Youth & Children’s Ministries

National Speed the Light Day
Sunday, October 21, 2012

LOOKING AHEAD...
Teacher Enrichment Clinic
Saturday, January 19, 2013
Arizona Missions Weekend
February 15-17, 2013
KIDvention
March 1-2, 2013
National BGMC Day
Sunday, March 10, 2013
Teen Girls Retreat
March 15-16, 2013
Royal Rangers & Girls Ministries Events
A calendar with all Royal Ranger & Girls Ministries events can be found at www.azagkids.org.
Youth Leadership Conference

Two Conferences One Purpose
Arizona Girls of Purity & Guys Conferences 2012
Close to 600 Students & Leaders Pledge Purity

For more information, go to www.azagyouth.org
You don’t need a microscope to see that our culture’s understanding of relationships is in critical condition. According to recent statistics, marriages in the church are as likely to fail as those in American culture at large, and new research reveals that in 40% of married and non-married heterosexual relationships (ages 18-25), partners disagree on whether their relationship is monogamous. The reasons for the deterioration of marital relationships are many, but one of the primary reasons is simply that men are not living up to their God-given call. In Ephesians 5:25-33, Paul presents a vivid picture of a godly husband’s role. A godly man is one who takes seriously the call to love his wife the way Christ loves the church: he leads, he loves, he learns and he labors.

The characteristics described in this passage are no less countercultural today than they were in the culture in which Paul first penned them. It’s been said, “Everything rises and falls on leadership”—that is true in the home. In verse 25, the apostle calls men to be leaders. What does it look like for husbands to lead? In short, husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church. Jesus loved us by taking responsibility for the penalty of our sin. One of the clearest ways the husband demonstrates leadership is by taking responsibility for the health of the marital relationship, even when he may not be at fault for its condition. When sin, separation or strife enter into the marriage, the husband is responsible to proactively lead the way in bringing about reconciliation. Whether that requires repentance from the husband or a gentle forbearing spirit, a godly man initiates whatever attitudes or actions will bring restoration to the relationship. In a very real sense, it is the husband’s privilege to be like Jesus Christ. Over the years, it’s been my observation that women only struggle with headship if their husbands don’t act like Jesus.

A godly husband loves. The term Paul uses for love in Ephesians 5:25-33 is the term agapate, the strongest, most intimate, most far-reaching, most comprehensive word for love that he could use. Paul begins with the husband’s responsibility to lead, but it’s interesting to note that he does not follow that up with “now, go show them who is boss.” Instead, the husband is the leader and he is to lead with LOVE. By God’s design, women love to be loved. It is only when a woman has been abused, neglected or harmed that they find it hard to be loved.

Like Christ—whose love reaches out to us, transforms us, restores us and loves us, not because we are lovely, but so that we can become lovely—the husband loves. To that end, every man needs to study their mate to see how they can best love them. The challenge is that over time life changes and the way a man loves his wife may also need to change. When it comes to learning how to best love your mate, Mark Driscoll offers men this piece of advice when he suggests that men ask their mate two questions: 1) What have I done that makes you feel most loved? 2) What have I done that makes you feel most unloved? Gentlemen, if you can’t figure your wife out just ASK and she’ll tell you!

The godly husband not only leads and loves, but he also learns. Paul writes that the husband loves his wife in order that, “he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.” Just as the Word of God has a cleansing and sanctifying effect on our hearts and minds, it also has a profound effect on a marriage. Too often men abdicate the role of spiritual leadership to their wives. In too many churches, the tragic reality is that men are brought to church by their wives, spiritually instructed by their wives and continually in need for spiritual motivation from their wives. While women should study and know the Word of God, it is the responsibility of the husband to man up and be the spiritual leader in the home by loving God enough to love His Word and lead his family in a growing relationship with God. A godly husband learns the Word so that he can talk with his wife about it and live according to it, knowing that their marriage and their family will be blessed as a result.

Finally, the godly husband labors (vv. 29-31). God’s design is for the husband to be the provider. To be sure that statement runs cross grain to our culture; but the point here is not that women cannot work, but rather that men are to carry their God-given load. While Proverbs 31 celebrates the godly woman’s productivity and business savvy, as early as Genesis 3 the man is called to labor. Paul echoes that charge in Ephesians 5, calling the man to care for his wife with the same vigor that he cares for himself which, at the very least, means the husband doesn’t leave his wife to work 40 hours and then come home to clean, cook and care for the children by herself while he lounges in front of the television or goes fishing.

There is no question this text presents a real challenge to the men of our culture to be leaders who love, learn and labor. The question for every husband is, “Am I living up to Ephesians 5?” If the answer is no, then what needs to change?

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

John 4:35
It is a heartfelt concern to know that young people are receiving offers of scholarships from state universities, community colleges, and church related colleges and universities outside our fellowship. The question is asked, “How can we stand by and see these valuable human resources taken from us by those who recognize the intellectual and social abilities of our young people.”

The Assemblies of God Education Department, realizing this hazard to our denomination, is sponsoring an annual scholarship program. It is conceivable, that in the future with the help of faithful donors the Assemblies of God Education Department would be able to sponsor scholarships for all the Assemblies of God young people who have shown excellence in their studies as well as Christian service in their churches.

NOTE: President Barb Schulz was a scholarship recipient in this first award group by AG Education Department. She enrolled in Evangel University Fall 1958. Today President Barb is sharing her ministry gifts in leading Western Bible College.

TODAY – OCTOBER 2012 – 54 YEARS LATER............THE NEED CONTINUES Several WBC Next Generation Scholarship Recipients have been blessed and completed degrees for ministry in the Arizona District of the Assemblies of God. (The AG Education Department is now called The Alliance for AG Higher Education)

YOUTH, Our BEST Resource for the future of the Assemblies of God NEXT GENERATION. Please make this an urgent matter of prayer. Talk to the Lord about what you can do TODAY to invest in our Assemblies of God NEXT GENERATION.

Western Bible College is strategically located in the greater Phoenix area for affordable academic education. The BLESSING of SCHOLARSHIPS in an investment and opportunity for more students to study and prepare for ministry in a spirit driven environment.

It has been an amazing 5 months since I joined the Arizona District team as Business Director. It has been a privilege and a blessing to get to know many of you from across our great state. As Christ followers and ministers, we spend a great deal of time on the eternal security we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus. We guide our congregations in the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus, but have you given much thought to your church or personal security?

In Mark 6:7 we see Jesus sending out the 12 disciples in teams, “And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits”. Why did he send them out in pairs? There are many reasons of course: for encouragement, to preach, to heal, to cast out unclean spirits together, for sustaining their mission in case one grew weary, and for protection and security. It is the last piece I want to touch on.

Using Jesus’ example, putting a second set of eyes to watch out for people of unclear or suspicious motives can help us avoid many situations before they manifest. As in the case of the victim in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, always be aware of your surroundings, where you are going, and who or what is around you. Do your homework on volunteers in your church to ensure they are like-minded for the cause of Christ. We must depend on the Holy Spirit always to be wise as serpent and harmless as doves. It is true we are protected by the Blood of the Lamb, but whether in church or in the marketplace, if a situation or person seems wrong, take a moment to find out why. God’s wisdom is for our benefit. Let’s follow some of these examples:

1. Know we can’t do it all alone, partner with your congregation
2. Background check your employees and volunteers
3. Keep your church and personal insurances up to date
4. If you feel uncomfortable, you likely have good reason! Move to lighted areas or go back where you came from
5. Always assume the best about people but plan for times when the best stays home

Christ did not send the 12 out alone, go out two by two whenever possible. Many hands make light work and we are always better together!
Tucson Men’s Center Welcomes New Director

Jon Ellingson brings leadership skills, organizational and managerial qualifications and combines them with a servant’s heart. Earlier this year Jon and Katherine moved to Tucson with their children Kayla, Jacob, and newborn Luke Daniel.

Jon comes to the Tucson Center from the Christian Life Ranch where he has held many responsibilities over the past eight years. These include staff supervision, overseeing the students’ spiritual growth and adherence to the National Teen Challenge Accreditation Standards.

Jon was himself a student, graduating in 2002. He knows the personal heartache of a life shipwrecked by addiction. Today, he is an example of a life made new – free from sin, free from addiction. His family relationships, once broken and strained, have been restored – many members are now saved. Jon says, “Every day I can see the work that God has been doing in me. He is truly faithful beyond our expectations.”

Jon is in the process of receiving his ministerial credentials through Faith Christian Fellowship.

800.346.7859 • snow@tcaz.org

“You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.”
Psalm 119:114

Intercultural Ministries

Opportunity Community and Justice for Kids (OCJ)

The Arizona District is blessed with ministry opportunities that may be unique to others but necessary within the Arizona District. Therefore, it is my privilege to introduce to you Gary and Tamara Webb. They have been appointed US missionaries through the Assemblies of God since March of 2012. Throughout their ministry they traveled and ministered to youth in the Philippines, Tanzania Africa, India and New Zealand. Gary is President and founder, since 1992, of OCJ Kids providing Opportunity, Community & Justice for foster children in the State of Arizona and across the nation.

According to Gary and Tamara Webb there are over 12,500 Arizona children in the Foster care system. Of those children, 350 are available for adoption. Children as young as two days old are placed in foster care each day due to:

- Child abuse
- Family instability
- Poverty
- Violence
- Homelessness
- Substance abuse
- Serious illness

Youth are amazing! They hope, dream, challenge, learn and lay the ground work for their futures and ours. The education, experience and family values instilled in teens follow them for the rest of their lives. Yet, every day, youth in our society are exposed to unhealthy and unstable future. OCJ Kids’ mission is to equip at risk and foster youth with tools, resources and healthy relationships to succeed and excel in every area of life. OCJ Kids’ vision is “Connecting at-risk & foster youth with caring communities for support and assistance, Creating a foundation of family for children and youth who have none and Cultivating at-risk & foster youth with purpose, direction, hope and a brighter future.

What great opportunity, within the Arizona District, we have to serve. For additional information on OCJ Kids please contact US Missionary Gary & Tamara Webb at 602-439-2171 or www.ocjkids.org.
**DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**OCTOBER - PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH**

- 5-6: AZ Youth Leaders Conference
- 11-12: Women’s Rep Seminar
- 13: GM Leadership Seminar
- 13: Annual Teen Challenge Homecoming BBQ
- 15-16: Ministers Renewal
- 19-21: RR Sectional Campout
- 21: National Speed the Light Day
- 22-26: LFTL Tour
- 23: Executive Presbyter Board Meeting
- 27: TBQ #1

**NOVEMBER**

- 1: Ordination Applications Due
- 5-6: Presbytery Board Meeting
- 9-10: AZ Youth Convention
- 12: Teen Challenge Banquet-Tucson
- 13: Teen Challenge Banquet-Tucson
- 15: Teen Challenge Banquet-Greater Phoenix
- 16: Teen Challenge Banquet-East Valley
- 17: Teen Challenge Banquet-Scottsdale
- 17: JBQ #1
- 21: Thanksgiving Holiday
- 22: Thanksgiving

**DECEMBER**

- 1: TBQ #2
- 6: Ordination Exams
- 7-9: RR FCF Winter Trace
- 11: Executive Presbyter Board Meeting
- 24-25: Christmas Holiday
- 31: District Office Financial Books Close 12:00 noon

**Chapel**

- 31: Credential Renewal Deadline

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**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 behind 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 1025 sq ft. call 602 738 4959 for additional info and Andy Swinford will show.

**Cabin for Sale**
500 sq ft cabin two bedrooms and 1 and 1/2 baths on view double lot #348 for $150,000. 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. 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.

**Paysen First Assembly of God**
is looking to sell a church bus as we have difficulty finding CDL drivers in our congregation. It is a 1993 Ford 25 passenger bus with 71,000 miles. It is a 350 Diesel engine with automatic transmission. We are asking $3,000. Please call Vickie Moore at 928.474.2302.

**Teen Challenge Job Opening:**
Teen Challenge currently has an opening for a Center Director for the teenage boys program in Flagstaff - New Horizon Christian Academy. For more information, contact Jeff Richards, Director of Operations:
Office 520.292.2273
Cell 520.730.4264
Fax 520.292.2257

**Ministers Available for Ministry or Fill-in**

**Arizona Vision**
Monday, October 15th through Tuesday evening, October 16th, our annual Minister’s Renewal will convene on Granite Hills campground in Prescott, Arizona. We are privileged this year to welcome Les & Darice Welk as our guest speakers. Les serves as the district superintendent for the Northwest Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. Les & Darice will challenge you on several levels. They are respected among their peers, and will bring a high level of expertise and experience that will challenge you in your personal lives as well as your pastoral leadership. It’s the heart of those who serve you in district leadership to provide a time of genuine renewal for body, soul, and spirit. We want this to be a ‘relaxed’ atmosphere and a time to build relationships as much as anything. So, log these dates on your calendar and drive up to beautiful Prescott and hang out with us for a few hours in October! Pastor, I can guarantee that you will be blessed and refreshed for having included this event in your October schedule!