



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINISTRY NETWORK

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RMMN CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINISTRY
NETWORK OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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INVESTING IN YOUR TEAM THROUGH MENTORING

by Gene Roncone

Many church leaders are so focused on getting the most out of their staff that they fail to steward and invest in them. One of the surprising results of a recent survey I did of over 600 ministers in our Network was from associate pastors. They said they felt “trapped” in their current role because no one was investing in them for the future. They were paid well, treated well, and resourced well for their current roles but felt they had an expiration date

stamped on their foreheads because no one was mentoring them for the future.

Like the length of the stride of a giant and a small person, not all of us are equal. Some have a longer “leadership stride” than others—not because they are better people but because they were born with “longer legs.” MUCH of leadership is learned with very little given at birth.

Mentoring your team is an effective way to lengthen their stride.

There is one thing every staff member wants, needs, and will absorb sacrifices to obtain: mentoring. But how do we know who is ready for this costly investment, and what are the best ways we can do it? Following are four ways to mentor in a way that invests in your teams.

1. Mentor Wisely

How do you choose people to mentor? That was the question I was asked in response to a Facebook photo I recently posted about my weekly cohort that prepares leaders for their first lead pastorate. It started me thinking about lessons I have learned regarding mentoring over the years.

Mentoring has risks. Mentoring others is a labor of love that involves hard work and many risks. What are those risks? It takes a lot of time, patience, and money. I do not like wasting those things, so I am selective of the people I mentor. Furthermore, not everyone who wants a mentor is ready for one. Your organization's momentum can also be stifled due to your being distracted by an incompetent, sluggish, or overconfident apprentice. Few things are as disappointing as a failed mentorship. I have had my fair share of those in whom I have invested time, money, and emotional support—only to be disappointed. However, the ones who grow make up for the disappointment of those who do not.

Not everyone is ready. I look for people who have given me the confidence that my sacrifice and investment will be worth it. After Moses was told that he would not be leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land, he prayed that God would appoint a new leader for the nation. The Lord instructed Moses to mentor Joshua for leadership.

*Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the **spirit of leadership** and lay your hand on him (Numbers 27:18 NIV, emphasis added).*

What is the "spirit of leadership"? Scholars are not entirely sure, but the

context suggests that there are four characteristics people we mentor should have:

- **A history of faithfulness.**

Joshua had already proven himself faithful to God, Moses, and the nation's mission. He had served faithfully as Moses' assistant since Mount Sinai (Exodus 33:11). He was not influenced by negative peer pressure and was willing to be among the courageous minority (Numbers 14:5-9). He won battles, raised up military commanders, and constantly grew into his calling. He had already proven himself to be faithful in leadership positions.

- **Successful followership.**

As strange as it may sound, the best leaders are those who have been successful followers in prior seasons of their development. The capacity to follow reveals that a potential leader is capable of being loyal to something other than themselves or their own ideas or passions. It also shows that they know how to be on the implementation side of the leadership equation. Anyone can dream dreams that others must fulfill, but successful followers see the big picture and know how the parts need to be connected in order to get things done. Not all followers are leaders, but all outstanding leaders have a history of faithfully following in different contexts.

- **Proven results.** Joshua had more than God's confidence; he also had Moses' confidence and the trust of clan leaders from each of Israel's tribes. Why? He won battles, brought wins to the table, and had a track record of success (Exodus 17:8-13). If something was entrusted to Joshua, it became effective, grew, and contributed to the nation's overall success. Unfortunately, we live in a day when optics are valued more than

results. Leaders are often judged more by their talk, vocabulary, and appearance than their track record. A leader without results is nothing more than an untested theoretician. Unproven theoreticians usually have ideas, vocabulary, and speech that is more impressive than the results column on their résumés. However, Joshua was capable of delivering results.

- **Divine giftings.** The Lord said Joshua had "the spirit of leadership." Scholars are uncertain as to what that may mean. There appear to be two options. The original Hebrew word used for "spirit" could be applied to mean both "courage for leadership" or a "God-given gift of leadership." Either way, it appears Joshua was anointed by God in a way that empowered him with courage and leadership. I personally think it implies the overlapping of natural talent and supernatural anointing. Joshua was blessed to have both.

Create "triple win" scenarios.

The best way to maximize the benefits of mentoring is to create rewarding scenarios on three fronts: the mentor, the mentee, and the organization. For example, I lead a weekly cohort that trains sharp associates to be future lead pastors; but I also give them assignments to fill pulpits when tired pastors need a break. I benefit from satisfying my love for mentoring. Those I mentor benefit from being mentored by a seasoned leader. The Network benefits from having a stronger leadership pipeline and from pulpit support for our smaller churches. This approach is based on the principle that any significant investment of time, energy, and resources should simultaneously benefit more than one area of the organization. It also helps to minimize potential losses and regain

resources invested in the mentorship and creates multiple points of benefit.

Leaders are busy, and our time must be reserved for the worthiest mentees. Make sure you plant the seeds of time, sacrifice, and energy in soil most likely to yield fruit.

2. Mentor Prayerfully

I have had many team members over the years. Some I deserved, and others I did not. Many were pleasant, and a few were invaluable. I have had the driven pushed by ambition, the wanted called by invitation, the covetous motivated by money, and the gifted powered by talent. However, few things bless leaders more than valiant men and women whose hearts have been stirred by God to accompany us.

Shortly after the inauguration of King Saul, some were unimpressed with his potential; yet God blessed him with a group who followed for reasons other than the obvious. Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched (1 Samuel 10:26 ESV).

God gave Saul these mighty warriors despite Saul's own inexperience and limitations. Sadly, Saul proved unworthy of them in the end. This keeps me praying for two things: my heart and the hearts of those who will journey with me in ministry.

My Heart. The sobering truth of Saul's lack of stewardship has me praying for:

- **Humility.** To understand its importance, timing, and situational application.
- **Security.** To work with those who are smarter, more gifted, and more impressive than I.

- **Gratefulness.** To know it is God and not I who provided them, motivated them, and called them to accompany me.
- **Repentance.** To repent when I lead in ways that make me unworthy of their valor and loyalty.
- **Faith.** To release them when the kingdom needs them elsewhere.
- **Courage.** To push them, hold them accountable, and maximize our combined potential.
- **Appreciation.** To honor them for their faithfulness to God and willingness to journey with me.

Their Hearts. 1 Samuel 10:26 has me praying for those who may journey with me into the future. May they be men and women whose hearts have been touched by God to be:

- **Learning leaders** who are willing to invest in their own development, earn excellence, and benchmark with colleagues to excel in what God has presently called them to do.
- **Problem solvers** who do not have all the answers but are willing to study obstacles, gain perspective, and collaborate with others.
- **Practical strategists** who can think through process and lay out steps to get us where we need to be.
- **Relational leaders** who inspire others, welcome accountability, and lead on the wings of relationship.
- **Driven spirits** who are willing to work hard, persevere, and push forward.
- **Loyal warriors** who are not distracted by the political, electoral, and tribal nature of organizations.
- **Dream catchers** who can be inspired by the vision God has given me and be tribal story tellers in our mission.

I printed off these two lists and keep them near me in times of prayer. We labor in a day where ministries are built on the sandy soil of charisma, celebrity, and cosmetic mirage. However, 1 Samuel 10:26 shows us the powerful potential of a followership propelled by the rocket fuel of the Spirit's inspiration. Every leader needs people who willingly and passionately follow under the inspiration of God. Abraham had 318 highly trained men. Saul had men who had been moved by the True God. 2 Samuel 23 and 1 Chronicles 10 both list a roll call of leaders who boldly and courageously served David's vision. **At the end of the day, however, it is the humble heart of a leader and the touch of God upon followers that facilitate winning teams.**

3. Mentor Transformationally

People do not want to feel stuck—especially high performers. If you are not becoming part of their success and promotion quotient, then you are a transactional leader who is only trading services for remuneration. However, transformational leaders mentor someone to prepare them for their next level whether it is with them or not. They prepare people for their next promotion.

How to mentor transformationally.

Transformation mentoring has the following characteristics.

- **Uniquely aligned.** There are different motivating factors for each team member. Just like good parenting requires a parent to recognize the uniqueness of each child, so does mentoring different members of your team.
- **Stretching experiences.** Exposure to executive tasks outside their portfolio that stretch their capacity and perspective.

- **Mentoring assignments.**

Customized assignments that require them to grow skills they do not have but that help the church at the same time.

- **A seat around the table.**

The need to include them in power meetings and executive leadership information loops.

- **Financing their education.**

Not necessarily college but learning seminars, books, and online learning opportunities or mentoring cohorts.

Ways to mentor transformationally.

- Bring them into decisions and genuinely ask their thoughts. By that, they see how you are making those decisions and what factors matter.
- Transparently allow them to see the good, the bad, and the ugly to help you be better.
- Push them to work hard AND play hard.
- From time to time, ask penetrating questions to see how they are doing.
- Give them a seat at tables they do not deserve to sit at.
- Trust them.
- Have hard and clarifying conversations with them; get things out in the open.
- Provide big opportunities with guardrails.
- Teach them lessons and disciplines you have learned while allowing them to be themselves.
- Give them access to you and teach them how not to abuse it.
- Reward hard work with time off or small bonuses. Do not reward everyone the same! Instead reward people in proportion to their contribution to the team and ability to grow.

What to mentor.

- The cost of leadership (financial, emotional, physical, spiritual, and personal cost of being a leader with a long stride).

- How to collaborate and lead strong and diverse personalities.
- Pastoral counseling.
- How to make a budget from scratch.
- How to make an agenda and chair a church board meeting.
- Ministerial ethics.
- Pastoring the expression of spiritual gifts in a worship service.
- How to have a personal devotional life.
- Water baptism, baby dedications, weddings, and funerals.
- How to plan an annual business meeting.
- Execution and the art of getting things done.
- Preaching.

Benefits of transformational mentoring.

When we are transformational mentors, we reap the benefits of team members who are loyal and who have longevity. We also widen and lengthen our leadership pipeline. In addition to these, we also provide greater options and opportunities for team members as well as our ministry. But most of all we duplicate kingdom thinking.

4. Mentor Futuristically

The Assemblies of God is experiencing the most profound transition of lead pastors in our organization's history. Seasoned lead pastors are retiring, resigning, and retreating in the wake of post-Covid realities. Unfortunately, many are not leaving well. Of utmost important to recognize is that we are ALL interim pastors whether it is for a 5- or 20-year tenure. The best leaders prepare their church for the season after they are gone. Mentored succession is perhaps the grandest expression of the "triple win" mentioned earlier. That can be

achieved on several levels of ministry tiers, but is most beneficial when achieved at the highest levels of leadership.

There are many examples in God's Word of godly leaders assuming the responsibility for a smooth transition of leadership. Before his passing, Moses prepared Joshua and made sure there was a seamless transition of power and leadership (Deuteronomy 31). Jacob assembled his sons to instruct them about life after his departure (Genesis 49:1). Joseph took the time to encourage his sons and instruct them in what to do after he died (Genesis 50:24). David accepted the challenge of preparing his successor to succeed (1 Chronicles 22:1-16) and surrounded him with a capable team (1 Chronicles 22:17-29). Before retiring, he gave Solomon and the tribal leaders a written plan to move forward in building the temple (1 Chronicles 28:19). Before leaving Ephesus, Paul gave detailed instructions to the elders on how to carry on without him (Acts 20:22-38). Before returning to heaven, Jesus told His disciples He desired even greater kingdom success for those who followed Him (John 14:12).

Mentored succession is the most effective way for a church to grow and thrive through an eventual pastoral transition. There are several books authored by pastors who have successfully navigated the uncertain waters of mentored succession. Although each story is different, I have noted common denominators and intentional processes that were employed in the handoff. They can be summarized in the following seven stages of varying length.

Stage 1: Embracing Change.

This stage involves the current pastor's being ready, willing, and able to let go. This may be the most critical step because it requires the leader to accept

the reality of letting go of responsibility and influence. Some can let go of one of those, but a smooth transition requires a leader to gracefully release both. Bryant Wright compares the process of knowing when it is time to let go to how an individual knows they have found the right person to marry. You just know.¹ Honest self-reflection, repeated years of plateauing or declining ministry, waning vision, a prolonged period of being in maintenance mode, and decreasing energy and physical ability all play a part in coming to grips with this reality. One leader's moment of enlightenment was when he realized he had not killed or birthed a new ministry in over five years. However, at the end of the day, all leaders must be open to hearing God's voice and moving forward with the same faith and surrender they possessed in their early days of ministry. Age never relieves us of our obligation to live by faith.

Stage 2: Finding Joshua. This stage involves identifying a potential successor. There are many ways leaders have achieved this, but the process includes a few common denominators. In most all cases, the successor exhibited a history of faithfulness, successful followership, proven results, divine giftings, and the ability to cast vision and lead people. However, potential to do these things is not enough. They must also have a history of results.

Stage 3: Wading into Culture. This stage involves a testing time where the potential successor is given a portfolio, placed on the teaching team, and then works on staff to determine if they are compatible with the pastor, board, other staff, and church. At the end of this time, the lead pastor

and board decide if the potential successor can advance to the next stage.

Stage 4: Testing Compatibility.

This step involves the potential candidate's continuing in a determined portfolio while being exposed to every major facet of the church's administration, ministries, neighborhood, and community to develop cultural and organizational mastery. The goal of this important step is to determine cultural, philosophical, theological, and stylistic compatibility. The prophet Amos warns about ignoring this season: Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction? (Amos 3:3 NLT).

Stage 5: Organizational Confirmation.

This stage involves the potential candidate's being informed of the succession plan and being interviewed and considered by the board as "pastor-elect." To gain organizational confirmation, some may even present this plan to the church members and ask them to endorse the board's sentiment through a vote. If selected, the pastor-elect continues to serve as the second-in-command and right arm to the lead pastor until the lead pastor resigns or retires at will.

Stage 6: Facilitating Success.

This stage is a scheduled season where the lead pastor employs their authority, credibility, and trust to implement changes the successor will need to be successful. This may include alterations in staff, structure, and finances that play to the successor's strengths and backfill their weaknesses. This allows the board and pastor to help the pastor-elect by giving them the highest likelihood of future success. Walter Harvey's book

compares this stage of mentored succession to an alley-oop pass in basketball. Harvey claims mentored succession requires the predecessor to set up plays that selflessly allow their successor to slam-dunk the ball and energize both the team and the crowd at the same time.²

Stage 7: Launch Day. This stage is when the formal succession occurs after the lead pastor resigns, retires, or dies. At that time, the pastor-elect is immediately presented to the church as a candidate. The previous pastor's role is to transition into their own new phase of ministry while lending influence to their successor. Jeff Adams pastored Graceway Church in Kansas City, Missouri, for 33 years. After a successful handoff to his successor, Jeff said, "My success is inseparable from that of my successor . . . I was to use my influence to be the bridge for him to the congregation. I was to withdraw all of the funds from my credibility bank and use them to pave his road to success."³

The people we work with are not expendable and disposable cups with a seasonal purpose. They are God's entrustments to us that we must steward. Like the unwise steward, we can bury them in the ground; or like the wise steward, we can invest in them and increase their value for the Master's use.

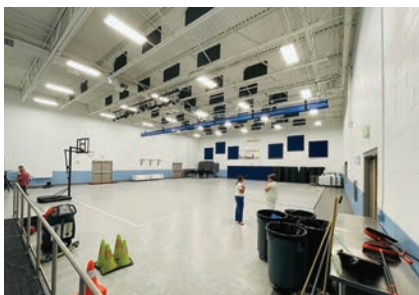
¹Bryant Wright, *Succession, Preparing Your Ministry for the Next Leader*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2022, p. 22.

²Bishop Walter Harvey, *Alley-Oop, Keys to Pastoral Succession*, Walter Harvey Ministries, 2021.

³Will Heath, *Embracing Succession, Helping Ministry Leaders Confront the Personal Side of Transition*, CrossLink Publishing, Rapid City, SD, 2020, pp. 64-65.

1 | BECHTEL'S MAKING US PROUD

Chris and Hannah Bechtel planted Segó Church in the South Jordan area of Utah two years ago. They are serving their community and utilizing a charter school with great multi-use space. They have a big vision and Rhonda and I were blessed to spend a couple hours with them. We enjoyed a meal, tour of the school and a time of prayer together. We are a stronger Network because of their contribution!



2 | COFFEE WITH 3 AMAZING MINISTERS

Got to meet up with Jerry Van Iwaarden and Cindy and Tim Dudley today in Cedar City, Utah. Jerry has pastored Westview Assembly in Cedar City for over thirty years. He was an aerospace engineer that God called into the ministry and now has become a pillar of the community. The Dudley's are a power couple that planted and co-pastor a church in Hurricane, Utah for the past six years. We all enjoyed coffee and a couple of hours of fellowship in a super cool coffee shop called

"The Grind". These faithful leaders have led so well though COVID and we are blessed to have them as part of our RMMN team. Jerry, lost his wife Emma nearly a year ago and our hearts break for him as he continues to lead well in the wake of grief. I once spoke with a Mormon scholar who wrote a thesis paper on why the AG has been effective in Utah. I'll never forget a phrase the author said, "AG ministers are some of the grittiest and determined leaders you will meet. They don't retreat and they never give up". That can also be said about these three!



3 | LOVE THE CROWDERS

Rhonda and I so enjoyed breakfast with Myke and Marsha Crowder. We talked about leadership, changing culture, pain and loss, lots of laughter, tears, and prayers. The Crowdres are as real as they come and have built an amazing ministry, Christian school, and leadership pipeline at Christian Life Center in Layton, Utah. We are stronger because of them.



4 | DEFYING GRAVITY

Defying Gravity, Superintendent Roncone's New Book



Your church is experiencing a pastoral transition and you're unsettled about the potential changes that may be coming. But help is on the way! Defying Gravity will help bring unity and focus to your church, as well as mobilize your congregation behind positive momentum. This short 65-page book was written specifically for the normal people who volunteer, attend, lead, and call your church home. This resource will fortify your church by...

- Helping your entire congregation understand the Biblical purpose for leadership transitions.
- Giving your people a powerful 40-day prayer guide that provides a spiritual covering over everyone involved in the transition.
- Protecting your church from the normal decreases in attendance, giving and engagement often associated with pastoral transitions.
- Empowering your people by giving them practical things they can do to thrive in a pastoral transition.
- Teaching your people to embrace biblical, healthy, and reasonable expectations.
- Building a new faith and willingness to embrace this new season God has ordained.
- Learning the why, how and benefits of supporting your new pastor.

- Encouraging readers to make a one-year commitment to assist your church through the transition.

God is up to something new and getting ready to take your church to the next level of spiritual growth. Transition specialist Gene Roncone will help you be ready and prepared for what can be one of the most exciting seasons of spiritual growth you have ever experienced!

Learn more at

<https://generoncone.org/blog/dg>

5 | EMOTIONAL EQUILIBRIUM

Resources to Process Emotions & Causes for Ministry Transitions

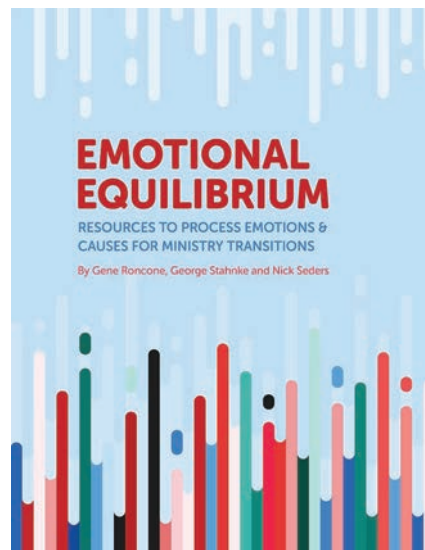
Between the wave of Boomers retiring, post-Covid resignations and cultural shift, I believe we are experiencing the most profound transition of lead pastors in our movement's history right now.

There can be several factors that contribute to a minister's resignation, transition, retirement, or termination. Navigating the emotional midfields of transition can be difficult. To help minister and resource our RMMN ministers during these difficult seasons, we have provided the following resource. It is categorized by common reasons ministers resign, are released, or disqualify themselves listed with links to helpful resources.

1. I am exhausted spiritually.
2. I have disqualified myself morally, sexually, or financially.
3. My spouse has had an extramarital affair and I feel I have lost credibility.
4. My church is unwilling to follow me.

5. I can no longer give what the ministry requires.
6. I need a change to stay motivated.
7. I have lost my board's confidence.
8. I have personal challenges that require a change of lifestyle.
9. I must embrace new family priorities.
10. I feel I have become ineffective or outdated.
11. I no longer have the "want to."
12. God is genuinely calling me to a new assignment.
13. I will be leaving my current pastorate to retire.

This resource is the collaborative effort of George Stahnke, Gene Roncone, and Nick Seders and can be accessed at www.agspe.org/ee.pdf



6 | LEADERSHIP TEAM AT GENERATIONS CHURCH

Rhonda and I got to spend a couple hours with the leadership team at Generations Church in Richfield, Utah. They are in a pastoral search, and I have enjoyed working

closely with them as they move forward. James and Sheri Morey were serving as interim pastors and doing an amazing job. They are both gifted communicators and bi-vocational pastors who are also educators. After serving in an interim period the advisory board unanimously nominated them to be the new lead pastors. Needless to say the Executive Presbytery unanimously approved that nomination. Congratulations James and Sheri.

One of the unique blessings of being a District Superintendent is getting the opportunity to meet and work with so many of the lay people that hold our churches together and make sacrifices to sustain our Christian witness in rural communities. We enjoyed lunch with James, Sheri, Randy, Amy and "Shorty" before touring the parsonage and church facility. Great folks!



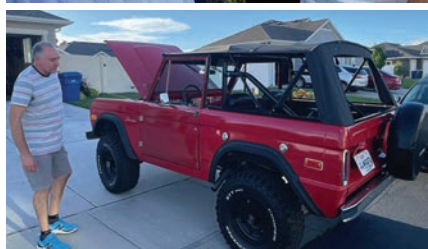
7 | TWO HOURS LAUGHING AND TALKING MINISTRY WITH GLENN JONES

Glenn is the Director of our camp ground in Cedaredge, Colorado and taking things to a whole new level. If you have not been there in a couple years check it out.



8 | HANGIN WITH THE WOOTENS

Rhonda and I were able to visit Rich and Shellie Wooten in their home and bring a meal. Shellie was diagnosed with cancer last fall and recently had a stem cell transplant. She is recovering well and is, as always, her cheerful self as she isolates at home for fifty more days. We just love this couple! A bonus was that Rich took me for a ride in his 1974 Ford Bronco that was featured in a recent reality show for car buffs. Please keep Shellie in your prayers!



9 | CODY VAN PELT, AARON GALYON, CRAIG & ANDREA WHEELER AND DEBORAH VAUGHN@ THE HEAD OF THE TABLE

Each Tuesday we eagerly relinquish the “head of the table” in the Network staff meeting to one of our ministers. This weekly highlight reminds us as a Network staff of why we are here and who we serve. It also gives our ministers the opportunity to speak into our lives and keep us grounded as well as maintain relational bridges to the field.

So far this summer, our Head of the Table included Cody Van Pelt, an Intercultural US Missionary; Aaron Galyon, Kids and Youth Pastor for Cortez First Assembly of God; Craig & Andrea Wheeler, AGWM Missionaries to Portugal; and Deborah Vaughn, a RMMN Minister who recently moved to Jackson, TN. Each one was great, and truly blessed our staff!



10 | LOVING ME SOME UTAH

Each year Rhonda and I enjoy spending several weeks in Utah and boy has it won a special place in our heart. Tonight, we enjoyed a meal with our Executive team in Utah. Never a dull moment with Alex & Donna Lucero, Kelly & Greg Preston, and Lonnie & Pamela Campbell. We sure missed Noreen & Daran Lemon! We also enjoyed the legendary hard milkshakes at Iceberg Drive Inn creamery. The RMMN would not be the same without our Utah ministers. They have learned to thrive in an environment where Christianity is a religious minority and yet growing. As the spiritual pulse of our Nation continues to plummet they flourish where the rest of us are headed and can teach us a lot.



11 | MARKHAMS IN TREMONTON

Sam and Tania Markham planted a church called River of Life in Tremonton, Utah about four years ago. They have done an outstanding job and Rhonda and I were able to enjoy a meal together. Rhonda loved seeing their newborn, Beren Markham. Love this couple and glad they are on our team!



12 | MEL GRAMS: A SPIRITUAL LEGEND

Recently I had the opportunity to spend an hour with one of my mentors. Mel Grams is 92 years old, has been in ministry for over 70 years, and recently wrote his 19th book. I met Mel in Northern California over 35 years ago when he was pastoring one of the Network's largest churches. I have been watching Mel for decades, and he has been a refreshing example of a relevant, growing, and learning leader. God has blessed him with good health, a sharp mind, and the gift of mentorship. I valued every minute of our time together.



13 | CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARJEAN MARSHALL

Honored to be in Utah to celebrate the life of Marjean Marshall, wife of Jack Marshall, who is our Network Royal Ranger Commander. Let's continue to remember Jack and the Marshall family in your prayers as they navigate the high tides of grief.



spend lots of time asking for funding and donations. That's ok. I get it. But Alfred, through his ministry Synergy In Action, makes his mission giving churches vehicles, training, and structure to do their own outreach. That is a profoundly different and needed model. I learned that 4-5 of Alfred's trucks are down and in need of major repairs. Today he spent three hours on the side of the road in a broken-down delivery truck. Let's help Alfred get the wheels moving again so he can continue to empower churches to do what the church does best. Rhonda and I made a donation that night and invite you to join us. Here is the link: <https://www.synergyinactionnetwork.org/make-a-donation.html>



14 | LET'S HELP ALFRED & ANNA MURILLO

Rhonda and I were so blessed to spend several hours with Alfred and Anna Murillo. While pastoring I loved serving the poor and oppressed of Aurora, Colorado. Rhonda and I walked our urban corridor on prayer walks, helped feed the homeless and mobilized businesses in Aurora to solve problems among the underserved. Two years ago while visiting Alfred, he surprised me by planning a night outreach we both could do. We spent a couple hours delivering food to refugees into the night. My heart was so full! It reminded me of what I loved so much about pastoral ministry. Alfred, Anna, Rhonda, and I met up again to hear their story and get updates. Most outreach ministries

15 | NEW SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY/ MINISTERS WIVES

RMMN's Misty Labig has started a Facebook support group for women in ministry who have or currently struggle with mental health. Her vision is to provide a supportive and safe community for women. You can join the group on Facebook by [clicking here](#).



16 | NORTHVIEW ON THE MOVE

Rhonda and I so enjoyed a dinner with the church board in Farr West, Utah. God is blessing this church, even while they are in a pastoral transition. They are getting ready to take on some new missionaries, planning community outreaches and bringing utilities to their future property where the new church will be located. Someone is going to be blessed to partner with these wonderful people. Judy Martin even sent us home with some amazing homemade cinnamon raisin sour dough bread. If I was Catholic I would make her a saint! 😊 But perhaps the "Superintendent's Metal of Honor" may be appropriate!

We were able to conclude the Rise UP pastoral transition sermon series on "How To Embrace God's New Thing". Altars were packed as people signed their commitment to stand by the church in ten strategic areas for the next year.

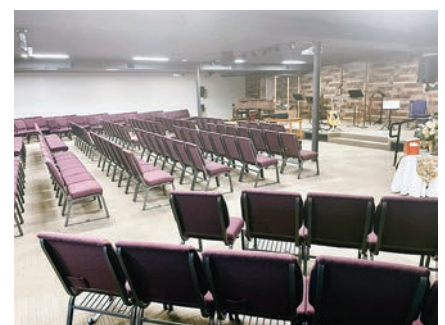
An extra blessing was that I also got to meet a young man named Isaiah who is meeting with two other teens each week and going through the Explore the Call book with their youth pastor, Pastor Jed. God is on the move at Northview!



17 | OUR MOST WESTERN CHURCH

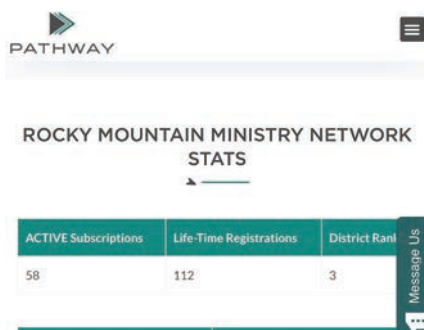
RMMN is 800 miles from our eastern to western boundaries. Rhonda and I so enjoyed spending a couple hours with Javier and la Jimenez in Saint George, Utah. New Life Christian Center is only a few miles from the Nevada border and has really grown and flourished since we were last there. We enjoyed a meal, tour of their newly renovated facility and prayed together.

Javier and la copastor this church and are an amazing team. They both came to ministry from successful corporate careers (he finance and her marketing). Please keep them in your prayers as the launch a new Christian school. Javier is also a blessing as a member of our Network's finance committee. We are so blessed to have them on our RMMN team.



18 | PROUD OF OUR RMMN LEAD PASTORS

So proud of our RMMN lead pastors who are preaching, teaching and testifying on the call of God and using the Explore the Call book to meet with those in their churches exploring God's Call to ministry. I learned that RMMN is 3rd in the nation with 112 people using <https://pathway.training> and 58 actively engage in taking classes. This does not even count those using Berean, mytrinityonline or other educational providers. God is on the move and it's exciting to see His plan unfolding.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINISTRY NETWORK STATS		
ACTIVE Subscriptions	Life-Time Registrations	District Rant
58	112	3

19 | PODCAST RECORDING

Recording another Rise Up podcast for pastoral search committees with author and transition specialist, John Cionca on the the difference between consensus and unanimous decision-making. Boards that tie their hands with a promise of unanimity end up with inferior candidates.



20 | PONDERS IN PAYSON

Rhonda and I headed to Payson, Utah to enjoy a meal with Lee and Rita Ponder. The Ponders came to Utah nearly six years ago and have learned Utah culture like a missionary learns a foreign context. They are growing the work and adding a youth pastor to their staff next week. I just love seeing ministry couples who take the time to learn local culture, develop relationships and grow a culturally relevant church. In this day of high speed sprinters, it's sure refreshing to see a real "distance man".



21 | PRESBYTERY MEETING

Loved our two-day presbytery meetings in July. Lots of progress, fellowship, prayer and laughs.



22 | RURAL MICRO-CHURCH PLANTING

Talking rural micro-church planting with Gina Graves. With both a Biblical and engineering degree, Gina is a leader with exceptional strategic and administrative thinking skills. Love dreaming with our RMMN leaders.



outdoors and are beginning to draw young families to the church. Let's give them both a warm RMMN welcome!



23 | GOOD NEWS FROM VERNAL, UTAH

Last year Rhonda and I were invited to assist the board at Redeeming Grace Fellowship in Vernal, Utah in their pastoral transition. The board used the Rise Up transition manual and did the three-week sustainability initiative. Chase & Hailey Barrett were selected by the church members by an overwhelming vote. Now nine months later, Rhonda and I were eager to drive out and check on them. Not only did Chase and Hailey express appreciation for the Network helping to set them up to win through the Rise Up resources, but things are going very good as these new young pastors gain traction.

Chase served as a youth pastor and children's pastor in rough neighborhoods and eventually becoming a 911 dispatcher in Kansas before coming to Utah.

Chase & Hailey have two amazing sons, ages 4 and 2. They enjoy the

24 | ATTENTION RMMN MINISTERS & CHURCHES

I have updated and uploaded the "WE REPORT" from April 23, 2022 to July 23, 2022. As a leader I welcome the question, "What has the Network done for me or my church?" Ministers rightfully want to know how their tithes are being mobilized to serve them and their churches. Local church board members also need to be exposed to the benefits of our cooperative fellowship. Staff members and volunteers may be unaware of the arsenal of resources the Network has provided for their success, networking and development.

The WE REPORT can best be described as a spiritual stockholder's report. It documents our quarterly progress in the following four areas:

- Empower ministers: Credential,

- equip, and resource ministers.
- Resource churches: Resource, train, and network churches.
- Build community: Connecting, including, and collaborating.
- Facilitate the future: Creating opportunities for the Assemblies of God in Colorado and Utah by establishing long-term vision, new and innovative income streams, and church multiplication.

Feel free to read it, ask questions or pass the PDF version on to your own leadership community. The most updated version of the report can always be accessed at www.generationone.org/we





Preparing the next generation of lead
pastors for excellence in ministry.

CTC SCHOOL OF PASTORAL MINISTRY: RMMN COHORT LAUNCHING IN JANUARY 2023

The Charles T. Crabtree School of Pastoral Ministry was created to prepare the next generation of lead pastors for excellence in ministry. District Superintendent Gene Roncone and Charles Crabtree teamed up to share wisdom that has been passed down through five generations of ministers in their family. This mentorship first existed as a notebook Crabtree wrote to help those in his family prepare for their first lead pastorate. Now it has been redesigned as a 16-week leadership cohort to prepare qualified associates for the modern demands of serving as a lead pastor. Superintendent Gene Roncone and Church Ministries Director Shawn Reine invite associate pastors and those early in their first lead pastorate to apply for this cohort. You will learn...

- How to develop a life-giving devotional life
- How to know if you're ready for a

lead pastorate

- How to explore God's will and interview with a search committee
- How to navigate your first days as a new lead pastor
- Principles and dynamics of church administration
- How to develop office routines
- Budgets and church finances
- How to lead board and annual business meetings
- How to do water baptisms, communion and baby dedications
- How to master weddings, premarital counseling, funerals and graveside services
- How to know the role of a minister's spouse
- Ministerial ethics, etiquette and protocol
- Pastoral care, hospital visitation and pastoral counseling
- How to pastor expressions of the spiritual gifts
- The ingredients of spirit-driven preaching.

The cohort will consist of weekly

group Zoom meetings with Superintendent Gene Roncone and other members of the cohort, individual assignments, discussion huddles with your lead pastor and potential preaching assignments throughout the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network. Only 15 individuals will be selected for each cohort based upon an application, pastoral referral, and signed commitment to engagement. Those who complete the cohort will be presented with a certificate of completion at the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network's annual District Council and listed on the Network website as past graduates and leaders with a commitment to ministry excellence.

You can learn more, check dates and apply for the CTC School of Pastoral Ministry at <https://www.rmdc.org/csm/>

CTC SCHOOL OF PASTORAL MINISTRY TESTIMONIALS

"I knew there was plenty for me to learn, but I did not realize just how much I would learn from the cohort. Each week I learned practical and relevant material that I had not learned anywhere else. I received wisdom I could use now as an associate and even more when God leads me into my own lead pastorate." Scott James, Class of 2022.

"I encourage associate pastors and even pastors that are in the first year of pastoring to join this cohort. You will not be disappointed. You will learn how to create an amazing resume, to properly prepare for funerals, weddings, baptisms and many other ministry needs. You will also meet many new friends and build new and valuable relationships." Paul Speicher, Class of 2021

TESTIMONIALS (continued)

"Going into the cohort, I would have rated my preparedness for a lead pastorate at a 3 on a scale of 1-10. After completing the cohort, I would rate myself at an 8 or 9. This cohort helps you understand the role of a lead pastor and gives you a sense of confidence in how to lead a church well." Johanna Bartsch, Class of 2022

"Being a part of the CTC Cohort was the single best time investment I made in my personal ministry development since I attended Bible College 20+ years ago! Pastor Gene is a treasure trove of wisdom and he brought along so many seasoned ministers to share with us throughout the cohort. The things I learned through this process have helped me so much in making the gigantic leap from Associate Pastor to Lead Pastor a few months ago. I'm a better leader and shepherd for having walked through this journey." Amy Mitchell, Class of 2021

"The CTC cohort is a powerful and one of kind training on how to be a lead pastor. I have gained powerful resources and knowledge that will enable me to take my ministry to the next level." Chris Simms, Class of 2022

"This cohort was of tremendous value to me. I learned so much that made me a better pastor and more in those months than in years prior!" Jeremy Jensen, Class of 2021

"I believe the CTC cohort was one of the most important things I have ever done. Every week I was on the edge of my seat learning more and more and MORE on how to lead and minister well. You will benefit from mentors who have years of wisdom and can help you avoid learning things the painful and difficult way." Juanita Blevins, Class of 2022

"I am so glad the Network offers this cohort because participants will benefit from it in a big way! It was such an asset to be a part of this cohort during my first few months as a lead pastor." Nick Seders, Class of 2021

"The Charles T. Crabtree School of Pastoral Ministry is an invaluable opportunity for practical mentorship to prepare a person for a lead pastorate. It takes you beyond sermon prep to the many other duties you must master to lead a thriving church. The cohort is time well-spent for any minister who is ready for the next level." Chris Griffin, Class of 2022

"I learned so much and this cohort set me up for success! I have a large notebook full of notes and examples that Gene shared! I also got to build relationships with other pastors that I may have never gotten the opportunity to have known otherwise. I encourage everyone to invest in yourself. Trust me, you will not regret it." Lou Ann June, Class of 2021

"I would recommend the CTC cohort to everyone who is looking to further their career in ministry. I have learned so much and feel better prepared to lead a church, prepare for board meetings, perform a wedding, and chair an annual business meeting."
Michelle Jensen, Class of 2022

"The CTC cohort was a huge benefit to me and my ministry. Every session was encouraging, relevant, practical, and substantive! Thanks for making this available... highest recommendation!" Jess Clark, Class of 2021

"The CTC School of Ministry is an incredible opportunity for any minister and pastor. You will receive priceless practical resources, be trained in excellence for ministry, and be challenged to learn and grow. After this cohort I now feel more confident to lead a board meeting and work with church finances, just to name a few." Jared Buchta, Class of 2022

"I loved this cohort and looked forward to every meeting. I learned so much practical knowledge about the day-to-day, non preaching requirements of a lead pastor. I also learned how to do a budget, how to chair board meetings, and how to address problems when they are still small." Bill Beagley, Class of 2021

"The CTC cohort is something you do not want to miss as a personal investment. The wealth of practical knowledge you learn from Gene Roncone, Shawn Reine and others is invaluable. You have nothing to lose by participating in this program and so much to gain. This cohort has helped me grow personally and in my ministry context. I was blessed to form friendships with others whom I may have never come in contact with otherwise." Michael Mele, Class of 2021

"The CTC cohort was such an amazing opportunity. Having been a part of it was not only a privilege but having access to people who understood what they were teaching from real life personal experiences was invaluable." Manuel Melendez, Class of 2021

"This cohort was very encouraging to me. Being a pastor for three years, I had learned a few things that this course really helped to reinforce, and at the same time, gave me a new perspective. There were also plenty of things I didn't know that caused me to make immediate changes that will most likely keep me from unnecessary heartache later on. As anyone in ministry will tell you, this life brings challenges that will test you. So, if your desire is to equip yourself to succeed, this is a valuable resource to consider." Todd Bellamy, Class of 2021

"I can only echo what others have already said. The CTC cohort was amazing to participate in. The experience was invaluable: although it's focused on the practices of leading a church, this program will be an asset to anyone in a pastoral position, whether or not they are looking to transition to a lead pastor position." Jeremiah Holthus, Class of 2021



JOHN BRYANT
Secretary/Treasurer
jbryant@rmdc.org

Congratulations
to the following
2022 Brethouwer Scholarship Recipients:

Gabriella Franco - Sophomore at Northwest University
Daughter of Lewis & Heidi Franco

Noah Sederwall - Freshman at Evangel University
Son of Bryan & Joy Sederwall

Each recipient has been awarded \$1,000 scholarships for 2022.

ORDINATION APPLICATION DEADLINE

If you are interested in being ordained at Network Council in 2023, the application is due to RMMN before November 30, 2022.

For further information on the how's, why's, and RMMN benefits of advancing your current credential, please visit: <https://www.rmdc.org/credentials>.

TRINITY BIBLE COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

Trinity Bible College has a powerfully unique online experience. Their ministerial training is offered online in either an accredited or non-accredited learning track. For more information, go to:

<https://www.rmdc.org/trinity-bible-college/>

Currently Enrolled: 5

PATHWAY ENROLLMENT

Pathways has the newest innovation in online ministerial training and credential advancement. For more information, go to:

<https://www.rmdc.org/pathway/>

Active Subscriptions: 58
Life-time Registrations: 112
District Ranking: 3

Credential Activity

The following individuals have transferred into the RMMN since January 1, 2022:

- Lauren Apodaca (L) - Hawaii
- Brian A Clark (O) - Northern Missouri
- Robert A "Robbie" Gonzalez (L) - Illinois
- Dale Lee McFarland (O) - Southern California
- James Morey (O) - Arizona
- James W Riggan Jr (O) - Southern California
- Alex Trotter (L) - Minnesota
- Lauralei Ulep (L) - Southern Missouri

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Director
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THE CHURCH MINISTRIES TEAM IS WORKING FOR YOU!



Ladies Retreat Information:

2022 Colorado Conference and Retreat – October 7-9, 2022
The Embassy Suites and Conference Center, Loveland CO

2022 Utah Conference and Retreat – October 14-15, 2022
Life Church, Salt Lake City, Utah

Registration is now \$95 – www.women.rmdc.org

Join us for a dynamic weekend of fun, worship and the Word. At a new location, The Embassy Suites and Conference Center, you are sure to enjoy quality time with friends. With workshops designed to meet the needs of today's woman and shopping just a couple of miles away, you will not leave disappointed. Make plans to attend today!

Bike for Missions Information:

Bike for Missions September 17, 2022, Pueblo, CO

We ride to bring hope. We ride to be a difference. We ride to be the Light. Every mile is food to the hungry, clean water to those without, a vehicle for our missionaries who change lives around the world. We ride in partnership with Speed The Light and BGMC. These organizations provide necessary tools to missionaries around the globe so that they can be effective in doing what God has called them to do.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday, September 16th

5:30pm – Meet at predetermined location in Pueblo for Orientation Dinner
8:00pm – Check into hotel

Saturday, September 17th

6:45am – Breakfast at Hotel
7:15am – Carpool from lobby to Start Line
8:00am – Everyone starts from same location in Pace groups
4:00pm – All riders finished



Saturday, September 17th (cont)

4:30pm – Clean up at Hotel
6:00pm – Celebration Dinner at Local Church in Pueblo

Sunday, September 18th

Travel Home



**We are so excited about this year's Next Gen Retreat (formally Recharge)!
November 10-12, 2022
Victory Life Church in Fruita, CO., 2066 Highway 6 & 50, Fruita, CO 81521**

The Next Gen Retreat has been rebranded to focus more on the things that Kids, Youth and Young Adult leaders need in this season... Relationships, Conversations with others in the same ministry and Time away to unplug and refresh.

This event is only for the LEAD LEADER and their spouse.

We will be staying in La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham, Grand Junction! You will need to reserve your room from the room block under Rocky Mountain Network.

Hotel Information:

La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Grand Junction (52678)
2761 Crossroads Boulevard, Grand Junction, CO

Full-Time Lead Leaders - \$50

Part-Time and Volunteer Lead Leaders Registration is Free!

To register and to reserve your room go to <https://www.rmdc.org/nextgenretreat/>

Schedule For Retreat:

Thursday

3:00 - 5:00pm – Check in
5:30 pm - Regional Dinners - on your own (Childcare's Dinner Provided)
7:30 pm – Service
9:30 pm - Late Night Party
11:00 pm - Hotel

Friday

8:00 am - Breakfast (on your own)
10:00 am - RD Led Discussion
11:00 am - Kids/Youth/Young Adults Roundtables
12:30 pm - Lunch on us /Events Talk
1:30 pm - 5:30 pm Free Time/ Excursions (Childcare Provided)
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm - Axe Throwing @ Axeology!!
9:30pm - Hotel

Saturday

8:00 am – Breakfast
9:00 am - Check Out of Hotel
9:30 am - Final Session
11:30 am - Dismiss

FRONTIER FAMILY CAMP

FCF Kit Carson Chapter 2022 Frontier Family Camp "Abiding" Psalm 91

Camp Cedaredge
19986 Highway 65
Cedaredge, CO 81413

September 2-5, 2022

Come join us for our Annual Frontier Family Camp sponsored by the Rocky Mountain District Royal Rangers and Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship.

Frontier Family Camp is a great way to spend time with family, reconnect with friends as well as make new friendships. This is a whole-family event and not restricted to FCF or Royal Ranger families – just have an appropriate connection. Our speaker this year is Pastor Isaac King. Isaac is the Associate Pastor at River of Life Fellowship in Wellington, Colorado. Come expecting a weekend full of fun and encouragement. It would be great if you could wear your 1800's style outfits – but we're not going to throw you out if you don't. As far as lodging, if you have canvas, bring it and add to the frontier atmosphere, but it's also OK to come with modern tents or campers. The important thing is that you come and share the warmth of the campfire with us.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW:

The cost is \$15 per person or \$60 per family.

Sept 2 - Friday afternoon/evening is arrival & check-in.

Sept 3-4 - Saturday & Sunday have a variety of fun activities, fellowship, and worship.

Sept 4 - Sunday evening will be our Frontier Feast (potluck).

Sept 5 - Monday morning is the final gathering & dismissal.

For questions, contact Chris Bearly - 'Steady Flame' FCF Kit Carson Chapter President
cabearly71@gmail.com
Mobile: 970-217-5962



JACK MARSHALL
Royal Rangers
jack.marshall@live.com
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ITINERATING MISSIONARIES

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David & Jeanie Wallace
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Josh & Carolyn Jimenez
Columbia
pastorjosh1984@yahoo.com

Doug & Suzan Scott
Global University
dstcottPhD@gmail.com

Craig & Andrea Wheeler
Portugal
cdwheeler01@gmail.com

Remember: Several sensitive country missionaries are usually home on furlough, too! Contact the RMMN Missions Team for more information - missions@rmdc.org.

2022 AGWM MISSIONS CATALOG

To find ideas, missions posters, children’s missions material, faith promise giving cards and other helpful missions items, go to the 2022 Missions Catalog at <https://warehouse.agwm.org/repository/flipbook/catalog/2022/>



FAITH PROMISE GIVING

As your Faith Promise (or commitment) is an agreement between you and God, it is understood that you may revise your promise (or commitment) at any time.

NEW RENEW

Weekly Faith Promise \$ _____

Monthly Faith Promise \$ _____

TOTAL for YEAR \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Signature _____

AGWM
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Thank You for Giving!



WE HAVE JUST BEEN PLAYING VOLLEYBALL AT THE CITY PARK AND INVITING PEOPLE INTO OUR LIVES

Something that we see happening with many of our alumni is that they are making choices post-graduation based on where their friends are going. Hannah Deubel is one of our alumni who moved to Spokane, WA, where she is from, a year ago. She invited a number of her friends to join her and now have several of our alumni joining her to minister in and through their community as they seek to express their convictions for the lost. Hannah shared with me last week how after moving to Spokane she began meeting people by playing volleyball at the city park. Before long she had a number of women she had met, who she was pursuing friendship with and inviting into her life. One of her new friends just gave her life to the Lord and another got right with God through a small group she started with the new people she was meeting. As more of our graduates join her, they are excited to see how God uses their friendship with each other to transform their city as they pursue people around them with the Love of Christ.

Recently Hannah shared with us how Chi Alpha impacted her life. "When coming to college, I had no Christian friends or community, I knew one soul at CSU and was a Christian but was a skeptical one at that. From the moment I walked into the Chi Alpha family at CSU, my life began to transform in more ways than I thought possible. The culture that Nate and Lindsey

have cultivated allowed me to ask questions, have a safe space to heal from depression and anxiety, devote my heart to Jesus entirely, and become a healthy disciple-maker. I never knew how much of a joy it is to share my faith and my life with a peer and I never knew it was possible to truly share my life with an entire community. I have never had such a high-level leader make themselves so available to simply listen and wrestle with questions with me as the Bankes have.

CSU XA taught me the importance of life together, Lordship, discipleship, and true friendship. I went from a first-year student to small group leader, to staff and am currently working for National Chi Alpha! I am also helping lead a ministry plant in Spokane, WA, with other CSU XA alumni to continue discipleship in our spheres of influence and in the secular marketplace. I aspire to lead my team with the principles that the Bankes have led me in. I hope to replicate their patience with every individual and hope to never lose the life-together mentality that they have shown me."

Hannah is the second from right in the photo below. She is with the girls in her small group that went through our leadership training class. Two of them are in my current cohort this year!



NATE BANKE
Chi Alpha - Colorado
natebanke@gmail.com



Nate with Oregon directors from OSU and UO



GLENN JONES
Camp Cedaredge
campcedaredge@gmail.com



CAMP INVESTMENT WEEK September 12-15, 2022

This year's project overview

We are looking forward to a fun CIW this year, and are grateful for your consideration to invest time and/or finances as well as labor into the ministry of Camp Cedaredge! It has been our aim in years past to choose effective, meaningful projects for co-owners of this camp (that's you!) to be a part of, and this year is no different.

Each of these projects chosen for 2022 are strategic to not only the improvement of the appearances of different areas on the camp, but also to the improvement of the functionality of the camp. **We have chosen to dedicate the projects during this year's CIW to solving 2 specific objectives:**

1. **Housing for event staff during peak season**
2. **Foot traffic flow during peak season**

Housing:

We need more room for event staff to be housed at camp. These staff are the engine behind pulling off events such as youth camp, where

the attendance is upwards of 350 students. For years we have been looking for creative solutions to be able to add housing for 15 - 20 more staff per summer event, and we see an opportunity to solve 2 problems at once, while also updating some spaces which have been on the waiting list anyway!

The projects:

1. **New Bunkhouse** - the old game room is going to be the new bunkhouse.
2. **New Game Room** - we need a larger space with a solid floor for a game room.
3. **Bathroom/Shower house Update** - the new bunkhouse will need a more functional and improved shower house.

Foot traffic:

We have consistently run into a traffic jam in one specific area that is very popular. At this point, we serve ice cream and other treats out of a space called the "Sweet Shoppe". This has been a welcome and wonderful addition to the campus, and its hopping! There is a predictable long wait in line every time this space is open to serve these items, because the space is much too small to accommodate the traffic, and it is too small to

have adequate capacity to serve such a crowd in a timely way. We'd like to solve this problem!

1. **Sweet Shoppe Expansion** - move the existing wall to close in the neighboring porch area effectively doubling the size of the Sweet Shoppe.

If you are interested in learning more details about any one of these projects, a project adoption list is available that has more complete information of how the project will be done, costs for various materials, etc., as well as an introductory video for each project. Please get in contact with us to make arrangements: campcedaredge@gmail.com or my cell # (970) 216-2588. Folks traveling are welcome to make arrangements to stay Sunday night 9/11. Please rsvp!

We look forward to having you join us, and we thank you for your consideration in helping share the costs of these projects so we can complete these 2 important objectives!

DEALING WITH WORRY AND ANXIETY - Part 1 of 3

By George Stahnke

For the past several months news outlets around the world have been reporting on impending food shortages, increasing gas prices, increased interest rates, recession, and stock market volatility. Daily we hear about the increase of lawlessness, wars, pestilence, famine, and natural disasters. We see the increase of false teachers and heretical doctrines in the church, and many people walking away from faith in God. There is no doubt, we live in perilous times!

It is no wonder, that so many Christians have become anxious as they contemplate their future in a world seemingly gone mad. Add to this the everyday concerns that we all have regarding personal needs, marriage, and family. It can be overwhelming!

The apostle Paul writing to the church at Philippi said, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6 NKJV)

Strong's G3309: μεριμνάω merimnāō, mer-im-nah'-ō; from G3308; to be anxious about—concern; to be troubled with cares (NASB) a distracting care (Vines)

"The prohibition is of that painful anxiety which is inevitable in all who feel themselves alone in mere self-dependence amidst the difficulties and dangers of life." –Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

"There is a care of diligence which

is our duty, and agrees with a wise forecast and due concern; but there is a care of fear and distrust, which is sin and folly, and only perplexes and distracts the mind." – Matthew Henry Commentary

"The resolution of this problem probably lies in viewing anxiety as concern that may become fretful and inappropriate if taken too far." – Constable's Notes

According to Webster, anxiety is "a painful or apprehensive uneasiness of mind usually over an impending or anticipated ill; fearful concern or interest; an abnormal and overwhelming sense of apprehension and fear often marked by physiological signs (as sweating, tension, and increased pulse, by doubt concerning the reality and nature of the threat, and by self-doubt about one's capacity to cope with it."

Common Examples of worry/ anxiety

Mathew 6:27-28, 31, 34 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 34 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Singleness and marriage

1 Corinthians 7: 32- 34 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33But the married man is anxious about



GEORGE STAHNKE
Ministry Enrichment
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worldly things, how to please his wife, 34and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

Anxiety-Heaviness-Fear

Proverbs 12:25a Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down (ESV)

Strong's H1674 deh-aw-gaw'; anxiety, anxious care, heaviness, (anxious fear – Net Notes)

Jeremiah 49:23 (AMP) Concerning Damascus [in Syria]. "Hamath and Arpad are perplexed and shamed, For they have heard bad news; They are disheartened; Troubled and anxious (dē'agah) like a [storm-tossed] sea which cannot be calmed.

Look for Part 2 in the November/December 2022 issue of the RMMN Connection.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Gene Roncone
Superintendent/Network Pastor

Alex Lucero
Assistant Superintendent

John Bryant
Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Chavez
Executive East Slope Presbyter

Kelly Preston
Executive Utah Presbyter

Josh Cook
Executive West Slope Presbyter

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Denver Metro North

Jim Brummett
Denver Metro South

Michael Dominguez
Mountain

Paul Speicher
Northeast

Rob Rocca
Northern

Jason McManus
Northwest

Paul Aragon
Pikes Peak

Stan Formby
San Juan

TBD
Southeast

Josh Richardson
Southern

Lonnie Campbell
Utah North

Noreen Lemon
Utah South

Chris Peterson
West Central

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Assistant Church Ministries Director -
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Church Extension Plan
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