



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINISTRY NETWORK

MARCH / APRIL 2023

RMMN CONNECTION

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

HIGHLIGHTS

2023 NETWORK COUNCIL PAGES 2-4

BUILDING A BETTER YOU PAGES 7-10

ADVANCE SCHOLARSHIP PAGES 11-12

CAMP PREP WEEK PAGE 30



Seasons

God's growth plan to help us flourish

2023 NETWORK COUNCIL | APRIL 24-26, 2023
VICTORY LIFE CHURCH | GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO



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2023 Network Council is going to be AWESOME! Registration is now open, so I wanted to give you a sneak peek.

COUNCIL THEME: This year's Network Council theme is *Seasons, God's growth plan to help us flourish*. God uses different seasons to grow us throughout our ministry. **Spring** is a time of revival, development and new growth in our ministries and personal lives. **Summer** is a season of fruitfulness and fulfillment of the purpose of the new growth. **Fall** is often a time where God cleanses, purges, and prunes our lives. **Winter** is a time that may seem like growth has been paused but it is a season with unseen root and character development. These are the things that God is going to do in and through us at this year's Network Council.

SPEAKERS & WORKSHOPS: This year's Network Council has an amazing lineup of speakers! God has something special for you as Rick DuBose (Asst. General Superintendent), Gene Roncone, Mariah Bradford, John Bryant, Paul and Carol Alexander and Mark Renfroe speak into your life and ministry. We will also host additional workshops.

EVENING SERVICES: We start Monday night on April 24th at 6:30 pm with an amazing service and message from Rick Dubose, Asst. General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. Tuesday, Superintendent Roncone will be speaking on Leading in Seasons of Opposition. Wednesday we will experience an unforgettable ordination service and an inspirational team sermon by Drs. Paul and Carol Alexander. The Alexanders are international communicators and will be sure to have a powerful message. Last year's Council had powerful altar times filled with prayer, healing, and breakthroughs. Pray with us. We are believing God for the same this year.

COUNCIL UPGRADES: In addition to our normal evening services, we have added the following upgrades to Network Council.

- Monday post-service after party celebrating World Missions.
- Tuesday post-service after party with food and bonfire celebrating US Missions.
- Special plenary sessions for ministers with Rick Dubose.
- Mega breakout for ministers' spouses with Mariah Bradford.
- Wednesday post-service after party celebrating ordination candidates.

LOCATION: Network Council will be held at Victory Life Church, 2066 Hwy 6 & 50, Fruita, CO 81521.

REGISTRATION: To help eliminate lines we have integrated electronic registration with a program called Brushfire that will enable us to scan your badge. Registration will open Monday, April 24 at 4:00 pm. If you have already received your nametag, feel free to go straight to General Session #1, Monday night at 6:30 pm. We will also have registration open on Tuesday, April 25 at 8:30 am. You can register today online at:

<https://brushfire.com/rmdc/2023rockymountainnetworkcouncil/542771>

BRING YOUR NAMETAG: Your nametag and ticket will be sent to you beforehand and you will need them to check in upon arrival. The registration team will be able to quickly scan your nametag and know that you are there. This will help fast track our business session for roster reports and voting. If you happen to forget your nametag or E-ticket you will be able to visit the registration table to pick up a replacement for fast check-in. There will be no paper ballots as we will again be voting through the Zoom app on your smart phone.

CHILDCARE: If you registered for childcare, please make sure to pay attention to the drop-off times and pick-up times for your child. We have great children workers, but also want to respect their time. We are also asking that if your child has any allergies or special dietary needs that you supply the food they will need.

VOTING: As we did in 2022, we will not be using paper ballots at Network Council. Voting will be done electronically. This will help us process business more efficiently and allow more time for inspirational moments and interaction with peers. Bring your smart phone or tablet with the Zoom app already loaded and functional. If needed, you can download the Zoom for Meetings app before arriving and all you will need to do is log in. For a tutorial video on Zoom voting, visit our Network Council Web Page at www.rmdc.org/council.

We have been preparing for months for this Network Council and think it will be the best yet. Can't wait to see you there!

Gene Roncone
District Superintendent/Network Pastor (aka "helper")

2023 Network Council Schedule
April 24-26, 2023
Victory Life Church, Grand Junction, Colorado

More info at <https://www.rmdc.org/council>

Monday, April 24, 2023

11:30am – 1:00pm – Ordination luncheon – speaker Josh Cook (ordination candidates, Presbytery and spouses only)
4:00pm - 6:30pm – Registration open (Atrium/Lobby)
6:30pm - 8:00pm - General Service #1 – guest Rick DuBose, “Seasons, Part 1” (Auditorium)
8:00 – 9:00pm – World missions after party – coordinator TBD (Atrium/Lobby)

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

8:30am - 9:30am – Registration open (Atrium/Lobby)
9:30am – 12:00pm - Business session #1 (Auditorium)
12:00pm – 1:45pm - Lunch break
1:45pm – 2:45pm – Plenary session – Rick DuBose “Seasons, Part 2” (Auditorium)
2:45pm – 3:00pm – Break
3:00pm – 4:00pm – Plenary session – Rick DuBose “Seasons, Part 3” (Auditorium)
4:00pm – 7:00pm - Dinner break
7:00pm – 9:00pm - General Service #2 - Network Pastor Gene Roncone (Auditorium)
9:00pm - 10:00pm – U.S. missions after party – Andrew Dawson (Atrium/Lobby)

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

10:00am – 11:15am - Memorial Service and Communion (Auditorium)
11:15am – 1:30pm – Lunch break & peer interaction
1:30pm – 2:45pm - Power sessions

- 1. Power Break-Out with Mariah Bradford for minister’s wives
- 2. Power Break-Out with Mark Renfroe (what’s changing with missions)

2:45pm – 3:00pm - Break
3:00pm – 4:30pm - Business session #2 (auditorium) – only if needed
4:30pm – 7:00pm - Dinner break
5:30pm – 6:30pm – Ordination rehearsal (Auditorium) – ordination, licensed & certified candidates & Presbytery
6:30pm – 7:00pm – Ordination pictures
7:00pm – 9:00pm - Ordination service and closing – guests Paul & Carol Alexander (Auditorium)
9:00pm – 10:00pm - Ordination reception (Atrium/Lobby)

**Babysitting will be provided during all service times and events (except for meal breaks and evening after-service events).*



GENE RONCONE

Superintendent/Network Pastor
gene@rmdc.org



NEW COMMUNITY PODCAST FOR RMMN MINISTERS

The Network's Community Podcast has been totally redesigned to be syndicated on the first and third Wednesday of each month. It will feature the following segments.

- **Spotlight:** 10-minute interview between Gene Roncone and a Network minister with the purpose of getting to know that minister better and hear a part of their life story.
- **Mission's Moment.** We will hear a five-minute report from one of our RMMN missionaries on a subject relevant to the local church and world evangelism.
- **Equip.** A five-minute highlight of a resource, training, networking opportunity or event our Church Ministries Department is providing.
- **From the Heart.** A ten-minute segment where Superintendent Roncone is

interviewed about a topic the Lord has placed on his heart for the Network.

It will be made available through our textcasting, Facebook and Sound Cloud Channel at <https://soundcloud.com/rmdstudios>.

Here are samples of past episodes:

NEW COMMUNITY PODCAST, EPISODE 1: This episode of the Community Podcast is amazing! In the SPOTLIGHT segment you will hear how God called one of our Network chaplains to confront past fear and talk a suicide jumper off the ledge. The MISSION'S MOMENT features an RMMN missionary in a sensitive nation that led a Muslim to Christ and baptized them in a secluded lake. Church Ministry Director Shawn Reine briefs pastors on a new program to help them raise up volunteer youth and children's pastors in the EQUIP segment. Then, in the FROM THE HEART segment, Linda Bottoms interviews

Superintendent Gene Roncone about why he overhauled the Community Podcast and what we can expect from it in the future. This episode is faith-building and glorifies God's hand upon our Network and our ministers. You will not want to miss this episode. Chick here to listen. www.agspe.org/CP20230104.mp3

COMMUNITY PODCAST, EPISODE 2: In this episode of the Community Podcast, Gene Roncone interviews newly elected State Representative and RMMN minister Scott Bottoms in the SPOTLIGHT segment about why he ran for office and how he keeps balance. In the MISSION'S MOMENT, Gyula and Amie Koncz thank the Network for helping them to purchase a new school building in Morocco. Then in the EQUIP segment, the Church Ministries Department updates you on how they want to help you train youth and children's volunteers in your church. The podcast concludes with the segment FROM THE

NEW COMMUNITY PODCAST *(continued)*

HEART where Shawn Reine interviews Superintendent Gene Roncone about something the Lord convicted him about concerning leadership. Click here to listen. www.agspe.org/CP20230118.mp3

COMMUNITY PODCAST, EPISODE 3: In this episode of the Community Podcast, the SPOTLIGHT segment features an inspirational story about two Colorado churches that teamed up to help a rural Utah church in need. In the MISSION'S MOMENT, veteran missionary David Wallace gets transparent and talks about three challenges missionaries face. Then in the EQUIP segment, the Church Ministries Department updates you on a new resource to train your lay ministry leaders. The podcast concludes with the FROM THE HEART segment where Superintendent Gene Roncone shares his heart about the importance of giving every new convert resources to help them grow. Click here to listen. www.agspe.org/CP20230201.mp3

COMMUNITY PODCAST, EPISODE 4: Episode 4's SPOTLIGHT segment will encourage your heart with a spotlight on Mark and Joy England and a COVID comeback story in Gunnison, Colorado. The MISSION'S MOMENT will feature what an RMMN missionary is doing to bring hope to Ukrainian refugees. The EQUIP segment will bring good news from the Church Ministries Department. In the FROM THE HEART segment, Caleb McNaughton and Gene Roncone talk about 5 ways you can get the most out of Network Council this year. Click here to listen: www.agspe.org/CP20230215.mp3.

BUILDING A BETTER YOU

Building a Better You

By Dr. Paul Alexander and Gene Roncone

Since deep antiquity, there has always been a process by which the church recognizes those who are called to be ministers. In some traditions, the process is a long one. For example, those who serve as ministers in the Dutch Reformed Church normally complete at least seven years of formal training. In the Orthodox, Catholic, and Episcopalian traditions, the process is both formal and reflective. For some, it involves the serious commitment of taking vows and spending long hours in careful contemplation before assuming the high responsibility of ministry.

In our tradition, the process has tended to be a little less demanding or formal. However, since the inception of the Assemblies of God and its sister fellowships around the world, there is an undisputed commitment to recognize leaders and to do so by credentialing those found worthy of the high office of ministry. This commitment is vitally important. Those in ministry can have immense influence in the lives of those they serve. Major life choices will be made by people influenced and instructed by those who have a ministry responsibility; consequently, credentialing and ordination are processes that should never be taken lightly.

The Church is served by some of the most committed and sacrificial people in the world. Missionaries labor in unfriendly environments, chaplains give their lives to serve others, and hundreds of pastors give their time and effort willingly and gladly. Unfortunately, all of

PROGRESSION

BUILDING A BETTER YOU



these amazing efforts can be detrimentally impacted by those who fail in their moral and spiritual commitments; therefore, for the sake of the witness of the Church and the honor of Christ, it is vitally important that those seeking to serve in ministry should go through the rigors of a clearly defined credentialing process.

It is for this reason that we have teamed up to create this resource. We believe that ministerial training is important enough for our two organizations—the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network and Trinity Bible College and Graduate School—to forge a collaborative partnership. We stand ready to equip, encourage, and coach you along your journey.

8 Advantages to Advancing Your Credential

There are many powerful reasons

a minister should exist in a state of continual learning and credential advancement, a few of which are:

1. Personal growth. Learning should be a lifelong process, and devoting time to continuing education can be a journey of personal development. By advancing your credential, you are making an investment in your personal growth. You are also becoming a better steward of kingdom resources by increasing your effectiveness and preparedness for ministry.

2. Greater credibility. Whether it is the medical field or watchmaking, every career path has different levels of certification. Once those you lead discover higher levels of credentialing are available to you but have not been achieved, they may have less confidence in your abilities as a leader.

BUILDING A BETTER YOU

(continued)

For example, watchmakers have five levels of certification. Those seeking certification must prove their skills by performing quality repairs on materials for which they are certified. Their certification involves a stringent three-day examination of four major areas involving the technical aspects of watchmaking including automatic watches, quartz watches, and chronographs. To keep their certificate current, watchmakers must complete continuing education courses throughout their career. If a watch we use to plan and prioritize our day requires that the watchmaker be certified, how much more should a minister by whom we synchronize our souls be certified? If you were choosing a place to get your watch repaired, which level of certification would you prefer?

3. Increased opportunity. Most churches have employees who are not ordained. These people work in ministry but usually serve in areas that support ministry functions. However, ordained ministry carries greater authority and responsibility to God's people. As a matter of fact, the bylaws of most Assemblies of God churches require those who serve as a lead pastor be ordained. Why? Because even pastoral search committees feel that higher levels of credentialing better prepare a person for greater responsibility, stewardship, entrustment, remuneration, and promotion.

4. Formal endorsement. Certification and licensing

ensure that your spiritual eldership has recognized God's call upon your life. However, ordination goes one step beyond that. It is an affirmation that your spiritual eldership has examined your life closely and witnessed God's blessing and favor upon your ministry.

5. Leadership potential.

According to both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and our network bylaws, the highest level of leadership requires the highest level of credential (ordination). For example, the district superintendent/network pastor, assistant superintendent, secretary treasurer, executive presbyters, every member of the presbytery, provisional presbyters, and those empowered to call a special meeting of the Network Council in the event of an emergency are all required to be ordained. That means the network's source of leadership, vision, and potential will be limited to the pool of those who are ordained. In other words, ordination is the lid that determines your highest potential and capacity as a leader in our Fellowship. We owe it to ourselves and our future to maintain the highest percentage of ordained ministers within our network.

6. Spiritual growth. Advancing your credential will require classes that will increase your knowledge of the Word, enlarge your theological foundation, and bring spiritual growth to your life. In essence, you will be increasing the capacity of your soul and enabling yourself to bring deeper and greater levels of spiritual resiliency to your ministry. For example, a minister

who is certified has yet to go through the AG's internship, pass the AG polity exam, and take the 18 classes required for license and ordination. A person who is licensed has yet to take 8 classes, be interviewed by the Executive Presbytery and be officially endorsed by receiving ordination, participating in the ordination ceremony and receive the laying on of hands by the Network eldership. Not only should these growth opportunities be important to you, but they will be important to those considering you for future ministry positions. Additional information on these growth opportunities can be found at: http://www.agspe.org/AG_Credentials.pdf

7. Ordination has benefits and privileges. To recognize and honor the sacrifice, commitment, and ministry accomplishments of those who have achieved the highest level of credential, the Rocky Mountain Ministry offers exclusive benefits to those who are ordained. Among these benefits is a 50% discount on all graduate level tuition in the Masters and PhD programs of Trinity Bible College and Seminary. As one of our primary educational partners, Trinity assists us by investing in leaders already serving in our Network, as well as increasing our ability to recruit new ministers to serve as lead pastors and staff in our RMMN churches. For more information on the qualifications and requirements of this and other benefits, contact the District Superintendent's office or visit www.agspe.org/trinityscholarship.pdf.

BUILDING A BETTER YOU (continued)

8. Maximum impact. When each of the advantages above are considered, the sum total produces maximum impact on the kingdom of God.

If you are a certified minister who has yet to be licensed or a licensed minister who has not yet been ordained, why not call your network office today and begin advancing your credential. God has more for you to accomplish than your present or your past.

Practical Steps to Advancement

By now you may be wondering what steps you should take to advance your ministerial credential. No matter what stage of credential you may have, the following steps will need to be taken to advance:

1. Complete an educational audit. An educational audit is a review of the classes you have taken and your life experience to determine what steps are needed to progress to the next level of credential. This audit is done in consultation with the credentialing office of the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network. Please make an appointment with Judy Bass at jbass@rmdc.org.

2. Make yourself accountable. After you receive the results of the educational audit and know what steps to take, increase your likelihood of success by making yourself accountable to a minister friend or presbyter. Tell them what classes you need to take and the timeframe you have set to

have them completed. Ask them to provide the encouragement and accountability to finish by checking in on your progress every now and then. If you do not have an accountability partner, we would be happy to assist you in finding one.

3. Take necessary classes. Your educational audit may reveal a class or classes you need to satisfy the educational requirements of your desired credential. You can learn more about our educational partners who can provide this instruction by reading "Preparing for Ministry." This PDF document provides answers and options to help you take the necessary classes. It can be found at www.rmdc.org/credentials

4. Begin the application process. When you have completed all the necessary classes, you request an application for the next level of credential. You will then be contacted via email with the paperwork required to apply. You can get more information about how to do this at <https://www.rmdc.org/credentialing-application>.

5. Exam and interview. Once all the paperwork has been submitted and approved, the RMMN credentialing office will contact you to set up an exam. Following is a summary of the exams, interviews, and resources available to help you prepare.

A. Certified level. You will be required to take two exams (Bible Knowledge and Doctrine). All exam(s) are taken online, and you will be responsible for obtaining a proctor for your exam(s). The

proctor must be an Assemblies of God minister who currently has the same credential you are seeking or higher. When the exams are completed and passed with a grade of 70 percent or higher, a date and time will be set up through your presbyter for you to be interviewed by the sectional committee.

We have collaborated with credential specialists around the Nation to make the following resources available to help prepare you for the certified exam and interview. They vary in approach to help you find one that suites your unique style of learning.

- **Podcast:** Listen to the exam and interview coaching podcast for the certified level at this link: www.agspe.org/advance1a.mp3
- **Q&A:** Examples of potential interview questions for the certified level can be accessed at this link: www.agspe.org/advance1b.pdf
- **PDF:** General Council official study guide: www.agspe.org/advance1c.pdf
- **Interactive:** Pathway offers a free online interactive and guided study with other helpful resources for those who register at: <https://pathway.training/practice-test-for-credentialing/>
- **E-book:** Dr. Tim Laurito's free e-book entitled, *Glossolalia, Speaking in Tongues and Initial Physical Evidence*, will help you prepare for your credentialing exam and interview. You can access this resource at: www.agspe.org/GIPE_RMMN.pdf
- **Article:** To help you prepare for your credential interview, Pastor Rob Rocca

BUILDING A BETTER YOU (continued)

breaks it down and explains the relationship between the baptism in the Holy Spirit, initial physical evidence, and the local church. You can access this resource at: www.agspe.org/CDD_RMMN.pdf

B. Licensed level. If you are already certified, you will be required to take one exam (Polity). If you are not certified and going straight to licensed, you will be required to take all three (3) exams (Bible Knowledge, Doctrine, and Polity). All exams are taken online, and you will be responsible for obtaining a proctor for any exams. The proctor must be an Assemblies of God minister who currently has the same credential you are seeking or higher. When the exams are completed and passed with a grade of 70 percent or higher, a date and time will be set up through your presbyter for you to be interviewed by the sectional committee.

We have collaborated with credential specialists around the Nation to make the following resources available to help prepare you for the licensed exam and interview. They vary in approach to help you find one that suites your unique style of learning.

- Podcast: Listen to the exam and interview coaching podcast for the licensing level at this link: www.agspe.org/advance2a.mp3
- Q&A: Examples of potential interview questions for the licensed level can be accessed

at this link: www.agspe.org/advance2b.pdf

- PDF: General Council official study guide: www.agspe.org/advance2c.pdf
- Interactive: Pathway offers a free online interactive and guided study with other helpful resources for those that register at: <https://pathway.training/practice-test-for-credentialing/>
- E-book: Dr. Tim Laurito's free e-book entitled, *Glossolalia, Speaking in Tongues and Initial Physical Evidence*, will help you prepare for your credentialing exam and interview. You can access this resource at: www.agspe.org/GIPE_RMMN.pdf
- Article: To help you prepare for your credential interview, Pastor Rob Rocca breaks it down and explains the relationship between the baptism in the Holy Spirit, initial physical evidence, and the local church. You can access this resource at: www.agspe.org/CDD_RMMN.pdf

C. Ordained level. No exam is required for the ordination level unless you are transferring an ordination from another organization. An interview will be set up in January of the same year you will be ordained at Network Council. Your ordination interview will be done with the Executive Presbytery.

We have collaborated with credential specialists around the Nation to make the following resources available to help prepare you for the ordination interview. They vary in approach to help you find one that suites your unique style of learning.

- Podcast: Listen to the interview coaching podcast for the ordination level at this link: www.agspe.org/advance3a.mp3
- Q&A: Examples of potential interview questions for the interview level can be accessed at this link: www.agspe.org/advance3b.pdf
- E-book: Dr. Tim Laurito's free e-book entitled, *Glossolalia, Speaking in Tongues and Initial Physical Evidence*, will help you prepare for your credentialing exam and interview. You can access this resource at: www.agspe.org/GIPE_RMMN.pdf
- Article: To help you prepare for your credential interview, Pastor Rob Rocca breaks it down and explains the relationship between the baptism in the Holy Spirit, initial physical evidence, and the local church. You can access this resource at: www.agspe.org/CDD_RMMN.pdf

6. Celebrate your progress! Each year the Network celebrates the advancement of credential holders by recognizing them by name on the last night of our annual Network Council. Those newly certified and licensed ministers will be recognized by name and called forward to receive their certificates. Those who are newly ordained will be recognized, given the ordination charge and their certificate of ordination, and be anointed and prayed over by the Network Presbytery.

To access the latest credential information for the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network and its credentialing partners, please visit www.rmdc.org/credentials.

ADVANCE SCHOLARSHIP

The RMMN Ministry Enhancement Fund is investing \$30,000 to fund one-year Pathway educational scholarships for certified and licensed ministers to finish their educational requirements to advance to the next level of credential within a one-year period. Because the General Council requires a person to be licensed for two years before applying for ordination, those who qualify can immediately seek advancement while those needing to wait can get their educational requirements out of the way now and apply for ordination the following year. The Network will also employ a remote Credential Specialist who will be specifically and exclusively assigned to scholarship recipients to coach them through the completion of their file and advancement application within that same year.

A. Objective. To see 100 new ordained ministers in four years.

B. Rational. This initiative makes sense for the following three reasons:

1. Strategic alignment.

This initiative is strategically aligned with the original intent and purpose of the ministry enrichment fund which is to invest in our ministers and their ministry effectiveness.

2. Good stewardship. This initiative is one of the most cost-effective ways to employ funds designated for ministry enrichment.

3. True value. This initiative brings tremendous value to the grass-roots level of the people and churches we exist to serve.

C. Benefits. This initiative several benefits including:



1. Rewarding those who have already exhibited the diligence, commitment, and sacrifice to achieve the first two levels of credentials (certified and licensed).

2. Empowering our ministers by investing in their theological education, increasing their ministry effectiveness, and providing greater opportunities for ministry advancement.

3. Assisting our churches by deepening their minister's theological education, increasing their ministry effectiveness, and facilitating doctrinal purity.

4. Strengthening the Network by increasing the number of advancing ministers, lengthening our leadership pipeline, and increasing our pool of mentors.

D. Strategy. The following strategy will be executed:

1. Feasibility study. A 2022 online survey of RMMN licensed ministers surveying their interest, time, commitment, and ministry margin revealed outstanding interest in this beta group. The first year also resulted in several

ministers advancing to ordination.

2. Partnership. Pathway (www.pathway.training), our existing educational partner, will be our exclusive educational partner in this initiative. The Network will purchase subscriptions and assign login and passwords to participants. Pathway will also give our Advance Specialist access to their administrative dashboard to monitor participants progress.

3. Funding. The Ministry Enhancement Fund will invest \$30,000 a year to fund Pathway educational scholarships for certified and licensed ministers to finish their educational requirements for ordination within a one-year period. The Network will also employ a remote Credential Specialist who will be specifically and exclusively assigned to scholarship recipients to coach them through the completion of their file, provide additional accountability and compile the ordination application (when applicable).

4. Selection of applicants. All licensed ministers will be invited to apply for the Advancement

ADVANCE SCHOLARSHIP (continued)

Scholarship through an online application that must be completed to be considered.

a. Online application. An intuitive online application will be used to usher applicants through a series of questions that will help us learn more about their future ministry goals, sense of ownership and compatibility with the Pathway learning model. This assessment also gives each applicant a compatibility score to help the Network determine and coach recipients of the scholarship each year. The online application can be accessed at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMMNAdvance>

b. Qualification. The program will be limited to ..

- Individuals who already have been certified or licensed and require additional classes through Pathway to advance to the next level of credential.
- It will not include those who are transferring an ordination from another organization or who can or desire to use life experience to fulfill any ordination educational requirements. In these cases, the individual will be released from the scholarship program and referred to our normal credentialing office.

5. Ordination credential specialist. To ensure the success of this initiative, the Network will contract a part-time scholarship credential specialist who will be assigned by the Superintendent to ministers receiving the Pathway scholarships. Pathway given our Advance Scholarship Credential Specialist (ASCS) access

to their admin dashboard to monitor the real time progress and student records of our scholarship recipients. This will provide extra accountability to help us better coach our RMMN students involved in the Advance Scholarship.



Elaine Jones is an ordained minister with the Northwest Ministry Network where she previously worked as the

Credentials Specialist from 2018-2021. The Northwest Ministry Network has over 350 churches and 1400 ministers. While Elaine served as the Credentials Specialist, she helped gain credentials for over 200 ministers (around 60/year) while also overseeing the credential renewal season for the 1400 ministers/year. Elaine is currently on staff at Redmond Assembly of God as the Executive Pastor, serving alongside her husband, Brandon, who is the lead pastor. She can be reached at ejones@rmdc.org.

a. Rationale. Employing an external ordination credential specialist will prevent the Secretary/Treasurer's office from being overwhelmed with the many tasks associated with the Advance Fund's scholarship applicants. It will also provide the participants with a "coach" to walk them through the process.

b. Responsibilities. The Advance ordination credential specialist will only interact with those accepted into the program and who already possess a ministerial license.

They will:

- **Perform** the educational audits necessary to determine what classes each participant will need to pass in order to be ordained.
- **Master** the policies, procedures, and deadlines associated with the licensed and ordination track.
- **Serve** as the Network's liaison to the Pathway scholarship recipients.
- **Monitor** the progress of each participant on the Pathway and General Council dashboard to ensure they finish the ordination educational track within 12 months.
- **Contact** the recipients monthly via email to help them set goals and encourage, resource, and advise them.
- **Inform** the Superintendent of any participants that may need encouragement to reengage in their studies.
- **Record** and build the candidates ordination file and upload the necessary documents to a shared Dropbox or Microsoft OneDrive.
- **Approve** the completion of the file with supporting documentation and then refer that file to the RMMN credentialing office. Once the file is confirmed as ready, the RMMN credentialing office will oversee the rest of the process.

The online application can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMMNAdvance>

www.rmdc.org/advance

SHEPHERDS OF GOD YOUTUBE DESCRIPTIONS

Leading any kind of ministry today is a lot like sailing against the wind. The squalls of godlessness, cultural unrest, political conflict, and impossible expectations have made post-Covid ministry challenging to say the least. But we are not alone. While the Early Church faced similar obstacles, Peter's first epistle encouraged pastors to, *"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be"* (1 Peter 5:4). In this devotional, Gene Roncone helps pastors evaluate their ministries against the backdrop of scripture and ask challenging questions about their calling, identity, "want to" and motivation while leading in difficult times.

Part 1: Am I Rising Above Adversity or Being Defined by It?

Part 2: Is My Identity Being Shaped by God or Culture?

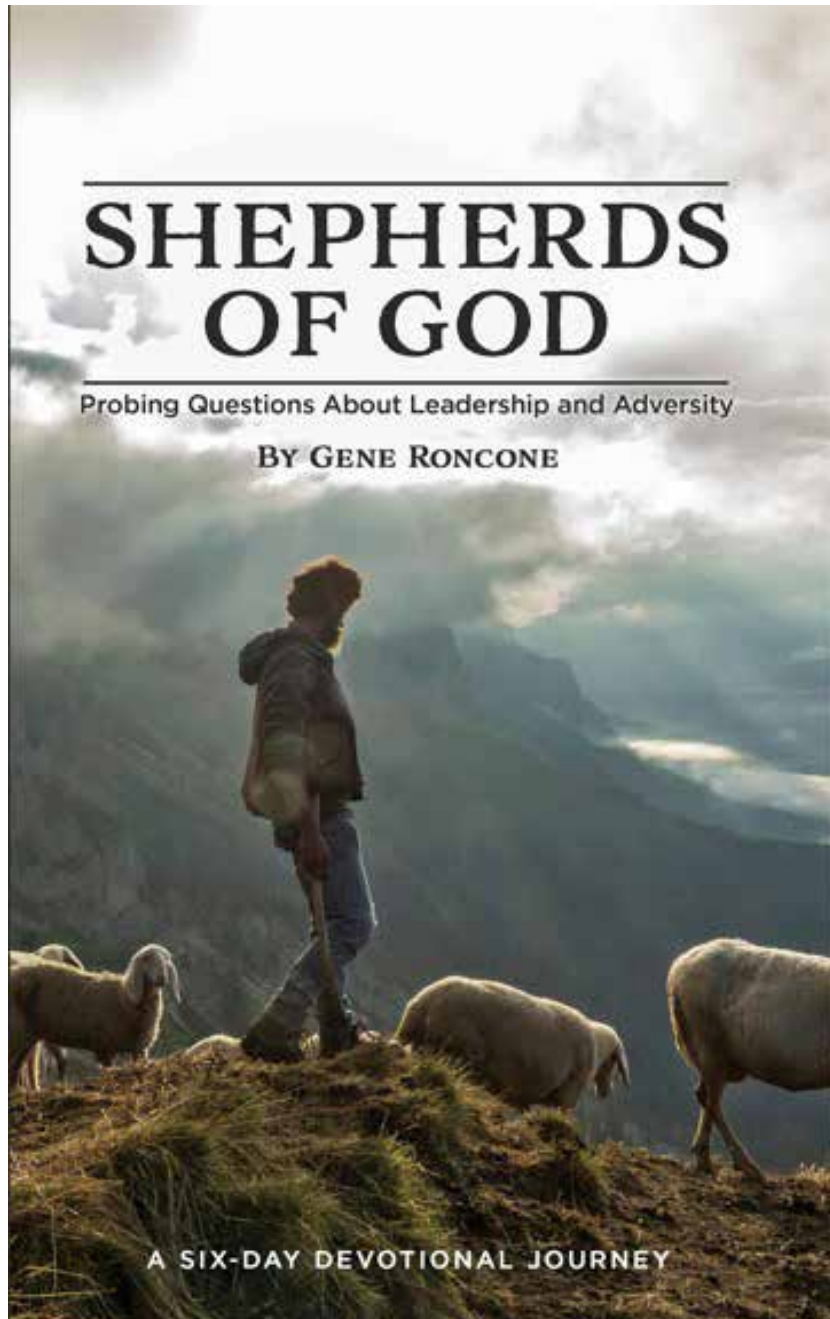
Part 3: Am I Excited About Ministry or Tolerating It?

Part 4: Am I Chasing the Right Things?

Part 5: Concluding Thoughts

This resource features both a short paperback devotional with the content and discussion questions with a companion video series with each episode averaging about 5 minutes in length. The video is meant to serve as a five-minute introduction to the discussion questions for each chapter.

PAPERBACK STUDY GUIDE: The study guide can be purchased on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/2O8ZWk7>



VIDEO SERIES: The video series can be viewed from the Network's YouTube channel @rockymountainministynetwo3065

TWO NEW BELIEVER RESOURCES FOR RMMN CHURCHES

Few things are more important than discipling new believers. When asked what the most common challenges are in the discipleship of new believers, pastors identified five things.

- Not enough converts to host an ongoing class or small group.
- No structured process to coach them in their first few days of becoming a Christ-follower.
- New believers don't want to attend a class or small group.
- Can't find new believer resources that are from a Spirit-filled perspective.
- Difficulty finding a reliable and effective new believer teacher/coach.

In response to this feedback, Superintendent Gene Roncone has created two resources for RMMN churches.

#1. Free Website with Audio Files, *Beginning the Journey*

Want a free resource to help new believers in your services get an amazing start in the first 30 days of their faith? The RMMN Network has your back. Superintendent Roncone has created a free webpage that is designed to coach new believers through the first thirty days of their decision with a short topical audio devotional for each day and corresponding Bible reading.

Just put the following text on your screen when you give the salvation invitation.

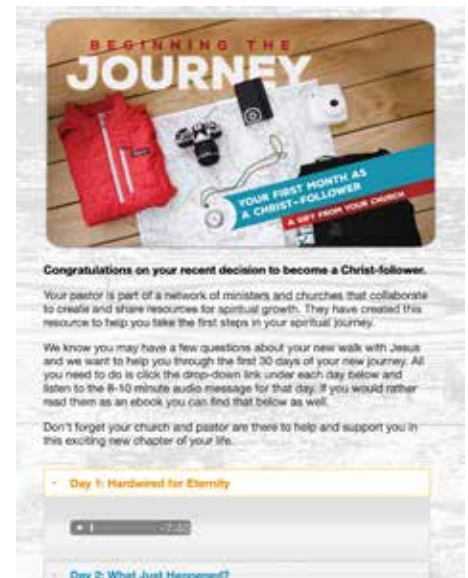
"Congrats on your new decision to give Christ leadership of your life. Here is a resource to help. Go to <https://www.gojourney.org>."

#2. Gift Paperback Book entitled *Beginning the Journey*

The brand new paperback book is entitled *Beginning the Journey, Your First 30 Days as a Christ-Follower*. The book is designed to coach new believers through the first thirty days of their decision with a short topical devotional each day, corresponding Bible reading, and reflection questions. The reflection questions have been written in a way that they can be used as an independent study, one-on-one mentoring, or as a group study. Because the book has been affordably priced at \$8 a copy, churches can purchase them as needed and even give as a gift to those who make a decision for Christ.

Gift copies can be ordered on Amazon at:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BNTWF7WS>



A look at the 'Beginning the Journey' website

CHURCH EXTENSION PLAN PARTNERS WITH RMMN IN MENTORING FUTURE LEADERS

Superintendent Roncone announced a new partnership with Church Extension Plan to mentor students of the Charles T. Crabtree School of Pastoral Ministry. Each year Superintendent Roncone selects 15 sharp associate pastors and invests 16 weeks into preparing them for their first lead pastorate. Two weeks of the cohort is spent teaching emerging leaders how to make a church budget from scratch with nothing but canceled checks from the prior year. "Leading a growing church requires leaders who know how make a budget every year, recognize income and expense patterns, project expenses, maintain healthy percentages, do mid-year evaluations, and maintain a balanced budget. Unfortunately, Ministerial educators do not teach these skills and most lead pastors do not mentor in these areas either. That is why the cohort dedicates two entire weeks for this critical discipline. I am thrilled that CEP is joining our mentoring team," said Superintendent Roncone.

Church Extension Plan (CEP) is an Assemblies of God ministry that provides premier financial and administrative services to AG churches, ministers, districts, and adherents. CEP's Senior Vice President of Ministry Consulting Jeremy Stamback will be leading a team of CEP executives to teach these two strategic weeks of the cohort. "CEP is excited about this partnership with the RMMN and bringing practical and encouraging mentorship on how to create a strategic budget with vision and reality in mind. President Mark Whitney, Josh Herndon and I will be leading the discussion on why

budgeting is crucial to the success of the church, how to implement an effective budget and leading the interactive out of class exercise of balancing your very own church budget from a shoebox of receipts," said Stamback. "Once they learn the ins and outs of 'old school' budgetary grunt work, they will be ready for any assignment God gives them," said Roncone.

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. In 2019 it was redesigned as a 16-week leadership cohort to prepare qualified associates for the modern demands of serving as a lead pastor.

The two-week financial module is the largest and most difficult component of the cohort. However, past graduates have said it proved to be one of the most valuable in preparing them for their first lead pastorate. Mark Whitney, President of Church Extension Plan, said, "Utilizing the tool of finance, Church Extension Plan has had the privilege of assisting over 3,000 pastors and churches fulfill their God-given vision. We thoroughly enjoy dreaming with pastors and helping them navigate the financial complexities of building a budget



that will help them see the fruits of their labor. I am truly excited about partnering with Pastor Gene and the RMMN to help educate and train emerging leaders to better understand facilitating vision through effective finances. These are skills that will prove invaluable to pastors as they lead their teams and congregations to realize the vision God has placed on their hearts."

You can learn more about the cohort at <https://www.rmdc.org/csm> and CEP at <https://www.cepnet.com>.

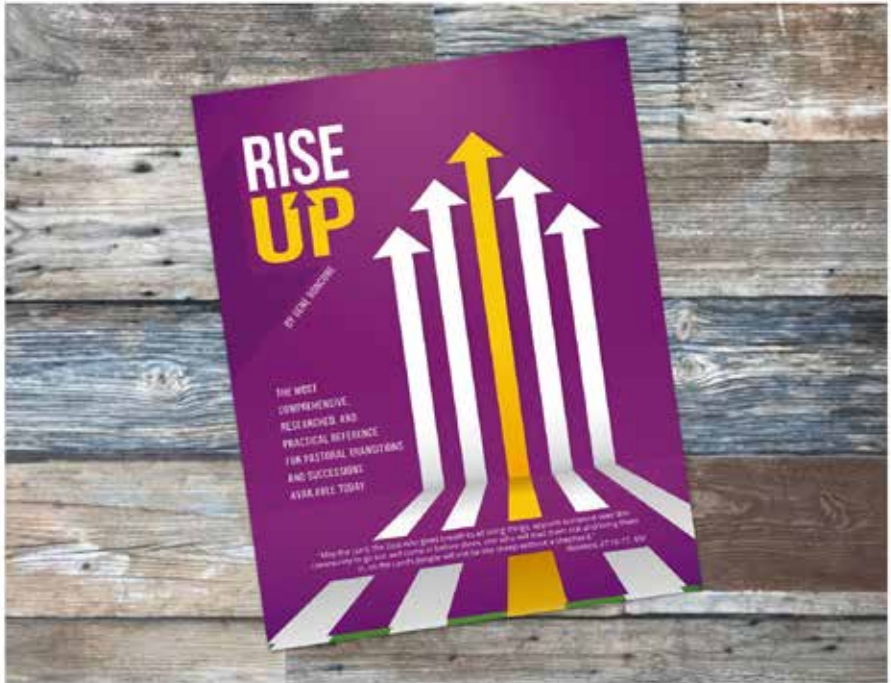
<https://generoncone.org/blog/cep>

RISE UP, PASTORAL TRANSITION REFERENCE MANUAL Updated 2023 Edition

Rise Up has become the most researched, comprehensive, and practical reference work on pastoral transitions available. After years of research on pastoral succession and transitions, Gene Roncone has released the 2023 updated version of *RISE UP*, the most comprehensive and practical reference for pastoral transitions and succession available today. This 232-page resource has been vetted by leaders all over the nation and was created for the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network but can be applied to churches in any region, size, or scope. Whether you are a pastor wanting to create a succession plan, a member of a pastoral search committee, or even a forward-thinking leader wanting to resource your board, this resource is for you.

It is the only one in the nation that offers:

- Scriptural intentionality.
- A 13-step pastoral search process.
- New all-church PDF prayer guide to provide a spiritual covering for every stage and person involved in the process.
- Exposure to recent research and best practices.
- Presentation of the five most common succession models and how to apply them to your situation.
- A practical tool to shorten the



- transition learning curve.
- Practical resources, forms, letters, schedules, and more.
- Statistics regarding the financial impact of pastoral transitions and a transition budget template.
- A 60-day sustainability plan with a focused prayer emphasis, sermon series, paperback book, and small group curriculum.
- A new chapter on the importance and differences between the three different levels of AG credentials.
- Customized online congregational survey with surveymonkey.com.
- Helpful checklists to guide you through each stage of the entire process.
- A podcast channel to help pastoral search committees navigate the uncertain waters of pastoral transitions.
- Short explainer video and graphic to help search teams understand the three most common forms of church governance.
- Summary to help search committees understand the difference between the three levels of ministerial credentials in the AG.
- A three-week small group bible study with a curriculum to prepare your church for a successful leadership transition.
- Coaching chapter on considering female candidates.
- An exhaustive index to help you find what you need when you need it.

The 2023 revision includes the following updates:

- Updates on best practices from recent books and articles.

RISE UP, PASTORAL TRANSITION REFERENCE MANUAL *(continued)*

- Updated online congregational survey to assess church health and clarify perceived pastoral priorities.
 - New online devotional to encourage and affirm pastoral search teams throughout the search journey.
 - New content on common mistakes search committees make.
 - Companion resources and paperback book to serve as a stand-alone or small group companion resource to help normal church attenders better understand the Biblical purpose of pastoral transition and how they can grow through them.
 - New podcasts. Two new podcasts on how to use the companion resource, *Defying Gravity* and the difference between unanimous and consensus decision making.
 - New downloads, templates, chapters, and relevant content.
- Updated recommendations for severance and monetary gifts for departing pastors.
 - Summary of ministerial ethics and etiquette regarding pastoral transitions.
 - Additional coaching on how to do reference checks.
 - Customizable letters, forms, templates and worksheets that can be downloaded to save time and assist you in every stage of the process.
 - Hyperlinks to sample letters, forms, and templates in Microsoft Word and Excel format.

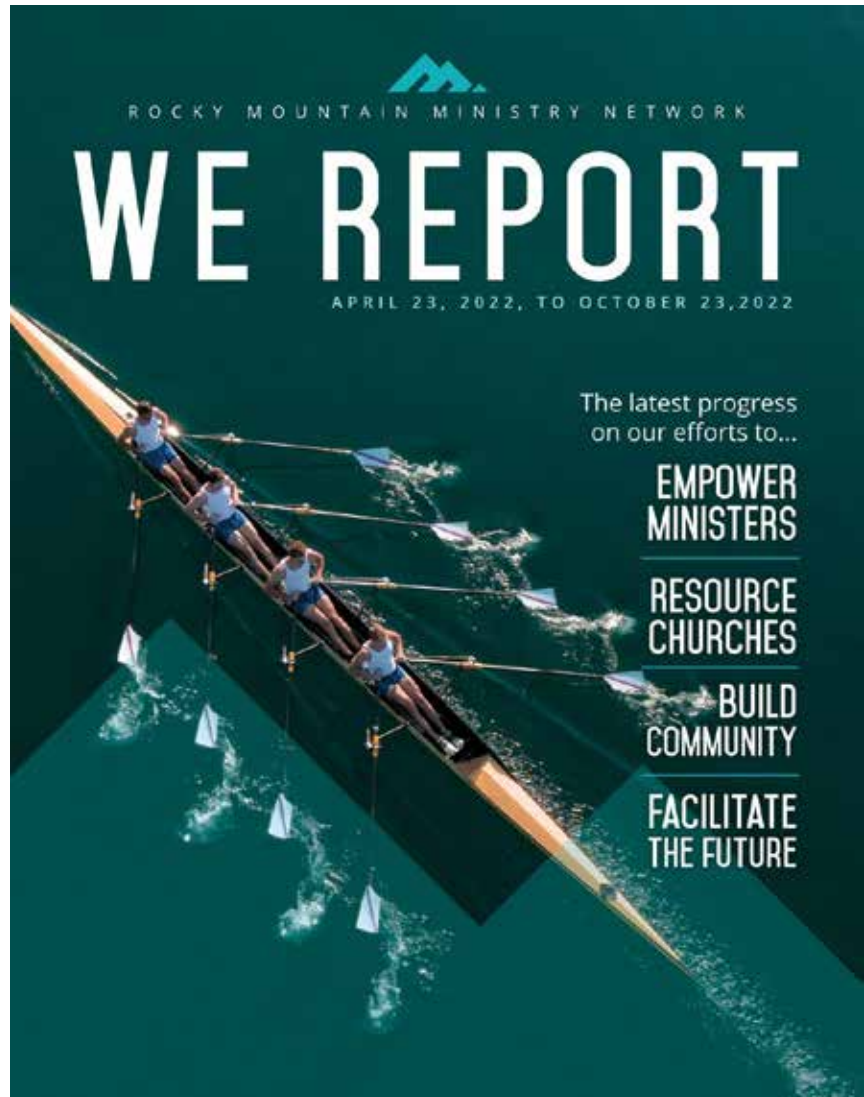
If you are a pastoral search team member or a forward-thinking pastor wanting to set your church up to win in the wake of his/her departure, this resource is a must!

The resource can be downloaded for free at www.generationcone.org/riseup

RMMN QUARTERLY MINISTRY REPORT - WE SERVE SERVANTS

As a District Superintendent I welcome the question, “What has the Network done for me or my church?” One of the most powerful advantages of being part of the RMMN is that hundreds of thousands of dollars are mobilized each year to empower ministers, equip volunteers and resource our RMMN churches. Many of the people who attend our churches may not even know these resources exist. Maybe you don’t either? Each quarter we produce a report called the WE REPORT. It is like a spiritual stock-holder report on all that is being done to serve, empower and resource our churches. Here is this quarters report. Anything in red font is an addition from the last quarterly report.

The latest WE REPORT can be accessed at www.generationcone.org/we



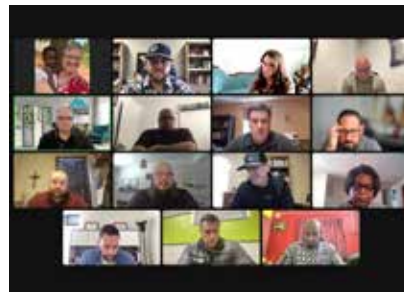
OPEN CHURCHES.

Our Network has several open churches that are looking for forward thinking leaders. Detailed information about these churches, their bylaws, pastor and community profiles can be found on our open churches page at <https://www.rmdc.org/open-churches>



WOW! GOD IS GROWING FUTURE LEADERS.

Each year Superintendent Roncone selects 15 emerging leaders to be part of the Charles T. Crabtree school of lead pastor ministry. The Cohort invests 2-4 hours a week for sixteen weeks into the development of RMMN's leadership pipeline. Last week they identified their own leadership vulnerabilities and this week each participant spent time answering the question, "How might the devil use my weaknesses, emotional baggage and personal limitations to cause me to fail as a leader.". The second half of the session was informing them of current best practices in ministerial resumes. One of most deeply rewarding things for me is to see them grow as leaders before my very eyes. God is raising up leaders for the future harvest!



CHARLES T. CRABTREE SCHOOL OF PASTORAL MINISTRY CLASS OF 2023



WELCOME DAHLBERGS!

Welcome Jeremy and Amy Dahlberg to the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network! We are excited you have come from Arizona and have joined our network. Please welcome Jeremy and Amy by sending them an email at jeremypdahlberg@hotmail.com Jeremy is seeking the Lord in finding where to minister in Colorado Springs, Colorado!



ATTENTION PASTORS: OUTSTANDING COACHING FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FOR ONLY \$150 A YEAR.

Kelly Presson, the National KidsMin Director, recently join the RMMN Team for their weekly staff meeting to share about a coaching program called Hydrate. Hydrate is managed by the Assemblies of God Kids Ministries Team and is an excellent coaching program to train local leaders in your church. With an inexpensive registration fee, your church leaders and volunteers could be growing and learning from the best. Topics covered are Where Do I Begin, The Power of Positive and Negative Reinforcement, Team Building, Death and Tragedy, Crafting Your Kids Service and more. You can watch the introduction at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pH1kTufhP_M



CHURCHES HELPING CHURCHES.

The presbytery listened to a testimony about a rural church in Utah who needed a total overhaul of the sound system. Two Colorado churches both sent money for the total project. The pastor called them to say he had received more than enough money. Both churches told him to keep all the proceeds. Churches helping churches. It's all about community.

CHURCHES HELPING CHURCHES (continued)



The presbytery listening to church testimony

LEADING AGAINST THE WIND.

It seems most of culture is conspiring against the ministry and mission of the local church. Superintendent Roncone was honored to speak to our Church Ministries Team about the value of trials and how they prepare us for God's future we are not yet ready for. Leading against the wind takes courage, perseverance, and resiliency.

The fifteen-minute presentation can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Uk7Pkkrb0X4>



PIKES PEAK SECTION.

Statistics show that few things bring excellence and longevity to your ministry more than peer relationships. The Lilly Endowment study deemed peer relationships the most important factor in pastoral longevity. Thanks to Paul Aragon for coordinating this meeting of ministers in the Pikes Peak Section. I so needed and enjoyed it. We are our best selves when we exist in community.



Pikes Peak Section Presbyter Paul Aragon and Superintendent Gene Roncone

PRESBYTERY MEETING.

We cherished the opportunity to enjoy two days of business and fellowship with our Network Presbytery. We're off to a good start. The Holy Spirit moved in today's budget meeting. Yes! You heard me right. The Holy Spirit occasionally visits budget meetings. Love these people I get to journey with.



REMEMBERING WARRIORS.

Dolly Henderson: Remembering Dolly Henderson and listening to Pastor Dusty bring such a comforting word. Thank you Don and the Henderson family for sharing Dolly with this Network for so many years. We are stronger because of her contribution.

Mark Thompson: Pastor Mark served as the Children's Pastor/ Assoc Pastor at the Delta, CO AG church (First AG, now Rivers Church) for many years. Truly a servant leader who modeled the love and compassion of Jesus so well.



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. These past few weeks we have enjoyed life-giving words from Margaret Austin, Bill Beagley, Victory Life Church staff, and Kelly Presson.



Margaret Austin



Bill Beagley



Kelly Presson



Victory Life Church staff

MISSIONS -

AGWM 2023 Theme



ITINERATING MISSIONARIES

Nate & Lindsey Banke
Colorado Chi Alpha
natebanke@gmail.com

Paul & Lori Traver
Germany/Military Ministries
three.4.europe@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.

ITINERATING MISSIONARIES LATER IN 2023

Larry & Rhonda Allen
Zimbabwe
larry.allensinafrica@gmail.com
rhonda.allensinafrica@gmail.com



JOHN BRYANT
Secretary/Treasurer
jbryant@rmdc.org



LOCAL CHURCH RESOURCE: ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

If your ministry needs legal input, one resource to consider is ADF Church Alliance. Alliance Defending Freedom is the largest religious freedom legal organization in the world. Their mission is to provide practical help to churches providing access to experienced First Amendment lawyers. In addition to advocating for religious freedom, ADF Church Alliance advocates for the sanctity of life, free speech, and marriage and family.

(Source: <https://www.adfchurchalliance.org/about>; Feb 2023).



COMPS ORDER

As a result of the Colorado Overtime and Minimum Pay Standards Order, salaried employee of Colorado must earn \$961.54 per week (or \$50,000 annually) if qualified and recognized as an administrative, executive, supervisor, or professional full-time employees. Employers may consider converting impacted salaried employees to an hourly scheduled rate to assist in this new mandate.

For more information, visit <https://cdle.colorado.gov/dlss>.



2023 COLORADO EMPLOYER MANDATES

This is a courtesy notice for our awesome RMMN family who serve Jesus in Colorado. In addition to the Fully Insured Family and Medical Leave (FAMLI) Colorado law which became effective on Jan 1, 2023, churches and non-profit groups should be aware of additional Colorado mandates which have become law in 2023. In most cases, it appears non-profits and local churches are not exempt from participation. Should you have follow-up questions, please use the Colorado links provided below for further assistance.

<https://famli.colorado.gov/>

<https://famli.colorado.gov/employers>

<https://famli.colorado.gov/employers/famli-toolkit-for-employers>



COLORADO SECURESAVINGS PROGRAM MANDATE

Colorado has enacted a mandated retirement savings program which intends to assist Colorado citizens with an established retirement program. Although participation is not mandated, most employers are required to participate. Exclusions apply.

For more information, visit <https://coloradosecuresavings.com/savers>.

TRINITY ORDINATION SCHOLARSHIP

50% Discount on Graduate Education for all Ordained Ministers

To recognize and honor the sacrifice, commitment, and ministry accomplishments of those who have achieved the highest level of credential, the Rocky Mountain Ministry offers exclusive benefits to those who are ordained. Among these benefits is a 50% discount on all graduate level tuition in the Masters and PhD programs of Trinity Bible College and Seminary. As one of our primary educational partners, Trinity assists us by investing in leaders already serving in our Network, as well as increasing our ability to recruit new ministers to serve as lead pastors and staff in our RMMN churches.

Visit <https://www.rmdc.org/tos/> for more information and how to apply.



PATHWAY

Pathway (Online Interactive Learning). Pathway is the newest innovation in online ministerial training and credential advancement. The Rocky Mountain Ministry Network has established a formal partnership with them that we believe has tremendous potential. Pathway was created as just that...a pathway to get both formal Bible education and an Assemblies of God credential at the same time. They are a "Church-Based Bible Institute" that has been approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The Bible training they provide will give you a great education, while also fulfilling the educational requirements needed to apply for all three levels of credentialing with the Assemblies of God (certified, licensed and ordained).

We currently have 170 students registered with 70 actively taking a class to further their education through Pathway. Many ministers have completed all their courses and are ready to upgrade their credential or apply for a new credential. If you want to enroll or learn more visit Pathway at <https://pathway.training>.





SHAWN REINE
Church Ministries Director
shawn@rmdc.org

THE CHURCH MINISTRIES TEAM IS WORKING FOR YOU!

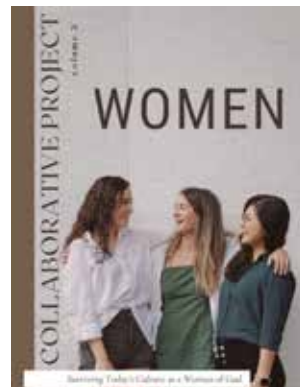
Collaborative Resources - The Church Ministries Department, in conjunction with Network Leaders, creates ministry specific resources using the wisdom and experience from those serving in specific ministries. Most Collaborative Resources come with a Companion Resource that is an example of a practical tool used for that specific ministry.

Volunteers - Most of the calls and questions we receive have to do with recruiting, training, and appreciating volunteers in the local church. This issue includes topics on maintaining volunteers, volunteer assimilation, the art of the appreciation and the power of a thank you note. Included is a companion resources submitted by a local church.

<https://www.rmdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Volunteer-Resource.pdf>



LINDA BOTTOMS
Assistant Church Ministries
Director
lbottoms@rmdc.org



Get ready for a POWERFUL Men's Event in Utah!

Over 15 churches will gather together with their MEN to seek God, worship together, fellowship together, eat together and be challenged by our speaker Randy McPherson. The cost for this event is only **\$25 per person!** This includes ALL the sessions, breakfast on Saturday morning AND one entry into a drawing for a BRAND NEW Matthew's Bow donated by Randy McPherson, our speaker!

Register Here:

<https://brushfire.com/christianlifecenter/therefinerymensconference2023/547021>

This Philly Missions Trip Experience Will Not Disappoint!

We will have the ability to work with Block Church in Port Richmond community as well as The Philadelphia Dream Center. Working with these two ministries will provide a variety of ways that we can serve Christ, serve the church, and serve the community of Philly! We will help bring hope to the streets by providing food and supplies to the homeless, kid's summer outreach, setting up and breaking down a Block Church site, and so much more!

Who? High School Students

What? Philly Missions Trip

When? July 6-12, 2023

Where? Philadelphia

Why? LOVE on the Block and LIVE the Dream!



How? Go and serve in Jesus name.

Cost? \$950.00

***Bonus:** Experience one of our nations oldest cities all the while running the Rocky steps and eating a cheesesteak!

LET'S GO! Application to apply is here: <https://www.jotform.com/build/223534616643052>



HighPoint Worship

YouthCon23

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

March 9th-11th, 2023
Highpoint Church, Aurora

DJ Peacock
After Party

Zach Hill
Speaker

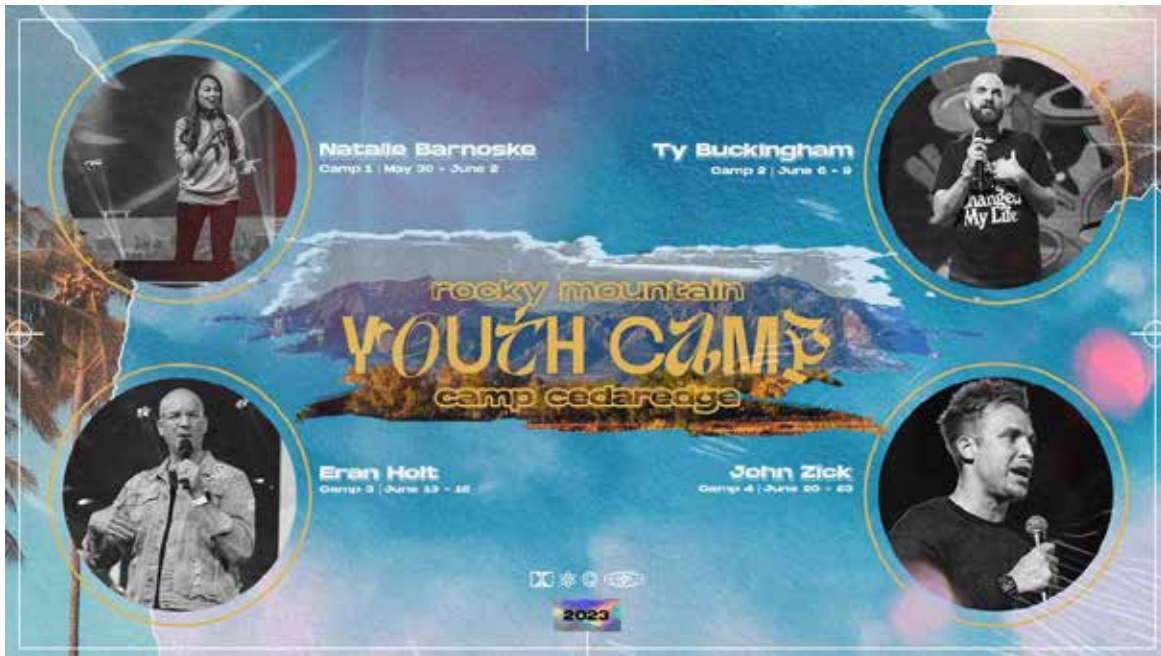
YouthCon23: \$55
Early-Bird Fine Arts: \$65
Deadline: February 1st, 2023
General Fine Arts: \$75
Final Deadline: February 13th, 2023

YouthCon23 & Fine Arts:

On March 9th-11th, 2023, over 750 students from Colorado and Utah will gather at Highpoint Church in Aurora, Colorado for a combined YouthCon23 and Fine Arts experience that will be

the highlight of the year!!! Our heart and desire are that EVERY student in the Rocky Mountain Network attend YouthCon23 and have a POWERFUL encounter with God! This weekend is for EVERYONE in your youth group,

whether they do Fine Arts or not! Join speaker Zach Hill, Highpoint's Worship Team and After-Party DJ Peacock for a fun, life-changing event!



Youth Camp:

Youth Camp changes lives for eternity. During camp, students have an immersive experience that gives

them the opportunity for lasting spiritual impact. This year's camps will be held at Camp Cedaredge! You have the opportunity to choose

from four different weeks, with four different speakers. Reserve your space now at <https://www.rmdc.org/youth-ministry/>



Ladies Retreat Information:

Every woman in the Rocky Mountain Ministry Network is **SEEN, HEARD** and can be **EMPOWERED** by God! We find in scripture where God brought women out of shame into honor. The Rocky Mountain Women are believing in 2023 that women in our network will realize that God sees them, He hears them and He wants to Empower them, bringing them out of their shame into an empowered relationship with Him.

2023 UT Ladies Retreat

September 22-23, 2023
Early Bird - \$70 a person



Tonya Blessing
Speaker, Missionary,
Author, Pastor

Abundant Life Assembly of God, North Salt Lake, UT

2023 CO Ladies Retreat

October 20-22, 2023
Early Bird - \$95 a person



Holly Davis
Speaker - Leader
National AG Fine Arts Director

The Embassy Suites and Conference Center
Loveland, CO



CO Kids Camp:

This year the Colorado Kids Camp is June 27th - 30th, 2023 at Camp Cedaredge. We hope you are excited for impactful messages from our guest speaker, David Alexieff.

Camp reservations open January 1, 2023. Reserve your space at <https://www.rmdc.org/kidscamp/>

UT Kids Camp:

This year the Utah Kids Camp is July 14th - 16th, 2023 at BIG CANYON RANCH.

Camp reservations open January 1, 2023. We are looking forward to all God has planned this summer!

Reserve your space at <https://www.rmdc.org/kidscamp/>

THE SWORDSMAN PROGRAM

Royal Rangers has adopted a Bible reading program called the Swordsman. The Swordsman Program is a movement of men and boys who desire to grow in their relationship with God and become more fully connected to Him. It is grounded in the knowledge that the Bible is God's Word. Through engagement with His Word, God speaks to us, gives direction, and keeps us growing in our faith. God desires to know and be known by His children. Growing in Christ and staying engaged in the Word is the challenge.

The Swordsman Program desires to challenge men and boys toward greater maturity in Christ by reading the Word. Research from the Barna Research Group shows that people with high levels of Bible engagement have marked differences in their lives from those who do not. Evidence shows that consistent reading of the Bible yields the following benefits:

- Increased fruit of the Spirit
- A greater intimacy with the Spirit
- A priority on living their faith out publicly
- Orthodox views of the gospel

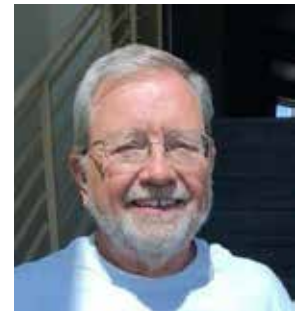
- Higher volunteer rates at churches and nonprofits
- Deeper devotion to Scripture
- Improved life satisfaction

The Swordsman program is designed to promote the habit of daily Bible reading among Royal Rangers leaders and boys while creating an environment that encourages other men and boys not involved in Royal Rangers to join in the journey of reading the Word.



The Structure: Becoming a Swordsman

The idea of being a Swordsman comes from Ephesians 6:10-18 where we are encouraged to put on the armor of God. As part of our preparation, in verse 17, we are challenged to 'take up the sword



JACK MARSHALL
Royal Rangers
jack.marshall@live.com
www.rmdrr.org

of the Spirit which is the word of God'. The more a Swordsman uses his sword and practices with it, the more familiar he is with it. It becomes an extension of him. Becoming a Swordsman begins with a realization that reading the Word a minimum of 10 minutes a day at least four (4) days per week will activate a critical development in your spiritual growth. As you read the word you become familiar with what it says. Your thinking is transformed as the Lords ways become your ways. Your habit and choices begin to reflect God's word.

Every student goes. Every student gives. Every student prays. Every student welcomes. Chi Alpha Missions Motto

I was recently asked by someone, "Isn't it hard to lose them?" My answer, "Yes, and no."

You see our second Chi Alpha graduate is preparing to leave for Estonia as a missionary associate soon. Our first is already serving in the 10/40 window in a sensitive country, our third will be planting an orphanage in her home country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, after she finishes her masters, and our fourth will be leaving to serve in the 10/40 window in Senegal after graduation. Three of these are international students!

So is it hard to "lose" them? Absolutely. Is it worth it? Absolutely. Why? ...because we are called to reach the nations, and we are doing our job.

I heard recently that Chi Alpha graduates now make up 50% of Assemblies of God missionaries in the 10/40 window, laying down their lives, their futures, and careers to reach the world.

To cultivate this culture of going, we encourage, empower, "require" our students to go on a missions trip every summer stateside, and to go once overseas within their years at school.

This spring we are sending 5 to Guatemala. This summer we are sending 4 to work with one of our graduates in the 10/40 window. Also, this summer we are sending 12 to work in Las Vegas with Free International (working to end human trafficking in America.)

Tears are shed when our graduates leave, but they are both tears of sadness and joy. They are the best of

the best, and who better to send than them?

You may wonder about those that don't choose to go for a lifetime. Well, they are the ones that are paying the way. We encourage, empower, "require" our students to "hold the rope" for them.

The year was 1792. William Carey, later dubbed the "father of the modern missionary movement," had challenged his Baptist brethren to obey their responsibility to take the Gospel to unreached lands. Andrew Fuller, one of those men, later described the occasion with an analogy. He said that the mission to India seemed like a few men who considered going into a deep, unexplored mine. It was as if Carey said, "Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope." The meeting, in Fuller's mind, was as if he and the other brethren gave their word that "whilst we lived, we should never let go the rope."
[\(http://baptistworldmission.org/\)](http://baptistworldmission.org/)

You will hear this common language. "I'm holding the rope," amongst our students who are sacrificing their funds for their friends out in the field. Our graduate that left for the 10/40 window 5 months ago tallied the amount that she had received from our Chi Alpha students, graduates and staff. \$19,547 was the total at the time (a few months ago). She messaged me back with lots of "shocked face" emojis and "This is a lot of monies, Noreen!"



Chi Alphan's in Asia



DARAN LEMON
Chi Alpha - Utah
daranlemon@gmail.com

So, is it hard to lose them? Absolutely!

Are they doing exactly what we teach them to do by going? Absolutely!



Winnie pictured on the bottom left corner, will be serving in Senegal following graduation.





GLENN JONES
Camp Cedaredge
campcedaredge@gmail.com

We are looking forward to a fun **Camp Prep Week, May 17-20, 2023**, 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 2023 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 CPW to solving 3 specific objectives:**

1. **Housing for event staff during peak season**
2. **Foot traffic flow during peak season**
3. **Overall readiness of the facility for a summer of ministry**

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 camps, 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 space which have been on the waiting list anyway! The projects:

1. **New Bunkhouse** - the old game room is now the new bunkhouse. The space was struck, walls are in, and sheet rocked and textured, as well as light circuits installed. We will be painting & finishing this space over the next 2-3 months.
2. **New Game Room** - we needed a larger space with a solid floor for a game room, and now we have it! Just need some interior framing, lights & finishing touches to be ready to use.
3. **Bathroom/Shower house fixup** - the new bunkhouse will need a more functional and improved shower house. We will be gutting some of the shower plumbing to make way for new shower lines, valves, and heads.

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** - We have moved the existing wall to close in the neighboring porch area effectively doubling the size of the Sweet Shoppe. We wanted to make room for twice the serving capacity in this space to get through lines more efficiently so kids can hang

out somewhere besides a line during their free time. Interior finish work will be a winter/spring project.

Other Active/Future Projects:

New Patio canopy: Currently fundraising for building itself. Total cost is 55k. Work team is being assembled for September's Camp Investment Week 2023.

Mini golf finishing touches: **Need 9 youth groups to raise \$250/each** for a numbered post display at each tee box.

Chapel 2.0: Plans are being tossed around with project managers, our camp committee and our network leadership about the possibility and necessity of a new main gathering space on the campground. This concept is in the early stages, but an improved space of this kind is becoming a real need.

New Patio Water Fountain/ Bottle Fillers: Raising \$2,500 for fixtures.

Various fixes: Internet upgrades, plumbing system, air conditioning systems, along with several others are all capital projects on the list to include only a few.

How to help/Contact us:

If you are interested in learning more details about any one of these projects, please get in contact with us to make arrangements: campcedaredge@gmail.com or my cell (970) 216-2588. 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 important objectives!

SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR MARITAL PURITY

As I have talked with married couples over the years, I have noted their various concerns and responses to their spouse's emotional, mental, and physical purity. Each of the warning signs has either gone unnoticed or simply been disregarded as insignificant. The sexual behaviors and emotional responses have become almost predictable. With each question you answer it will become increasingly clear that there may be a need for marital counseling.



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YES	NO	Warning Signs to Watch for In Marriage	
		1	Have there been recent changes in your spouse's behavior/habit patterns that are "out of character" lasting for more than several days or weeks?
		2	Has your spouse experienced an increase in work or home related stress or financial difficulties?
		3	Has he/she expressed any feeling of persisting anxiety or depression?
		4	Has your spouse shown any signs of exhaustion or physical illness?
		5	Does your spouse exhibit signs of increased irritability with you or others?
		6	Has your spouse become emotionally distant or detached from you?
		7	Does your spouse come to bed late in the night after you are sleeping?
		8	Is your spouse lacking in spiritual intimacy with Christ?
		9	Is your spouse overly friendly, flattering, or flirtatious with anyone of the opposite sex any time?
		10	Are you aware of anyone of the opposite sex that has an increasing emotional connection with your spouse?
		11	Does your spouse meet privately, for any reason, with anyone of the opposite sex?
		12	Has there been a significant increase in the time your spouse spends away from home, in meetings, on the phone, or emailing with anyone of the opposite sex?
		13	If yes to questions 11 and 12, do you know who, where, when, and why?
		14	Has your spouse given you any reason for concern regarding his/her thought life?
		15	When you have tried to talk to him/her about any perceived emotional or physical changes does he/she deny, minimize, get defensive and/or harsh in their response?

YES	NO	Sexual Behavior and Emotional Responses	
		1	Has your spouse frequented pornographic sites on the internet?
		2	Is masturbation a frequent activity for him/her?
		3	Do you frequently protest about the amount of sex or the type of sex your spouse desires with you?
		4	Do you believe his/her sexual demands of you are excessive or outside normal limits?
		5	Has your spouse made promises to you or others to change or stop some of his/her sexual behavior, and then broken those promises?

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1

As a minister and counselor of over forty years, I have been deeply concerned for our ministry families and congregations due to the rise of the sexualization of our society. One of the contributing factors to this moral decline is the lack of awareness. In so many cases we have been gradually desensitized to the very real threats that seemingly surround us on every side.

I have lost count of the individuals and couples that have said to me, "I don't know what happened," "I wasn't aware," "I never thought it would happen to me." This combination of desensitizing and the lack of awareness has brought untold pain and devastation to so many ministry families and congregations.

It is because of this that I developed the Assessment for Marital Purity. This is a self-evaluation designed to unmask the common warning signs that a marriage may be in danger. It forces awareness that is critical to recover before disaster strikes.

Grace & Peace,
George Stahnke

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