

Southern Missouri Ministry Network 2023 Summer Messenger

#### SUPERINTENDENT



**Don Miller** donmiller@somoag.org

# CALLED

We are thankful for the way that God met with us at Network Conference in April. Special thanks to all the Network Team, Central Assembly Team, and speakers who contributed to make this time memorable.

The theme of this Messenger, is the same as the theme of this year's Conference, Called. I thought it would be appropriate for me to simply share a few highlights from my ordination message to reinforce the emphasis of that word.

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple...

<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

<sup>8</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." <sup>9</sup> And he said, "Go... (Isaiah 6:1, 4-9a)

When thinking of the call of God, we are often taken to this passage in Isaiah. In reality, this is probably not his original call to the ministry but his call to a special assignment. These seem to be two distinct moments. God calls us to Ephesians 4 ministry, then he calls us to our assignment. Could it be that the reason we have so many credentialed ministers not active in vocational ministry is because they have received a call to ministry but have not received their call to their assignment? May God speak to their hearts and help them capture how he wants to use them in a special way in vocational ministry!

In this passage, Isaiah is caught up into the very throne room of God. He experienced the awesomeness of the glory of God. From this moment on, Isaiah's life will never be the same. He is forever marked and changed.

As Isaiah comes into the presence of God, he experiences conviction. He catches a glimpse of God in all his majesty. He witnesses angelic beings worshipping. In that instant, he suddenly senses his unworthiness. Isaiah cries out, "Woe is me! For I am lost (some translations say, undone); for I am a man of unclean

lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

As we are brought into his presence, all our self-righteousness and pride is ripped away. Standing before God, we are reminded how unworthy we are. Before God can fully use us, we must come to the end of ourselves.

#### You will never be able to do anything great for him until you realize you are nothing without him.

As Isaiah comes to the end of himself and cries out to God, something beautiful happens. An angelic being takes a coal from the altar and lays it on his lips. He is cleansed!

Do you remember what it felt like when you were convicted of your sin and you called out to God? Can you recall that wonderful sensation when you felt the burden of your sin lifted off your shoulders? Your guilt was gone; your sins were forgiven. Because of the wonderful sacrifice of Jesus, your sins were atoned for. Then as you confessed your sins, he forgave you, he set you free and gave you life.

At that moment, Isaiah hears the Lord calling, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Can you sense the desperateness in the voice of God? He is not willing that any should perish. This reminds us of the heart of Jesus as he was moved with compassion over those who were lost. He cried out "the harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few!"

God is still calling today. He is still seeking those who will hear his call and be his love extended to the lost. All believers are called to minister. But there are those who are called by God to vocational ministry, to equip the believers—the church—for ministry.

In the climax of this passages, Isaiah calls out, "Here am I! Send me." God commands him, "Go!" At that moment he is catapulted into a powerful prophetic ministry from which we still benefit and about which we talk thousands of years later.

Have you heard the call of God to ministry? Have you heard God's directions on your assignment? May we too, like Isaiah, answer that call by saying, "Here I am! Send me!"

Though many things seem dark in our world, God is not caught off guard. He is still calling men and women. As we listen closely and hear that call, as we say, "Yes," we have the privilege of being part of His plan. Through us, he wants to radically impact this world.

#### REFRESH MINISTRY WOMEN



Vicki Miller vickimiller@somoag.org

# Called



450 women in our network are currently licensed or ordained. God is using women to help accomplish Ephesians 4 ministry! If you were at Network Conference 2023 you heard our superintendent share his thoughts on knowing the assignment to which you have been called. If you need a refresher, I encourage you to

take time to read an excerpt on his page in this issue of Messenger. If you've been called, but aren't sure to what assignment you've been called, we are here to help you. Feel free to contact Vicki Miller, vickimiller@somoag.org or our NWM Coordinator, Ashley Pritchett, AshleyPritchett22@gmail.com.

#### Refresh Breakaway 2023 Highlights: For Such a Time As This



#### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/MISSIONS DIRECTOR**



**Stan Welch** stanwelch@somoag.org

# Called

This year at our Network Conference we centered our attention on the theme "Called." What a great privilege and what an awesome responsibility to be part of that group of people that are called by God and placed into the ministry. I echo the words of Paul the Apostle in 1 Timothy 1: 12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry".

Those "Called" have the power of God backing up their lives to accomplish all that God has purposed for them. Romans 8: <sup>28</sup> "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified." Each time we meet together at the Network Conference we are reminded of God's gracious power available to us as called men and women of God.

Tuesday evening in the Missions Rally we told "The Story of the Called." We looked back at the Assemblies of God history as a movement concerning those "Called" to missionary service both World and U.S. Missions. We shared the "Call" to the Buddhist/Hindu world. We have been given a fresh call to reach these two billion precious people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And we also had the privilege of presenting nine new Fully Appointed Missionaries and eight new Missionary Associates.

Thank you for the amazing response to support our Seventeen Missionary Units and our Project to reach the Buddhist/Hindu world.

Remember the words given by the Holy Spirit to Paul; God works for the Called; God has a plan for the Called; God justifies the Called; and God glorifies the Called. So may we, who are Called march as a mighty army to advance the Kingdom of Christ in our world today. Romans 8: <sup>28</sup> "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

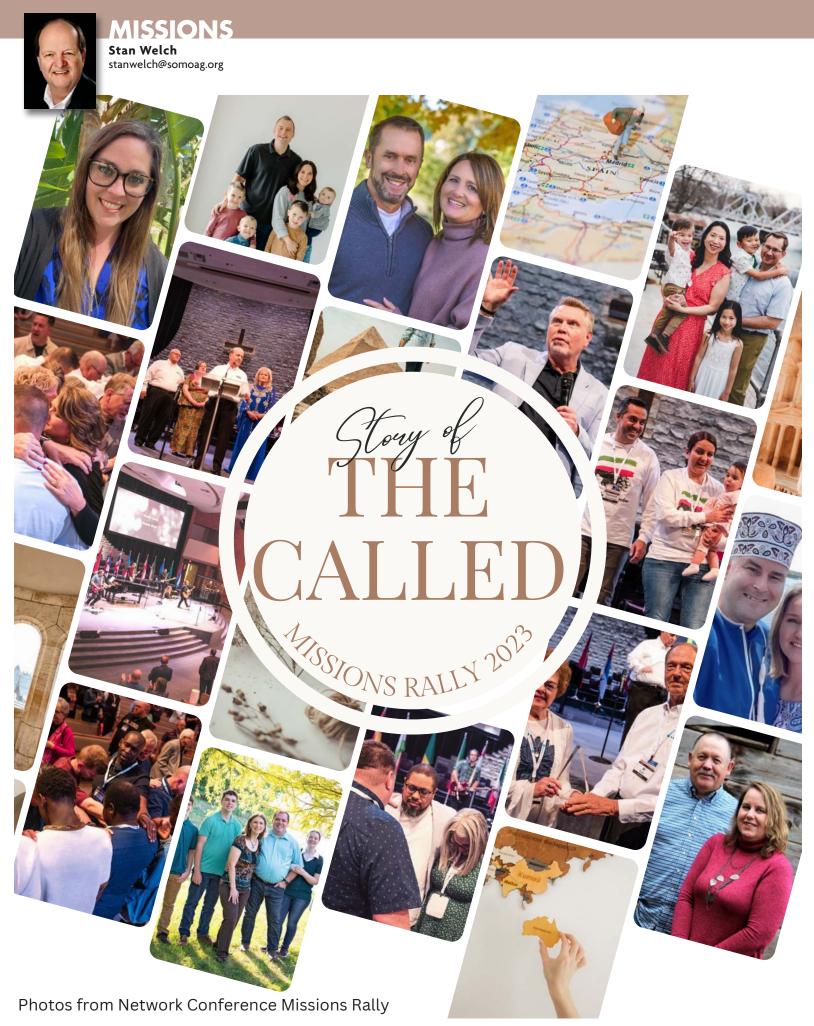
# Congratulations to the elected officers

Missions Assistant: Cliff Cato

and

Missions Secretary: **David Cox** 

	Area Missions Reps
Cape Girardeau	David McLucas
Clinton	Dan Ver Woert
Joplin	David Cox
Kansas City	Todd Blansit
Kennett	Mark Thrasher
Park Hills	Brian Kitchen
Sedalia	Clifford Cato
Springfield South	Alvin Pulis
Springfield North	Brent Hurt
St. Louis	Richard Stamey
Sullivan	Terry Davis
Van Buren	David Truncone
West Plains	Doyle Coffman





Rhonda Amer ramer@somoag.org

# CALLED!

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Colossians 3:7



#### **Ten Good Practices for the Local Church**

- 1. Signatories require two signatures on each church check.
- 2. Background checks require a background check for all ushers and counters, anyone that handles money, as well as, check signers. Keep on file a background check for all employees, and it goes without saying, anyone that works with minors, including those involved in transportation.
- 3. Require all employees to sign a confidentiality form.
- 4. Require training for all board members.
- 5. Compile a list of all church related passwords and keep in a safe place, with at least two people aware of where they are stored.
- 6. Make sure that your church has workmen's compensation insurance.
- 7. Do quarterly inspections of the facility to make sure there are no areas of injury risk that have not been attended to, such as steps.
- 8. Establish a protocol for benevolent requests.
- 9. Establish expenditure protocols.
- 10. Establish protocols for who opens and closes the church, and who is to have keys.





## ST. LOUIS

JUNE 20-24, 2023

#### **EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITY**

Seek & Save is an evangelism initiative by the Southern Missouri Ministry Network and the National Assemblies of God to push back the darkness in the major cities of America.

We're asking you and the people of your church to serve with us and minister to the city of St. Louis this summer with three days of door to door evangelism and connection, and Convoy of Hope block parties in Ferguson and the Tower Grove neighborhood of St. Louis. Through that week, we will also need volunteers to help us with building refresh projects at our host churches First Assembly Church in Ferguson and Berea Temple International Church in south central St. Louis.

Wednesday and Thursday we will host youth basketball clinics with STL High school, College, and NBA standout Anthony Bonner, as well as a youth baseball clinic with Cardinal's World Series Champion pitcher Jaime Garcia. Friday night we will share the Gospel at an evangelism rally for youth at McClure South High School.

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer (1-4 days)
- Bring a team
- Donate
- Pray

#### MORE INFO



SOMOAG.ORG/STL



## CHRIS WIGGS, CHURCH PLANTING DIRECTOR



#### **ANSWERING THE CALL**

Twenty years ago I was in Master's Commission eating lunch when the Lord spoke to my heart about being a pastor. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that I was called to minister to people far from God. I wasn't the first person to hear that call and I won't be the last! What a privilege to be called to ministry.

At Network Conference this year we laid Hands on a record number of ministers who God has ordained and called into his service. My prayer is, "God, please bring more church planters to Southern Missouri." I'm reminded of Paul's vision of a man crying out, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." There are cities and towns across Southern Missouri with lost people crying out with the same desperation, "come over here and help us!"

One of our Network goals is to have at least 400 churches across the SOMO Network. How can you us help reach this goal? Can you plant, partner with, or parent a new church? Will you answer the call?



I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called



**EPHESIANS 4:1** 

#### Pablo & Ana Loaisiga



Branson, MO



Pablo and Ana have been serving in ministry together since they married in 2002. Together they planted 2 churches in Nicaragua and had the privilege of leading a growing church planting network in the north region of that country. In 2019 God called their family to move to Branson and plant Light City Church.

Their church is reaching people through their Sunday morning and Spanish-speaking services.















GROWING HEALTHY CHURCHES ACROSS MISSOURI

#### **CROSS POINTE CAMP**



Curtis & Cindy Washam, Directors crosspointeretreatcenter@gmail.com

# The Called

What happens at camp is all about being called! It is especially about the next generation being called and prepared to fulfill Christ's commission. We will not know the complete results of what is accomplished at camp until we get to heaven. But God is faithful to do miraculous things in the lives of those coming to this place. There is an outpouring of God's Spirit every season. This is due to the people of our network uniting together in prayer and believing God to meet with us at camp.



# GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT CAMP!

Continue to pray for our camps and retreats!



#### "Touching Heaven" Camp Intercession

People of our network seeking God together!









Greg Perkins gperkins@somoag.org

#### **SUMMIT @ EAGLE SKY**

#### **MEN'S LUNCHEON**



















SOMOSUMMIT.COM

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Sherry Welch wms@somoag.org



# Empowered because of "THE CALL"

Annually we have, "Empowered to Serve" Spring Conference for all women. This conference provides training and resources for women to be effective in their place of ministry. We believe all women are called to ministry, and so many different ways to minister from the gifting's they have received from God. I truly believe as never before God is calling women to step up, and say yes to the call of ministry. The church needs women who are called! If you would take out what women do in your Sunday morning service alone you would see what a difference women make in the local churches.

#### A quote I love!

"If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you."

SO MO Women have vision, and we will continue to minister out of a heart of love and compassion.

Thank you for encouraging your ladies to cooperate with the women's department as we encourage them to be faithful to God and the local church, to use the gifting's they are blessed with that enrich the local church, and to be a witness in their world!















#### **PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYER**











#### YOUTH CAMP

- That students will respond and receive Jesus, His Holy Spirit, and His Calling for their lives.
- That our camp speakers would be led by the Holy Spirit and preach the Word with boldness.
- That our volunteers and leaders would form intentional connections with the students and have supernatural energy as they invest their time into the camp week.
- That we would see students give generously to Missions through Speed the Light and see \$60,000 in offerings.
- That 100's of young people would be Called into full-time vocational ministry!





#### **CALLED CONFERENCE**

- That God would anoint our speakers as they speak into the future of our movement.
- That young people would be inspired and excited for their future in ministry.
- That students would be given direction from God and be obedient to His leading.
- That our students would continue to pursue the Calling on their life after this event!

#### **ROYAL RANGERS**



John Hicks Rangers@somoag.org

# **Challenging Kids May be Your Greatest Champions**

We know from scripture that every believer is called to fill some role in the body of Christ and play a part in building the kingdom of God that makes use of the unique giftings and passions God Himself designed into them. As ministry leaders, perhaps one of the most important roles we can fill is to recognize the work of God in the hearts of others and provide them with opportunities

to lead and serve as God designed them, even when that design doesn't seem to fit within the ministry model we've created.

Several years ago when we were serving as children's pastors in Arkansas, we had a boy in our kids' church that posed some special challenges. He was "that kid" – you know the one I'm talking about. He was never in his seat, always interrupting, crawling under

his chair, messing with the kid next to him - you get the picture.

His name was Garrett, and at one time I considered having "the talk" with his parents. Maybe it would be better if Garrett spent some time with Mom and Dad in "big church" for a while (a.k.a. we needed a break). Maybe he just needs some one-on-one time with someone (other than me).

But then one day some of our regular helpers were absent so we asked Garrett if he would like to help us with a puppet skit. We often used kids to help with puppets but had always been reluctant to involve Garrett for fear that he might throw them across the room, tear their ears off, or draw beards on the girl puppets with permanent markers. Yes, he was "that kid."

But that day, I was surprised to see how he engaged with the skit and did a really good job. He was focused and paid attention. I began to wonder if someone had secretly replaced our Garrett for another kid. But as I watched him (closely) I realized something that had never occurred to me before – this kid was made for this! He was made for ministry. He was made to serve. He was made to lead. And all the energy and craziness that I had for so long seen as an interruption to my plans was really just Garrett's

reflection of God's design for him. I had seen him as unqualified to serve in my program, but God saw him as amazingly qualified to serve in His.

That day I realized it was time for me to get out of the way and let Garrett be Garrett. We began to use him more and more. He became our greeter at the door, handing out BGMC materials as kids arrived. He became a primary

character in our drama skits (he was natural – a real goof). He was my best helper in Royal Rangers and became our most valuable and reliable helper on Sunday morning. We soon came to love and cherish him like never before. That boy was wonderful!

That was many years ago, and we don't get to see Garrett much anymore. We no longer live in Arkansas. Last I heard, Garrett was attending medical school and playing rugby (no surprises there – he was brilliant and full of energy). But that boy will forever hold a special place in our hearts. I thank God for the day I learned to see the calling and potential for leadership and service in a boy I had once only seen as a problem and interruption. Don't write off those challenging kids. They may turn out to be your greatest champions.



#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES & DISCIPLESHIP



Chip Dudden cdudden@somoag.org

Every year God ignites a spark in the hearts of young people in our churches and at our camps calling them into a life of ministry! PRAISE GOD for that! But how can we help young people fan the flame of that call? Here are a few things we can do to nurture the call:

#### 1. Encourage a deeper relationship with the Lord

Matthew 6:33 says "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." What can be more valuable than teaching young ministers to develop a deep faith and trust in our Savior that will an-chor them in their calling?

#### 2. Provide opportunities for them to serve

There's definitely value in allowing kids to develop ministry experience, however I think there's more to this. In Matthew 20:26, Jesus explains to his disciples "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." Serving hands produces humble hearts and humble hearts have the capacity for compassion. Experiencing the "how" is important, but feeling a burden for the "why" is the heart of Christ.

#### 3. Provide mentorship and guidance

In Hebrews 13:7, it's written "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." We are reminded that the wisdom we as leaders holds is a treasure we get to invest! Investing it in young people gives that treasure the greatest opportunity to mature and grow!

#### 4. Help them develop strong character

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul makes the bold statement "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.". Letting developing leaders see the character of your leadership helps them develop their own. So lead openly in love, humility, forgiveness, patience, wisdom, truth and understanding. But also lead mindfully, knowing impressionable hearts will imitate your character and make it their own.



#### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES



**John Heide** johnheide2002@yahoo.com

# Can God Call the 50Plus to Service?



#### **Selective Answering-**

With the advent of call recognition we now have the option of not answering telephones calls if we don't want to. Unless I recognize the phone number I often do not pick up and let the caller leave a voicemail.

I have missed some calls that I wished I would have picked up on but what about the call of God for those of us fifty plus? I don't want to miss His call.

God calls every person to Himself and is not willing that anyone perish.

"Many are called but few are chosen?

The call may not have all the answers we would like but is an opportunity for obedience and walking by faith.

Abraham was 75 years old when God called him to move to a new location but didn't tell him where to go. That information would come as Abraham walked daily with God.

The call of God will often use our developed abilities but will stretch those abilities so we have to trust Him for the unknown.

As far as we know Moses never led anything more than a flock of sheep, yet when Moses was 80 God called him to lead an entire nation out of Egypt.

Perhaps God will call many 50 Plusers to get involved in a new area of missions or service in their local church.

Will you pick up His call?



#### 108th Southern Missouri Ministry Network Conference

# CALLED

#### **Momentum**



















#### **Celebration Service**











#### **50 Year Ordination**













#### 108th Southern Missouri Ministry Network Conference

# CALLED

#### **Business and Award of Honor**









#### **Missions Rally**

























#### **Prayer and Praise**









#### 108th Southern Missouri Ministry Network Conference

# CALLED

#### **Women's Luncheon**



#### Men's Luncheon



#### **Ordination**



## MESSENGER





#### 417-881-1316

#### **Network Leadership**

Executive Presbyters	Area Presbyters
Superintendent	Cape GirardeauPhil Roop
Assistant Superintendent George Westlake III	Capital City Jeff Higbie
Secretary-Missions Stan Welch	Clinton Allen Perkins
S. E. Region Brenda Henson	Joplin Ken Robinson
N. E. Region Paul Scheperle	Kansas CityJohn Martz
S. W. Region Ted Cederblom	KennettRichard Ross
N. W. Region Jason St. John	Park Hills Dwight Jones
Network Ministries	Saint Louis Joe Zarro
Chief Financial OfficerRhonda Amer	SedaliaChris Gray
Church PlantingChris Wiggs	Springfield NorthBrad McAtee
Church Development/Men's Ministry Greg Perkins	Springfield South
Missions Stan Welch	Sullivan Jerry Beers
Women's Ministries Sherry Welch	Van Buren Scott Reynolds
Children's/Disc Chip Dudden	West Plains Jerry Orf
Youth Ministries Brandon Cederblom	Ethnic Presbyter James McIntosh
Royal Rangers John Hicks	Under 40 Presbyter Paul Richardson
Girls Ministries DeShae Thrasher	Female Presbyter Ashley Pritchett
Fifty Plus Ministries John Heide	
Cross Pointe Camp Curtis & Cindy Washam	

#### **Available for Ministry**

Rev. Reggie Ballard: Available for fill-in ministry. (605) 680-4552 reggieballard1@gmail.com

Rev. Clifford Batye: Fill-in ministry, secular vs. Biblical worldview seminars. 816-507-9737 discipleforu@gmail.com

Kevin Boggs: fill-in ministry. 417-380-1149 or kevinlboggs@yahoo.com

Carol Brown: Available for fill in ministry, revivals, women's services and/or retreats. 314-378-7438 or revcb@juno.com

Michael Campbell: 660-624-1672 – mike.joan.horseranch@hotmail.com

Evangelist Terry Carter: 417-773-4151

Edward Catron: Weekend/fill-in ministry. 417-742-3045 or hazelned@gmail.com

Julie Perkin (Stout) Davenport is available for services, women's ministry meetings, etc. (816) 304-6244 or dgdavenport@sbcglobal.net

Ronald Duncan: fill-in ministry, revivals, interim. 636-586-8151

Sophia Garcia: Hispanic or English Ministry: Women, Marriage Enrichment. 417-881-1919

Sue Harper: 573-429-7018

Rick lanniello: interim, fill-in min. 816-322-6825 or chaprickianniello@sbcglobal.net

Kevin Larsen: Fill-in ministry. 417-379-8441

Kirk Metzger: fill-in ministry, weekly evenings, Sundays. 417-207-1543

Mel Rowland of Ironton: fill-in ministry. 573-576-8453

#### Items of Interest

#### FOR SALE:

Hammond Spinet Organ, FREE to good home. Contact: Eva Leach 417-881-8447

First Assembly of God in Lexington, Mo have 26 pews (108" length) to give to a church that needs them. They are in excellent condition. If interested, call Jack Blansit at 816.838.1779.

Glad Tiding Assembly is selling:
Church Pews with Cushions. There are 4 different sizes to choose from ranging from 10 feet in length to 25 feet in length and 39 Pews in all. Asking \$50.00 for each or best in the second would be great news.

"The second would be great news." offer. They are in great shape and would be great pews for an established church or church plant. Contact Wes Hansen or Pastor James McIntosh at (417) 866-2434. Buyer is responsible for pickup.

#### **EDITORS**

The Assembly Messenger is the official publication of the Southern Missouri Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God. It is published quarterly by the Southern Missouri Ministry Network. Products and/or services advertised in the MESSENGER are not necessarily endorsed by the Southern Missouri Ministry Network.

#### In Memoriam

Paul Kitch 3/17/2023
William McGarity 3/7/2023
Miriam Reynolds 1/8/2023
Lowell Mason4/22/2023
Robert Sneed5/7/2023
Thomas Hargrove 5/11/2023
Wanda Antwiler 5/12/2023

Ministerial Updates
New Pastors
Isaiah Benedict Long Branch
Troy Coke
Shawn Miner
Curtis Washam Northshore
Dave Coble New Vision
Transfer In
Ecclesia Weltman Oregon
Richard Bennett
Transfer Out
Brittany SmithOK
Jacob WittOH
Ralph Williams N MO
Julie Korell NE
Dennis Rabineau SC
John MichnoSlavic
Timothy Dzindzio AR
Albert Johnson AR
Dakota Berg
New Churches
Victory 417
The Refuge Church 3/2/2023

### Commissionings

## Welcome!

JAMES AND KAREN KITCHEN THE REFUGE CHURCH **DESOTO** 

ISAIAH, DAWN, AYLA, HAILEY, AND JOSIAH BENEDICT LONG BRANCH ASSEMBLY BRANCH

LARRY AND CAROL LACEY TRINITY GOSPEL SIKESTON







#### 2023 MINISTERS SPIRITUAL RENEWAL OCTOBER 14-16, 2023







Grace Community Church, Branson