






Children and Youth Making a Difference for the Kingdom!



Southern Missouri Ministry Network

Messenger

Fall 2024

MESSENGER

 somoag.org
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 facebook.com/SOMODistrictAG

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 417-881-1316

Network Leadership

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 N. E. Region Paul Scheperle
 S. W. Region Ted Cederblom
 N. W. Region Jason St. John
 Network Ministries
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 Church Planting Chris Wiggs
 Church Health and Revitalization . . . John Martz
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 Men's Ministries Greg Perkins
 Children's/Disc. Chip Dudden
 Youth Ministries Brandon Cederblom
 Royal Rangers John Hicks
 Girls Ministries DeShae Thrasher
 Fifty Plus Ministries John Heide

Cross Pointe Camp Curtis & Cindy Washam

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 Springfield South Ryan Goeden
 Sullivan Jerry Beers
 Van Buren Scott Reynolds
 West Plains Jerry Orf
 Ethnic Presbyter James McIntosh
 Under 40 Presbyter Paul Richardson
 Female Presbyter Ashley Pritchett

In Memoriam

Jim Dougherty – Ordained
 Joseph Shumake – Ordained
 Dennis A. Meyer – Ordained
 William Reynolds – Ordained
 Norman “Jack” Robinson – Ordained

Ministerial Updates

New Pastors

Jason Fisher PAC - Russellville - New Life
 Matt Hufman Springfield - Freedom City
 Judith Harris Greenville - Faith A/G
 Henry Reiber Kennett Common Ground Church
 T. Jason Houston KC - Turning Point
 Joshua Francis St. Louis - Reach
 Dearsy Ratliff Boss Assembly of God
 Gregory Mullins Kennett Abundant Life Assembly

Transfer In

Randy Pearson TN
 Maria Pfadt PennDel
 Eric Oleson SoCal
 Ava Oleson SoCal
 Sarah Holmes PenFL
 Billy Welch AK
 Audrey Welch AK
 T. Jason Houston W. TX
 Grace Robertson PennDel
 Amanda Henry IL
 Justin Henry IL

Transfer Out

Jaimee Jennings IL
 Mariah Williams OK
 Kade Williams OK
 Brian Kelly IA
 Andrew Joseph PennDel
 Rebekah Balch NorCA/Nev
 Brooke Entzminger AK
 Pau Khai TN
 J. Stephen Jester AR
 Ryan Langley OK

New Churches

PAC Encounter Church Lincoln Campus . 2/7/24
 PAC Neighbors Church 3/15/24
 PAC Life360 Oran 7/25/24
 Heart Church 8/9/24

Church Closings

PAC - Life360 - Branson West 7/3/24
 PAC - Life360 - Grant Beach 7/3/24
 GreaterWorks Empowerment Church . . . 7/1/24
 (Merged with Commission Church)
 Greenbrier Assembly of God 5/20/24
 Independence - Souls Harbour 7/31/2024

Available for Ministry

Rev. Reggie Ballard: Available for fill-in ministry. net
 (605) 680-4552 reggieballard1@gmail.com
 Ronald Duncan: fill-in ministry, revivals, interim.
 636-586-8151
 Rev. Clifford Batye: Fill-in ministry, secular vs. Sophia Garcia: Hispanic or English Ministry;
 Biblical worldview seminars. 816-507-9737 Women, Marriage Enrichment. 417-881-1919
 disciplegofu@gmail.com
 Kevin Boggs: fill-in ministry. 417-380-1149 or Rick Ianniello: interim, fill-in min. 816-322-6825
 kevinboggs@yahoo.com or chaprickianniello@sbcglobal.net
 Carol Brown: Available for fill in ministry, Alfred Keith: fill-in ministry 417-775-4121
 revivals, women's services and/or retreats. Kevin Larsen: Fill-in ministry. 417-379-8441
 314-378-7438 or revcb@juno.com
 Kirk Metzger: fill-in ministry, weekly evenings, Sundays. 417-207-1543
 Michael Campbell: 660-624-1672 – Matthew Thomas: fill-in ministry. 618-401-1014
 mike.joan.horseranch@hotmail.com
 Mel Rowland of Ironton: fill-in ministry.
 Rev. Thomas Canter: fill-in ministry. (314) 573-576-8453
 550-2222
 Evangelist Terry Carter: 417-773-4151
 Robert Boyce: Pulpit Fill-In, Revival Meetings
 417-742-3045 or hazelned@gmail.com 816-876-3363
 Edward Catron: Weekend/fill-in ministry.
 Julie Perkin (Stout) Davenport is available for services, women's ministry meetings, etc.
 (816) 304-6244 or dgdavenport@sbcglobal.

Items of Interest

FOR SALE:
 Hammond Spinet Organ, FREE to good home. Contact: Eva Leach 417-881-8447
 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 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.
 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.
 Lake house for sale near Cross Pointe Camp and Retreat 31252 Lakeview Dr, Rocky Mount, MO 65072. Contact Claude and Dorris Haley (314)952-8396
WANTED:
 New or Used Overhead or Video Projector. Missionaries Richard and Deborah Crabb. 573-578-6790 or richard.crabb@agmd.org.

EDITORS

Don Miller, Executive Editor Rhonda Amer, Managing Editor

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The Joel Generation

*“And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.*

(Joel 2:38, ESV)

In a recent podcast with Ed Stetzer, world renowned author and pastor Max Lucado shared about his radical shift in theological views. Once an amillennialist, he now believes not only in a literal millennial reign of Christ on this earth but has also now accepted the view of a pre-tribulational rapture of the church. When asked why he changed his stance he stated that he changed because he could not get any other view to work with scripture. Carey asked him if he believed we are living in the end times and if so why. Lucado stated that he did believe that we are living in the end times and referenced Israel becoming a nation in 1947. He shared how before that time, many would have never believed the gathering of Israel as a nation was even possible. Many point to that event as the beginning of the last days.

This generation, our children and grandchildren, may very well be the Joel Generation...that last generation before the coming of the Lord. Personally, in recent years, I have seen a radical shift in the spiritual hunger of our young people. I can remember when I greeted at the first District Youth Convention as superintendent. Within sixty seconds from the time I was introduced, I felt I had totally lost the group as the young people began to talk to each other. In recent years, I have been astounded at our network youth events when I have had opportunity to greet at youth convention or at youth camps. As I step up to share a simple word from the Lord, I sense the hunger of the youth. Their eyes are looking and their ears are listening to what they can hear from the Lord!

As the older generation (yes that includes you under 40 ministers), we have a solemn responsibility to pour into this upcoming generation. We must do all that we can to encourage them, instruct them, and challenge them. We must pray for their safety and for a powerful infilling of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

While our four daughters were still young (actually before three of them were even born), Vicki and I would pray regularly that they would choose the right vocation and right mate. I remember the joy that I had in my heart when our last daughter was married and knew what she was going to do with her life. I knew our prayers had been answered with all four daughters married to quality young men and having clear direction on how God wanted to use them. Now we pray those same prayers for our eight grandchildren.

But recently, I found my prayers intensifying for our grandchildren. In recent years, we have seen many young adults go through deconstruction in which they literally walk away from their faith in Jesus Christ. In recent months, I have begun to pray, “Lord, may none of our grandchildren go through deconstruction! May their faith in Jesus Christ be so solid and sure that they never waver.” I want their faith to be like the man who builds his house on the rock so when the winds and rains come, their house stands firm!

My days on this earth are numbered. (So are yours.) And I realize that my greatest legacy will be not so much what I do but the lives into which I invest. Jesus may come in my lifetime. However, it may very well be that my contribution to the Kingdom will not be going up in the rapture but investing in this generation so that they can radically affect their world for Christ. I am believing, hoping, and praying that God will use us...and our sons and daughters...to be part of the greatest spiritual awakening right before the coming of our Lord.



Commissionings *Welcome!*



Greg and Di Perkins
Chesterfield West County AG



Joey and Tammy Parnell
Miller New Beginnings AG



James and Deborah Hedrick
Richland New Life Fellowship



Randy and Missy Pogue
Patterson Assembly of God



Toby and Sheila Halfacre
Pittsburg Lakeside AG



Stephen and Cynthia Aldrich
Thayer First Assembly



Tim and Amy Rolan
Winona Assembly of God



REFRESH MINISTRY WOMEN

Vicki Miller
vickimiller@somoag.org



Save the Date

Refresh MINISTRY WOMEN BREAKAWAY

MARCH 7 & 8
SPRINGFIELD, MO

NWM NETWORK OF WOMEN MINISTERS
1 DAY CONFERENCE

ONE DAY

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/NWMEVENTS



Stan Welch
stanwelch@somoag.org

Purdy, Missouri Revitalization

Five years ago, there was no ministry going on at the building that had housed the Assembly of God in Purdy. No preaching, no songs of worship, no children being taught the Word of God, no one accepting Christ as Savior, no one being healed, no one having their life put back together, no one receiving the precious gift of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. It was just an empty building with no life in it. But God stirred the hearts of a couple that had retired from missionary work, Wilson and Judy Gaunt. The Gaunt's felt God still wanted an Assemblies of God ministry in Purdy. They contacted the Network leadership, Superintendent Miller, Greg Perkins - Church Health Director, Ken Robinson - Joplin Area Presbyterian, and me with the burden they had for Purdy. Network leadership saw what was in their heart and agreed that God was leading the Gaunt's to Purdy.

Last Sunday, I was at Family Life Fellowship in Purdy Missouri as they were celebrating five years since the restart of the Assemblies of God ministry in Purdy. Oh, what a difference from the silence of five years before; songs of praise beautifully raised toward heaven from a

wonderful group of people that gathered to worship our Lord and Savior. Testimonies were given of how God had changed peoples lives through the ministry of this local church. People responded to the preaching of the Word, and one made things right with God that morning.

The Holy Spirit led the Gaunt's to Purdy. People have been drawn by the Holy Spirit to Family Life Fellowship and now ministry is flowing out from this place of worship. People of all ages are being reached and ministered to because a Spirit led and Spirit empowered church is actively ministering in Purdy.

I commend Wilson and Judy Gaunt for their anointed ministry in Purdy. I acknowledge all those that have come alongside the Gaunt's during this journey. It is through their united efforts God has raised up a wonderful church. I am so happy that there is an alive and functioning Assemblies of God in Purdy.

My prayer is that this story is repeated in many communities throughout our Network. May the Spirit of God lead others to start new Assemblies or revive existing Assemblies.





MISSIONS

Stan Welch
stanwelch@somoag.org

Reaching Children in Africa

“Jesus loves the little children, ALL the children of the world!” His love has reached the children living in the small African country of Equatorial Guinea. Established churches and the Christian based elementary schools have provided the opportunity for children to know how much God loves them. Pastor and Justo Nguema were among the first students to attend an Assemblies of God preschool and elementary school. They were always the two top students of their class. In addition to the regular curriculum, the Nguema twins and all the students had a Bible class plus a weekly chapel. This prepared them with Biblical knowledge and they became involved in ministry to other children with their siblings and friends. Pastor became a leader of the national ministry to children and trained young people to serve effectively. As a young adult and Bible school graduate, Pastor planted a church and currently serves as the pastor of this growing, vibrant congregation. Pastor’s twin brother, Justo, is a medical doctor, and serves in the church as well.

Today, more than 2,000 students attend one of the Assemblies of God elementary schools in Equatorial Guinea, where they are learning to pray and study God’s Word.

Two of the schools have our names. What an honor! Centro Privado Bilingüe Rhonda Deal and Centro Carlos Deal.



Carrol Deal



Here is some of what has been accomplished in Vietnam because of your giving to the Gideon’s 300+ project. Thank you!





How Camp Changed My Life!

In the spring of 1994 I had just finished my Freshman year at Evangel College and started driving a dump truck for my uncle, Gary Cooper, to save enough to pay for the next year of college. As the 12-hour days passed, driving alone in a dump truck with no air conditioning and no power steering along a hot, dusty rock quarry, I realized this wasn't going to be for me. So, I cleaned the truck up, dropped it off at the garage, and let him know that I was going to find something else to do. That next week my other uncle, Bruce McCarty, asked me to run games at SoMo youth camp for a month. This sounded like fun to me. I had been student body president in high school so this kind of leadership was right up my alley. And, for those who don't know me, I love to be around people. Let me set the stage by telling you about my childhood. My mom and dad were church druggies. They drug me to church every time the doors were open. I was the kid that seemed to always know the Sunday School class answers so that my team could win a competition. I also went to the altar many times through the years to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, lifting my hands and praying for so long, yet nothing ever happened. I remember one night at the altar one sweet lady finally said to me, "I just don't think tonight is your night". This process of getting baptized in the Holy Spirit was frustrating to me. I liked church, but as I got older, I liked to work more than I liked to go to church. As I was starting my junior year in high school, my brother, Chad, was starting classes at Central Bible College to head into ministry. While I looked up to my brother, I didn't want to be a part of the ministry. I wanted to help students by being a High School Principal or being a businessman. I took off to work youth camp with my uncle and God began to do a work in my life like never before. The first week of camp kicked off and I began to meet great youth pastors like Dan Ross, Mike Kolhbaker, and many more who are now lead pastors in our Network. I led games each week and we played hard. It was a blast for me and the students alike. Therefore, I took that same energy and began to

pray for students. One night after praying for the students I had made my way to the right of the center of the stage and I began to pray. Then, a lady began to pray for me and I felt something hot on my back. The power of God was flowing through her into me. I had never felt the presence of God like that ever before. I began for the first time to see God differently. I saw a special needs student grab the camp speaker, Mike Goldsmith, by the throat and pray in Jesus name for his voice to be healed from hoarseness and he was healed immediately and the hoarseness never did return to him. Over the next two weeks the stirring in my life got real. I remember praying at the altar one night and saying "I believe that You are real and I know enough to know that without Holy Spirit, I don't want anything to do with being in ministry." At Camp on week three in 1994 I knew that God had spoken to my heart about going into the ministry; it was clear. My response to God was again, "Not unless You fill me with the Holy Spirit." I still had to pay for college so after each week of camp I would drive back to Springfield and work at least twenty hours at the Fairgrounds. I showed up to the final week of camp completely exhausted but ready to give my all to the kids and to receive all that God had for me. That week I was filled with the Holy Spirit confirming my call into the ministry. The Lord had taken my excuses away from me. I have served in ministry now for 28 years and have seen so many students and leaders walk away from camp with similar testimonies of what God has done in their lives. I have built into our annual church budget the funds to pay half of each camper's way to ensure that everyone can afford to attend. We take away the financial excuse. I believe that what happens at camp changes lives for the Kingdom and I want to help get as many as I can to kids and youth camps. More now than ever, it is a place where students set aside all their distractions, play hard, pray hard, receive the Word, and hear from God. Camp will always hold a special place in my heart as I continue to champion that cause.



Brad and Janee' McAtee

Brad McAtee



John Martz
jmartz@somoag.org

John Martz named new Church Health/Revitalization Director and Executive Ministry Assistant to the Superintendent



“It’s an exciting season for us as we step into a new role serving pastors of the Southern Missouri Network. I can’t wait to get to know each one of you, visit your church, and dream with you in building the kingdom of God.”

Introductions

You probably know Mary Ann and I as the Lead Pastors of Blue Springs Assembly, in Blue Springs, MO, just outside Kansas City. In January, we will celebrate 28 years at BSA. We have watched as God steadily brought the church from a small, dysfunctional group of 60 in 1997, to a healthy, thriving congregation of over 400 today. We have guided the congregation through several seasons of growth, buying land, a 3-year capital campaign, and building our current worship center in 2008. Today, BSA is a generous, mission-minded church, sending many into ministry and missionary work around the world.

Pastoral Experience

After youth and associate roles in our early years in Springfield, MO and Waupaca, WI, we assumed our first lead pastorate in Shawano, WI at the ages of 23 and 25. We followed a well-loved pastor in his seventies who was retiring and jumped in to lead the church of 50 where the median age was 55, with one child in the nursery. Over the next 8 1/2 years, Shawano A/G proved to be a wonderful congregation that allowed us to grow personally and fostered a healthy environment that led the church to become the largest evangelical church in the county.

Mary Ann has been a true partner in ministry. For 25 years she was active in music ministries, leading worship, and writing and directing seasonal productions. She is creative, and passionate about exploring scripture, writing, and teaching God’s word. She is a continuous learner and received her Ordination with the A/G in 2020. She has helped make BSA a church that respects and embraces women in ministry.

Network Experience and Education

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the Kansas City Area as Presbyter, Assistant Presbyter, and Secretary/Treasurer for the last 15 years. Forming friendships with our local pastors has been a highlight for me. I am a graduate of CBC and AGTS, with an MA in Biblical Studies, and carry a certification in coaching. Mary Ann is a graduate of Evangelical University, and is looking forward to beginning her Master’s program in Theological Studies at AGTS in January.

We love the Southern Missouri Network, and believe the best days are ahead of us. We also love the local church and look forward to being a resource to our pastors and a champion of your vision and ministry.

John and Mary Ann Martz



CHURCH PLANTING

Chris Wiggs
cwiggs@somoag.org



I recently had the privilege of leading one of the breakout sessions at the "Called Retreat," a weekend for students who feel called to ministry. I led the first-ever Church Planting session for students who sense that God may be calling them to start a church someday. Between the two sessions, we had almost 30 students! Can you imagine what SOMO would look like if, over the next 10-15 years, all 30 of those students planted churches in our network? The Kingdom impact would be incredible. How many people would be saved? How many addicts would find freedom? How many people would be called to missions? You might be thinking, "They're just kids; who says they are going to follow through?" Never underestimate God's ability to use young people. Remember, Mary was only a young teenager when she found out she was carrying the Son of God! A 12-year-old boy from Bluff First, who attended my session, asked a question that really touched me. He said, "When is a good time to start saving money for things the church will need? Things like really big speakers so people in the back can hear what's going on?" I told him he can start now! Now is the time! You are never too young to start working for God! Last week, my kids attended a new youth group. When I asked them who spoke at the service, I was pleasantly surprised to hear that one of the students was the preacher that evening. I love Paul's familiar words to young pastor Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." I hope this gives you a fresh perspective on God's heart to use young people. May we hold the door open for them to minister instead of slamming it shut!



Neighbors is a community with the common values of hospitality, intentionality, creativity, and rest. We desire Neighbors Church to be an extension of our homes and hearts. Being a people overflowing with kindness and warmth for all who walk through our doors.

During the week, neighbors throughout our community will open their homes and lives to gather around food and friendship. These gatherings will be rich with laughter, intentional conversations, and Gospel participation.

Every month we will come together as a community dedicated to seeing the Gospel in a tangible way. We will encourage our church to be the hands and feet of Jesus by meeting needs in our neighborhood. We will do this by partnering with our community coalition, local Care Portal, and supporting our neighborhood food pantry.



Pastors Justin & Sam Roberts



GROWING HEALTHY CHURCHES ACROSS MISSOURI

Fall 2024 • Assembly Messenger



CROSS POINTE CAMP

Curtis & Cindy Washam, Directors
crosspointeretreatcenter@gmail.com



Children and Youth Making a Difference for the Kingdom!

We know that God is using youth in His kingdom because he pours His Spirit out on them. Again, in the 2024 camping season, God did miraculous things in the lives of the children and youth in our network.

2024 Camp Spiritual Results Teens and Kids	
First time salvations	306
Recommitments	989
Holy Spirit Baptisms	568
Called into ministry	442
Healings.....	510
Encounters with Jesus	1,451



Fall Prayer Encounter
 Cross Pointe Camp and Retreat Center
November 8th and 9th
 Friday night service, 7:00pm – Saturday morning service, 9:30am

Camp Intercession 2025
Believing God for great things!
February 28th - March 1st
at Cross Pointe Camp

Speaker: Joe Oden, National Prayer and Evangelism Director for the Assemblies of God



Missouri Prayerfest at the Capitol
 October 12th in Jefferson City, Mo.
 For those who cannot join the Million Women Prayer Event in Washington D.C., but want to join others to pray for our nation.
 For monthly prayer focuses and resources for prayer, go to
SOMOpayer.com

VANGUARD
 Marriage & Family Advocates
 www.MOPRAYS.org

CALLING ALL PRAYER WARRIORS!
 JOIN US IN PRAYER AT

Missouri Prayerfest
SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

10 AREAS OF PRAYER

Marriage & Family	Law Enforcement
Right to Life	Sexual Exploitation
Religious Liberty	Government Leaders
Foster & Adopt	Racial Tensions
Education	Business & Farming

Missouri Capitol, Jefferson City, MO | www.MOPRAYS.org



Sherry Welch
wms@somoag.org

“The Story of Gracie”



Luke 18:17

“Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it”.

As this verse suggests, we can learn to see God through the eyes of a child, and that children can teach us how to approach God as our Heavenly Father.

This verse was played out right in front of our eyes in the life of Gracie. She was 7 years old when she started attending Seymour Life Church. She came with her great aunt, Thelma Wallace.

Thelma never missed a service and brought little Grace right along with her.

Jim and Pam Calvin were the Life Kid's Pastors at this time and invested in the life of Gracie. Gretchen Hatcher was her Girls Ministries leader, and she was also a big part of Gracie's life. Gracie accepted Jesus into her heart and even felt the call to mission's work as a young child.

Life Kids and Girls Ministries always had time for prayer requests from the children, and Gracie never failed to ask for prayer for her parents, who did not attend church. This prayer request was constant and sincere.

Two years later, parents Michael and Dani Robertson came to church. They were saved and now attend the church regularly!

Michael is on the praise team and Dani is the Compassion Coordinator for the church!



Gracie continues to grow in the Lord through our student ministries led by Colonel Brad and Julie Leonard. I am incredibly thankful for the leadership of the local church that starts in the nursery and leads into adulthood.

Barna Group tells us the following:

When dad comes to Christ first:

93% of families will follow.

When mom comes to Christ first:

17% of families will follow.

When kids come to Christ first:

3.5% of families will follow.

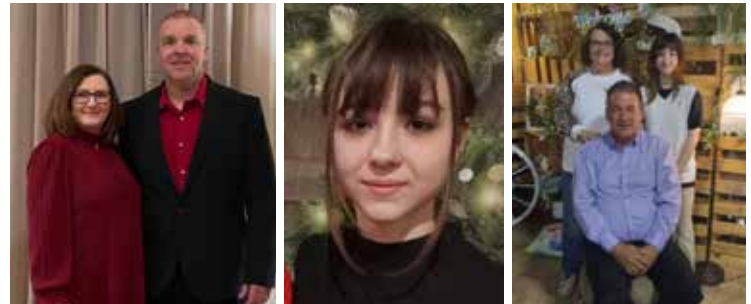
Yes, this shows the importance of a father and mother leading, but I am so thankful the 3.5% worked for this family!

“The devil lost another family, they are free!”

Sincerely,

Sherry Welch

SOMO Women Director



2024 SOMO WOMEN FALL RETREATS ON THE LAKE

Captivated BY HIS LOVE

“We know how much God loves us and we have put our trust in His love.”
1 John 4:16

EAST SEPTEMBER 12-14
WEST SEPTEMBER 19-21



GIRLS MINISTRIES

Deshae Thrasher
dthrasher@somoag.org

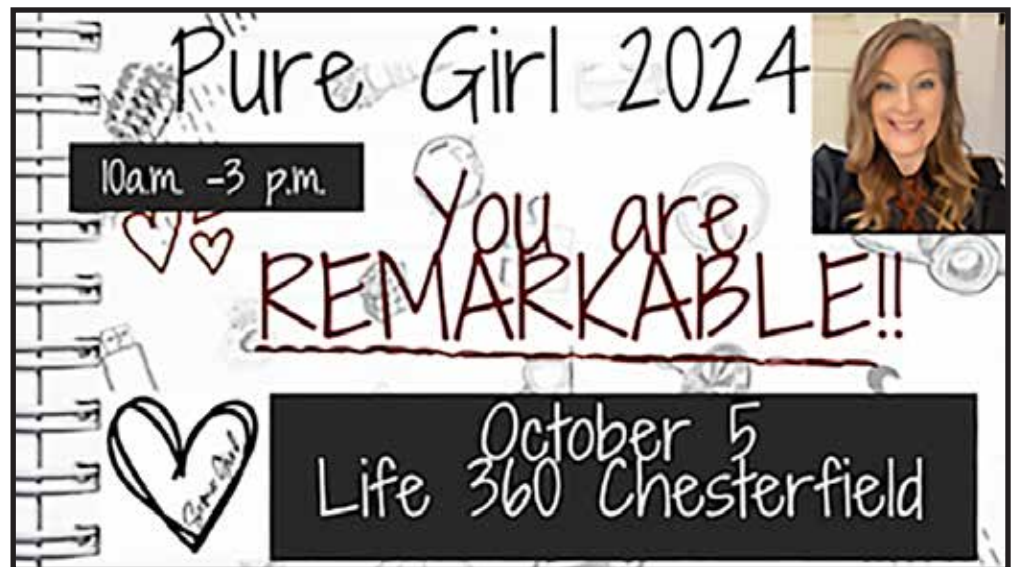
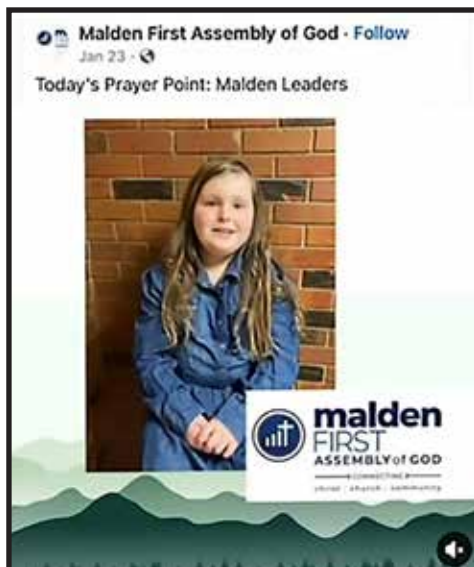


Making a Difference Together: One Question At a Time

Students in our churches and communities are full of potential and excited for new adventures! SOMO girls are leading worship in their churches, shining the light of Jesus around the world with missions giving and praying for their churches and communities. However, the enemy of John 10:10 doesn't wait until they get older to start attacking them, but from a young age begins his pursuit to steal, kill and destroy. As parents, pastors, teachers and friends we see effects that these attacks have on our students and become paralyzed as what to do. Don't forget you are here to share our victories with our students and help them as they navigate God's plan for their life.

Students are often confused of what to believe and are searching for meaning to life. Use questions as opportunities to talk with them and build relationships. The Bible is full of people asking questions and wondering about their life. We see oftentimes as Jesus answered questions His disciples had as opportunities for them to grow in their faith!

SOMO girls are making a difference and impact on their world. May we be committed to helping them grow in their faith through their questions. Let us change the world together one student at a time. Students will change the atmosphere of your church. Their eagerness to know more, their desire to care for those in need and their passion for worship and prayer is contagious.





History of BGMC

BGMC began in 1949 as a way to get needed literature and curriculum to missionaries overseas while teaching kids about the importance of missions. Over the years, this essential ministry has grown to providing vital funds and resources to AG missionaries and ministries for wide-ranging global impact. Nearly 75 years later, BGMC has raised over \$200 million for critical needs around the world!



History of STL

Speed the Light is a student-initiated, volunteer, charitable program. It began in 1944 after Ralph Harris, then head of the National Youth Ministries department, prayed for a way

to give Assemblies of God students the opportunity to help missionaries in their work. Nearly 80 years later, STL is one of the most effective youth missions ministries in existence. Since its beginning, over \$395 million has been raised for missionary equipment around the world. STL is still helping to disciple students to live a life of generosity as they become personally responsible for the mission of God by helping our missionaries make Jesus known throughout the world.



Information from ag.org



ROYAL RANGERS

John Hicks
Rangers@somoag.org



CELEBRATING THE PROCESS

As the summer draws to a close we have many reasons to celebrate all that God is doing among the men and boys of southern Missouri. Through the times spent together around the campfire, or playing dodgeball, or shooting BB guns, or cooking up some amazing things in a Dutch oven, our boys are seeing Christlike manhood modeled in the lives of men they personally know and respect. And those experiences are leading them on to make new commitments to be the man they were created to be, and do the things they were created to do.

In May we had 15 new members join FCF at our Frontier Adventure and make a commitment to the next level of service and leadership in Royal Rangers.

In June we saw 32 boys come forward and respond to the invitation to accept Christ at our district Pow-Wow. These boys made a public decision to live daily as a fully devoted follower of Christ.

In July we had 56 members from our district attend the

National FCF Rendezvous at Eagle Rock, MO where they were encouraged to continue on in their service to God, their church, and their fellowman.

In August we had 9 young men participate in our Junior Leader Training Academy where 4 of them graduated as fully trained junior leaders, capable of leading others on the adventure of Royal Rangers and the Christlike life.

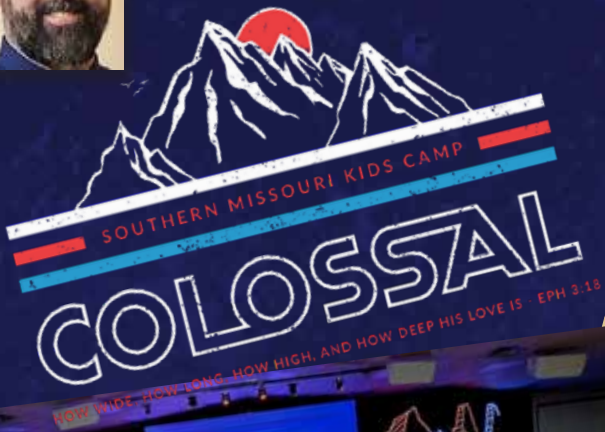
These are but a few of the things we can look back on and celebrate over the last few months. But the greatest things God has done are those things we seldom see and have no way to measure. The really great things are those He is doing in the hearts of boys, and the men who lead them. Only time and eternity will tell the true results of our labors. But until then, we will continue the process, until we reach every boy, through every church, in every community of southern Missouri and see him become the man of God he was made to be. And we'll do it together.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES & DISCIPLESHIP

Chip Dudden
cdudden@somoag.org



WEEK *one*

Campers: 410
Salvation: 65
Rededication: 79
Holy Spirit Baptism: 36
Called into Ministry: 68
BGMC Giving: \$6,560.34

WEEK *two*

Campers: 490
Salvation: 39
Rededication: 146
Holy Spirit Baptism: 93
Called into Ministry: 73
BGMC Giving: \$4,070.54

WEEK *three*

Campers: 497
Salvation: 58
Rededication: 134
Holy Spirit Baptism: 77
Called into Ministry: 78
BGMC Giving: \$7,000

WEEK *four*

Campers: 424
Salvation: 55
Rededication: 95
Holy Spirit Baptism: 19
Called into Ministry: 61
BGMC Giving: \$6,831.52

TOTAL BGMC OFFERING
\$24,463.40



YOUTH

Brandon Cederblom
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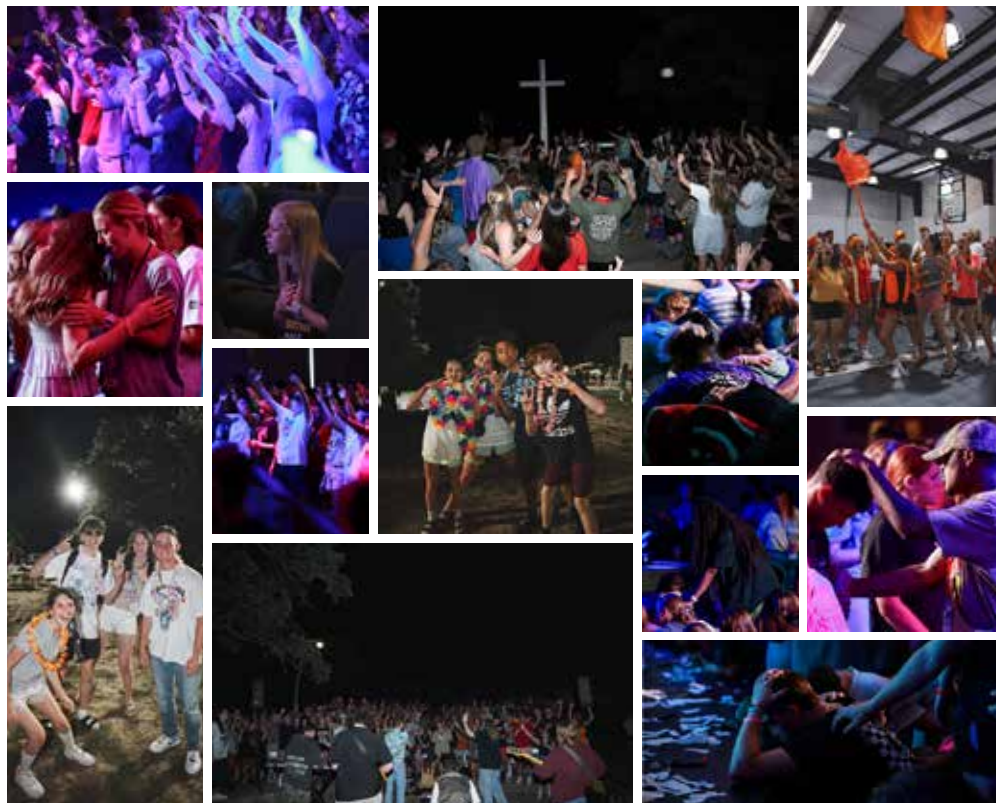


Students are building the kingdom of God like never before! In a world that craves authenticity, they stand firm in their faith, seeking to see God move in real and powerful ways. Their passion to win their friends for Christ is transforming communities and igniting a revival of faith among their peers. These students are not just the future—they are the present force for God's kingdom.

We encourage you, as pastors, leaders, and parents, to be intentional as the year ends—connecting, partnering, and helping the students in your life grow.

- **Foster Open Conversations:** Create space where students feel safe to ask questions and explore their faith openly.
- **Model Real Faith:** Let them witness your authentic walk with God through good and bad with prayer and worship.
- **Connect Faith to Passions:** Help student connect their personal passions (sports, music, social causes) to their faith journey. Show them how God can work through their unique talents and interests.
- **Offer Mentorship:** Provide consistent support and accountability through mentoring and small groups.

GOD WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND!



SMYM Youth Camp 2024 was one for the books! Thank you all for partnering with us! We couldn't have done this without your prayers and those who sacrificed time to serve! God showed up and showed off in powerful ways and we know and believe this, the BEST is still ahead for all that God wants to do in the lives of SMYM Students!

First Time Salvations: 89
Recommitments: 535
Filled with the Holy Spirit: 343
Called into Ministry: 162
Experienced Healing: 510
Genuine Encounter with Christ: 1,451
Given to STL: \$44,055.43

Some AMAZING testimonies of what God did in students live at camp from our Youth Pastors:

- "Laylah, who is 16 years old, has lived with a disease called AMPS which causes constant chronic pain for at least 3 years. Completely healed and pain free for the first time in 3 years!"
- "Joel felt the weight of anxiety lift off him and a different youth pastor prayed over him and without knowing him, called out every anxiety commanding them to flee."
- "We had one student who was an atheist when she came but left believing and saved."
- "One student has past scars from cutting that were healed."

We continue to hear about what God did and stand in awe of His Mighty power!

YOUTH@SOMOAG.ORG | SMYMONLINE.COM



Children and Youth, Making a Difference for the Kingdom!

NOTHING TO SAY...

When I first saw the topic assigned for this issue of the Messenger I thought: Maybe I should give this space to some other department! Most of the people we work with haven't been a child or youth for so many years we can't remember what it was like!

Recently, two new 50 Plus groups were started. One chose the name of God's Classics and the other Joy. I love both. Classics speak of enduring value and the other of a quality of life we can all have: JOY. It is an acronym for: JUST OLDER YOUTH. There's the connection!

It may be true that it has been a long time since we went to children's church or the youth meeting. But, we were children once and youth once. Now we can still have JOY as we help lead children and youth with our Presence, our Prayers, our Example and our Giving to help children and youth go forward in faith!

Together, we can all make a difference.

Hmmm, maybe we do have something to say!



Image downloaded from freepik.com

2025 SOUTHERN MISSOURI MINISTRY NETWORK CALENDAR



JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day (Office Closed)
- 4 FCF Committee Meeting (RR)
- 10 SW Division Staff Meeting (RR)
- 11 Local Church Women's Leadership Training (WMs)
- 12-3/5 Spring Refresh Connect Groups
- 14 Resolutions Due
- 16-17 Path 24 (Youth)
- 17-18 Divisional FCF Winter Outing (RR)
- 23 Credential Interviews
- 23 NWM Professional Development (Refresh)
- 23 Presbyters Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 1 SOM
- 6-8 KidMin Connect @ Campground
- 6-8 Unite Conference (Youth)
- 7-8 Men's Leadership Training/Evangelism & Discipleship
- 14-15 Men's Leadership Training/Evangelism & Discipleship
- 18-28 Area Conference Tour
- 21-25 Men's Leadership Training/Evangelism & Discipleship
- 23 National Women's Day
- 28- 3/1 Camp Intercession

MARCH

- 1 SOM
- 1 Spring Conference (Girls Ministries)
- 1 SW Division Ranger Derby Crafting Day (RR)
- 6 Taking Care of Business
- 7-8 Ministry Women Breakaway (Refresh)
- 10-11 Men's Rep Meeting (Springfield, MO)
- 15 Divisional Ranger Derby (RR)
- 20-22 National EveryONE Conference (RR & Girls Min)
- 22 JBQ & TBQ (Kids)
- 28-29 Fine Arts (Youth)

APRIL

- 4 Network Executive Committee Meeting (RR)
- 4-5 "Empowered to Serve" Conference (WMs)
- 4-5 Network Leaders Conference (RR)
- 5 SOM
- 18 Good Friday (Office Closed)
- 28 Momentum
- 28-30 Network Conference

MAY

- 1 Credential Application Deadline for June Interviews
- 1 Presbyters Meeting
- 2-4 FCF Frontier Adventure & Spring Outing
- 2 Office Closed Following Net. Conf.
- 2-3 "You and Me" Mother-Daughter Event (WMs)
- 3 SOM
- 8-9 Path 25 (Youth)
- 15-17 Campgrounds Work Week (RR)
- 15-17 Camp Meeting (50+)
- 26 Memorial Day (Office Closed)
- 28-31 Youth Camp Week 1

JUNE

- 2-6 Youth Camp Week 2
- 4 Camp Workday & Pow-Wow Setup (RR)
- 5-8 Network POW-WOW (RR)
- 7 SOM
- 9-13 Youth Camp Week 3
- 14 Local Church Women's Leadership Training (WMs)
- 16-20 Youth Camp Week 4
- 19 Credential Interviews
- 19-20 Presbyters Meeting
- 19-21 Network Backpacking Action & Adventure Camps (RR)
- 23-27 Youth Camp Week 5

JULY

- 1 Credential Application Deadline for August Interviews
- 4 Independence Day (Office Closed)
- 7-11 Kids Camp Week 1
- 7-13 Pathfinder Trip to North Carolina (RR)
- 11-12 Called (Youth)
- 12 SOM
- 14-18 Kids Camp Week 2
- 18 SW Division Staff Meeting (RR)
- 21-25 Kids Camp Week 3
- 23-26 Network Junior Leader Training Academy (RR)
- 28-8/1 Kids Camp Week 4

AUGUST

- 1-2 SW Division Cardboard Boat Regatta (RR)
- 2 SOM
- 18-19 Men's Rep Meeting (Springfield)
- 21 Credential Interviews
- 21-22 Presbyters Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 6 SOM
- 7-11/23 Fall Refresh Connect Groups
- 7-13 Girls Ministries Week
- 11-13 Fall Retreat on the Lake (East) (WMs)
- 17 National "Touch the World" Day (WMs)
- 18 National "See you at the Altar" Day
- 18-20 Fall Retreat on the Lake (West) (WMs)
- 19-21 Network FCF Fall Trace (RR)
- 20 Fun Arts (NE)
- 20-28 50 Plus Fall Bus Trip
- 25 Local Church Women's Leadership Event (WMs)
- 26-28 Men's Summit @ Cross Pointe Camp
- 27 Fun Arts (SE)

OCTOBER

- 2-5 FCF Territorial Rendezvous (RR)
- 2-3 Path 25 (Youth)
- 4 SOM
- 4 Fun Arts (SW)
- 4 Pure Girl Conference
- 11 Divisional Family Field Days (RR)
- 11 Fun Arts (NW)
- 13-15 Ministers Renewal
- 14 Refresh Ministry Women Breakaway 2026 Early Bird Registration Open
- 15-17 Presbyters Meeting
- 18 Network Executive Committee Meeting & Leader Roundtable (RR)

NOVEMBER

- 1 Credential Application Deadline for January Interviews
- 3 Credential Renewal Opens
- 7-8 Men's & LFTL Reps Planning Meeting (Springfield)
- 8 NWM One Day Conference (Refresh)
- 21-22 Youth Convention
- 27-28 Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

DECEMBER

- 5-6 NE, SW Division Christmas Party (RR)
- 11-13 Missions Retreat
- 22-26 Christmas (Office Closed)
- 31 Credential Renewal Deadline



SOUTHERN MISSOURI MINISTRY NETWORK
Assemblies of God

2024 MINISTERS RENEWAL

OCT. 14-16, 2024

Grace Community Assembly
3101 N Gretna Rd Branson, MO 65616



SPEAKER

AARON HLAVIN

MICHIGAN MINISTRY
NETWORK SUPERINTENDENT

RESOURCE

RELATIONSHIP

RENEWAL



SCAN TO REGISTER

OR

go to www.somoag.org

Childcare available for ages 0-5yrs
Children must be pre-registered

SM MN

SOUTHERN MISSOURI MINISTRY NETWORK
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