



Spring 2019

"Where We're Bringing Life To The Desert!"

www.rivervalleymissionnetwork.org

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Special Word From our Network Director

Greetings, this will probably be my last opportunity to write for the Network as its interim director. By the time the summer issue comes around Dr. Bruce Cannon will be here and guiding the ship. This transition will be exciting and I can't wait to see what the next chapter for the Network will be under his leadership. But since I am still here, a little longer, let me address a few issues to you.

First, let me thank you for your contributions to the Network. Thanks to the faithful giving of the member churches and missions we were able to take on the extra expenses of interviewing and moving Dr. Cannon here, and to do so while continuing to fund the existing requests, ministries and missions.

Second, let me encourage you to continue striving to complete the ministries that God has set before you. Each church and mission is a part of the greater kingdom, and God grows His kingdom by growing the churches. If you are not aware of the "Who's your One" curriculum from the North American Mission Board, go take a look at www.whosyourone.com.

Third, remember the central role of prayer. This is the tool that brings God's power down to earth. Our best efforts apart from prayer are meaningless at best, and can easily be downright blasphemous. Find every excuse you can to pray for God to have His will done among you.

It has been a privilege to share and work alongside you all as the Interim Director over the last year. I have enjoyed getting to know pastors and churches better. Thank you for the opportunity.

Pastor Chip

Happenings In Our River Valley Churches & Around Our State...



FBS Parker: We have been involved in some different outreach events. The Parker 425, LaPaz County Fair, Revival, Awanas. We are getting geared up for our yearly VBS Event, June 9 - 13. We are going to have Eddy Pearson from the Church Life Team come out on April 27 for a Witness Training Event for our VBS Staff. Time is 9:00 - 11:30.

Bouse: They had a Outreach event for their community March 1 - 3. They are getting ready to begin a Diaper ministry. Nicky's Nook is becoming a real blessing to the community.

Quartzsite: Completed a Outreach Event in Project Quartzsite with many people coming in contact with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through different avenues. Jeffrey and Karen are coming up on their 1 Year celebration of being called to serve the church there. People are responding to their leadership.

Bullhead Cluster: The Bullhead Cluster has scheduled regular meetings, but the busy schedules has cut down on pastor's attendance. The events keeping the churches moving have included the 12th annual car show at First Baptist Church, Ft. Mohave. This event was nearly rained out and therefore had about 1/3 of the cars of their norm. But the different situation also greatly increased the number of witnessing encounters. The attendance from spectators was about the same as past years. First Southern Baptist Bullhead City has been working with Roy Walker, their interim pastor, and is planning a fishing outreach for late spring or early summer. Set free needles continues to stay busy but despite their hectic workload they hosted our annual meeting in early February.

College Park: April 21, Easter Sunday, we will be having a Sunday Brunch between services 9:30am - 10:30am. We will be serving pastries, fruit & yogurt with coffee and tea. Our youth group is growing in size and in God. We have Baptized 3 teens since the first of the year. We have also Baptized 2 men since the new year. May 26th we are looking forward to having the Alldrins Family in Concert May 26th at 6:00 pm.

Kingman First SBC: We are excited to be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace Class starting March 29th, 6-8pm. \$600 was also raised during this past month's Valentine's Day dinner. Proceeds went to support those youth attending camp this year!

[Check with your church office for additional info and details for all these events.](#)

River Valley Cluster News and Information...



Meadview Baptist Church and 25 years!

Meadview Baptist Church just celebrated its 25th Anniversary! The Church combined a 3-day revival featuring Lucas Paz from Southwestern Seminary with a the Anniversary Luncheon and a Friend Day event. Pastor Dale Kronemeyer shared his thoughts on the Church's history along with thoughts from long-time member J.R. Jones and founding Pastor, Tommy Thomas. Sunday's Friend Day welcomed over 70 members and guests, allowing the Church to reach further into the community as they continue looking for opportunities of service. Plans for a community VBS are moving forward and the Church is enjoying great times of fellowship!

Request for Prayer!

River Valley currently has four churches conducting pastor searches right now. Please keep Blythe FSB, Big River, Dolan Springs, and Kingman First SBC in your prayers as their search committees meet and continue to try and find the one God has intended for their respective churches!



RVMN Welcomes New Network Director!!

During our annual Celebration of Churches, held this year at Set Free in Needles on February 9th, 2019, it was voted upon unanimously that we would welcome Dr. Bruce Cannon from Billings, Montana as River Valley's new Network Director. As Pastor Chip has done an amazing job as Interim Network Director, beginning sometime in May Dr. Bruce Cannon will move down to Kingman with his wife Sue to begin training with Pastor Chip.

Dr. Cannon leaves his job of ten years, the last seven serving as president of Yellowstone Christian College (SBC). Dr. Cannon's formidable education includes a Bachelor's, two Master's, as well as a Doctor of education. Dr. Cannon and Sue have served overseas in two separate mission opportunities to the Jordan/Syria regions. Dr. Cannon feels his next step in life is to assist the multiple pastors we have in our association. Dr. Cannon has said:

Two ideas motivate me in this work. First, there is always too much work for pastors. When there's a team, even if it's just two, greater return for the kingdom is dramatically increased. I want to be that support for pastors when needed. Second, pastoring can be lonely, frustrating, and discouraging. Pastors need a friend, sometimes outside their congregation. I care. I want to be a friend in tough times. Whatever the circumstance, my door is open, my phone is on, and my car is gassed.

River Valley Mission Network is excited to move forward with Dr. Cannon while at the same time feel deeply indebted to all the time and effort Pastor Chip has put in to guiding and leading us thus far. Praise to God and may he continue to grow his kingdom as we all work together!

Northern Arizona Church Planting Region

Report & Update for Spring 2019

River Valley, Grand Canyon, Desert Pines, Four Corners and Yavapai Baptist Associations



Is Church Planting Biblical? ...It is always an interesting question when people ask “Where is church planting in the bible?” The real answer is “Where is it not?” We have a powerful picture of multiplication in **Acts 9:31** where we read; **“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”** There are many such pictures in Acts and throughout scripture depicting a multiplying and flourishing church, as well as an obvious church planting movement. Every church has been planted because someone had the vision to start something new and God blessed this new beginning. God never called his church to merely survive, but to *thrive*, and reproduce in many ways, including the planting of new congregations. Church planting is a big part of what the Great Commission is all about, reproduction and making disciples who make disciples of all the nations.

PICTURED ABOVE is the growing area of **Golden Valley, Arizona**. For many years the River Valley Mission Network has been instrumental in planting new churches, growing from 12-34 in the last 20 years. Conventions and associations do not plant churches...churches plant churches. Pastor Dean Stanley and Golden Valley Baptist Church have a vision, not only for strengthening and growing their thriving congregation, but reaching even more people by planting new Anglo and Hispanic churches. **Calvary Church, Lake Havasu City**, has recently launched a new campus church in the **Parker** community. Every church in River Valley, as well as all over Arizona, can be involved in church planting. You can PRAY, you can PARTNER, and you can PLANT by birthing a new church!

Arizona State Prison, Kingman—We are praying that our yard church strategy can continue and develop more men as disciples, bringing a strong gospel presence to this place. We are developing some plans and proposals for a monthly Chapel Service allowing church planter graduates within the prison to apply what they are learning in ministry to others. We are so thankful for three new portable baptistries purchased through a grant from our **Arizona Southern Baptist Convention**. There are many unique volunteer opportunities at Arizona State Prison. Contact the River Valley office for more information.

Set Free Desert Network—Kearny, Arizona—Needles and Desert Center, California

We are continuing to see God open doors for a new network of Set Free churches beginning in the **Yucaipa California** area and expanding through **Desert Center and Needles California**. Needles is continuing to have many baptisms in the beautiful Colorado River. Both **Needles and Desert Center** have multiplied with additional **Biker Tabernacle** church plants and all of our Set Free churches in this network relate closely and partnership together in many outreach projects. Pastor Daniel Sostre and family will soon be moving to plant the new Set Free church in **Kearny, Arizona**. We are excited about the launch of a new Set Free Church in **Paulden, Arizona** under the leadership of Pastor Arthur Hisey. Future Set Free Church plants are projected for **Blythe, California, and Birdland, Kingman**.

Aletheia Church, Sedona Arizona

Now in their fifth year, of being a strong gospel presence in the Sedona community, this church is now transitioning to a new strategy and even greater things for the future. As Aletheia reproduces their model and strategy, we are exploring the possibilities of an **Aletheia Prescott** and **Aletheia Flagstaff**. A special thanks to **Crestview Baptist Church** for graciously sharing their beautiful facilities with this new church. Churches in Arizona, including **Fort Mojave**, and churches as far away as **South Carolina** have partnered with this work.

Flagstaff Arizona and Northern Arizona University

Elevation Church in Flagstaff, Pastor Kevin Dunlap, is expecting an official launch around Easter. Their desire is to work in partnership with the **Grand Canyon Baptist Association, Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, and North American Mission Board** in planting a new church with a strong, small group-discipleship model focusing on reaching families in the **Fox Glen** area of **Flagstaff**. This new church plant is sponsored by the **Village Meadows Baptist Church** in **Sierra Vista, Arizona**. The new **Challenge Church** is reaching people of all ages as well as their new focus on reaching more students from NAU in partnership with Christian Challenge. **All Nations Church**, Pastor Sung Cha, is also in a time of transition, hoping for and needing to enlist more partners and more support for reaching Asian scholars and students from **Northern Arizona University**. This church also conducts several projects on the **Navajo and Hopi Reservation**.

Prescott, Arizona

In addition to new Set Free and Aletheia church plants, the **Yavapai Baptist Association**, is continuing support and focus on new church plants in **Cordes Lake, Generations Church** under the leadership of Pastor Jamie Long, and **Dewey Fellowship**, under the leadership of Pastor Brian Powers. We appreciate the church planting vision of the Yavapai churches.

Greater Show Low Area

Silver Lake Family Fellowship is developing their weekly Celebrate Recovery Ministry and has ordained some of their first deacons and are developing new leadership. Adjacent land has been secured for future growth and they are now a new partner with the **Indian Wells** church plant. A special thanks to the **Desert Pines Baptist Association** and **Linden Hills Family Fellowship** for their vision of planting more churches in the Show Low area. **The WHY Church**, led by Pastor Byron Brown, is cultivating new areas through bible study ministries. Potential locations for church plants in the White Mountain area include **Park Valley, Clay Springs, Pinedale, Heber, Joseph City, Bison Ranch, and the Taylor and Shumway** areas.

Native American Church Planting Network, Navajo, Apache, Hopi, Hualapai, & Havasupai Nations

Pastor Jessie Billy and the **Coppermine** congregation is reproducing their strategy in planting a new church in the Navajo community of **Twin Mesa**. Recently leadership from the **Four Corners Baptist Association** met to discuss more places where new church plants are needed. A renewed focus is being given to the Northeastern, Monument Valley areas of Arizona, projecting possible new church plants in the Native communities of **Rough Rock, Chinchilteto, Lakachukai, Round Rock, Rock Point, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, Red Valley, and Wheat Fields**. Our new church in Cornfields is developing a new church plant in nearby **Steamboat**. The **Keams Canyon Community Church** is moving ahead with new growth plans, building renovations, and renewing their lease. Michael Campbell is leading this new church and mission teams from **Texas and Kentucky** are involved in long term church planting strategies in this Hopi community. The **Burton Baptist Church** is also a partner in this work. Our new church plant in **Indian Wells** with Pastor Sanford Dick is now conducting Sunday services and working in partnership with the **Desert Pines and Four Corners Baptist Associations, and Silver Lake Family Fellowship**. Steve and Keely Sage are continuing to lead the work in **Peach Springs** with four Celebrate Recovery groups meeting weekly and exploring new opportunities in **Supai**.

Thank you for praying for these church plants and planters! Church Planting Missionary, Tommy Thomas, would love to talk to you and your church about ways you can be involved in reproducing the Kingdom of God through church multiplication and church planting. **You can contact him at (928) 279-9904, tthomas@namb.net.**

