

Church Life Team Report September 2020

Church Health Report Keith Durham

Church Life looks much different than it did at the beginning of this year, but the work of the church continues to thrive. The Church Life Team has been busier than ever continuing to offer new and revised methods of helping churches take their next steps in evangelism, discipleship, and church health. Below are a few highlights of the last quarter and upcoming opportunities.

ReFocus Process – 8 churches representing 5 different associations have completed the 6 step process of ReFocus. They met in person and adjusted to Zoom meetings after Covid interruptions. These pastors continued to work diligently on their ReFocus plans in spite of challenging days. Each church made great strides to articulate key discoveries about their churches, answer the six directional questions of the church, and move toward implementation work for their next year. The ReFocus Pathfinders are continuing to follow up with each pastor to coach them through their implementation plans. Our goal is to see substantial turnaround in more than 50% of these churches. Continue to pray for these churches, their pastors, and lead teams.

ReFocus Pathfinders – There are now 3 ReFocus Pathfinders certified in the AZSBC. ReFocus Pathfinders guide churches and pastors through the ReFocus process and down the path of revitalization. The Pathfinders teach the scriptural basis and sound principles of the ReFocus process. Two additional Pathfinders are registered to be trained in October in Atlanta. Having 5 Pathfinders trained will allow us to offer ReFocus in regional locations and in smaller cohort settings, giving us greater flexibility.

Transitional Pastor Training – The 4-person team has completed their work of revising the current training manual and preparing for the training event. The in-person transitional pastor training on September 15-16 will take place at FBC Chandler. The cost is \$25.00/person. The Transitional Pastor is a key component of our revitalization strategy. Transitional pastors lead the church through an intentional process of transition by defining current realities and focus the church on mission in order to prepare them for their next pastor.

Revitalization Road Show – After cancelling Revitalize West, the creative alternative we have chosen to offer to pastors is regional and virtual meetings with 3 of the original Revitalize West keynote speakers. On August 31-September 2, Dr. Rob Peters and Pastor Ramon Vielza (Spanish tract) will be sharing about ReFocus and making cultural shifts of change in the church. They will share in Lake Havasu, Yuma, Tucson, and Phoenix. On October 21 at 11:00a.m., Dr. Matt Queen will be sharing on a webinar concerning the evangelism/discipleship temperature of the church. Brian Croft from Practical Shepherding will be in person at regional meetings in Kingman, Yuma, Tucson, and Phoenix on February 25-27, 2021. More information on all these meetings can be found on our convention website.

Youth Ministry Booster – In September we have launched our first ever Youth Ministry Booster semester. This is a membership community of care and collaboration for youth ministry leaders of every experience level. YMB resources student pastors with live video webinars, on-demand digital resources, practical courses, and ongoing live video training. YMB helps youth ministers make life-changing connections with peers from across the state, networking them together and

using live video masterminds that challenge them to lead healthy and grow personally. Due to the Church Life Team partnership with YMB we are able to offer the one-year subscription to our youth ministers for only \$100.00.

Discipleship Evangelism Updates Edward Pearson

The October 21 Revitalize Roadshow webinar at 11am with Matt Queen: Dr. Queen is the lead SWBTS Evangelism Professor, and he will help pastors assess their church evangelism strengths and challenges. He unpacks this with his work in “Mobilize to Evangelize: The Pastor and Effective Congregational Evangelism.” This short webinar will be worth the effort to attend online.

Rooftop Missional Communities: Led by former atheist and now a Christian evangelist, Dennis Pethers from England. Pethers, a graduate from Spurgeon College in London, and he is helping churches in three AZSBC associations develop a greater evangelism IQ by reaching people far from God. The groups are nearing the end of their equipping time with him and the plan is to start more groups led by pastors that have been through the process.

ENGAGE AZ 2020: A high tide raises all ships and we have a team of lead pastors wanting to raise the tide of evangelism in Arizona. The ENGAGE 2020 gathering theme is “Prayer and Evangelism.” The gathering will be November 12th at Calvary Community and with a keynote speaker Richard Blackaby from Blackaby Ministries. The team leader for ENGAGE is Chris Stull, pastor of Wellspring Church Surprise, AZ. Breakouts relevant to prayer and evangelism will be offered live through ZOOM online and the larger gathering on You Tube or in person live @ Calvary Community Church.

ZONA Youth Camp 2020: The 2020 camp theme is “Apologia” and a focus on apologetics. We do not have accurate intel to report at this time, because we are all in the same boat due to COVID-19 and the boat is leaking! Churches were sent a camp box that contains main speaker videos, discussion questions, leadership resources, examples of how students can be involved in missions and evangelism equipping helps by national Next Gen leader, Shane Pruitt.

In the Hopper: I, (Eddy) am working on a 4 part conversational evangelism webinar series with key apologetic and culture thought leaders. The goal is to provide an overview of culture today that will help local churches with conversational evangelism to the age groups in their communities.

3000 Baptism Goal: 3000 BAPTISMS IN AZSBC LIFE FOR 2020-21

Like a mighty monsoon rain that fills our canals, rivers and lakes, the equipped church is unstoppable when she plants gospel seeds in Arizona’s tough soils of ministry. Only the gospel of Jesus generates life-long power for real hope and life-change. The AZSBC Church Life Team met and grappled with reaching Arizona for Christ. The team wants to challenge our network of churches to the goal of 3,000 baptisms collectively for 2020-21 in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. The Great Commission demands that we get the gospel to our fields of ministry and working together we can do this! But how can we reach 3,000 new believers collectively as a network of churches?

AZSBC members [40,000] attending worship weekly divided by baptism goal [3,000]= 8%

3000 divided by 40,000 =.08 A church's size multiplied by .08 equals a churches baptism target. Some churches will do more and some may do less, yet together we will baptize 3,000 new believers through our mission critical network of churches for 2020-2021.

Church Size Baptism Examples

25 x .08= 2	50 x .08= 4	75 x .08= 6	100 x .08=8
125 x .08= 10	150 x .08= 12	175 x .08= 14	200 x .08= 16
250 x .08= 20	300 x .08= 24	350 x .08= 28	400 x .08= 32
450 x .08= 36	500 x .08= 40	600 x .08= 48	700 x .08= 56
800 x .08= 64	900 x.08= 72	1000 x .08= 80	1500 x .08= 120
2000 x .08= 160	2500 x .08= 200	3000 x .08= 240	3,500 x .08= 280

Let's Remember

- The Holy Spirit inside the believer lives to testify about Jesus (John 15:26)
- 9 out of 10 people in Arizona are spiritually lost/spiritually dead without Jesus
- The Bible is clear that those who don't know God or do not walk in obedience to the gospel of Jesus- "These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the Lord's presence and from His glorious strength" 2 Thess. 1:9 (CSB)
- God has placed your church strategically in her community to make Kingdom impact
- Two, Baptism Sundays, your church can lean into as we move forward are:
 - National Baptism Sunday, April 12, 2020 for our greater body in SBC Life
 - Arizona's Baptism Sunday, October 11, 2020

So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them. Acts 2:41 (CSB)

Submitted by Edward Pearson and Keith Durham-Church Life Team Facilitators