

July 1, 2023

First Annual Report to the Southwest Native American District Church of the Nazarene

by

Rev. Michael J. Andrews, District Superintendent/Servant

Good morning and welcome Rev. Dr. Carla Sunberg and our Southwest Native American District (SNAD) Church of the Nazarene members and visitors to our twenty first District Assembly! We have many special guests here from Point Loma Nazarene University (Dr. Bob Brower and Dr. Ron Benefiel), The Nazarene Foundation (Rev. Jon Twitchell), and Angel Tree Ministries (Maria, Karin, David, and Charity). We also have the District Superintendents from the Southern Nevada/Arizona present—Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Doug & Becky Pearce.

It seems like only yesterday that we started to give our retirement blessings to our District Superintendent (DS)--Rev. Dr. John Nells and then the culmination of weeks, even months, of hard work led us to a vote, for the first time ever, for a new District Superintendent of SNAD. I don't think anyone was any more surprised than Eileen and I were on June 11, 2022! Well, here we are, a year later. A lot has transpired since I took office on July 11, 2022. And I have discovered how God had been preparing me, actually preparing us—Eileen and me—for some time for this particular season in our life. For nearly 42 years Eileen and I have been partners and worked together in marriage and family life and in ministry to many others within and outside of the USA. We do separate things but together we are better. My position as your District Superintendent was taken as a part-time position but we knew it would require more of me than time would allow. I am so grateful that Eileen continues to learn alongside me and gives (like many of you) countless hours in volunteer service to help me complete what is to be and what is to be done. But to be of best support to my primary ministry (my wife and family) and support SNAD as a liaison for our district to hospitals/jails/hospices/other facilities, etc., I have continued to be a full-time jail chaplain with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Besides being an ordained elder, I also hold Ecclesiastical Endorsements with the Church of the Nazarene for Healthcare Ministry and Institutional (Jail/Prison) Ministry. I share this with you to show you not what Eileen and I have done but what God has done and is doing among us. In our church and activity visits among SNAD this last year, we have seen incredible servants of God involved in untold creative, humble, and valuable ministries. Your District leaders are working hard in the advancement of the Kingdom of God. We have tried to listen to what you have said and what you have not said. Therefore today, I humbly submit to you the following.....my First Annual Report as the Southwest Native American District Church of the Nazarene District Superintendent and Servant.

1. The SNAD office was moved to Phoenix. Phoenix First Church of the Nazarene had generously afforded us office space. The SNAD mailing address (as well as my contact information and SNAD website) can be found on my business card that you may already have. If you still need one, please just ask Eileen or me for one.
2. There has been MUCH training and travel. Rev. Dr. Eddie Estep from Kansas City came to Arizona the first part of July 2022 to visit us and to give 1:1 introduction to the role & support of DS. We were also part of the new DS Training in Kansas City and a peer-to-peer DS training and gathering in San Diego—both events were in September 2022. I participated in the Annual DS Training in Kansas City in February 2023. Rev. Dr. Doug Pearce (DS for the Southern Nevada/Arizona District Church of the Nazarene) has mentored me throughout this last year. Both he and his wife, Becky, have been of much encouragement and help to Eileen and me. They even helped these “newbies” navigate the wonder of the General Assembly in Indianapolis last month!
3. As has been our norm for many years, we attended and shared at the Kinlani Family Camp in Flagstaff in August 2022. It is coming up again—I hope to see you there later this month! You may ask Rev. Dennis Benale for information.
4. Zone Rallies within SNAD were restarted. We have four Zones within SNAD (Northern, Southern, Central, Eastern). There were four Zone Rallies that were had between the Northern (at Kaibeto Church), Southern (at Needles and South Tucson Community Churches), and Eastern Zones (at Sanders Church). Eileen and I attended three out of the four of these Rallies. I have recommended that each Zone restart their rallies and recommended that no more than two per year were sufficient. Having four Zone Rallies a year was not reasonable for the Zones at this time. The churches would still all come together within SNAD for Mid-year and Annual Assemblies and most likely a Zone Christmas and/or December Pastoral gathering would also be had in each Zone.
5. I had the privilege to be part of the PALCON (Pastors and Leaders Conference) Planning Committee at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) in May 2023. The event is to take place at PLNU in San Diego next Summer 2024 and I encourage all pastors and leaders with their families to attend—it is truly for the whole family so start saving your money now. There will be more details to come later.
6. During our January 2023 SNAD Mid-year Convention, we saw God double our humble efforts right before our eyes through the Southern Nevada/Arizona District to help our SNAD NYI raise funds for NYC in Tampa Bay, Florida later in the year. And our Sister District in Arizona has continued to support and encourage our youth in this endeavor! Please pray for the 18 students and 4 adult leaders that will be attending and participating in NYC in

just a few days. What fun we had and enjoyed as we stopped by the SNAD NYI sports event in Phoenix at Monte Vista Church last March/April 2023. We also attended the annual ELEVATE youth event at PLNU last May 2023---somehow, I even wound up on a dodge ball team! And I dare not forget attending a Diamondbacks baseball game with NYI last August 2022. Please plan on attending the next Multi-cultural NYI Retreat at Camp Pinerock in Prescott November 10-12 of which SNAD is a great part!

7. Lehi had a beautiful campmeeting last October 2022. We were glad to sit under the preaching of Rev. Daniel Smiley who we first had the pleasure of meeting as a 4th grader many years ago. God is still calling children (and teens, and adults) to His Service!
8. What a blessing to lead the Pastoral Installation of Rev. Patti Rivas at Apache Avenue last December 2022. Apache Avenue, following in the footsteps of SNAD earlier last year, nominated, interviewed, and voted for their pastor for the very first time, too! Rev. Rivas comes to SNAD from a New Mexico District. And speaking of pastoral changes, Rev. Alex & Mary Paddock will be transferring to the Southern Nevada/Arizona District and pastor the Sun Valley Church and minister also at the Native American Christian Academy beginning this summer. This is not a time to be sad but to encourage Alex and Mary to continue to complete the Call of God on their lives!! I have come to believe and experience that God's Call on my life isn't to a place or even to a people, but to Himself and He has my full support to place me wherever and with whomever He wants.
9. And speaking of NACA, I discovered that part of my job as DS was to be part of the NACA Board of Directors There have been many meetings and, after much prayer, research, and discussion, we are getting ready to receive the new Director and Family for NACA this month. They are the Herndon Family, and they are coming to Arizona from Italy where they have been missionaries.
10. Cameron Church invited us to be a part of their celebrations twice---the first was in October 2022 in honor of Pastor Appreciation and church member Catherine Clyde in March 2023. It was a beautiful time of remembrance.
11. Our newest ministerial student is Lisa Hostenez from Round Cedar Church. She is taking classes for ordination through Nazarene Bible College. She received her local preacher's license this last year, too! Anthony Pino at Southern Nazarene University (SNU) is nearing the end of his studies. Armando Gonzales had moved to Kentucky a few years ago for ministerial studies. He has had some difficult health challenges and hopes to get back to Arizona to continue ministry here when God releases him to do so. And as God directs, we will be waiting to help facilitate his call to ministry, too.

12. Speaking of ministerial students and studies, Eileen and I visited a DMTP (District Ministerial Training Program) class last January 2023 that was being held at Restoration Church in Winslow. DTMP is in partnership with Bethany First Church from Oklahoma. We have no people being ordained this year, but we sure hope to next year! Some of our SNAD students have been persevering for six years (maybe more). Way to go!!! We have come through a difficult time trying to provide ministerial training online and in person. We are thankful for all the strong efforts of the Revs. John and Jonathan Nells over the years. A lot of good work has been accomplished and I am grateful. However, it is time to get some additional help and support and God has provided that through the Southern Nevada/Arizona District and Rev. Carla Durby from the Maryvale Church, who has worked & led in ministerial training for many years. Classes are already set up and being continually taught through our Sister District without having to look for professors from many other areas. Some of our students are only a few classes away from ordination! The ministerial students will soon be contacted to explain further how to proceed as we now have their transcripts in order. I have met with Bethany First Church, and we are not terminating our ministry relationship with them but exploring how it might take on a new look. One more thing, Pastor Carla is volunteering all her time she works with us.

13. I again had the privilege to help lead the Annual Men's Retreat at Camp Pinerock in Prescott last November 2022. This has been a combined effort now for many years with our brothers from Turning Leaf Church. Eileen was blessed to help share at Leupp Church at Women's Day in July 2022 and with Maryvale Church Women's Day in January 2023. Eileen and our daughter, Bethany, were also privileged to lead in word and music at the Annual SNAD Women's Retreat also at Camp Pinerock in September/October 2022. The next Women's Retreat is scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2023, at Camp Pinerock. The next Men's Retreat is scheduled for November 3-5, 2023, also at Camp Pinerock. In addition, there is a Women's Day Event sponsored by Leupp & Restoration Churches along with other churches on July 22, 2023 in Flagstaff. Please see Bertha Begay or Sausha Nells for more information. I encourage you to make every effort to attend these events!

14. A lot of time has been spent in working on the finances of SNAD with Wells Fargo Bank and Nazarene Global Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. There are some changes coming to our SNAD finances and we are carefully navigating this area to be the best stewards of what we as a District have been entrusted. Giving financially, I am convinced, is also part of our worship of God. Some have expressed difficulty of paying the church budget. We will continue to work within the funds with which we are blessed. You are part of that blessing---thank you!

15. Finally, I must tell you how incredibly honored I was to be able to read the Memoir of Dr. Stan Toler, former General Superintendent, at General Assembly earlier this month. It was under Dr. Toler's ministry in the fall of 1977 when he came to Arizona as an evangelist that I came to know and follow Jesus Christ. My life and the life of my family has been forever changed. I want to also let you know how beautiful it was to have such a strong and hardworking delegation from SNAD in person at the recent General Assembly---from the youngest (our Quizzers) and in each and every department and supporters that came to be of blessing and encouragement. I thank each and every one of you and to those of you who supported us from home.

What is next?

Besides the items mentioned previously, there are several things on my radar for the next year and in which I have already started to address. I do not know how God will lead in these areas, but I ask for your prayers for wisdom. Some of these things include:

1. The completion of Kinlani Church in Flagstaff.
2. The completion of the multipurpose building at Sells Church.
3. A permanent structure for Needles Church.
4. Pastoral and church evaluations and needs.
5. Work and Witness and Compassionate Ministry leadership within SNAD and outside of SNAD.
6. Continued Pastoral and Lay Training.

I know we are doing a good job in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost and hurting in our spheres of influence. May God increase our borders to share the Good News in many avenues even further and wider! Let's also remember to care for each other. I want to encourage you with these scriptures:

“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:9-10.

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21.

Jesus Is Lord!

Sincerely and with a grateful heart to God for you,

Rev. Michael J. Andrews

District Superintendent and Servant

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