

**MY VISION**  
**for the Pastors of Greater Phoenix**  
**... for the State of Arizona**  
**Dr. Gary D. Kinnaman**  
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**March 2010**

**My dream:**

- **for every Pastor in Arizona** to be in a small, relational, nurturing, accountable, trans-denominational network ... for the purpose of **personal growth** and to develop **leadership partnerships** to change our cities and state. Our city and state need healthy pastors who lead healthy churches that transform our communities.
- for the Evangelical community to be **at the table and fully engaged** in community and neighborhood transformation.

**The problem:**

1. **Isolation.** Pastors are isolated and the evangelical church community (an oxymoron) is fragmented. In this regard, the Barna group ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)) has found that upwards of 80% of American pastors do not have someone they consider their best friend. Isolation among the spouses of clergy is even greater. Secondly, less than 5% of the churches in any given area actually work together, even though they may have very similar values and purpose statements. Networking, communication, and collaboration is far more common among mainline churches. An example is the Arizona Ecumenical Council (AEC), which is a center point of communication and a voice for mainline churches.

As a business person, can you imagine multiple franchises in the Valley that don't work together ... that never even communicate with one another?!

2. **Adversarial disengagement.** The ACLU isn't the only culprit in separation-of-church-and-state controversies. Often, evangelicals are unwilling to work with "those people," that is, those with whom they may disagree. This is *not* true of African-American churches, which are deeply engaged and active in government, community work, and social justice issues—and seem to work willingly and well with other faith communities. In my last several years of experience interacting with key leaders in state and municipal government, I have been surprised by the absence of the evangelical voice.
3. **Outside in.** So much of "city-reaching" efforts seem to be initiated, even driven and implemented by "parachurch" ministries, like Promise Keepers, Campus Crusade, the Luis Palau ministry, Food for the Hungry—and visionary leaders in the business community like Jerry Colangelo. It's been said that the proliferation of parachurch ministries is an indictment of the failure of local churches to come together to serve a common cause. Local churches *participate* in common causes but are seldom *proactive* in those causes. Ideally, however, efforts to advance God's kingdom in our cities should be initiated by the church! In my view, efforts to reach are cities cannot be sustained without the *leadership* of local pastors.

4. **Spiritual and economic Armageddon.** Our state and municipalities, our communities, our neighbors are in crisis. It's time for the evangelical community to be a prophetic voice and river of compassion. Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done *on* earth as it is in heaven." This is our mission, not to preach the gospel (John 3:16) "in word only," but in a demonstration of God's love and power (Luke 4:16-19). The Jewish community has a lovely term for this, *tikkun olam*, which refers to our mission to "repair the world."

### **The Gospel of Luke 4...**

We all know the Gospel of *belief* in John 3:16. But the *practice* of the Gospel according to Luke 4 is less familiar:

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18     *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
          because he has anointed me  
          to preach good news to the poor.  
          He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
          and recovery of sight for the blind,  
          to release the oppressed,*

19     *to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

The key here is that "the Spirit of the Lord is on us." We're not just talking about the "social gospel." We're talking about the power of God to transform people's lives, and we get their attention by loving them, by caring about them, but devoting ourselves to meeting their needs.

### **Quadrants of Influence...**

In my simplified view of our communities, I see four key sectors:

1. Government (state, county and municipal)
2. Marketplace Leaders
3. Non-profit, human service organizations, including both faith-based and non-faith-based. I'd also include public schools, police and fire departments in this quadrant.
4. The faith community, including small elements of non-Christian religions, but primarily Christian: Catholic, mainline Protestant (generally theologically and socially "liberal") and evangelical churches (generally theologically and socially conservative).

Again to oversimplify, **government** attempts to ensure that businesses operate in the best interests of their employees and the community—and strives to identify and address state and local social problems. In a perfect world, **marketplace leaders** practice business within the boundaries set by government—and are involved in community development because business leaders want to be known for caring about their community. **Human services:** perhaps no other quadrant is as fully in touch with the needs of the community than non-profits, NGOs, faith-based community initiatives, public schools and police and fire departments. They are the people on the streets, "in the trenches."

Often people in these first three quadrants work together—sometimes out of necessity—to help the helpless and solve social problems, and generally **the faith community** is concerned about the poor and vulnerable, and about social justice issues, but as I've noted above, churches seldom work together.

My personal goal is, then, to bring down “the dividing walls of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14), to “defrag” the faith community, *particularly* the evangelical faith community. I want to see us at the tables of discussion and influence—and in the streets doing the work of the kingdom: meeting needs, being a voice for the voiceless, and bringing with us the message of eternal life and the transforming power of the Spirit of God upon us.

### **My work with the Governor's office...**

In 2008 I served as Chairman of Governor Napolitano's Council on Faith and Community Initiatives. When Gov. Napolitano went to Washington DC to serve as Secretary of Homeland Security on the President Cabinet, I was persuaded to sustain the Council, which we have done. I have led the Council in redefining its role and function—and rethinking its membership (see Supplement #1, pp. 5 ff). Gratefully, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) stepped in and offered to provide administrative staffing support for our Council.

In December, it was our privilege to arrange a meeting of Governor Brewer with twenty or so key pastors. We presented a proclamation for prayer and fasting for our state in financial crisis. As a follow-up to that meeting, Governor Brewer and her staff have launched [www.arizonaSERVES.gov](http://www.arizonaSERVES.gov), a Task Force and website to address five key areas of community needs that (1) have been deeply impacted by our state budget crisis and (2) which have been offered to the faith community as opportunities to help those disenfranchised by severe state budget reductions.

John Perkins writes, “It is time for the church, yes, the whole church, to take a whole gospel on a whole mission to the whole world .... It is time for us to prove that the purpose of the gospel is to reconcile alienated people to god and to each other, across racial, cultural, social, and economic barriers.”

### **What to do: Get the church together by getting pastors together—and by mobilizing their resources for the good of Valley and the state...**

- **Pastors of Influence Summit, February 2009**

To get the church at the table—and on to the streets—we have to get the church together. As I mentioned above, the evangelical community is often disengaged and fragmented. My goal was to rally **pastors of influence** here in the Valley. For several years I've been gathering the pastors of the largest churches (3000 or more in attendance) in what we call the 3K+ Roundtable. *Every one* of the senior pastors of the thirteen churches of that size in greater Phoenix has participated in our conversations. As a result of these efforts, we were able to call a leadership summit in Sedona in February 2009. Nearly all the influential churches of the Valley were represented (see page 7).

- **Valley wide Leadership Team**

Gary Kinnaman

Scott Ridout  
Al Ells  
John Lind  
Russ Dickey  
Warren Stewart  
Cal Jernigan  
Don Wilson  
Cheryl Sacks and Guy Chadwick/Intercession

- **High Capacity Young Leaders Conversation, October 2009**

Building on the momentum of the February Summit, we held a second gathering for high capacity emerging leaders. Key pastors from the February Summit participated as well.

- **Rapid Fire Luncheons**

Under Scott Ridout's direction, sixteen pastors of influential churches across the Valley have agreed to build relationships and mentor other leaders in quarterly round tables. We have formed multiple groups which will meet together eight times a year: four times with different influential pastors and four times with one another.

Our purpose for these groups is twofold: To nurture and to learn from one another—and to build long-term, safe, accountable, relationships between and among pastors, relationships that will result in sustained community transformation.

- **Pastors of Influence Summit 2010**

This year we had another 20+ key pastors participate, including senior pastors from the largest churches in Flagstaff, Prescott, and Tucson. This year, we also invited the significant participation of intercessors from these key churches, led by Hal and Cheryl Sacks of BridgeBuilders and Guy and Terri Chadwick of Call to Prayer Arizona.

Participants included:

- Al Ells, Leaders that Last
- Cal Jernigan, Central Christian
- Scott Ridout and Chad Moore, Sun Valley
- Dan Stefan, Pure Heart
- Darryl DelHousaye, Phoenix Seminary
- David Sharpes, Crossroads Nazarene
- Don Wilson, Christ Church of the Valley
- Glen Elliot, Pantano Christian Church, Tucson
- Greg Rohlinger, Parkway
- Jamie Rasmussen, Scottsdale Bible
- Jim Dorman, Christ's Church of Flagstaff
- John Lind, Arizona Christian Foundation
- Juan Ramos, Love International
- Lee Wiggins, Heights Church, Prescott
- Les Hughey, Highlands Church, Scottsdale
- Linn Winters, Cornerstone, Gilbert
- Mike Maiden, Church for the Nations, Phx
- Scott Jones, New Life, Peoria
- Terry Crist, City of Grace, Mesa and Scottsdale

- Walt Kallestad, Church of Joy

MarketPlaceOne and Concord Companies—and others—have made generous contributions to make these events possible.

**The Arizona Council on  
Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**

Summary Statement  
September 24, 2009

**Council Purpose Statement**

The Arizona Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is dedicated to engaging and mobilizing all faith communities to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable and impoverished people through a statewide, action-oriented collaboration of faith-based, community and governmental organizations.

**Council Taskforces**

- International
- Military/Veteran's
- Municipal
- Poverty and Emergency Preparedness

**Council Possible Actions**

- H1N1
- Arizona Prayer Breakfast
- For Our Cities
- Financial Literacy
- Statewide Convening

**White House Office on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Taskforces**

- Connecting faith-based and community groups to economic recovery;
- Promoting interfaith dialogue and cooperation;
- Encouraging responsible fatherhood and healthy families;
- Reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for abortions, strengthening maternal and child health, and encouraging adoptions
- Environment and Climate Change
- Global Poverty, Health and Development
- Strengthen the Constitutional Foundation for Office

**Council Membership**

- The Council desires members from faith-based, community and governmental organizations that are in positions to broadly represent, and provide access to, the community.
- Members may be nominated by anyone, including themselves. Nominees will be reviewed by a Council Chair Appointed Nominating Committee and, if deemed appropriate, will be presented to the full Council for a majority vote approval.

Members serve a three year term with exceptions approved by a full Council majority vote.

## **Council Member Expectations**

- Attend and participate in a minimum of 75% of scheduled meetings
- Actively engage in committees and subcommittees, when asked
- Read and study materials prior to scheduled meetings
- Participate in deliberations at Committee and Council meetings
- Provide resources to support the activities of the Council
- Promote the work of the Council in their sphere of influence
- Be aware of emerging needs and trends affecting quality of life of vulnerable and impoverished people, and bring the needs/trends to the attention of the Council
- Become aware of emerging best practices that improve quality of life for vulnerable and impoverished people, and bring these ideas to the attention of the Council
- Assist in developing and implementing initiatives, especially partnerships of faith-based, community and governmental organizations to implement the Council's mission

## **Council Membership, 2009**

**Gary Kinnaman** Council Chair

**Paul Martodam** Council Vice-Chair, CEO Catholic Charities Community Services

**Bishop Henry Barnwell** Faith Leader

**Bishop Minerva Carcano** United Methodist Church

**Victor Daniels** Policy Advisor, Military and Urban Affairs, Governor's Office

**Dan Duncan** United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

**Dr. Paul Eppinger** Executive Director, Arizona InterFaith Movement

**Chuck Fitzgerald** Community Development Coordinator, Arizona Department of Economic Security

**Reverend Jan Flaaten** Executive Director, Arizona Ecumenical Council

**Marchelle Franklin** Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor Phil Gordon, City of Phoenix

**John Frick** Senior Director, Food for the Hungry

**Judith Fritsch** Program Administrator, Arizona Department of Economic Security

**Mitzila Hogans** Community Initiatives Coordinator, City of Phoenix

**Dr. Richard Knopf** Director, ASU Partnership for Community Development

**Linda Leatherman** Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Coordinator, Pima County Community Services

**Joyce Lopez-Powell** Valley of the Sun United Way

**Charles Monroe** President & CEO, Lutheran Social Services Southwest

**Scott Neuman** Community Collab & Econ Development, Coconino County Community Services

**Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe** Immaculate Conception Church, Yuma

**Jane Pearson Associate Director** St. Luke's Health Initiative

**Ben Sanders** Community Ministries c/o Church on Mill

**Jane Wabnik** Consultant, Business and Public Issues, representing the Jewish community

**Dr. C.T. Wright** Light of Hope Institute, Former Chairman, John McCain Presidential Campaign, Arizona

**Cynthia Zwick** Executive Director, AZ Community Action

Supplement #2

**2009 Pastors of Influence Summit Participants**

**Pastors attending**

Don Wilson	Christ Church of the Valley/Christian
Scott Jones	New Life/Peoria
Alexis Thomas	Pilgrim's Rest (Valley's largest African-American church)
Tom Schrader	East Valley Bible
Walt Kallestad	Church of Joy/Lutheran
Sandy Mason	Bible Church
Scott Ridout	Sun Valley Community/Baptist General Conference
David Sharpes	Crossroads/Nazarene
Mark Buckley	Living Streams/Independent Charismatic
Jamie Rasmussen	Scottsdale Bible Church
Mark Connelly	Superstition Springs/BGC
Cal Jernigan	Central Christian/Christian
Billy Barnes	Presbyterian
Mark Martin	Calvary Community/Calvary Chapel
Mike Maiden	Church for the Nations/Independent Charismatic
Warren Stewart	1 <sup>st</sup> Inst Baptist/American Baptist/African-Am
Gary Kinnaman	Pastor at Large/Formerly Word of Grace

**Last minute cancelations because of personal or family illness (all have participated in follow-up gatherings)**

Linn Winters	Cornerstone/Baptist General Conference
Lee McFarland	Radiant Church/Assembly of God
Dan Yeary	North Phx Baptist/Southern Baptist

**Not able to attend because of prior commitments (nearly all have participated in follow-up gatherings)**

Brian Anderson, Vineyard  
Les Hughey, Highlands  
Terry Crist, City of Grace  
Tommy Barnett, Phx First Assembly  
Benjamin Thomas, Tanner Chapel/AME  
Darryl DelHousaye, Phoenix Seminary  
Juan Ramos, Love International/Independent, bi-lingual

**Facilitators**

Eric Swanson, author *The Externally Focused Church*

Jim Tomberlin, formerly on the staff at Willow Creek, now consulting multi-site churches  
[www.catalystweb.org](http://www.catalystweb.org) and [www.thirdquarterconsulting.com](http://www.thirdquarterconsulting.com)

Dan Davis, Pastors in Covenant and Austin Bridge Builders Alliance, Austin

Al Ells, Consultant, Leaders that Last, Mesa

**Additional Guests**

John Lind, Arizona Christian Foundation  
Jon McHatton, Chaplain, Arizona Legislature and Executive Director of FOR OUR CITIES  
Pat McCalla, Church and Community Relations, Food for the Hungry

**Unsolicited comments from the summit:**

- **Alexis Thomas, Pilgrim’s Rest:** Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet so many incredible men of God. I left so inspired about what we can do collectively. Thank you for your leadership because I don’t know of anybody else who could have rallied the people in that room but you.
- **Scott Jones, New Life:** What a fantastic time it was to be with you last week in Sedona. It was great being with old friends and making new ones. What brought us together was even greater. The thought of community transformation in our Valley is both a challenging and inspiring pursuit. Clearly none of us can pull off this kind of vision but all of us together can make huge headway. Don Wilson has already initiated getting us “Westsiders” together. So I look forward to seeing what God is going to do.
- **Billy Barnes, Covenant Community:** It was probably the most significant gathering of ministry leaders of a particular city that I have ever seen. These were the pastors of churches that I had heard about for years; men of tremendous influence in the city, all together discussing how to minister to the city.
- **Michael Maiden, Church for the Nations:** Wow! I'm still soaring from our glorious retreat. I can't thank you enough for your vision ,leadership and hard work for many years that made all this possible. For me personally, it was a life-changing event and I'm deeply grateful and humbled by your invitation. Today my church was very excited by the brief summation I shared with them about what God did through you bringing these pastors together. I can't wait to see what God is going to do next!
- **Warren Stewart, First Institutional Baptist:** God be praised for the awesome opportunity to meet, greet and share with such “mighty men of God” in Sedona. Gary, you and your team are to be commended for doing what was next to impossible—getting all of us in the same room for two days. Wow! I was encouraged, enlightened, affirmed and challenged. Now, I believe I am a better person and pastor by spending time with you guys.

Supplement #3  
**VALLEY PASTORS NETWORK**  
**Presented by Scott Ridout,**

With the recent meeting of some of the Valley's most influential pastors, a new emphasis on uniting the church community through common purpose has begun. The difficulty of such an undertaking has centuries of documented history – churches simply don't work together. We believe that our Valley has a more unique, cooperative spirit.

**Initializing the movement**

1. **Gathering of the Pastors of Influence (POI)** – This gathering has already happened. 20 influential pastors representing approximately 80,000 people in their congregations gathered in Sedona to dream about tackling community issues together. As a result, regional task force meetings have begun in three of the four strategic locations (West Valley, Central, Scottsdale, East Valley) identifying and tackling interests of those regions.
2. **Valley Wide Leadership Team** - A leadership team was also formed to give clarity and conformity to Valley Wide Vision while still representing regional interests. This initial leadership group included Gary Kinnaman (leader), Al Ells (networking), Don Wilson (West Valley), Warren Stewart (Central), Cal Jernigan (East Valley) and Scott Ridout (Strategic Planning). The goals of this team are:
  - a. Collaboration of Valley wide initiatives
  - b. Communication of progress of Regional Initiatives
  - c. Coordination of said initiatives
  - d. Maintaining momentum of the overall movement
3. **Strategic Initiative Team** – This team exists to assist and resource the movement through creative planning, administration, communication and connection. The individuals on this team represent organizations and individuals who can resource the vision of collaboration among the churches in ever increasing circles of influence.

**Initiatives of the Strategic Team**

The first project agreed upon by the strategic team has been to identify and invest in the next round of potential pastors of influence.

**Concept:**

They concluded that galvanizing the pastoral community will require identification of an issue that engages the heart of every pastor. It was decided that one issue will bring pastors to the table - personal and professional growth. Every pastor needs avenues of learning and incentive to persevere. It is this investment in the personal lives of these pastors (what we want "for" them) that will give context for the request to join forces in valley wide initiatives(what we want "from" them).

**First Steps**

1. **Identify potential mentor pastors and group them regionally in 4s.** These pastors will be asked to host a Rapid Fire lunch (2 Hour) once a quarter for 4-6 local pastors. The

mentorees will rotate between these four mentor pastors over the period of a year to ask questions, learn skills and hopefully develop relationship both with the mentor pastors and each other. They will be encouraged to meet together at least once in between mentor meetings to talk about progress, best practices, personal growth and problem solving.

2. **Identify potential mentoree pastors.** The team discussed an initial focus of pastors of churches 400+ who show great potential and teachability. Some discussion was given to include associate pastors of larger churches who show this same potential. This focus should be extremely limited. The danger of including them would be a) they are not the primary agents of change in their local congregations so their ability to incorporate learnings may be limited in scope b) they may not relate as easily to others in the group because they will have a different set of responsibilities and issues than lead pastors and c) they would not have the authority to accomplish our goal of uniting the congregations in common purposes around the valley. Although a worthy investment, it does not seem to be our goal with this initiative. That is not to say that this group should be ignored. (Even in the case of my own church I have a pastor who I think is an exception because of his corporate leadership responsibilities.) One solution would be to have mentoring groups exclusively for lead pastors and separate ones for associate pastors.
3. **Host an exploratory retreat with the mentoree pastors.** Host a 2 day retreat to envision these pastors for personal and professional growth and offer them the “Rapid Fire” opportunity. It would be wise to use some potential mentors in the presentation so that potential mentorees would see the value of mentoring immediately and be more likely to join a mentoring group. I would imagine we would invite slightly more pastors that we can handle in mentoring relationships assuming that some would not have an interest.
4. **Assign mentors/mentorees.** This would be done regionally, strategically and relationally. Pastors in the same locale should join because of natural potential for collaboration. Pastors with connection to mentors should stay in those connections. Mentorees with specific needs may be matched with mentors who will effectively address those needs. Four mentors would rotate between these 20-24 mentorees over a 12 month period hosting 4 -2 hour lunches. During the lunch, the majority of time would be used to answer questions, solve problems, etc. I would suggest the potential topics of conversation be e-mailed by mentorees to the mentor prior to meeting so that he can identify common ground issues. (An alternative could be that the mentor choose a couple topics of discussion and inform the group that they will address these two issues (i.e. multi-site, staff selection, creating corporate momentum, church leadership, etc) as well as their questions. This would allow mentors to feel like they are giving their “best” advice and expertise to the mentorees.) The last 15 minutes would be for the mentor to ask these pastors to join the networks regional and valley-wide initiatives.
5. **Request to mentor** - After the first two “Rapid fires”, mentor pastors would identify the mentorees with the highest potential to coach others. Those mentorees would be invited to be trained in our mentoring system (a training which we still need to create.) They would then be invited to join our next exploratory retreat as potential mentors, expanding our ability to mentor and/or they would become the leader of their own peer group of mentorees, allowing the original mentors to move on to the next group of mentorees after 12 months.
6. Join the table at regional meetings – During the first year, mentorees will be invited to join the table of regional portions of the Valley Pastors Network.

Supplement #4  
**2009 Emerging Leaders Summit and Conversation**

Participants

**Justin Anderson**, Praxis, Tempe  
**Lloyd Baker** Stream Christian Church, Goodyear  
**Josh Barrett Church of Celebration, Maricopa**  
**Aubrey Barnwell** First New Life Missionary Baptist Church, Phoenix  
**Billy Claudio** Oasis Community Church, Scottsdale  
**Ian Danley** Neighborhood Ministries, Central Phoenix  
**Kent DelHousaye** NW Community Church, Phoenix  
**Chris Gonzalez** Missio Dei Community Church, Tempe  
**Mike Gowans** Gateway Life Church, Gilbert  
**David Hinman** LifePoint Church , Queen Creek  
**Allan Fuller** Mountain Park Church of God, Ahwahtukee  
**Jeremy Jernigan** Central Christian, Mesa/Gilbert  
**Tyler Johnson** East Valley Bible Church, Gilbert  
**Aaron McRae** Cornerstone Church, Gilbert  
**Chad Moore** Sun Valley Community Church, Gilbert  
**Vernon Pierre** Roosevelt Community Church, Phoenix  
**Chris Schutte** Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix  
**Dan Shields** Real Life Community, Gilbert  
**Luke Simmons** Second Mile Church, Queen Creek  
**Dan Steffan** Pure Heart Church, Phoenix  
**Warren Stewart, Jr.** Church of the Remnant, Phoenix,  
**Brian Smith** Hope for ASU

Invited but not able to attend

**Bill Bush** RockPoint, Queen Creek  
**Palmer Chinchen** The Groves Bible Church, Chandler  
**Chad Goucher** The Refinery, Goodyear  
**Shane Hipps** Trinity Mennonite, Glendale  
**Patrick McCalla** Food for the Hungry/City Initiatives  
**John Mitchell** Poiema Church, Central Phoenix  
**Trent Renner** Parkway Christian Church, Surprise  
**Scott Savage** North Phx Baptist, Phoenix  
**Reginald Steele** Kingdom in the Valley, Litchfield Park  
**Alexis Thomas** Pilgrim's Rest, Phx  
**Paul Wilson** Christ Church of the Valley, Peoria

Special guest presenter

**David Kinnaman** President, The Barna Group

Facilitators

**Gary Kinnaman**  
**Al Ells** Leaders that Last  
**Scott Ridout** Sun Valley Community Church, Gilbert  
**Tom Shrader** East Valley Bible Church, Gilbert  
**Warren Stewart, Sr.** First Institutional Baptist Church, Phx  
**Jim Tomberlin** 3rd Quarter Consulting  
**Don Wilson** Christ Church of the Valley, Peoria

Special guests

**John Lind** President, AZ Christian Foundation  
**Russ Dickey** Executive Director, AZ Christian Foundation

