



Dr. Lawrence Lacher  
District Superintendent



**February 2023**

**Watching for signs.**

On February 2, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow and predicted that there would be six more weeks of winter. In this tradition going back to 1886 to a German and Irish tradition much earlier, Phil has become a part of American folklore. While everyone acknowledges that it is a silly ceremony that is most-often rigged by Phil's keepers, hundreds of people make the journey to Pennsylvania each year to gather in the pre-dawn chill and wait for the sign to indicate whether it will be an early or a late Spring.

Jesus told his disciples that they should be keeping watch as well. In John 4, we find the story of Jesus' serendipity meeting with the woman at the well. As you know, this short conversation resulted both in the woman's coming to faith in Jesus and in the news of the Kingdom being spread throughout the region. While all this was happening between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, the disciples, as you know, were away looking for the best food truck so they could get their lunch. By the time they returned to Jesus with his doggy bag, they discovered that Jesus had no appetite for lunch because he was already full of joy from watching what his Father had been up to.

While everyone was trying to sort out the disconnect, Jesus used the opportunity to advise his disciples to keep watch for the signs of the movement of the Spirit. In John 4:35, he said, "35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." Jesus was saying that, in God's kingdom, it is always the right time to look for opportunities to pop up out of nowhere that need to see the Sonshine.

As a way to remind myself to ask God to give me harvest eyes, I have set the timer on my phone to 4:35 p.m. each day. When my alarm goes off, it reminds me to heed Jesus' words to be on watch for harvest opportunities to pop up. Not just on February 2, every day is a day to be on watch to see what opportunities pop up and present themselves. According to Jesus, we do not have to wait four weeks or six weeks for the Holy Spirit to spring into action. The Holy Spirit is always at work, so there could be opportunities to share the good news of the Kingdom.

**Could I encourage you to join me in setting your alarm to 4:35? Would you use that reminder as a way to focus your attention on what God might be up to all around you if "you have eyes to see and ears to hear"?**

**Dr. Larry**

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Aztec CON



Lovington CON



Rio Vista CON

God's People are to be Different!

Pastor Michael

Imagine CON

1st Giveaway of 2023!



Hope Harbor NM Volunteers!

Ruidoso Lincoln County Assoc of Realtors

They volunteer every month!



Angus Kids Wednesdays

"Food Truck Party"

One of the best things you'll receive from **Christian Women's Job Corps** is the opportunity to meet with a mentor each week.

Carlsbad Church Street CON



Hope Springs Community CON

Aztec CON



Valentine's Dinner and Game Night  
Feb 12, 2023



Bruce and Betty



Southern Country Gospel Music

Date: Saturday, January 28

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Hope Springs Community Church of the Nazarene

220 West 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., T or C, NM



NDI-We are excited to announce a new Vacation Bible School curriculum is coming soon. Stay tuned for more information!



Las Cruces First CON

Fund raiser for Youth Ministry

**Greetings, NM District!** I can hardly believe it is already February! We are well into 2023 and it is an exciting time to be on mission for the Kingdom of God! Our district team had an amazing experience working at Africa Nazarene University in Kenya this past month! We can't wait to share a report with all of you at our NMI Convention this summer. Thank you for your continued support and prayer for our brothers and sisters at ANU. You can follow them on Facebook or Instagram to stay up-to-date.

I enjoy following many of you and staying up to date with the ministries you are involved with in your local communities and across the world. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me when you have updates and news. I love to partner with you in prayer and offer my support however I can.

Our Year-End reports will be here before you know it! This is the perfect time to check in on your participation in the 5 Areas of Impact:

- Prayer
- Engaging Children and Youth
- World Evangelism Fund
- Alabaster
- Care and Connection

Care and Connection is the new name for this Impact Area and encompasses Links.

**Nicole**  
**NMI President**



World Quiz at General Assembly

[Registration date announced for World Quiz 2023 - Church of the Nazarene](#) Heres the Link



Online registration for World Quiz will open 1 April and conclude on 8 May.

Check-in for WQ will be Friday, 9 June, at the Indianapolis Convention Center.

Quiz will take place June 10.



**Up Coming Important Dates for the New Mexico District**

**February**

**Camp Board Retreat/Update** **Feb 24-25**

**March**

**NM XTREME/NYI Convention (Bonita Park )** **Mar 17-18**

**Women's Retreat** **Mar 24-26**

**April**

**Ordinand's Retreat (Bonita Park)** **Apr 12**

**Year End Meetings (Bonita Park)** **Apr 13-15**

**District MAN Camp (Bonita Park)** **Apr 20-22 (Thurs—Sat)**

**May**

**ANNUAL PASTOR'S REPORTS DUE** **May 19**

# WOMENS RETREAT 2023!!!!

Bonita Park  
Camp and Conference Center

## Women's RETREAT

*Learning to Love Like Our Sensational God!*

Pastor Amber will speak to us about our sensational God who desires to sanctify our senses in a way that allows us to know God deeper, becoming greater Spirit-filled ambassadors for Christ.

**Amber Gunter**

Children's Pastor, wife and  
mother of two teenagers



24-26  
MARCH  
2023

Register online: [www.nmnaz.com](http://www.nmnaz.com)

Spanish Translation Available  
[pastordeann16@gmail.com](mailto:pastordeann16@gmail.com)

A few things to note.

Get your registrations in early.

Online registration is easy -- go to [nmnaz.com](http://nmnaz.com) --click on events --select. Women's retreat--click registration; fill in the blanks.

- Dorothy Rogers has asked me to let you know there will be a Craft Fair and Silent Auction. Please check with DeAnn regarding information needed.
- Invite someone new to join you at retreat this year!

More information to follow on what to bring.

May you have a blessed day,  
DeAnn



Info & Register at [nmnaz.com](http://nmnaz.com)

Speaker: Dr. Tim Gaines

Tim Gaines is currently serving as Associate Pastor at TCC in addition to his work as Associate Professor of Religion at Trevecca Nazarene University. Prior to his time at Trevecca, Tim has served as a lead pastor, a youth pastor, and a worship pastor at churches in California, Illinois, and Kansas City. He holds degrees in theology, ethics, philosophy, and ministry from Point Loma Nazarene University (BA, MA), Nazarene Theological Seminary (M.Div), and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (Ph.D) and has authored or edited several books, including *Following Jesus: Prophet, Priest, King and Kings* and *Presidents: Politics and the Kingdom of God*.



He is married to Shawna Songer Gaines, Trevecca Nazarene University's chaplain, and they are raising two children, Callen (6) and Evalynne (5). Together with Shawna, he hosts *The Sermon Studio*, a podcast dedicated to the art and craft of preaching.

**MAN CAMP**   
April 20-22, 2023

Calling all men! You deserve some rest, relaxation, and retreat. Good news, Man Camp is on its way at Bonita Park, April 20-22, 2023. The cost is \$140. This year we are experimenting with retreat running Thursday night through Saturday as many have wanted to be back home to participate in your regular Sunday service's. Please talk to your men's group, friends, and grab your sons and grandsons. As well as all those who might be interested and make plans to attend this year's Man Camp. Registration information will be available on [nmnaz.com](http://nmnaz.com).

Our speaker this year, Dr. Tim Gaines, who is a professor at Trevecca Nazarene University and in the staff of Trevecca Community Church. He recently was one of the speakers at our New Mexico District Family Camp.

If you have any furthering questions, please email me at [wade.elftman@yahoo.com](mailto:wade.elftman@yahoo.com) or call 575-522-7120.