



The Lawrences

Our History



Hello! Dale and I met at what is now Hope International University and were married in 1978...We call our life before August of 1991 our "other life." ☺

Dale was a Paramedic-Firefighter on the Hazardous Materials Team for the City of Phoenix. I was Director of Children's Ministries at Christ's Church of Fountain Hills. God began preparing our hearts for ministry as we were living the "good life" but both felt there was something more to be done.

Dale was the elder at Christ's Church in charge of Missions, and led a Bible Study in our home. At the time (1987), we had 2 children. The youth minister took a group of teens up to the American Indian Christian Mission to help a friend from Manhattan Christian College lead worship for a week of summer camp. He returned and told Dale about AICM, so Dale and two men with contractors licenses (☺) headed up the mountain over Memorial Day weekend. Dale felt called as soon as he stepped out of the truck, but thought we'd wait 10 years until he'd retire; (no need to raise support, insurance, and retirement). **God had other plans.** Within a year, he was on AICM's Board of Directors, seeing how exhausted the current Administrator was. He came home from a Board-Staff retreat in 1990, and we started praying, raising support and packing.

We arrived at AICM on August 11th 1991. (Our fourth child turned one year old on the 13th). One year later, the Director wanted to minister directly on the Navajo reservation so Dale became AICM's 4th Executive Director. Over the following years, we went from a budget of less than \$200,000 each year to over a million dollars each year and reaching nearly 10 times the number of people on an annual basis through various ministries. The mobile ministry center began there in 1995, working on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. Dale and others built a church building for a man who had been the White Mountain Apache Tribal Chairman and was then a diligent Christian leader. Work continued through VBS' on both the Navajo and White Mountain Apache Reservations, summer camps on campus continued and much, much more.

In 2000, God led AICM's team of nearly 45 to pray regarding its growth. We were growing, but wanted it to be GOD-LED. (God orchestrated) We discovered that nearly all had gone through the study, "Experiencing God" either in their home churches from Washington to Florida, or were currently going through it at their Show Low church or in our home. This "praying" process was described in that study. On a Friday, the list of what we all believed God was leading us to accomplish, in addition to the boarding school was completed. The following Wednesday, Dale got a call from Central Christian Church in Globe...and the rest is history. (You can read about that adventure under "History") That summer of 2000, not only did we receive a church building for \$1.00 just 10 minutes from the San Carlos Apache Reservation, but Rosie and Mary, two Navajo AICM staff members presented a week of VBS in their home in Pinon on the Navajo Reservation. That week, 35 people accepted Christ, so a church plant was "birthed" where we thought we were only having a week of VBS! AICM's Board of Directors recognized God's hand, but was not comfortable expanding so quickly, so a man on staff from Texas joined in the Navajo church plant, and the Board gave us all that was being donated for San Carlos to begin Arizona Reservation Ministries.



Since then, we have been incredibly busy attempting to follow as God miraculously leads! I also want to share that we are all proud of Dale as he completed his Master of Ministry Degree from Hope International University in December of 2009, not only enhancing his own education but setting a priceless example for his kids, grandkids and those of San Carlos as well!



Our Family



We thank God for the children He has blessed us with! Jacque (1981) is a 5th-grade teacher in Marana, just north of Tucson AZ and dating her “boyfriend” from 8th grade (1995) at AICM, Ephraim. We’re enjoying our growing relationship as “Poppy and Nana” with his two sons, Isaac and Joseph, as well as our granddaughters! Jon (1983) is working in Mesa, and raising our two granddaughters, Jasmine (’06) and Andi (’08) with our precious daughter-in-law, Linda...and waiting for their third child to arrive some time before June ’10. Justin (1989) icompleted his AA at our local community college, while working full-time for Canyon Fire Dept. *and* graduatee from Tri-City’s Fire Academy in June. He is now working with the Forestry Dept. to fight wildfires this summer. Jenna (1990) completed her AA two weeks prior to her high school graduation in 2009, completed this year at NAU, and plans to head to warmer weather at the UofA for the ’10-’11 school year. Dale and I are indebted to those who have provided financially for us as we raised our family for nearly 19 years on the mission field; 8 of them with no health insurance. We are deeply grateful to those who have been and are continuing to pray for our family! That gift is invaluable to us all!

Thank you!

Diana Lawrence

Our Prayer Requests

- Please pray for us to have wisdom each day as we lead this ministry, and our growing family.
- Please pray for Dale’s health as he continues to persevere in spite of fibromyalgia since 1996.
- Please pray for my health-melanoma in 1995, 2001, and lesser skin cancers since and a heart “episode in 2007.
- Please continue to pray for our kids-as their adult lives unfold, for God’s leading and provision.
- Please pray for our finances and other needs-AND for wisdom as God provides for them.
- Please pray for our family members who don’t yet know Christ.

Our Wish List

- ✓ New financial partners; churches who are struggling have been forced to drop our support, and the elderly who have supported us for so long are now unable to continue.
- ✓ Our home is located on a hill. The retaining walls on both sides are crumbling and need to be replaced. This past winter’s extra rains have washed a significant amount of our yard down into our neighbor’s yard. We need the provision of laborers and supplies to create new walls.



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