

ALYESKAN

NEWS & VIEWS FOR ALASKAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



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ALASKA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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ANCHORAGE, AK 99507
907-346-1004

CAMP MEETING REFLECTIONS

Camp meeting season is right around the corner. Interior camp meeting is in June. Southcentral camp meeting is in July and southeast camp meeting is in August. Spiritually speaking, this is one of my favorite opportunities for gathering in worship, study, and fellowship. Camp meeting is a unique opportunity to spiritually connect with and grow in Jesus.

I have attended a lot of camp meetings since becoming a part of the church, both as a member and a pastor. I have enjoyed each one knowing the special nature of meeting with Jesus and He with us. One camp meeting years ago, the late Elder Walter J. Pearson Jr., speaker/director for Breath of Life Ministries, was the evening speaker. He was an incredibly powerful preacher of the gospel, one I would not have heard in-person had it not been for camp meeting.

As he was preaching one evening, a thunderstorm moved through the area. It knocked out the electricity to the grid that powered the camp meeting auditorium. Hundreds of people were now sitting in the cave-like dark wondering what to do. Without skipping a beat, Elder Pearson—in that deep baritone of his—reassured everyone (without microphones) that everything was going to be okay. A flashlight appeared from somewhere and Elder Pearson continued his message. His voice boomed across the dark auditorium (a school gym) while everyone stayed still listening intently, me included. Everyone recognized this was a divine moment.

As he began to wrap up his message, Elder Pearson, prompted by the Holy Spirit, determined this was an opportune time to make an altar call for Jesus. He called for those who had never given their heart to Him followed by a call for recommitment from those who had grown cold. I'll never forget him brilliantly





holding up the flashlight and calling out, "Come to the light! Come to the light!"

It was like the night began to move as people made their way to the light. The Holy Spirit was prompting hearts and legs as people made their commitments for Christ. It was a moment that lives in my heart because of camp meeting. I just heard from someone who told me the camp meeting they were attending is like a little heaven on earth. Ellen White observes, "The camp meeting is one

of the most important agencies in our work. It is one of the most effective methods of arresting the attention of the people" (Testimonies to the Church volume 6 page 31). I believe that's still true today. I'm looking forward to seeing you at camp meeting.

Elder Kevin Miller
Alaska Conference President

ARCTIC CAMP MEETING REACHING RURAL ALASKA

BRENDA CAMPBELL-JOHNSON, Communications Director, Alaska Conference

Each year in February marks the beginning of the camp meeting season in Alaska. Typically, or at least in my mind, camp meeting evokes images of sun and warmth, trips to Camp Tukuskoya on Flat Lake and picturesque views of Pioneer Peak.

But what is unique about Arctic camp meeting is it's in the midst of winter. Winter in rural Alaska is much different than any winter most have experienced. Dependent on location, temperatures can be -50 degrees and daylight fleeting. But God's church and His people are warm and welcoming! Conference staff travel to villages such as Bethel, Utqiagvik and Dillingham to support our rural churches for this very special time of year. Join me on a journey across Alaska for Arctic Camp Meeting:

NOME

The first Arctic camp meeting of the year took place on February 18-19. Pastor Steve Evenson, Alaska Conference Ministerial Director, joined guest speaker Theo Levterov and his wife Linda. The Levterovs are from Loma Linda, CA where Theo works at the Ellen White Estate at Loma Linda University.

The weather was unusually warm for the end of February, but nobody was complaining. The weekend focused on Adventist history with music provided by Alaska pastors Chad Angasan and Steve Evenson. Members of the community attended and some even provided special music for the event.

The children's program was provided by David Lopez and students from Walla Walla University. Pastor Steve shares, "It was a blessed event! Any time you can be with fellow believers it is a joyous occasion!"



DILLINGHAM

The weekend of March 11-12, Tandi Perkins and Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Development and Communications Directors respectively, had the opportunity to worship with members of the Dillingham and Togiak churches for their combined camp meeting.

Friday evening, began with a Singspiration gathering, a special occasion in the Alaska Native culture. Singspiration is a time of song and testimony where precious souls lift each other up through sharing their personal struggles and triumphs. Songs of praise were sung in both the English and Yupik languages, and inspiring messages were given by speaker Monte Church, retired North Pacific Union Conference Native Ministry Director.

While the Dillingham and Togiak churches are small in membership, they are rich in genuine connection and love for Jesus. Led by Pastor Todd Parker and wife Eugina, visitors witness their

warmth and caring for the people and community they serve. Arctic Mission Adventure is blessed to have a dedicated couple who demonstrates the "Hands and Feet of Jesus" in their daily walk.

Yet, God was not done blessing the community for its faithfulness. Students, staff and parents from Mount Pisgah Academy in North Carolina chose Dillingham for its spring break trip. The group painted the school gym and presented a Jasper Canyon Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children. More than 30 kids attended, and most were not Adventists.



BETHEL

March 25-26 was Arctic Camp Meeting in Bethel with speaker Joseph Story. Pastor Story is now retired from pastoral ministry, but enjoys mission trips and is currently a project manager with *Jesus for Asia* establishing outreach work in Pakistan. He is also a licensed nurse practitioner, working in temporary and short full time assignments, mostly in Alaska, including Bethel. His connection to the village and its people made this camp meeting very special.

A student team from Gem State Academy traveled to Bethel to provide children's programming. The week leading up to camp meeting, the students hosted VBS for both kids and teens. Alaska Conference AMA-Radio-Youth/Young Adult Director, Tobin Dodge, represented the conference.



UTQIAGVIK

Merlin Burt, accompanied by his wife Sarah, was the speaker at the Utqiagvik Arctic Camp Meeting April 8-9. Mr. Burt is the director of the Ellen G. White Estate and father of Pastor Celesta Babb who, along with Pastor Zack Babb, lead the Arctic Adventist Church there. What a blessing to have the family support our efforts to reach the people in this

small village of 5,000 souls. And did you know that the Arctic Adventist Church is the most northern Adventist church in the world?

Conference Vice-President of Finance, Jim Jensen and his wife Theresa, travelled to Utqiagvik to support camp meeting and provide the children's program.



ST LAWRENCE ISLAND

Alaska Conference pastor, Daniel Jean-Francois, was speaker at Gambell's Arctic Camp Meeting April 29 & 30. Pastor Daniel shares his Arctic adventure:

Born and raised in New York City, I would have never thought that my wife and I would be ministering in Alaska! I recently was sent to Gambell on St. Lawrence Island 36 miles from the Russian shoreline for the yearly conference camp meeting. It was an adventure from the start, and I didn't know what to expect. On the first day, I was stranded in Nome due to weather concerns and one of the church elders graciously opened his home for me to stay. Another elder flew me to Gambell the next morning, and it was a shock to see this small village buried in snow as we approached.

When we landed, the plane slid to a stop on the ice. A few natives arrived with their four-wheelers to take us to our destination. Pastor Petu Koonooka picked me up and we headed to the church as I gripped my suitcases. I was treated with friendliness and warmth, and enjoyed being there and exploring the area. It was wonderful meeting the people, preaching the gospel, and sharing the Sabbath School lesson on the radio with Petu and his wife. What a blessing to have this opportunity to connect with believers in this part of Alaska. I look forward to my next trip!



Thank you to the AMA supporters and workers, guest speakers, Alaska pastors and staff who literally travelled thousands of miles to shine the light of Jesus in villages throughout Alaska.



32ND ANNUAL INTERIOR CAMP MEETING

JIM KINCAID, North Pole SDA Church

Alaska's Interior Campmeeting which meets in an Alaska state campground was celebrated under warm 75 degree sunny skies. The Harding Lake state campground was home to many of our members from Delta Junction, North Pole, and Fairbanks for the weekend. Those who opted not to camp out drove the short distances from the towns for the meetings.

The featured guest speaker was Pastor Steve McPherson, who was accompanied by his wife Sharon. They are a familiar couple to the older set who remember the McPhersons from the early 1980s. McPhersons pastored the Hillside O'Malley church from 1981 until Elder McPherson was elected to be the Alaska Conference President in 1985. He served in that capacity until 1988, when he moved to Idaho.

Elder McPherson has a great interest in history and the stories from the Bible which tell that although God knows the end from the beginning He lifts the curtain that hides the future and communicates his love and compassion bringing goodness and blessing out of hopelessness and evil.



*Above:
Church members listen intently
as Pastor McPherson shares the
message*



*Left:
Pastor Steve McPherson and
wife Sharon reconnect with
North Pole member, Jim Kincaid*

REMOTE SABBATH SCHOOL
1.800.719.6100 Access Code 4760107

Sabbath Mornings at 9:30 a.m.



CALL TO PRAYER

Teleconference Prayer Meeting

Friday Evenings 7-8 pm

1-800-719-6100

Access Code 4760107

SOUTHCENTRAL CAMP MEETING

July 19-23, 2022 is the week for Southcentral Camp Meeting, the largest gathering in the state. This year, we return to the regular, five-day format and are excited to bring our members a strong slate of speakers. Visit www.alaskaconference.org/camp-meeting for details.

SEMINARS & SPEAKERS

Restoring Hope: Mental Health and the Church

Dr. Angeline D Brauer
Director of Health Ministries, North American Division



Dr. Brauer has served as the Health Ministries Director for the North American Division since 2016. Her passion is to make nutrition and healthy living practical, understandable and enjoyable for everyone.

Controlling Your Social Capital

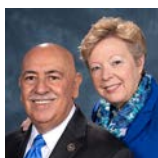
Jim Brown
Western Adventist Foundation



Mr. Brown has served as president of WAF since 2001 overseeing the development and implementation of long-range business strategies for the organization. WAF specializes in planned giving, trust administration, accounting and investment management.

Building A Health Home

Claudio & Pamela Consuegra
Director of Family Ministries, North American Division



Claudio and Pamela Consuegra have a rich background in the area of family ministries having worked as a husband and wife team in numerous conferences as well as various media platforms including



radio, television and print. They are passionate about building strong, healthy marriages and families for God's Kingdom.

Keynote

Dr. Ron Clouzet
Director of Evangelism Institute, North American Division



Ron E. M. Clouzet is the pastor of the East Ridge SDA Church, a responsibility he's held since October 2021. From 2016 - 2021, Pastor Clouzet was the Ministerial Secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. A speaker and author, he has spoken at many church and academic gatherings around the world and written scholarly and professional articles, as well as several books.

Living An Evangelistic Life

David M Klinedinst
Director of Evangelism & Church Growth, Chesapeake Conference



An international speaker, Elder Klinedinst has shared the keys to understanding Biblical prophecy across four continents. His desire is to see a passionate, mission-minded lay driven church where members

are looting for opportunities to plant seeds for Jesus.

The Ten Commandments: The Divine Guide to Freedom & Life

Dr. Greg King
Dean of School of Religion, Southern University



Dr. King joined Southern University in 2004, becoming dean in 2007. Prior, he taught for 17 years at Pacific Union College, serving six years as chairman of the Religion department. His passion is to see students develop a living, vibrant relationship with Jesus so they might experience the abundant life made possible by this connection.

End Time Gospel Power

Kevin Miller
President, Alaska Conference



Elder Miller joined the Alaska Conference in 2007 serving as pastor of the Anchorage Northside Church and Conference Ministerial Director before being elected president in 2016. He loves working with people in all stages of their journey with Jesus as they answer His call in their lives.

MEETING SCHEDULES

ADULTS

TIME	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	TIME	SABBATH
7:30 a	CAMP PITCH	Breakfast			7:00 a	Devotional Ashwin Somasundram
8:00 a		Devotional Mark Harrison	Devotional Sergio Vasquez	Devotional Daniel Jean-Francois	8:00 a	Breakfast (No Cafe' Service)
9:00 a		End Time Gospel Power Kevin Miller		Controlling Your Personal Social Capital Jim Brown	9:15 a	Sabbath School
10:30 a		The 10 Commandments: The Divine Guide to Freedom and Life Dr. Greg King			11:00 a	Asking for Gospel Power Dr. Ron Clouzet
12:00 p		Lunch			1:00 p	Noon Meal (On-Your-Own/ No Cafe' Service)
1:15 p	GUEST CHECK-IN	Living An Evangelistic Life David M. Klinedinst			2:30 p	Ordination
2:30 p		Restoring Hope: Mental Health and the Church Dr. Angeline D. Brauer			3:00 p	Concert
3:45 p		Building A Healthy Home Claudio & Pamela Consuegra			5:30 p	Supper (No Cafe' Service)
5:30 p		Supper			7:00 p	The God of the Impossible Dr. Ron Clouzet
7:00 p		Key Note Dr. Ron Clouzet				

YOUTH

YOUTH (13+) Youth Tent LEAD: Daniel Jean-Francois Speaker: Sergio Vasquez Tues 7-9 p Wed-Fri 10a-12 p 2:30-5 p 7-9 p Sabbath 9:15 a-12:30 p 7-9 p	JUNIORS (10-12) Junior Tent LEAD: Celesta Babb Tues 7-9 p Wed-Fri 10a-12 p 2:30-5 p 7-9 p Sabbath 9:15 a-12:30 p 7-9 p	PRIMARY (7-9) Primary Tent LEAD: Ryan Rogers Tues 7-9 p Wed-Fri 10a-12 p 2:30-5 p 7-9 p Sabbath 9:15 a-12:30 p 7-9 p
KINDERGARTEN (4-6) School LEAD: Misty Stein Tues 7-9 p Wed-Fri 10a-12 p 2:30-5 p 7-9 p Sabbath 9:15 a-12:30 p 7 p-9 p	BEGINNERS (0-3) School LEAD: Karen Cheeseman <i>Adult must stay with child</i> Tues No Class Wed-Fri 10a-12 p 3:30-5 p Sabbath 9:15 a-10:45 p	



SOUTHEAST CAMP MEETING
JULY 29 - 31, 2022
 Camp Lorraine | Vank Island Alaska

SPEAKERS
 Pastor Ashwin Somasundram
 Pastor Brad Traxler

WWW.WRANGELLSDA.ORG

AROUND CAMPUS

Following is information to help your stay on campus be successful. We are looking forward to seeing you July 19th!

ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER

The Adventist Book Center (ABC) will be onsite for southcentral camp meeting providing the opportunity to purchase books and food item.

Hours

Tuesday - 12 pm - 10 pm

Wednesday - Friday - 9 am - 10 pm*

Sabbath - Closed

Sunday - 8 am - 12 pm

*Closed during evening meeting

AUDIO SESSIONS

Sessions are broadcast live on FM 94.1 at stream.campmeeting.net/akconf/ and live on Facebook.

BLOOD BANK

The Blood Bank of Alaska will not be on campus.

GUEST CHECK-IN

Check-in begins 1 p.m, Tuesday afternoon. Programming begins the same evening for both youth and adults with the exception of Beginners which starts Wednesday morning.

LODGING

If you are interested in securing a site, please contact the office via email at info@alaskaconference.org or call 907.346-1004 x1000.

Rental Rates

Cabins \$190/week \$38/daily

RV Sites \$75/week \$15/daily

Tent Sites \$60/week \$12/daily

MEALS

Lacto-ovo vegetarian meals will be served in the school cafeteria Wednesday

through Friday for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is no cafeteria service on Sabbath; meals are on your own. The traditional Haystack potluck Sabbath afternoon will not be held this year. If you elect to dine privately, the campus kitchen will be open and available for meal preparation.

Pricing

Adults (12+) \$9.00

Youth (4-12) \$7.00

Kids (0-3) Free

Meal tickets are available for purchase at the information booth.

ORDINATION

Pastors Zack and Celesta Babb will be ordained and commissioned Sabbath afternoon at 2:30 pm. Come and support this dynamic couple and their work throughout Alaska.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The complementary pancake breakfast will be served Sunday morning.

SABBATH CONCERT

Join us in the auditorium at 3 pm for an afternoon of praise in music with Alaskans from across the state.

CAMPUS GUIDELINES

ANIMALS

Pets are NOT allowed on the campus, buildings, meetings, tents or cabins with the exceptions of trained service dogs. Guests in RVs may bring pets if kept quiet and indoors and walked in designated areas.

Owners must clean up completely after their pet and dispose of any waste.

LODGING

An adult (18+) must be on campus at all times. Minors may not be left overnight or stay on campus by themselves.

All reservations are on a first-come first served basis.

Campers, check-in at the information booth, obtain a permit and park in designated locations.

Maximum occupancy per site is one camping unit plus one same-family tent. All sites are dry camping.

PARKING

If camping on the field, please do not drive on/off the field during the event.

Vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas. Do not park next to cabins as it does not comply with fire safety and prohibits access for emergency services.

SABBATH

Please honor the Sabbath by not moving in or out of accommodations during Sabbath hours.

Due to large influx of constituents on campus, we ask that bicycles not be used on Sabbath.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Daily shuttle service to Fred Meyers will be offered on Wednesday - Friday at 3 pm.

QUIET HOURS

11 pm until 6 am

MISCELLANEOUS

Restrooms and portable toilets are available throughout the campus. The bath house is open 24-hours.

Trash should be deposited in designated receptacles around campus.

No literature is to be distributed, displayed or sold without authorization from conference administration.

Fire arms, firecrackers, alcohol and tobacco products are prohibited.

Radios, TVs, music players or other noise-producing devices are to be used with discretion and respect.

FROM VALLEY TO VILLAGE!

DEXTER SADDLER, V2V Coordinator, Palmer SDA Church

The inaugural Valley2Village (V2V) International Food Fair event occurred on Sunday, June 12th, at the Palmer Seventh-day Adventist Church in Palmer, Alaska. V2V was part of the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce Celebration of Colony Days.

The event hosted 644 people who enjoyed live music and international foods from Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, the Philippines, Taiwan, and India. In addition to the food and entertainment, there were representatives from AMA, Adult Teen Challenge, Beacon Hill, and The Alaska Job Corps Center. Incumbent Borough Mayor of Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Edna DeVries, also appeared and gave a powerful speech on community.

V2V was a significant and overwhelmingly positive connection point. The family-friendly destination brought the community together in a shared goal of collaboration, service, and spiritual outreach. At its core, V2V is an evangelistic effort. The Palmer Church has set a goal for 2022 of "Neighboring Well," and hopes to cultivate this affair into an extraordinary annual Matanuska-Susitna/Anchorage event.

There are already conversations about future community events and how we can improve on the positive experience of V2V. The impact of these events will increase, and we hope to get more engagement from members across our conference as we advance this project in faith. You can influence future ministry efforts through your support. Here are three ways you can help right now:

PRAY

Please pray for the V2V event and include it as a part of your church's evangelism and outreach plan for next

year. With your help, we can do more to reach the Matanuska-Susitna and Anchorage communities, and the other 200 villages that have yet to have an AMA presence.

VOLUNTEER

In addition to culinary skills, there is a need for team members with a passion for Christ and the community, skills in the corporate giving application process, event planning and coordinating, photography and video production, graphic design, advertising, and other languages. If you want to join the V2V task force, please connect with Pastor Ryan Rogers at the Palmer Seventh-day Adventist Church at pastor.ryan.rogers@gmail.com.

SHARE

If you have feedback or suggestions for us, please visit the valley2village website at <https://www.palmersda.org/ministries/valley-2-village> to submit your ideas. Your perspective is helpful as we plan for the future.



Event proceeds benefit AMA, a faith-based nonprofit organization that addresses important Alaska Native community issues like food security and youth training in the villages through mental health programs, food banks, VBS, and day camps.

And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20, ESV).





MIRACLE OF THE SELAWIK SHED

TANDI PERKINS, Development Director, Alaska Conference

Another dark, winter morning dawned in Selawik with Edna and Jose lifting a quick prayer that their snow-go would start, after a night exposed to below zero temperatures and howling wind. After a couple of tries and bated breath, the engine fired up and off they went, thanking God for another day of transportation as they visited the long list of people in need.

We all knew that Selawik needed protection for its snow-go and Honda. Generous donors had provided the funds needed to purchase these vehicles essential for Edna and Jose to transport food, clothing, and other needed items to those throughout the village. We wanted to be good stewards of these gifts by protecting the vehicles from the elements and theft. Our first thought was a metal Conex, but we worried about how it would hold up in the extreme elements of living above the Arctic Circle. Building a shed onto the parsonage would be ideal, but there was no money for materials.

AMA is 100% supported by donations. As such, we are always on the front row witnessing the miracles of God, tapping the heart of someone or several people to fund His work in Alaska Native villages. In the case of the Selawik shed, God tapped the hearts of the Spring Meadow SDA Church in Sanford, Florida. This group will be participating in an Alaska Mission Experience to Kotzebue and Selawik this summer. They heard about the financial need for a shed, and provided enough (\$8,000) to help purchase the materials so that the group can build the shed as part of their mission trip. There was great rejoicing over God's provision!!

Unfortunately, there was one last hurdle to building the Selawik shed – shipping the materials. Unlike building

projects in the Lower 48, transporting anything to places beyond Anchorage is either by plane or barge and with today's inflation, the costs of shipping is staggering. We estimated shipping to be around \$8,000, but when the company we ship with provided the final cost, we were absolutely devastated: \$15,999.08 to ship materials to Selawik! How could we justify this? How can we deliver the materials and build a \$27,000 shed? Time was ticking as our prayers ascended to the only one who can make a way when there seemingly is none.

Mid-week, we decided to try another company who gave us a price of \$11,000 and offered to pick up our load. We were able to cover this cost and so we agreed to proceed. No mention of payment was made at the time and so we waited for the company to contact us before shipping the lumber. A day and a half later, on Jose's birthday, we received word that our shipment had arrived in Selawik without payment!! We rejoice that God does work miracles.

While there are many lessons to be learned through the miracle of the shed, one that hits close to home is that because of inflation, we are experiencing increased costs to purchase and provide goods and services, such that every day we are faced with limiting the work that God is calling us to do in Alaska Native communities. Just when we feel that we are financially limited, God works in mighty ways, whether through individual gifts, corporate gifts or touching the heart of shipping companies. God is in control of His work, and we must have faith that He makes a way when there seems to be an impasse. God owns it all, even the cattle on a thousand hills. He honors us to be good stewards of His resources to continue the work of reaching those in His name.

After two and a half years of many miracles, hard work, and help from local native friends, The Lord allowed us to open the Multipurpose Building in Selawik. The building will serve the village with a community kitchen, showers, laundry, food bank, coffee shop and an emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse. We believe that Selawik will experience the love of God for His people in a tangible way. Blessings from Selawik!



Stewardship Moment

Jim Jensen, VP of Finance

Stewardship of Kindness to One Another

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. -Ephesians 4:32 NIV

A few years ago, my daughter was hospitalized. The hospital only allowed visitors from 4:30 – 6:00 pm each day. A member called wanting to meet with me after school. I told her I was not available at that time. A day later my father was diagnosed with diabetes and needed immediate insulin treatment. His primary care doctor said there was absolutely no way that he had developed the disease in the few weeks since his last appointment with no signs or history. Nevertheless, he was scheduled for emergency surgery to check on pain in his lower abdomen. I made the choice to stay near my daughter and my sister would be with Dad. The surgery did not start on time and dragged on longer than expected. As I was one of two people that would need to make medical decisions if a problem occurred, the doctors had asked that I be available by phone. At my daughter's hospital, visitors are required to place their cell phone in a locker in the lobby. I don't know about you, but I do not do well in situations like these without keeping my mind occupied. So, I decided to work at the office, and of course, this was the day and time the member who wanted to meet with me showed up at the office. In the middle of getting her the information she needed, the doctor called. There was good news and bad news. They found a blockage in Dad's bladder and once it was removed, his blood sugar level returned to normal. Unfortunately, the blockage appeared to be cancerous. The doctors were having it tested, but believed it was an aggressive bladder cancer. That diagnosis turned out to be correct and my father passed away about five months later. I returned to finish most of what the member wanted, but at that moment I really needed space for my mind to process.

On top of this devastating news, I wasn't able to visit my daughter that day because the surgery ran so late. I am sure the member thought that I did not want to help them, probably believing I had lied to her about my availability. All of this is not to highlight my story, but to remind us of how little we know of what is going on in other people's lives.

Our church has long taken the stewardship of finances, physical health and biblical truth as vital to our community. I would like to encourage us to also include the stewardship of kindness and how we treat one another. As we look at Christ's ministry here on earth, I notice repeatedly how he encouraged and lifted people up. *Mary, you have chosen what is best. Zacchaeus, come down for I am going to your house today. Woman, where are your accusers?* Compare this to what the average child in America hears each day. Studies show that a child hears 432 negative comments or words per day compared with 32 positive ones. I would like to think that our churches do better than this. However, if we took the time to shower our churches with encouragement, genuine words, I expect it would attract people just as Jesus did.

Not only would visitors be attracted to our churches, but members would as well. Especially after the last two years, I think positive, genuine people really stand out.



FIRST FRUITS

PROV 3:9

Just as in my story we rarely know much of what is going on in other church members or friends' lives. I don't know what was going on in the woman's life in my story and she didn't know what was going on in my life. Can we assume the best about one another? Maybe take just a few minutes to add a friendly or kind word to what we do each day and start the stewardship of kindness to one another.

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 23, 2022

PRESENT: Kevin Miller (Chair), Jim Jensen, Tina Steenmeyer, Ryan Woehler, Ryan Rogers

Zoom: Chad Angasan, Celesta Babb, Mally Concepcion, David King, Danya Nicketa, Jessica Yun

Invitees: Brenda Campbell Johnson, Tobin Dodge, Tandi Perkins

NPUC REPRESENTATIVE: Bill McClendon

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- **VOTED** to accept agenda with change of General Conference's position on vaccinations (22-01).
- Pastoral search continues; vice-president search progressing.
- **VOTED** to accept September 2021 minutes with financial report for August, subject to audit (22-02).
- **VOTED** to accept October 2021 minutes (22-03).
- E-vote motion did not have a majority to accept minutes for December 20.
- **VOTED** to accept teacher hires with credentials (22-04).
- Baptisms|membership report through December 2021.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Tithe report \$1 million for December. year to date, first time in conference exceeded \$5 million. Increase of 14.46% from 2020.
- Presented year to date expense report.
- Working capital report: days of cash = 136.
- **VOTED** to accept tithe, expense and working capital reports (22-05).
- Elders cannot be compensated.
- **VOTED** to accept budget as presented (22-06).

NPUC REPORT: Mark Remboldt shared:

- January 18th Special Session with one agenda item: to change bylaws to accept remote vote in June.
- Tithe increase in Union tithe; 33% gain in one conference.
- Missions are challenged.
- 2021 exceeded 2020 in baptisms (1,429).
- Idaho Conference saw 200% gain in baptisms last year.
- Main goal of the union is to provide resources.
- Washington doing seven to eight church plants per year.
- Up to \$3,000 in funding available for church revitalization.

AMA|YOUTH|YOUNG ADULT:

Presented report (see attached). Development fundraising makes AMA sustainable.

DEVELOPMENT:

- Presented report (see attached).
- Ryan Rogers shared Palmer Church's plans and vision to integrate AMA into their programs and outreach. Palmer working on prototype to engage and work with village communities.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Presented report (see attached).

MINISTERIAL:

Presented report (see attached).

EDUCATION:

- Grieving loss of Rod Rau; a replacement has not been selected.
- Three scenarios for replacement:
 1. Teacher to act as principal/education director.
 2. Fulltime person with additional duties to justify position.
 3. Partner with sister conference to share responsibilities.
- In interim, Kevin Miller to handle personnel issues; NPUC to handle education issues.
- Presented current enrollment figures.
- School Issues:
 1. Dillingham School Fuel Leak: EPA issue required digging under the building. Fuel tank not covered by insurance and classroom needs rebuilt.
 2. Palmer Flooding: Third floor water pipe broke resulting in floors being flooded. Working on restoration.
 3. Juneau School: Roof collapsed. School was closed and repairs completed.
- **VOTED** to accept departmental reports (22-07).

ADMINISTRATION:

- **VOTED** to accept transfer of Sarah Lindsey Aymer from Trinity SDA Church in Knoxville, TN and Heather Webb from Valdez to Copper Basin Company (22-08).
- COVID contact tracing. Churches and schools do send out email when there is contact with COVID requiring five day quarantine.
- **VOTED** to eliminate contract tracing allowing congregations to determine what exposure there is with notification to the congregation when there is an exposure (22-09).
- **VOTED** to accept Pathfinder Camporee ticket purchase (22-10).
- **VOTED** to accept Juneteenth as a paid holiday (22-11).
- General Conference statement: Vaccines from the church's perspective is not a religious liberty issue. Religious exemptions not promoted by the Alaska Conference.
- VP of Administration Search: Ashwin Somasundram to be interviewed by the Alaska Conference Executive Committee at next Zoom meeting.
- **VOTED** to give enabling action to pursue process for two candidates as pastors, one for Sitka|Petersburg and one for Anchorage Hillside|Anchorage Spanish (22-12).

MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

CLOSING PRAYER

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 16, 2022

PRESENT: Kevin Miller (Chair), Ashwin Somasundram, Jim Jensen, Chad Angasan, Celesta Babb, David King, Danya Nicketa, Ryan Rogers, Tina Steenmeyer, Tiffany Tago, Ryan Woehler, Jessica Yun

NPUC REPRESENTATIVE: John Freedman

ABSENT: Delbert Clark, Mally Concepcion, Elford Joseph, Jason McLin

AGENDA: VOTED to add latest COVID protocols and referred Executive Committee position to the agenda (22-20).

MINUTES: VOTED to accept the January 23rd minutes (22-21).

MEMBERSHIP: VOTED to accept membership transfers for Don L. Merrill and Alice Merrill from Orangevale SDA Church in California to the Alaska Conference Church (22-22).

FINANCIAL REPORT: VOTED to accept December 2021 and March 2022 financial reports subject to audit (22-23).

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT: VOTED to increase mileage rate reimbursement for Alaska Conference (22-24):

- Road System: \$.43 to \$.49 per mile.
- Southeast | Interior: \$.48 to \$.53 per mile
- Western Alaska: \$.53 to \$.58 per mile

REMUNERATION INCREASE: VOTED to accept NAD recommendation of 5.4% remun (22-25).

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: VOTED to reallocate \$100,000 set aside for conference improvements/renovation for denied Adventist Risk Management claims for (22-26):

- Anchorage Samoan Church: \$35,000.
- Dillingham Adventist School: \$22,000
- Anchorage Northside Church: \$12,000
- Valdez Church: \$7,000
- Juneau Adventist Christian School: \$10,000

AMA SELAWIK: VOTED to accept Motion to move shed for Arctic Mission Adventure Selawik project for \$16,000 for church and parsonage (22-27)

COVID PROTOCOLS: VOTED to put oversight onto each church and board for updated COVID protocol guidance (22-28).

BUDGET: VOTED to accept budget on 96.5% of 2021 tithe.

CLOSING PRAYER

LOOKING AHEAD

July 19-23

Southcentral Camp Meeting

July 24-31

Alaska Camps - Junior Camp @ Tuk

July 25

Closed: Camp Meeting Debrief

July 28-31

Men's Retreat

July 29-31

Southeast Camp Meeting

July 29-31

Alaska Camps - Camp Lorraine

August 3-4

Teachers Meetings

August 25-Sept 5

State Fair Outreach

September 2-5

Pathfinders Camporee @ Tuk

September 5

Closed: Labor Day

September 19

AMA Board Meeting

September 22-24

Native Leadership Workshop

September 25

Alaska Executive Committee

October 4

Town Hall

October 7-22

Evangelism Field School - Dillingham

November 24

Closed - Thanksgiving

December 8

Board of Education

December 11

Alaska Executive Committee

December 24-31

Closed: Christmas

December 31

AMA Annual Offering

Join us for a
GRAND TURKISH BAZAAR
save the date
LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION
CRAFT AND BAKED GOODS BOOTHS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD BOOTHS
Sunday, November 6th, 2022
From 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
6575 Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, AK * For more info,
call Trish at: (907) 917-8265



Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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3 Mental Health Programs



2,490 Meals Served



250 Clothing Boxes Given



1,886 Prayer Requests



360 Bible Studies Given

AMA IMPACT AT A GLANCE (2020 – 2021)



Arctic Mission Adventure is positively impacting Rural Alaska!

2021 was a big year for AMA and it couldn't have been done without your support. AMA is proud to be used by Christ in serving the Native community through the generous support from our friends.

Read about the impact AMA workers are having throughout the state in the 2021 Annual Report available on the AMA website.

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