

ALYESKAN

NEWS & VIEWS FOR ALASKAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



THE GOSPEL CALL

Together In Mission

Meet John Winslow
Alaska Conference
Director of Education &
Youth/Young Adults

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Adventure**
NPUC Annual Offering
December 31, 2022

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**ALASKA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

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ANCHORAGE, AK 99507
907-346-1004

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Having light with the flick of a switch is something we tend to take for granted. But, in reality, the technology is fairly recent. It was only in 1879 that Thomas Edison had a breakthrough in creating a long burning incandescent light, something we now seemingly cannot live without. In truth, light is integral to our lives. And this is the basic element of life to which Jesus refers during the Feast of Tabernacles. In John 8 :12, He declared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

During the Feast of Tabernacles, there was a ceremony with four immense candlesticks that were lit to illuminate the temple and, some say, the entire city of Jerusalem. It was done to remind people of the pillar of fire that led the forefathers through the wilderness. And it was the day after the ceremony that Jesus stood up and said, "I am the light of the world."

It is not the first time Jesus made a declaration about light. As creator, He commanded there be light in the beginning of the world. Just as this light was created to cast out darkness, Jesus came to give the light of life.

There is a restaurant in Los Angeles called Opaque. While it may look ordinary on the outside, upon entering it's apparent this isn't a typical restaurant. Diners are asked to remove all smart watches, as well as turn off cell phones. Patrons order before entering the dining room because it's pitch black; there are no lights anywhere. People pay more than \$100 each to eat in total darkness! Simple things such as eating and drinking become difficult. So difficult, in fact, that most diners forgo the utensils and eat with their hands.

What struck me as I watched the news about this restaurant was that this is exactly what the world is trying to do. People are trying to feel their way through life and make things up as



ASHWIN SOMASUNDRAM
VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION
ALASKA CONFERENCE OF SDA



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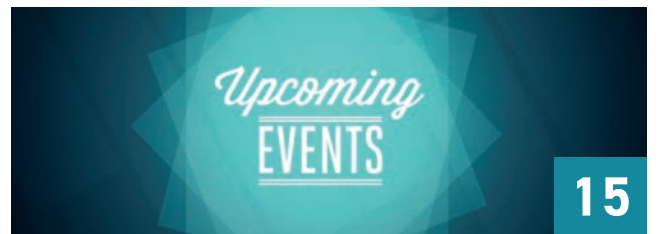
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they go along just to survive, but they are doing it in the midst of darkness. And Jesus is saying to them: I am the light of the world. You don't have to keep groping and trying to find your own way through. I am the one who can get rid of the darkness because I am the light of the world. I can show you how to live a fulfilling life because I am the light of the world. I am the one who can show you the plan for your life and guide you to live out the plan because I am the light of the world.

Ellen G. White outlines the important connection between us as Adventists and the light of Jesus in these last days: *In a special sense Seventh-day*

Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. Through them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world, on them is shining wonderful light from the word of God. They have been given a work of the most solid import, the proclamation of the first, second, and third angel's messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention." 9T, 19 (1909).

In these final and dark days of earth's history, filled with the darkness of despair, pain and hopelessness, let us not forget our commission as Alaskan Adventist lightbearers: to share the light of hope in Jesus!!

Ashwin Somasundram

A BLESSING IN COMING TO ALASKA

JOHN WINSLOW, Education Superintendent / Youth & Young Adult Director, Alaska Conference

What an incredible journey to come to Alaska. It is one thing to accept the call to be superintendent of education and lead in youth and young adult ministries in our Alaska conference. It is quite another thing to get here!

Driving a Uhaul and minivan from Northeast Washington to the Palmer/ Anchorage area was an incredibly long and beautiful journey. Our drive from Tok to Palmer alone gave a glimpse of the vast and beautiful area in which we get to minister. God's presence on our journey, even when our driver's side window on the Uhaul was blown out by a rock from an oncoming semi in the middle of the Yukon Territory, was an indicator that our calling to ministry will not always be easy. However, God will supply protection and all that is needed to accomplish His work.

Our family is settled in the Palmer area and our kids are enjoying school at Amazing Grace Academy. Thank you to the many people that have prayed for or helped us as we arrived in Alaska! It is a privilege and a blessing to be here!

I have been in the office only a few weeks and am already hearing about the wonderful ministries members support. One person called regarding the Pathfinder/Adventurer club they just helped start. I talked with a pastor about getting their school going again next year. And I have heard from lay members and pastors on their desire to further strengthen partnerships between schools and churches. I sense that God has been blessing the ministries in our conference and He has great plans for future ministry. With that in mind, here are some short term goals the Education/Youth/Young Adult department is planning to collaborate with you on:



EDUCATION MINISTRY

The conference has six schools across our conference: five are elementary and one is a pre-kindergarten through high school. One school had to close this year due to enrollment challenges. Dillingham Adventist School was able to offer grades pre-kindergarten to 2nd grade and would have offered all elementary grades; however, they were not able to find the second teacher for grades three to eight. We are excited to share that the communities and the conference education department are striving to have all schools up and running next year.

EDUCATION DREAMS

Within the next two to three years, it would be a blessing to have at least two more of our Alaskan communities with schools to serve their communities.

YOUTH MINISTRY

We are again exploring having a youth rally either in the spring or fall of 2023. There are also plans to have times for collaboration and training for our leaders of youth ministry in our churches.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

We are planning for a Young Adult convention with the purpose of creating community and exploring ways in which young adults would like to minister in the great state of Alaska.

CLUB MINISTRIES

We want to have a Pathfinder camporee for our conference in 2023. There is a need for more clubs, club leaders, and area coordinators to further solidify and grow club ministries across Alaska (these clubs can be a great ministry in a community even where there are not any Adventist young people)!

God is leading us in some great short-term goals. There are many details to tend to and even more big dreams that God will give us for these areas of ministry in our conference. If you want to help, let us know. Please be sure to take advantage of the privilege God gives all of us to pray for and encourage our young church members, future members and those that lead them. Thank you for your part in ministry. I look forward to working with you for God's kids in Alaska! I wish you a most amazing and blessed holiday season, truly my most favorite time of the year.

INFLATION: IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?

JIM JENSEN, Vice President of Finance, Alaska Conference

You probably think that I will have a few hacks like coupons, getting out of debt, living on beans and rice. All of these things can play a role, but the biggest part of personal finance is having a plan. A person or organization can be in much worse shape than others and if they have a plan and it is working, they will not feel out of control.

One of the ways of feeling in control is to have an emergency fund. Start with at least \$1,000, then move to having three to six months of expenses in your emergency fund. If you have the money available and an unexpected expense comes up, you can simply pay for it and move on.

The second thing to do is to add knowledge. Knowledge is power! Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

or freezing, canning, drying more of your food. You may even want to garden and grow your own food. This is possible in Alaska even through winter with a small part of your indoor living space.

MAKE MORE MONEY WITH YOUR TIME

Calculate what you are getting paid for the time it takes to do a project such as food preparation. You may find that you can find additional work that pays more than what you can save at home. Many of these can be side hustles where you choose if or how much you work. Just remember to count and deduct the expenses of these jobs and understand how much extra you will pay in taxes.

A few ideas for side hustles can be Uber, Lyft, Door Dash, or Instacart. If you have assets you are willing to use, you can list a car on Turo or a home on Airbnb.

PRIORITIZE

And now for what you would expect from me. The fewer payments you have each month, the less stress you will have. Eliminate credit card and other debt. Aim to have no car payments ever again.

Prioritize the essentials: food, shelter, utilities, transportation and clothes. If these items are all taken care of, you will be able to fight and improve your situation another day.

Who you spend your time with is also important. Spend time in prayer. Share your burdens with the Lord. Perhaps keep a prayer journal so you can look back and see how the Lord has answered your prayers. Spend more time with people who make you feel better and laugh and smile. Hopefully your church is a place to find more of these people.



is a long time favorite. I do rely more on YouTube channels than just a few years ago. One of the channels that has a wide variety of good information is called "Under the Median." Use care in what you find on YouTube and look for reliability indicators.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME THAN MONEY

Look at what things you spend money on that you may be able to do more of the work such as cooking food from scratch

Companies such as FedEx and UPS often need additional delivery drivers or helpers during the holiday season.

Other ways of helping your family have been part of life forever. Work with family and friends to swap childcare duties. If you often see friends at the same stores around the same time maybe take one vehicle instead of several. The same could work for going to church.

LEARN MORE:

DAVE RAMSEY

www.ramseysolutions.com

UNDER THE MEDIAN

www.youtube.com/c/underthemedian

PROTECT YOUR MONEY

[/time.com/6168302/how-to-handle-money-inflation/](https://time.com/6168302/how-to-handle-money-inflation/)

STEWARDSHIP, LEVEL 1

adventistlearningcommunity.com/courses/stewardship-level-1
(ALC also offers Level 2 & 3 courses)

HOW TO SURVIVE INFLATION

<https://www.debt.org/blog/how-to-survive-inflation/>

HEALTH IN MOTION

KEVIN MILLER, President, Alaska Conference

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” 3 John 2

Last winter I was feeling a little run down and fatigued. Instead of making some healthier choices to counter the effects of the season, I defaulted to what we call “comfort” eating. The problem was that it didn’t really produce any comfort beyond the momentary taste sensation. What it produced in me was more lethargy and unwanted weight gain. When spring came, I really felt I was not where I could bless the Lord and other people. I asked for spiritual strength to positively re-engage my health. In this process I was hit with the thought not only I, but others could use some encouragement in this area. Out of this experience, Health In Motion was born.

Health in Motion is a health emphasis designed to encourage, inspire, and provide enjoyment in a wholistic health journey. This journey includes our entire make-up as people, which does not remain static. That’s why it’s Health In Motion. This emphasis will encourage active bodies, healthy minds, and resilient spirits to provide the platform



for life and life abundantly (John 10:10) across life’s journey.

Due to the dynamic nature of life, we need to continually assess and recalibrate our health physically, mentally, and spiritually. We know today that each of these aspects of health impacts the others. The idea is to enhance each of these areas under the blessing of Christ Jesus to live life as well as possible in our context. Remember each of us is different in our makeup, history, and even DNA.

ACTIVE BODIES

Under the physical aspect of healthy active bodies, there are a number of

opportunities to enhance life. Things like routine exercise, healthy eating choices, good rest habits, and more. Again, we want this part of life to be enjoyable. With any change, start with a doable step and gain momentum for larger changes. Jesus gave us this principle in the way He demonstrated His ministry. He started small and then gained momentum for bigger things.

HEALTHY MINDS

Healthy minds are enhanced in active bodies. Healthy minds take time to meditate on areas of life that build up. Much of the anxiety in our society is due to living in our problems without balancing them out with activities that promote healthy outlooks on life.

RESILIENT SPIRITS

Resilient spirits find their resiliency in a strong walk with God. It’s interesting that we call it a walk with God. Our spiritual lives remain in motion through our lives. Enoch walked with God until God invited him home. Active Bible study, prayer, and service to others keeps our faith strong and our spirit resilient.

Over the next few months, the conference will begin developing content and gathering resources that will help in encouraging, inspiring, and enjoying health ministry opportunities. I’m looking forward to keeping my health in motion this winter and moving forward even as I continue to age. Christ Jesus really does want the best life for us now as well as for eternity. Our health is a part of that best life. Let’s all keep our Health In Motion.



Team Health In Motion launched the conference’s health initiative in September participating in the Anchorage Run Fest where they placed 3rd. L-R: Lauren Salazar, Kevin Miller, Sergio Vasquez and Ryan Rogers

THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS

BRENDA CAMPBELL-JOHNSON, Communications Director, Alaska Conference



My time with the conference is approaching almost two decades (hard to believe)! During that time, I've held several roles: secretary, education support, local IT representative, and now Communications Director. I have had the privilege to serve God through my spiritual gifts of administration and organization and believe He called me to serve at the conference. Although the work can be difficult and at times unappreciated, I believe our conference team is on the correct path: His path.

A few years after joining the conference, Ken Crawford, the former conference president, launched the Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) ministry. Under his direction, the program gained ground, garnered financial supporters, and after a few "hiccups" in direction, began a definitive path to "Share the Light before the Light Goes Out." With Ken's departure in 2016, AMA faltered. He had served as the ministry coordinator and when he left, so did direction and support. Leadership recognized the importance of the ministry and worked to ensure its survival. Today, AMA is structured as a team consisting of administration, a program director and a fundraising specialist to ensure its continuation regardless of those that

choose to move away from conference employment. Under this redesign, God has truly blessed our efforts with strong, dedicated AMA workers in Native communities and support from the Alaska membership as well as the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) and the North American Division. Today AMA is about community and working to enrich the lives of those living and working in rural Alaska. Workers are collaborating with local entities to provide youth programs, mental health

initiatives, mother and infant resources, evangelism outreach, helping to meet food insecurities and more!

December 31, 2022 is the NPUC annual offering in support of AMA. The offering is integral to the continuation of the ministry with donations going to support our workers and maintaining infrastructure in bush Alaska. Thank you for your prayers and support of this vital outreach.



Imagine how many more lives can be impacted with your help today. The next life changed awaits your investment!

MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIFT TO ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE

December 31, 2022
NPUC ANNUAL OFFERING



6100 O'Malley Rd Anchorage, AK 99507
arcticmissionadventure.org



THE FUNDAMENTALISM OF COMMUNITY

BEN KRUEGER-BLEHM, Communications & Development Intern, Alaska Conference

Dean Ornish, founder of the nonprofit Preventative Medicine Research Institute, was once quoted as saying, “The need for connection and community is primal, as fundamental as the need for air, water, and food.”

Growing up in the Adventist church, I have always had access to a large, supportive community of people that rally together based on shared religious beliefs. And we may think that’s just it, our community is based on religion, but it’s much more. I’d argue that we have not come together because of our shared religious beliefs, but we share religious ideologies because of something more—a drive, a passion, a goal.

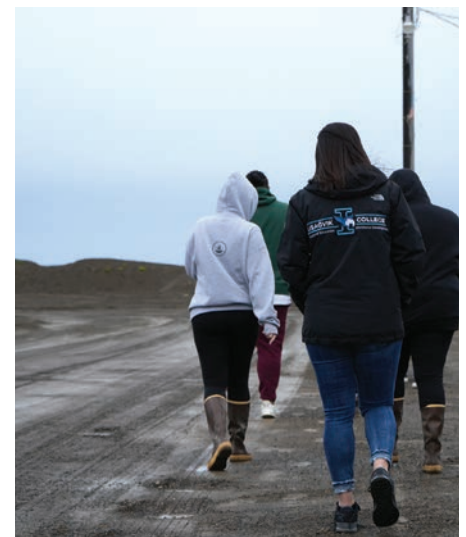
This summer I had the opportunity to visit Utqiagvik, the northernmost village in Alaska, and held the expectation that it would be cold, barren, and lonely. However, what I found was a community of people that care for each other with enough intensity and warmth to melt the permafrost. And despite the fact that very few, if any, of the people I met were Adventists, we all shared a passion for personal growth, support of those around us, and hope for a better future. We participated in a community walk that is held every week at the Iliasvik College for the purpose of getting people together to exercise, get fresh air, and fellowship. When I arrived at the college, we immediately got to work putting together sack lunches for the participants with other volunteers and staff. At that moment, the shared dedication to the local community transcended all religion, race, age, sexuality, citizenship, employment,

and wealth. All that mattered was the people. This is what truly captures the essence of what I have found AMA to be and represent. It’s about the people, the connections, the community.

Whether AMA workers are distributing food in Savoonga, training new mothers in Utqiagvik, or providing a safe house for people in Selawik, they are always finding people who share our hope for a better future and love for one another. It all starts with the people, with the individual connections, and with the support for those in need to participate in the fundamentalism of community.



Clockwise: Tandi Perkins, AHEC scholars, and college staff making sack lunches; people enjoying the health walk; Iliasvik College health walk participants; new parents receive education on safe sleep and baby boxes from an AHEC scholar.



BABY SHOWERS, BABY BOXES AND SAFER SLEEP TRAINING

CELESTA BABB, Utqiagvik Pastor, Alaska Conference

In 2022, the Arctic Adventist Church officially launched its Baby Box distribution project on the North Slope. The boxes are inspired by the Nordic countries tradition of giving a baby box with supplies. The boxes can also be used as an adorable, cozy safe sleeping bassinet for the first several months of a newborn's life. Medical care and training provided with the boxes has been correlated to the fact that these countries have the lowest infant mortality rates in the world.

Alaska has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country and Utqiagvik church members are committed to try and change that. Two baby showers and safer sleep training events were held, one at Kiita, the local alternative high school, and a second at the Browerville Center affiliated with Iisagvik College. At Kiita seven young mothers and fathers were provided with the boxes containing necessities for their babies. Parents also received an informative training in a fun baby shower setting with cake and balloons, surrounded by the support of their teachers and classmates.

Training covered safer sleep practices using the baby boxes, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention as well as postpartum depression, and breastfeeding. In the afternoon, another five mothers and their families were presented with baby boxes and the same practical and personable training.

The trainers were Area Health Education Center (AHEC) scholars from the University of Alaska Anchorage with training as medical students specializing in maternal and baby health. The church worked with other community partners and agencies to provide the scholars

with a tour of local health care facilities and opportunities to shadow medical providers to get a sense of what rural medicine is all about.

One-on-one virtual training is available for caregivers who want to receive a baby box if they cannot attend a live training event. Extra boxes will be provided to the local Women, Infants and Children program office, Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH), and Public Health Nursing (PHN) to give out as needed to community members.

The boxes contain beautiful, lovingly hand quilted tummy time blankets embroidered with a blessing and greeting from the church. These were generously donated by an affiliated ministry in Canada. The baby boxes also have teething toys and information from the Infant Learning Program and books from Tuzzy Library with early child literacy information.

Baby care kits include thermometers, nail clippers, diapers, wipes, an anti colic bottle (for when mommy needs a little help with feeding baby) and a sleep sac for safe use with the boxes and other essentials. PHN provided

pamphlets on breast feeding, safe child care practices and growth charts. Three cute books with information on the first three years of developmental mile stones are included from Alaska Pediatric Partnerships. Packets of samples with vitamins and parenting support resources were provided by SSMH.

As a personal touch, cards signed by Arctic Adventist Church members welcomed the baby into the community and expressed support for the families. Door prizes were donated by the Barrow Utilities & Electrical Cooperative, Inc. The boxes were procured through the Bartlett Foundation and Premera Baby Box program. The church paid for shipping and the decals designed by Susan Hope, a local artist, to make the boxes uniquely suited for the heritage of the Inupiaq culture. Ongoing distribution of the boxes will be done with two additional shower events and be made available through community partners along with virtual safer sleep trainings. The church expects to give out 60 -100 boxes annually across the North Slope Borough.



AMA: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

TOBIN DODGE, Arctic Mission Adventure Director, Alaska Conference

2022 brought several changes: Pastor Epher Caroro leaving Dutch Harbor for New York, Pastor Mark Harrison & his wife Maddie coming to the Nana Region to serve Kotzebue & Shungnak. Pastor Chad Angasan leaving Nome to Anchorage as well as Pastors Zack & Celesta Babb announcing their move to seminary, leaving Utqiagvik, as well as Delta Junction & North Pole open.

Though the loss of solid workers and soul winners is difficult for our human minds to accept, the work is TRULY THE LORD'S! I believe He has already prepared people ready to step up and take on these roles to further His work. Unfortunately, this can take time to connect, but when we trust Jesus, focus

on Him, things work according to His will.

For those of you that have not been aware, the Alaska Conference has been hosting mission groups for several years. I'm not sure how it was done before 2017, but since then, we have enveloped Arctic Mission Experience under the AMA umbrella hosting as many as 25 groups between camps, local churches and AMA leadership.

During 2022, we had several mission groups that came and blessed Alaska in the villages of Togiak, Kotzebue, Selawik, Shungnak, Nome, Bethel & Dillingham. It was a variety of church groups from Indiana, Tennessee, Washington and

California as well as school groups including Southern Adventist and Walla Walla universities, Mt. Pisgah and Gem State academies. Of course, once you start naming names, it is easy to leave one off, but AMA has been blessed by all these mission groups and look forward to many more that will bless this mission field in the new year.

I look forward to 2023 and seeing how God leads in each of our villages. Please continue to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Lord's work as we participate. Jesus said, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few! (Matthew 9:35-38).

LIFE IN THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF SAVOONGA

ELOUISE HAWKES, Savoonga Arctic Mission Adventure Worker, Alaska Conference

Savoonga is a Native Yu'pik Alaskan village located on St Lawrence Island, the sixth largest island in the United States. It is a village of about 800 plus people. They are an indigenous community relying on hunting, fishing, and gathering for the stability of their livelihood.

Food security is almost always in short supply especially in the wintertime. Many of the residents here do not have gainful employment. They are a very close knit community and help take care of each other. There are two churches in the village: Presbyterian and Seventh-day Adventist.

The need for clothing and non-perishable items is ongoing in the community. In June, the Savoonga SDA Church had

another clothing distribution along with a big food distribution. Villagers are so very thankful for both of these ministries. We also had a well attended Vacation Bible School this summer, and the kids kept coming back over the next few weeks wanting it to continue.

People come to the church frequently for food as we have some food in reserve for that very purpose. The church is viewed in the village as always willing to help, always showing love and compassion and supportive to the mental, physical and spiritual needs of the community.



AMA Worker Elouise Hawkes (standing) leads out in Vacation Bible School

BRING YOUR FEAR AND BROKENNESS TO JESUS

RYAN ROGERS, Palmer District Pastor, Alaska Conference

This fall, I received a call from Elder Petu (Chris) Koonooka from our Gambell SDA Church, to collaborate with him and community leaders to bring a message to combat fear in their community. The people of Gambell were reeling from several deaths, and the recent arrival of the US military to guard the island from a potential invasion from Russia. As St. Lawrence Island is approximately 35 miles east of Russia, everyone was fearful and on edge.

My trip was sponsored by AMA and was my first time both off the road system and in a Native village. I settled in, then made my way over to the Presbyterian church where the first session of the workshop was to begin at 7 pm. Around 7:10, when no one had arrived, I was told that we were running on Eskimo Standard Time. At 7:34 pm (yes, I was keeping track of the time) Cassie, a mom with two daughters, arrived. Within a few minutes she was telling me about her 7-year-old son Qaqu who has a cancerous brain tumor that has limited use of the left side of his body. We hadn't started the discussion time yet, but I was already listening to some painful stuff.

The session started by reflecting on the story of Job to guide our discussion about the fear of loss. I asked the group, "What have you lost?" and "What are you afraid of losing?" With no hesitation, a young woman named Carla shared that she lost her mom and had since become an alcoholic. One night in May of 2021, Carla drank especially heavy and crashed her four-wheeler, breaking several bones in her face, her ankle, and her hip. She is left with scars and a desire to remain sober.

I did not expect people to share such personal and painful stories so quickly with a stranger. Their facial expressions communicated a hunger for solutions to their brokenness. I saw Carla and Cassie each day, but it wasn't until the third day of the workshop that I realized that all this pain was in one family.

God has used this horrible sickness to call their hearts back to Him. Cassie is inspired by her son's faith, cheerfulness, and outgoing personality. Reflecting on this she says, "I want to feel like when I was a kid and my heart would be so happy, learning about Jesus and about his love and that he's always there."



Pastor Ryan Rogers speaks to students at the local school on fear

I could see their determination to hold onto Jesus and what they planned to do to stay close to Him. They both shared a desire "to start going back to church every Saturday morning." Cassie wants to teach Qaqu about the God he is putting his faith in. She wants to "lean on the Word when times get tough."

Carla added, with an enthusiastic smile, "I want to start Bible studies again." Since her head injury she has struggled with forgetfulness. She said, "Next time I see you I might forget your name, but I won't forget this," referring to the spiritual growth we shared over the past few days.

We all have brokenness. This family's pain has come in a larger measure than many of us have felt. But their response is the same response we need. Don't let your pain keep you from the Savior for one more moment. Bring your brokenness to Jesus.



Community members participate in the Fear Workshop held at the Gambell Presbyterian church



Villagers enjoy drumming and dancing, an integral part of Native culture

TRANSITIONS

BRENDA CAMPBELL-JOHNSON, Communications Director, Alaska Conference

ADMINISTRATION

JOINING



Ashwin Somasundram
Vice President
Administration



John Winslow
Director, Education
& Youth/Young Adult

ARCTIC MISSION

JOINING



Joy Anderson
Bethel

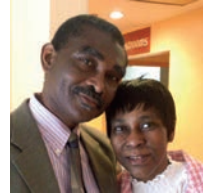


Colette Reahl
Bethel

LEAVING



Epher Caroro
Dutch Harbor



**Vecous & Loretta
Waite**
Bethel

EDUCATION

JOINING



Elizabeth Angasan
Anchorage Junior
Academy

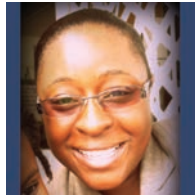


Gina Parker
Dillingham
Adventist School



Jo Gusuk
Dillingham
Adventist School

LEAVING



Sueal Cunningham
Dillingham
Adventist School



Misty Stein
Anchorage Junior
Academy

MINISTERIAL

JOINING



Tyler Drumm
Sitka/Petersburg



Craig Hamilton
Craig/Ketchikan



Mark Harrison
Shungnak/Kotzebue



Sergio Vasquez
Spanish/Hillside

SEMINARY



Celesta & Zack Babb
Andrews University

TRANSFER



Chad Angasan
Anchorage Northside

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

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 25, 2022 e-Vote

ANCHORAGE SAMOAN CHURCH

- **MAJORITY VOTED** to allow demolition of current property located at 4520 Shelikof, Anchorage Alaska, to begin a phased approach to building a new church at the same location (22-36).

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL SESSION

August 4, 2022 Zoom

PRESENT: Chad Angasan, Celesta Babb, Mally Concepcion, Jim Jensen, David King, Jason McLin, Kevin Miller, Danya Nicketa, Ashwin Somasundram, Tina Steenmeyer, Tiffany Tago

EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENT | YOUTH | YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

- **VOTED** to extend an invitation to John Winslow as Education Superintendent and Youth/Young Adult Ministries Director (22-37).

KETCHIKAN CHURCH BOILER REPLACEMENT

- **VOTED** to accept Ketchikan Church's recommendation to replace the boiler at a cost of \$11,885 (22-38).

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 25, 2022

PRESENT: Chad Angasan, Celesta Babb, Del Clark, Jim Jensen, David King, Jason McLin, Danya Nicketa-Kiljoha, Ryan Rogers, Brad Traxler, Ashwin Somasundram, Tina Steenmeyer, Ryan Woehler, Jessica Yun. Kevin Miller joined for the Executive Session by phone.

NPUC REPRESENTATIVE: John Freedman

INVITEES: Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Tobin Dodge, Steve Evenson, Tandi Perkins, Steve Evenson (Conference Directors). Clint Hess, Finance Committee member, joined for the salary review.

ADMINISTRATION:

- **VOTED** to approve the agenda (22-39).
- **VOTED** to approve the May 16, May 25 and August 4 minutes (22-40).
- **VOTED** to approve the following ministerial credentials and licenses (22-41).
 - ♦ Jonathan Mercill, Ministerial Credential
 - ♦ Zack Babb, Ministerial Credential
 - ♦ Mark Harrison, Ministerial License

- ♦ Sergio Vasquez, Ministerial License
- ♦ Celesta Babb, Commissioned Credential
- **VOTED** to accept Secretariat's report (22-42).

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- **VOTED** to accept the financial report including the August 2022 Remittance and Financial statement subject to audit (22-43).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **VOTED** to accept the Development report (Tandi Perkins) (22-44).
- **VOTED** to accept the Communications report (Brenda Campbell Johnson) (22-45).
- **VOTED** to accept the Education report (John Winslow by Zoom) (2-46).
- **VOTED** to accept the Ministerial report (Steve Evenson) (22-47).
- **VOTED** to thank Steve Evenson from the Alaska Conference and NPUC for his many years of dedicated service and ministry (22-48).
- **VOTED** to accept the AMA/Alaska Camps/Youth report (Tobin Dodge) (22-49).

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 25, 2022 cont.

EDUCATION:

- **VOTED** in response to the Board of Education's recommendation in reference to the Juneau school assistance request to offer 25% of matching funds needed for indebtedness, in the form of a forgivable loan with forgiveness granted upon the school opening with an appropriate number of students to remain solvent, with a time frame of January 31, 2023 (22-50).
- **VOTED** to accept the Board of Education's recommendation to terminate Cynthia Lewis from her position at the Juneau school effective September 25, 2022 (22-51).

MINISTERIAL:

- **VOTED** to approve Celesta and Zack Babb's sponsored study leave at Andrews University to complete their MDIV studies. They will commence their studies in January 2023 with an expected graduation in August 2024 (22-52).

- **VOTED** an enabling action for Craig Hamilton to be the bi-vocational pastor for the Craig and Ketchikan churches (22-53).
- **VOTED** to table discussion of Chad Angasan and Celesta Babb replacements on the Executive Committee until the next Alaska Conference Executive Committee (ACEC) meeting (22-54).

SALARY REVIEW:

- **VOTED** to accept the 2021 Salary Review report. NOTE: THE ACEC operates with some additional members as the Compensation and Salary Committee. The additional member present was Clint Hess with Key Getty absent (22-55).

MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 3, 2022 e-Vote

CREDENTIALS

- **MAJORITY VOTED** to approve issuing Craig Hamilton a Missionary License as a bi-vocational pastor for Craig and Ketchikan (22-58).

2023 ELDERS MEETINGS JANUARY 20-21, 2023

FOCUS
2024 CONFERENCE-WIDE EVANGELISM
SERIES WITH PASTOR JOHN BRADSHAW

IN PERSON
6100 O'MALLEY ROAD, ANCHORAGE
REGISTER BY EMAIL: INFO@ALASKACONFERENCE.ORG

ZOOM
MEETING ID: 871 7056 8751
PASSCODE: 713943



Wes Peppers
Evangelism Director
It Is Written



Esther Knoff
Director, InMinistry Center
Andrews University

2023

Alaska Conference & Offering Schedule

6100 O'Malley Rd, Anchorage AK 99507 P: 907-346-1004 F: 907-346-3279 W: www.alaskaconference.org HRS: Mon-Thu 8:30 a - 5:30 p

JANUARY

January 4-14
Ten Days of Prayer

January 16
Closed: MLK Jr Day

January 20-21
Elders Meetings

January 22-23
New In Ministry Meetings

January 24-26
Pastors Meetings

January 29
Alaska Executive Committee

FEBRUARY

February 7
Town Hall

February 9-10
Teachers Meetings

February 20
Closed: President's Day

February 24-25
Arctic Camp Meeting (Nome)

MARCH

March tbd
Mental Health Day

March 10-11
Arctic Camp Meeting (Bristol Bay)

March 17-18
Arctic Camp Meeting (Bethel)

March 30
K-12 Board of Education

APRIL

April 7-8
Arctic Camp Meeting ((Utqiagvik)

April 15
Anchorage Youth Rally

April 28-29
Arctic Camp Meeting (St. Lawrence)

MAY

May 1-3
Spring Strategic Planning

May 21
Alaska Executive Committee

May 26-29
ACS Training

May 30
Town Hall

May 26-29
Alaska Ministries Convention

May 29
Closed: Memorial Day

JUNE

June 11-17
Alaska Camps Staff Training

June 16-17
Interior Camp Meeting

June 19
Closed - Juneteenth

June 18-25
Camp Polaris (Dillingham)

June 25-July 2
Juniors @ Camp Tuk (Flat Lake)

JULY

July 2-9
Teens @ Camp Tuk (Flat Lake)

July 4
Closed: Independence Day

July 9-16
Day Camps (Gambell & Nome)

July 18-22
Southcentral Camp Meeting

July 24
Closed: Camp Meeting Debrief

July 27-29
Southeast Camp Meeting

July 27-30
Mens Retreat

July 30-August 6
Camp Lorraine (Vank Island)

AUGUST

August 6-12
Alaska Camps - Day Camps

August 7-10
Teachers Convention, Phoenix AZ

August 18-September 4
State Fair Outreach

August 20
Anchorage Run Fest

SEPTEMBER

September 4
Closed: Labor Day

September 7
K-12 Board of Education

September 18
AMA Board Meeting

September 22-23
Native Leadership Workshop

September 24
Alaska Executive Committee

OCTOBER

October 2
Staff HR Zoom

October 3
Town Hall

October 13-15
Alaska Ministries Convention

NOVEMBER

November 6
Staff HR Zoom

November 23
Closed - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

December 4
Staff HR Zoom

December 7
K-12 Board of Education

December 10
Alaska Executive Committee

December 13
Staff Development Day

December 25-28
Closed: Christmas Break

December 30
AMA Annual Offering

2023 OFFERING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

- 07 Local Church Budget
- 14 Religious Liberty (NAD)
- 21 Local Church Budget
- 28 Alaska Conference YES

FEBRUARY

- 04 Local Church Budget
- 11 Adventist TV Ministries (NAD)
- 18 Local Church Budget
- 25 Alaska Conference YES

MARCH

- 04 Local Church Budget
- 11 Adventist World Radio (GC)
- 18 Local Church Budget
- 25 Alaska Conference YES

APRIL

- 01 Local Church Budget
- 08 Hope Channel Int'l (GC)
- 15 Local Church Budget
- 22 Alaska Conference YES
- 29 Local Church Budget

MAY

- 06 Local Church Budget
- 13 Disaster-Famine Relief (GC/NAD)
- 20 Local Church Budget
- 27 Alaska Conference YES

JUNE

- 03 Local Church Budget
- 10 Women's Ministries (NAD)
- 17 Local Church Budget
- 24 Alaska Conference YES

JULY

- 01 Local Church Budget
- 08 World Budget (GC)
- 15 Local Church Budget
- 22 Alaska Conference YES
- 29 Local Church Budget

AUGUST

- 05 Local Church Budget
- 12 Christian Record Svcs (NAD)
- 19 Local Church Budget
- 26 Alaska Conference YES

SEPTEMBER

- 02 Local Church Budget
- 09 Radio Ministries (NAD)
- 16 Local Church Budget
- 23 Alaska Conference YES
- 30 Local Church Budget

OCTOBER

- 07 Local Church Budget
- 14 Alaska Conference YES
- 21 Local Church Budget
- 28 Walla Walla University (NPU)

NOVEMBER

- 04 Local Church Budget
- 11 Annual Sacrifice-Global Mission
- 18 Local Church Budget
- 25 Alaska Conference YES

DECEMBER

- 02 Local Church Budget
- 09 Adventist Community Svcs (NAD)
- 16 Local Church Budget
- 23 Alaska Conference YES
- 30 AMA Annual Offering (NPU)



Alyeskan

Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
6100 O'Malley Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-6958



Address Service Requested

QUESTION. PERSUADE. REFER. **ASK A QUESTION, SAVE A LIFE**

Alaska has a well known problem with suicide. It is the leading cause of death for Alaska Native youth, and is a major cause of death across all racial, gender and age groups. As a church we seek to be relevant to the needs of our communities. What could be more urgent than intervening in the most preventable cause of death impacting too many of our neighbors, families and church members? QPR is a 1-2 hour training to help hone your skills as a lay person in identifying the suicidal signs, asking the questions and acting to save a life. It stands for Question, Persuade and Refer. Just like CPR can only statistically be useful in cardiac emergencies when most people in the population are trained in it, QPR can save more lives the more of us know and use these basic skills.

Suicide is not a pleasant topic, it's not an easy topic and it's something most of us wish we could ignore, but we can't! Up to 25% of the population may be affected by suicidal thoughts and even if very few of them will ever act on it, just dealing with that level of depression and anxiety is unhealthy and we should be there and willing to talk and support others in the healing they need to move past these difficult times in their lives safely.

The Arctic Adventist Church in Utqiagvik has made QPR training available to all our members. We will be offering training to our community and we would like to extend the invitation for virtual, and possibly in-person, training to all our Adventist members in the state. If you are interested, please contact the church at arcticadventist@gmail.com to sign up for the next QPR Gatekeeper Training.