

ALYESKAN

NEWS & VIEWS FOR ALASKAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



GOSPEL BOLDNESS

Discipleship and YOU!

Pray, Plan, Prepare

The conference is promoting statewide discipleship in 2024

5

Service In Action

Youth and Young Adult ministries believe in serving their community

7

2024 Calendar

Mark your calendar for key evangelism events in 2024

13

ALASKA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

6100 O'MALLEY ROAD
ANCHORAGE, AK 99507
907-346-1004

22 MINUTE UBER SERMON

During a recent stay in Denver, I was preparing to head back to Anchorage and decided to book an Uber instead of opting for one of the yellow taxis lined up outside my hotel. To my surprise, every driver rejected my request. As I was about to hail a cab, an Uber driver accepted my ride. During the trip, I struck up a conversation with the driver and shared that I was a pastor in the Adventist church. His expression changed suddenly and I worried that he might have had a negative experience with a Adventist pastor for which I was about to pay the consequences!

"You are a church pastor?" he asked, almost bellowing at me. "Yes," I replied, rather tentatively. "You are a pastor, so you work for God right?" he asked in a more calm voice. "Yes," I responded with a bit more confidence. "Wow, I need to tell you two things. First, I was finished with my shift for the day and on my way home, but I kept noticing for some reason that all the other Uber drivers were rejecting your request, and it seemed strange to me, and for some reason troubled me. So I decided to turn around, accept your request and pick you up. Second, I need to tell you my story. Is that ok?" "Go ahead," I encouraged him.

The driver, Mark, began to open up about his life. He confided that he wasn't a Christian, did not believe in God and had been through a difficult year. He lost loved ones, his job, and suffered a painful break up. The state of politics and the chaos in the nation and around the world only added to his disillusionment. Mark was at his lowest point, struggl-ing with suicidal thoughts.

It was at this point, something out of the ordinary began to happened to him. He was suddenly inundated with thoughts about God, despite never being religious or believing in a higher power. At first, he dismissed these experiences however, over the next few days, he continued hearing a clear voice, delivering an important

Uber





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message of hope and trust in God's love and care. Mark began to wonder if God could be the solution to his problems and his life, so he decided to drive to one of Denver's highest peaks to talk to God. One day he drove as high as he could up a mountainside and poured his heart out to God.

God responded by saying, "I love you, so trust me; know that the answer to all of your problems is found in and through my son Jesus Christ." To further reinforce this message, God promised to send a representative to communicate with him. Mark then turned and pointed at me and said, "You are God's Messenger!" The immediate thought that crossed my mind was, "Lord have mercy!" Once

I had composed myself, I asked him, "How long do I have?" He responded by inputting the airport address into the GPS and replied, "22 minutes". In those 22 minutes, I delivered a powerful sermon on the second coming of Jesus that resonated with Mark. Once we arrived at the airport, we hugged and thanked one another for the experience, praising God for the divine encounter.

My interaction with Mark was an unforgettable experience I believe was orchestrated by God. It's no secret that God often presents us with opportunities to share His message, whether at home, work, school, or with strangers. As we gear up for our upcoming evangelism events

throughout our vast state of Alaska in 2024, It is my hope and prayer that we remain open to the Holy Spirit's guidance towards these divine appointments. This way, we can fulfill our mission and eagerly await our homecoming with Jesus.



PASTOR ASHWIN SOMASUNDRAM

WHAT'S NEXT? 2024 AND BEYOND

KEVIN MILLER, President, Alaska Conference

Several years ago a pastor of a large megachurch made a courageous yet startling admission. He said his church had done a good job of attracting people (evangelism), but had done a poor job of turning them into resilient Christians. He determined to look at everything his church did to turn that around. Sometimes we can get so enamored with the excitement of evangelism and its corollaries that we forget it is one part of the experience with Jesus. We must have our entire lives wrapped up in His grace to fully experience His life in ours.

As we look forward to 2024 and beyond, we want to provide the entire experience with Jesus for people who the Holy Spirit brings our way. While we want to introduce them to Jesus (evangelism and outreach), we also want them to experience the fullness of His love in their families, schools, and churches. The book of Acts sheds some light on how that can happen.

After Pentecost when 3,000 people were baptized, the people just didn't go home and get ready for another set of meetings. They engaged in activities

that helped them grow and develop as followers of Jesus. The people devoted themselves to learning and understanding the apostles' doctrines and teachings. Simply put, these were the teachings about Jesus that we have in the New Testament as understood from the Old Testament. As a friend of mine says, "It's all about Jesus." They also took the time to fellowship together. They shared meals and worship that bonded them together in the common faith. Then they shared with one another as they had need. They looked out for each other, growing in their compassion for others in need.

As non-believers saw what the newly baptized were doing and how they treated one another, they gained favor with people. Who doesn't want nicer neighbors, more courteous customers, happier friends? The book of Acts records, "And The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47) That is what we aspire to in the coming months; that our churches and congregations would be so full of Jesus and His love that people will want to naturally be a part of them. Even so, come Lord Jesus.



CYCLE OF EVANGELISM

EVANGELISM CALENDAR

January 6

Evangelism Prayer Sabbath

January 17

Pastors/AMA Workers Mtg (Virtual Sites)

January 18

Pastors/AMA Workers Mtg (Live Sites)

January 20

Small Group Ministry Training, Pt 1

January 27

Small Group Ministry Training, Pt 2

February 3

*Evangelism Prayer Sabbath
Small Group Ministry Training, Pt 2*

February 10

It Is Written Pastors/Leaders Training

February 22-24

Elders Training

February 24

*A Day of Fellowship
with John Bradshaw*

March 2

Evangelism Prayer Sabbath

March 16

It Is Written Pastors/Leaders Training

March 30

Evangelism Rally (Anchorage)

April 2

It Is Written Organizational Meeting

April 5-May 4

*It Is Written "Hope For Humanity"
Evangelism Series*

Download the complete Evangelism
Calendar at www.alaskaconference.org

CONFERENCE RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

ASHWIN SOMASUNDRUM, Vice-President of Administration/Evangelism Director, Alaska Conference

As we step into the fall season, let us refocus on evangelism and our mission to serve God in these final days of earth's history. Reaching our communities is a crucial aspect of evangelism, and the conference offers a range of resources to support churches in this effort including training, technology, outreach, and prayer. Here are some of the resources available:

EVANGELISM CALENDAR

Check out the 2023-2024 evangelism calendar in the sidebar on page 4. The calendar details evangelism training and other events. Download your personal copy from the conference website and mark your personal calendar with important training, meetings, and "It Is Written" events.

INTERNET

Many of our churches and hubs outside of Anchorage face internet connectivity issues. To address this, the conference is supporting the purchase of the recently available Starlink system (see page 10 for details). Our goal is to have all our churches across the state be part of and blessed by the "It Is Written" evangelism series and other programs.

EVANGELISM PLAN & BUDGET

To support each church in developing a customized evangelism plan, the conference requests that each board/leadership team draft a 2024 evangelistic strategic and accompanying budget request. The plan and budget must be voted on and approved by your board and submitted to the Office of Administration by November 30, 2023*. In support of the funding request, submit a one or two page summary that details the date, time, and location of the event, the speaker, topic and type

pray
plan
prepare

of evangelism effort. Please note that funds are limited, but we will do our best to support churches equitably with what we have.

CREATIVE EVANGELISM

Along with traditional evangelism efforts, creative evangelism ideas are encouraged. The North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) has made funds available for an evangelism "Shark Tank", which we as a conference are matching, and awarding \$20,000 grants to two Alaska churches. We are looking for creative, innovative, and community-relevant evangelism concepts that will have a significant impact for Jesus in your community and tie into our conference evangelism plans for next year. The winners will be announced at the pastors/elders meeting in February 2024. The submission deadline is again November 30, 2023*. Please note that these funds are in addition to any budget appropriations that your church may receive.

EVANGELISM PRAYER SABBATHS

Our conference evangelism strategy is "pray, plan, and prepare!" As such, we are designating the first Sabbath of each month as a conference-wide Sabbath in which we ask every church to set apart time during the worship service to pray specifically for the evangelism plans next year. There is supernatural power in prayer, so let's pray together!

ANNUAL EVANGELISM FUNDING CATEGORIES

Full Reaping Series with Guest Evangelist

≥10 continuous meetings

*Maximum Subsidy: \$18,000
Conference Percentage: 75%
Church Percentage: 25%

**\$2,000 must go to media needs*

Full Reaping Series by Alaska Pastor

≥10 continuous meetings

Maximum Subsidy: \$10,500
Conference Percentage: 75%
Church Percentage: 25%

Partial Reaping Series

<10 continuous meetings

5-10 Days Subsidy: \$1,000
<5 Days Meeting: \$500
Conference Percentage: 75%
Church Percentage: 25%

Creative Evangelism

Maximum Subsidy: \$6,000
Conference Percentage: 75%
Church Percentage: 25%

Application Process

1. Develop annual church evangelism strategic plan, including summary of each evangelism effort.
2. Obtain board approval (include copy of minutes approving plan with your application request).
3. Submit Items 1 & 2 above to the Vice President of Administration for review and approval by evangelism team.
4. Annual funding requests are due November 30,*

**Note: The deadline for 2024 funding requests has been extended to December 31, 2023*

IS MENTORING IMPORTANT TODAY?

DANIEL JEAN-FRANCOIS, Ministerial Director, Alaska Conference

What is mentorship? “A Christian mentor is known as someone who supports another believer, friend, or fellow worker through a relationship for the purpose of long-term, developmental growth.”¹ Christian mentorship is essential for spiritual and professional growth, not only for the mentee but also for the mentor.

Working as a chaplain at a secular university, I enjoyed sharing the word of God with students. One day, the pastor of the church where I worked pulled me into his office and told me that while he loved my passion for reaching out to young people, he would like me to go one step further and duplicate myself. He encouraged me to mentor the Adventist students in our collegiate ministry and teach them how to win souls. I asked myself, “Why would I want to do that?” I wanted to do “my job” efficiently and felt that mentoring would be too time-consuming. He shared examples from scripture when Moses mentored Joshua, and Paul mentored Timothy.



These mentors who took time to train other leaders had a significant impact on the gospel ministry. As I was being mentored, I was also called to mentor others. Eventually taking his advice, I experienced the joy of seeing many of the young people I invested in dedicating their lives to full-time ministry.

Jesus was an expert mentor. He modeled a holistic and practical mentorship relationship with his disciples. They travelled with Him learning through their triumphs and mistakes along the way. They heard him pray, watched him heal, listened to him teach, and observed how He treated people. They were present at His death and were witnesses to His resurrection. He invested in each of them as individuals because He loved them. Amongst the twelve, He then took Peter, James, and John aside to be in His inner circle so that they could be prepared for the special leadership roles they would later occupy in the newly beginning church (Mark 9:2-3; Luke 8:49-56.) Before Christ left this earth, He filled them with the power of the Holy Spirit and commissioned them to follow His model of making disciples.

The passing of the mantle of leadership has continued from generation to generation. As His disciples in the present day, we are also commissioned to do the same until He comes again. If there are many examples of mentorship relationships in the Bible for us to follow, why is mentorship so often neglected? Who should be mentors? How can I be a Christian mentor? The Alyeskan will publish a series of future articles on mentorship, that will explore the meaning of mentorship, answer these questions, and help us to learn to be more like Jesus in this way.

PRINCIPALS OF MENTORSHIP

1. A mentor listens.

Listen and try to understand how the other person thinks and feels.

2. A mentor intercedes.

An effective mentor takes that person's needs to God in prayer.

3. A mentor models.

Modeling does not mean perfection, but growth. Let the mentee see your flaws and how to deal with them.

4. A mentor asks questions.

Ask questions to encourage critical thinking and self-reflection. This will elicit feedback and promote disclosure and learning.

5. A mentor teaches.

Teach by sharing joys and concerns, reading, and attending seminars together. Remember, the goal is to transform through prayer and the Holy Spirit.

6. A mentor sets the pace.

Be transparent in your relationship. Model spending quality time with God. Share how you balance life and impart professional skills.

7. A mentor involves others.

Expand the relationship to include other Christians.

8. A mentor gives options, not answers.

Guide decision-making by discussing options, sharing perspectives, and talking through potential consequences allowing the mentee to make the final decision.

Source: www.women.adventist.org/mentoring-a-way-of-life

¹ “The Differences Between Coaching and Mentoring,” Management Mentors, accessed July 21, 2016, www.management-mentors.com/resources/coaching-mentoring-differences.

DISCIPLESHIP... A YEAR OF SERVICE

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

Christ's mission was to save the lost and serve humanity. Discipleship offers us the opportunity to partner with Him, guiding and assisting others to a loving and committed relationship with Jesus that also results in them discipling others. This past year, our conference education, youth, young adult (YA), and Pathfinder ministries have received opportunities to spread the love of Christ through discipleship. Here are some of the ways God has been working:

Teachers from across Alaska gathered in February for meetings hosted by the Alaska Conference. Specific emphasis was placed on educators to learn about cultivating and sharing their faith, as well as the best practices for standards-based learning. Additionally, we were given the opportunity to give back to our community by volunteering at the Food Bank of Alaska. We assisted with the preparation of canned goods for distribution to those in need. Afterwards, we enjoyed a meal together, sponsored by the NPUC Education department. We are incredibly fortunate to have such incredible educators in our conference, who are not only excellent with children, but also dedicated to serving their communities.

In April, we hosted the annual Alaska Conference Youth Rally at Anchorage Junior Academy; this year's theme was "Connections." The speaker, Pastor Ryan Rogers, shared inspiring insights on how to connect with family, friends, the community, and God in today's fast-paced and distracting world. On Sabbath, youth and leaders took to the streets to spread Christ's love throughout the community. Going door-to-door, offering prayers, and distributing boxes of cookies, they shared a message of hope and goodwill: "We are Adventist Christians, and we give you this gift because God loves you. We are happy to be your neighbor." Additionally, the Anchorage Samoan church's youth worked on a project to help feed the homeless, making this year's event an enriching and meaningful experience for all involved.

During July Southcentral campmeeting, youth learned about what it means to be "Bold enough to Live the Life". Speakers Nitza and David Salazar shared an inspiring message about the importance of having a relationship with Christ and the power it gives us to live boldly. Putting the message into practice,

Continued on Page 12



COMMUNITY OUTREACH IDEAS

Put Compassion Into Action!

Adopt-A-Family

Assist with food, clothes, household items, furniture, utilities

Child Care

Give parents an evening away or provide after school care

Back-to-School Supplies

Collect back-to-school supplies for one of our Alaska Native villages

Community Kitchen

Hands-on, small group, low cost cooking where participants take dishes home to use

Finance Seminars

Invite community to financial seminars/counseling

Food Pantry

Help offset food insecurity with emergency food offerings

Health Screenings

Free blood pressure readings, BMI, health age, stress profile, healthy lifestyle tips

Health Seminars

Smoking cessation, depression recovery, grief recovery, cooking

Home Renovation

Home repairs for working poor, single parents, seniors

Homeless Initiatives

Clothing, food, sport activities, mobile clinic

Phone-A-Friend

Check-in with physically disabled, seniors or latch-key kids

Source: www.communityservices.org

ALASKA'S ISOLATED REGION - THE BUSH

TANDI PERKINS, Development Director, Alaska Conference

Alaska, like Australia and Africa, has a remote and isolated region called "the Bush." This area refers to the part of the state that is not linked by the interconnected road system of North America. Most of Alaska's geography is situated in the Bush and can only be accessed by plane, snowmobile, boat, or dog sled. Bush communities are divided into two subcategories: "hub communities" and "villages." Hubs are larger villages that act as transportation and shipping centers for neighboring communities, providing better access to healthcare, grocery shopping, and other services than smaller Bush villages.

Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) is a ministry that connects Alaska Native Bush communities with Jesus by meeting their spiritual, physical, and mental needs. To achieve this, AMA has established a church and parsonage in four hub communities. The vision is to develop hubs into robust "centers of influence" through transformative evangelism, as reflected in Christ's ministry on earth. According to Ellen White, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching people. The Savior mingled with men as one who

desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'... 'Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit'" (The Ministry of Healing, pp. 143, 144).

To achieve successful evangelism, building a strong foundation that leads to professions of faith is crucial. This can be accomplished through various means, such as formal evangelistic series, community outreach, relational evangelism, and radio messaging. It's critical to balance evangelism with recurrent discipleship, which will help grow and mentor dedicated Native leaders in each hub. These leaders can then effectively carry out evangelism and discipleship in their local and regional spheres of influence.

Our AMA workers are committed to creating opportunities and environments for people to encounter and experience Jesus Christ. Our evangelism and discipleship core values serve as guiding principles as we build relationships within each community, host Bible studies, share the gospel with strangers and neighbors, and help new believers grow in their faith. We achieve this through a network of supportive ministries that work together to spread the teachings of Christ through radio broadcasting, youth programs, and community-based projects and outreach.

Only when our hubs are developed as productive evangelism and discipleship centers of influence can we then reach out to the smaller surrounding villages to expand our missional footprint.



AMA IN 2023!

While the list is not exhaustive, here's a snapshot of the impact that AMA has made this past year:

Childrens Programs

Five (5) Vacation Bible Schools
| Day Camps in Togiak, Bethel, Kasigluk and Quinhagak

Mental Health

Two (2) Grief workshops in Togiak
Five (5) QPR suicide training in Barrow, Nuiqsut, Atkasuk, Kaktovik and Wainwright

Physical Health

Two (2) Newstart medical workshops in Quinhagak and Kasigluk

Physical Health

One (1) revival in Bethel with 50+ attendees and 30 Godpods distributed!



Arctic Mission Experience

Over 325 volunteers worked in Alaska this year!

Two (2) groups in Southeast
Six (6) groups to Bush Alaska
Three (3) groups at Pioneer Peak Campground
Three (3) groups working with Alaska Camps

Volunteers came from Arizona, California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington

Of those groups, three were from academies, two from universities and the rest were local churches

MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP ACROSS GENERATIONS

TOBIN DODGE, Alaska Camps/Arctic Mission Adventure/Radio Broadcast Director, Alaska Conference

My classical training is in youth; both from formal education, and practical ministry. Of all the years as a pastor and working for the church, my heart has been with developing youth & young adults to encourage, equip and empower them in their journey to “be the best version of themselves that Jesus has called them to be.”

A combination of concepts and practices help young people grow into fully developed disciples for Jesus, within personal development and outward display which could include community and evangelistic focuses.

So, why start an article this way? Because each adult over 40 needs to consider their next phase of discipleship as mentoring the next generation. Each mentor needs to see their focus as carrying the Gospel in and through others. It is still the phase of doing, but never doing ministry alone. Never allowing a niche to be just “mine” or “I just want to be heard”. Yes, you can and will be heard, but through the ministry of multigenerational discipleship of younger or less experienced people in the faith.

My current role allows for cross generational ministry and discipleship, albeit not as curriculum heavy as some might like, but yet effective none-the-less. My departments of Arctic Mission Adventure, radio broadcasting and camps are a learning lab of leadership and discipleship.

Mission groups from all over the United States bring young and old to work together in a remote Alaskan context: making a difference for the local people as well as directly impacting the participants on the trip.

Youth camps are the most intentionally concentrated learning lab for YAs who are tasked with discipling children ages 6-17 for an 8-12 week period. Both in resident and day camps scenarios, YAs are given the opportunity to deepen their faith and challenge both co-workers and campers to know Jesus and grow in a personal relationship. There is no substitute for the wilderness environment, where staff and campers are unplugged from media, the hustle and bustle of their lives and focused intentionally on Jesus.

It is also an environment that allows for children and YAs to fail forward. If a camper or staff member wants to learn and grow, we work with their teachability. However, If they double down on their “craziness”, sometimes there is no choice but to send them home or not invite them back.

We might talk about a safe place to share your feelings as important for kids and adults too. But, it is crucial in today's world that we created complete environments that foster personal spiritual growth and an opportunity for vulnerability to sort out the big issues in life. This is truly missional discipleship and fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 18.



IMPORTANT DATES

June 9-15
Alaska Camps Staff Training
Camp Lorraine (Vank Island)

June 16-22
Alaska Camps @
Camp Lorraine (Vank Island)

June 23-29
Alaska Camps transition to Camp
Polaris & Facility Prep

June 30-July 6
Alaska Camps @
Camp Polaris (Dillingham)

July 14-20
Alaska Camps Teens @
Camp Tukuskoya (Flat Lake)

July 28 - August 3
Alaska Camps Juniors @
Camp Tukuskoya (Flat Lake)

August 4-17
Alaska Camps Day Camps
Locations tbd

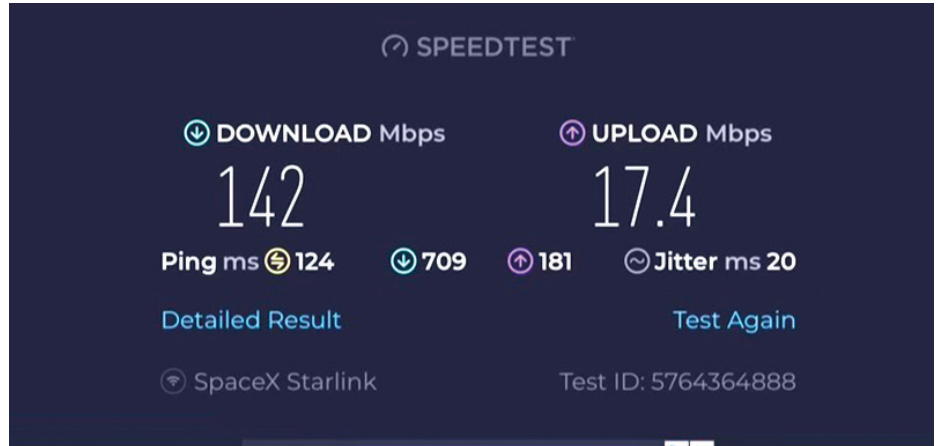


STARLINK BRINGS IMPROVED INTERNET TO YOUR CHURCH

JIM JENSEN, Vice President—Finance, Alaska Conference

In March of 2023, I attended a camp meeting with our congregation in Bethel. While there, I had access to the internet with a download speed of 7 mbps and an upload speed between 1 and 2 mbps. The speed was suitable for emails, but not for video conferencing. However, when I visited again this past September, the church had just installed their Starlink satellite internet dish, which offered much higher speeds (see right).

Why is this important for your church? The conference Evangelism Committee, under Ashwin Somasundrum's leadership, voted to reimburse any church in the conference that wishes to purchase Starlink. The basic home style service dish costs \$600, and the enterprise version costs \$2,500.



The committee has approved reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for the purchase and installation of the basic version and \$1,250 for the enterprise version. The local church is responsible for the ongoing monthly fee, which is currently \$110 per month.

Please send receipts to Nita Larson in treasury, clearly marked "Starlink -Evangelism Reimbursement." We believe this opportunity will be helpful not only for training and potentially live streaming the 2024 evangelism series with John Bradshaw, but also for many other future endeavors.

TITHE REPORT

October 2023

COMPARISON BY MONTH

2023	\$ 435,305
2022	\$ 436,764
↓ Decrease: -0.33%	

YEAR-TO-DATE

2023	\$ 3,707,380
2022	\$ 3,634,180
↑ Increase: 2.01%	

CONFERENCE STUDIO READY FOR BROADCAST

BRENDA CAMPBELL JOHNSON, Communications Director, Alaska Conference

During the pandemic, the conference realized the need for an in-house studio to expand its outreach. With the help of staff and volunteers, finishing touches were completed in spring of 2023 and we are happy to share that the studio is ready for use by conference staff, as well as our churches and schools.

The studio will be used to broadcast such events as virtual town halls, evangelistic training and other video series. A special thanks to Wayne Brown, Terry Johnson, Del Perkins and Nikki Perkins for their many hours of assistance. If your church or school ministry would like to use the facility, please contact Brenda Campbell Johnson.



Hope for Humanity

Evangelism Series

APRIL 5 - MAY 4, 2024

Hillside O'Malley Church
6000 O'Malley Road
Anchorage AK 99507

A Missional Experience like no other!

Alaska Camps

June 9 - August 2, 2023

Alaska Camps is a Christ-centered residential and day camp system that offers opportunity for young men and women to develop community, grow in faith and service. This leadership laboratory is an epic missional experience across many communities in Alaska

Join the Team

www.alaskacamps.org

COUNTDOWN TO 2024 CONSTITUENCY

BRENDA CAMPBELL-JOHNSON, Communications Director, Alaska Conference

September 22, 2024 is the Alaska Conference 17th Quadrennial Consistency Session. The session will be held at the Palmer Adventist Church. This is the time where constituents from across the state, representing our 36 churches and companies as well as our six schools, come together to elect conference leadership and help set direction for the next four years.

Correspondence will be coming from the conference to various committees and churches soon! Begin to think about possible delegates to represent your



church or company and help set the vision for the next four years. Important dates in the consistency process are provided.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 14, 2024

*Consitution & Bylaws
Committee Meeting (Zoom)*

January 8

*Letter to churches outlining delegate
election process*

March 5

*Delegate and Organizing Committee
names due from churches*

April 8-May 31

Department Director Evaluation Period

May 12

Organizing Committee Meeting

August 18

Nominating Committee Meeting

August 19

*Delegate letters & information
packets mailed*

DISCIPLESHIP...A YEAR OF SERVICE

CONTINUED FROM PG. 7

youth spent time helping with projects at a Veterans elder care facility and met with residents there. The encounter proved to be a wonderful experience for both the youth and residents with many sharing that the visit from our team was one of the highlights of their month.

In September, Alaska Pathfinder clubs gathered at the Pioneer campground for the annual camporee. Participants enjoyed a variety of activities such as marching, earning honors, making new friends, and listening to Pastor Michael Smith speak on the topic of "Success in Christ." Michael delivered an inspiring message, punctuated with humorous and memorable anecdotes, emphasizing the importance of being "in Christ" to achieve success. On Sabbath, the Pathfinders visited elder care facilities in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley to share music and visit with the

residents. The activity director at one of the facilities was deeply moved by the visit, and both residents and staff were appreciative of the time and effort put forth by the youth. The experience was heartwarming, with the residents joyfully singing along to the songs—even some of the "newer" praise songs. The visit was such a success that the staff invited the Pathfinders to come back and visit any time.

Alaska's YAs are making a difference as well. Within the last year, a group in Anchorage organized an Adventist Young Professionals (AYP) chapter—an independent ministry tailored to young professionals. The group frequently meets on Friday evenings for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. They have also been instrumental in making a positive impact in their local community and beyond. In July, several of them

participated in the AYP mission trip, traveling to Los Angeles to refurbish a church in need of renovation. Their contribution was significant, and the church was able to restart its ministry with renewed vigor.

Discipleship is at the heart of youth and YA ministry. Our teachers are doing an outstanding job discipling. Our youth are finding a love for Christ and sharing that love by making a difference in the lives of others...just ask the residents at a couple elder care facilities. Thank you for continuing to pray for our teachers, pastors, families, and our youth and young adults. If you are already in youth or YA ministry, great! If not, there is no better time than now to make a difference in a young person's life. Get in touch with your local church leaders or the conference office and we can help you make a difference.

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 31, 2023

PRESENT: Joy Anderson, Del Clark, Jim Jensen, David King, Don Lee, Kevin Miller, Danya Nicketa, Ryan Rogers, Ashwin Somasundram, Tina Steenmeyer, Tiffany Tago, Brad Traxler, Ryan Woehler, Jessica Yun

NPUC REPRESENTATIVE: Bill McClendon

ABSENT: Mally Concepcion, Jason McLin

GUESTS: Daniel Jean-Francois

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **VOTED** to approve the agenda (23-19).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **VOTED** to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes and April 19, 2023 e-vote minutes (23-20).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **VOTED** to approve President's report (23-21).

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

- **VOTED** to grant membership transfers of Lee Axmaker from Alaska Conference Church to Petersburg SDA Company and Mike Howard from Alaska Conference Church to Midnight Son SDA Church (23-22).

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Plan to meet in June to discuss and vote.

SECRETARIAT'S REPORT:

- **VOTED** to accept the Vice President of Administration's report. (23-23).

SPENDING LIMITS

- **VOTED** to accept new proposed spending limits for (23-24):
 1. Executive Committee: \$15,001+.
 2. Majority of Officers: \$5,001-\$15,000.
 3. Any Single Officer: Up to \$5,000.
 4. Department Director: Up to \$1,500.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- **VOTED** to accept the treasurer's report, subject to audit (23-25).

NPUC UPDATE:

- Bill McClendon shared an update from NPUC on title, the Propel Evangelism Conference and Walla Walla University.

WASILLA GROUND LEASE

- **VOTED** to grant Wasilla church's request to sell ground lease pending attorney approval (23-26).

GLOBAL MISSIONS FUND

- **VOTED** to move forward together with NPUC and North American Division and cover the financial balance to access Global Missions funds for Unalaska (Dutch Harbor) and Kotzebue (23-27).

MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 15, 2023 e-Vote

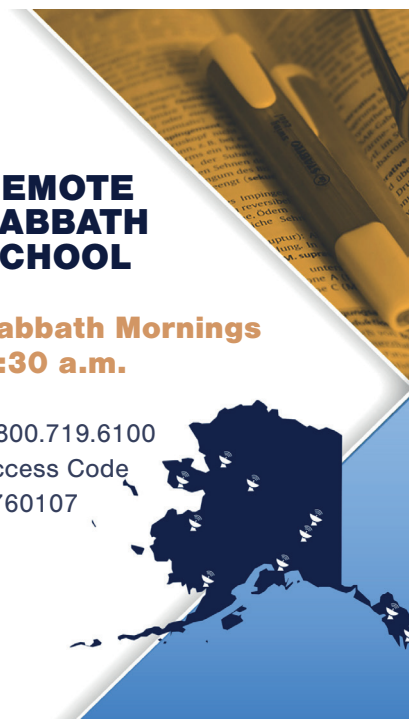
WASILLA CHURCH TOWER LEASE

- To allow Wasilla Church to accept a cell tower lease buyout for \$261,000 from AIO Operating, LLC (Accelerate) as a lump sum payment in exchange for a perpetual lease.
- **VOTED** by quorum to allow buyout with eight (8) affirmative responses from a 13-member committee. (Note, some members were unavailable to vote) (23-28).
E-votes were Joy Anderson, David King, Don Lee, Weezie Muthali, Danya Nicketa, Tina Steenmeyer, Tiffany Tago, Ryan Woehler.

REMOTE SABBATH SCHOOL

Sabbath Mornings
9:30 a.m.

1.800.719.6100
Access Code
4760107



ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 24, 2023

PRESENT: Joy Anderson, Del Clark, Mally Concepcion, Jim Jensen, David King, Don Lee, Kevin Miller, Ryan Rogers, Ashwin Somasundram, Tina Steenmeyer, Tiffany Tago, Ryan Woehler, Jessica Yun

NPUC REPRESENTATIVE: Brent Plubell

GUESTS: Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Daniel Jean-Francois, Wezzie Munthali, Tandi Perkins, John Winslow

ABSENT: Delbert Clark, Danya Nicketa-Kilhoja

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **VOTED** to approve the agenda, with addition of Ryan Woehler's request to discuss qualifications for speaking/preaching in an Alaska Conference church pulpit (23-29).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **VOTED** to approve minutes for May 21, 2023 and August 15, 2023 e-vote (23-30).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **VOTED** to approve President's report (23-31).

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

- **VOTED** to approve the transfer of Jeremy Mayer from Alaska Conference Church to Anchorage Northside SDA Church (23-32).

SECRETARIAT'S REPORT

- **VOTED** to accept the Vice President of Administration's report (23-33).

FINANCIAL REPORT

- **VOTED** to accept the treasurer's report, subject to audit (23-34).

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- **VOTED** to accept directors' reports: Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Communications; Tandi Perkins, Development; and John Winslow, Education, Youth and Young Adults (23-35).

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

- **VOTED** to approve updated/revised 2023 Employee Handbook (23-36).

NPUC UPDATE

- In the absence of Union officers who were present at the Upper Columbia Constituency session, Brent Plubell, under treasurer, shared the good news of a tithe increase across the union and other general updates.

ADDED AGENDA ITEM

- Concern regarding a member preaching in some of our churches promulgating his theological beliefs which are in variance with Adventist beliefs and doctrines. After a time of discussion, there was a consensus that the conference administration should draft a policy with a set of guidelines to protect our churches from itinerate preachers/speakers.

MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

ALASKA CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 3, 2023 e-Vote

PRESENT: Mally Concepcion, Jim Jensen, David King, Don Lee, Kevin Miller, Ryan Rogers, Ashwin Somasundram, Tina Steenmeyer, Tiffany, Ryan Woehler

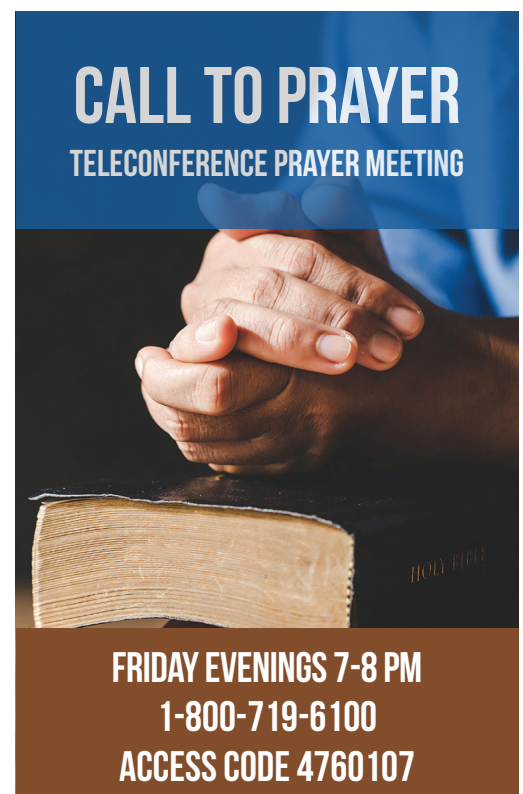
GUEST: John Winslow

DILLINGHAM SCHOOL EXPENDITURE


- **VOTED** to approve a single expenditure for environmental testing of the oil spill at the Dillingham school up to \$20,000 to be funded as follows with the stipulation that the question of further assistance with an ongoing mitigation plan at a future executive committee meeting (23-38):

75% = Arctic Mission Adventure

25% = Dillingham Adventist School.



CALL TO PRAYER
TELECONFERENCE PRAYER MEETING



FRIDAY EVENINGS 7-8 PM
1-800-719-6100
ACCESS CODE 4760107

2024

ALASKA CONFERENCE CALENDAR

6100 Omalley Rd., Anch AK | **Phone:** 907-346-1004 | **Hours:** 8 am - 5pm Mon-Thu
Web: www.alaskaconference.org | **Email:** info@alaskaconference.org

JANUARY

January 1
Closed: New Years Holiday

January 14
 Constituion & Bylaws Committee Meeting

January 15
Closed: MLK Jr. Holiday

January 28
 AKC Executive Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY

February 5-9
 NAD Conference Presidents Retreat

February 9-10
 Young Adult Ski Weekend

February 19
Closed: President's Day Holiday

February 22-23
 New In Ministry Meetings

February 23
 Arctic Mission Adventure Ministry Meetings

February 23-24
 Elders Meetings
 Nome Camp Meeting

February 25-28
 Pastors & Teachers Meetings

MARCH

March 8-10
 Bristol Bay Camp Meeting

March 22-23
 Youth Rally

March 22-24
 Bethel Camp Meeting

March 28
 Board of Education

APRIL

April 5-May 4
 It Is Written Evangelism Series

April 12-14
 Barrow Camp Meeting

MAY

May 5
 Constituency Organizing Committee Meeting

May 27
Closed: Memorial Day Holiday

JUNE

June 9
 AKC Executive Committee Meeting

June 9-15
 Alaska Camps: Staff Training @ Camp Lorraine

June 14-16
 Interior Camp Meeting @ Harding Lake

June 16-22
 Alaska Camps @ Camp Lorraine

June 19

Closed: Juneteenth Holiday

June 30

Alaska Camps @ Camp Polaris

JULY

July 4
Closed: Independence Day Holiday

July 7-13
 Alaska Camps Teen Extreme @ Tuk

July 11-14
 Men's Retreat @ Sandvik Gold Mine

July 23-27
 Southcentral Camp Meeting @ Pioneer Peak

July 29
Closed: Camp Meeting Debrief

AUGUST

August 1-4
 Southeast Camp Meeting @ Vank Island

August 4-12
 Pathfinder International Camporee @ Gillette WY

August 4-17
 Alaska Camps Day Camps: Locations tba

August 11
 Constituency Nominating Committee Meeting

August 23-25

St Lawrence Island Camp Meeting

SEPTEMBER

September 2
Closed: Labor Day Holiday

September 19
 Board of Education

September 22
 17th Quadrennial Alaska Conference Constituency Meeting @ Palmer Church

September 23
 Arctic Mission Adventure Board Meeting

September 27-28
 Native Leadership Workshop

September 29
 AKC Executive Committee Meeting

OCTOBER

October 16
 New In Ministry Meeting

NOVEMBER

November 28
Closed: Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

December 19
 Board of Education

December 25-January 1
Closed: Christmas Holiday Break

OFFERING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

06 Local Church Budget
 13 NAD Religious Liberty
 20 Local Church Budget
 27 AK Conference YES!

FEBRUARY

03 Local Church Budget
 10 NAD TV Evangelism
 17 Local Church Budget
 24 AK Conference YES!

MARCH

02 Local Church Budget
 09 GC World Budget
 16 Local Church Budget
 23 AK Conference YES!
 30 Local Church Budget

APRIL

06 Local Church Budget
 13 GC Hope Channel Int'l
 20 Local Church Budget
 27 AK Conference YES!

MAY

04 Local Church Budget
 11 Disaster/Famine Relief
 18 Local Church Budget
 25 AK Conference YES!

JUNE

01 Local Church Budget
 08 Women's Ministries
 15 Local Church Budget
 22 AK Conference YES!
 29 Local Church Budget

JULY

06 Local Church Budget
 13 GC World Budget
 20 Local Church Budget
 27 AK Conference YES!

AUGUST

03 Local Church Budget
 10 Chirstian Record Svcs
 17 Local Church Budget
 24 AK Conference YES!
 31 Local Church Budget

SEPTEMBER

07 Local Church Budget
 14 GC World Budget
 21 Local Church Budget
 28 AK Conference YES!

OCTOBER

05 Local Church Budget
 12 Walla Walla Univ
 19 Local Church Budget
 26 AK Conference YES!

NOVEMBER

02 Local Church Budget
 09 GC Global Mission
 16 Local Church Budget
 23 AK Conference YES!
 30 Arctic Missions (AK)

DECEMBER

07 Local Church Budget
 14 NAD ACS
 21 Local Church Budget
 28 AK Conference YES!



Alyeskan

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SHARING JESUS WITH ALASKA

NPUC ANNUAL OFFERING FOR AMA
DECEMBER 30, 2023



Matched up to
\$25,000!

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6100 O'Malley Road
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SCAN TO GIVE