



Alaska

Baptist Messenger



Vol 65

July 2010

NO 7



Alaska Baptist Convention Annual Meeting September 28-29, 2010 • First Baptist Church, Wasilla

- Monday, Sep 27 Mission Rally • 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, Sep 28, Pastor's Conference • 8:45 am
Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla
- Tuesday, Sep 28, WMU Annual Meeting • 9:00 am
- Tuesday, Sep 28, Annual Convention Meeting • 6:00 pm

Convention hotel is Grandview Inn & Suites • 2900 E. Parks Hwy, Wasilla, AK
(907)352-1700 • (907)357-6776 fax • www.grandviewak.com

Single room, \$69.95 (plus tax) • Double room, \$79.95 (plus tax)

When making your reservation, use the reference code "0926AB" to receive the special rate. Reservations must be made by August 15, 2010 in order to guarantee convention rate. Be sure to get a confirmation number from the hotel at time of booking. This will serve as your verification of reservation and reference number if changes or cancellations are made.



2010 On Mission Celebration Rallies

Celebrate God's work in the world • **Anticipate** your role in God's mission
Participate in an on-mission lifestyle

October 22-25 • Tongass Baptist Association
October 27 • Kenai Peninsula

October 26 • Tanana Valley Baptist Association
October 28-29 • Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

October 30-31 • Chugach Baptist Association



2000 Club insert and envelope inside!
**3rd Quarter recipient: Community Baptist Church,
Coffman Cove**

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

January - May 2010 Gifts from ABC churches

Chugach Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM	Other	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Alaska Iu-Mienh First Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Misc. Contributors-Cash	\$0.00	\$1,058.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
Anch Hope Comm Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$0.00	\$1,058.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
Aquillaq Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Calvary Baptist Church	\$1,972.00	\$1,203.56	\$1,156.00	\$1,220.62	Tanana Valley Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Christ Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Chinese Fellowship	\$402.50	\$280.00	\$300.00	\$270.00
Chugach Resort Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Clearwater Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$3,112.00	\$0.00	\$1,843.11	\$2,568.22
Cold Bay Chapel	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith Baptist Church Fbks	\$2,473.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,853.00
Comm Baptist Church Nome	\$320.00	\$98.00	\$75.00	\$153.00	Filipino Baptist Fellowship Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$1,116.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.00	First Baptist Church Delta Jct	\$21,583.00	\$4,195.00	\$2,887.00	\$4,425.00
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$200.00	First Baptist Church Fairbanks	\$2,161.40	\$1,385.00	\$1,532.50	\$2,210.00
Filipino Bible Church Anchorage	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church North Pole	\$12,689.66	\$1,608.00	\$0.00	\$2,036.12
First Baptist Church Anchorage	\$39,011.98	\$5,400.59	\$7,311.69	\$10,900.00	Friendship Baptist Church Fbks	\$200.00	\$540.00	\$840.00	\$1,905.00
First Baptist Church Eagle River	\$18,051.79	\$4,315.00	\$4,045.00	\$4,468.36	Hispanic Mission	\$390.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Kotzebue	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,150.00	Korean Baptist Mission Fbks	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$384.00	\$579.00	Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$4,224.22	\$355.94	\$579.29	\$586.22
First Native Baptist Church	\$1,916.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Morning Star Baptist Church	\$3,051.27	\$0.00	\$1,771.00	\$2,000.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$1,584.10	\$551.00	\$785.00	\$348.00	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grandview Baptist Church	\$11,797.22	\$6,487.07	\$8,904.13	\$9,531.91	North Star Baptist Church	\$257.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Greater Friendship Baptist Ch	\$3,552.00	\$0.00	\$482.00	\$870.00	Salcha Baptist Church	\$2,834.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$5,865.45	\$750.00	\$985.00	\$3,366.00	Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$2,305.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,455.00
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$452.75	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,240.32	St John Baptist Church	\$6,494.92	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$0.00
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$556.73	\$58.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	University Baptist Church Fbks	\$9,729.00	\$3,120.00	\$4,312.50	\$9,586.43
Korean New Central Baptist Ch	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	Total:	\$72,207.11	\$12,833.94	\$14,515.40	\$36,244.99
Kuparuk Preaching Point	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Ch	\$360.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Tongass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Mountain View Comm Church	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Anchor Baptist Church	\$2,797.97	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	Comm Baptist Ch Coffman Cove	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$980.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$832.97	\$800.00	\$417.00	\$650.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$9,164.04	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rabbit Creek Comm Church	\$2,572.68	\$6,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,000.00	First Baptist Church Juneau	\$3,363.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
River In The Desert Comm Ch	\$428.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Ketchikan	\$4,470.61	\$1,507.00	\$0.00	\$1,450.00
Samoa Alaska Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$25.00	\$77.70	First Baptist Church Petersburg	\$928.00	\$784.47	\$0.00	\$1,445.00
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Sitka	\$2,041.34	\$382.00	\$510.00	\$1,101.26
Shungnak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$8,757.48	\$1,911.71	\$3,250.00	\$5,903.50
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$125.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$8,209.92	\$7,400.50	\$3,769.00	\$4,366.00	Juneau Korean Church	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$230.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
True North Church	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Hope Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
University Baptist Church Anch	\$2,357.00	\$1,574.00	\$0.00	\$2,054.00	North Tongass Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$310.00
Valley View Baptist Church	\$704.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Tenakee Community Church	\$201.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Whittier Christian Community	\$337.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$1,493.38	\$50.00	\$485.00	\$106.00
Wilderness Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$25,036.83	\$5,510.18	\$5,052.00	\$11,820.76
Total:	\$120,429.92	\$35,957.72	\$32,886.82	\$48,432.91					
Hatcher Pass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM	Grand Total:	\$324,123.07	\$68,263.94	\$67,432.74	\$133,289.65
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$2,841.41	\$990.00	\$2,243.63	\$3,852.11	Goal:	\$766,003.00	\$70,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00
Bodenberg Butte Baptist Church	\$2,902.44	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$320.00	Over/Under Goal:	(\$441,879.93)	(\$1,736.06)	(\$32,567.26)	(\$16,710.35)
CrossCountry Church	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	Legend:				
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$3,077.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,268.74	CP: Cooperative Program, January - December				
Ekwok Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	SMO: State Mission Offering, August - July				
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$12,796.78	\$3,363.06	\$5,020.98	\$3,294.99	AA: Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, January - December				
First Baptist Church Palmer	\$19,955.22	\$1,506.66	\$985.00	\$1,294.00	LM: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, June - May				
First Baptist Church Valdez	\$3,485.58	\$245.00	\$2,336.91	\$2,928.65					
First Baptist Church Wasilla	\$12,532.75	\$2,228.00	\$2,692.00	\$9,138.99					
First Baptist Church Willow	\$1,302.66	\$1,935.16	\$0.00	\$2,600.50					
King Salmon Comm Chapel	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$1,850.62	\$80.00	\$355.00	\$665.00					
North Bear Street Comm Church	\$10.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$720.00					
Schrock Road Comm Church	\$1,548.00	\$1,275.22	\$245.00	\$998.61					
Settler's Bay Comm Church	\$2,079.02	\$201.00	\$0.00	\$1,327.00					
Valley Life Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00					
Total:	\$64,832.62	\$12,164.10	\$13,978.52	\$30,608.59					
Kenai Peninsula	CP	SMO	AA	LM					
College Heights Baptist Church	\$29,384.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Kenai	\$2,134.25	\$575.00	\$0.00	\$2,287.75					
First Baptist Church Soldotna	\$2,367.84	\$165.00	\$0.00	\$1,594.65					
Lighthouse Community Church	\$6,209.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Moose Pass Community Church	\$321.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00					
Total:	\$41,616.59	\$740.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,882.40					

What is the 2000 Club?

The 2000 Club, sponsored by the Alaska Baptist Convention (ABC), is a quarterly opportunity for individuals, mission groups, Sunday School classes and churches to support capital needs projects in our churches. See your insert (and envelope) in this issue of the Alaska Baptist Messenger. The 3rd Quarter recipient of the 2000 Club is Community Baptist Church, Coffman Cove. To become a member of the 2000 Club, please contact Mike Procter, Director of Missions ABC, at (907)344-0627 or

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Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants



August 19-21, 2010

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Muldoon Road Baptist Church
382 Muldoon Road, **Anchorage**

August 23-25, 2010

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location to be announced, **Fairbanks**

This is a **free** seminar for administrative staff, treasurers and church clerks of our Alaska Southern Baptist churches. Certification will be provided by LifeWay Christian Resources.



**Please pre-register on-line at
www.alaskabaptistconvention.com**

Information for Alaska Baptists

Following is statistical information regarding Baptist work in Alaska. State conventions, associations and churches should evaluate their work at least annually, if not quarterly or monthly.

Category	2008-2009	2007-2008
Churches Listed on ACP	78	78
Associations	4	4
Total Members	15,440	12,808
Resident Members	10,307	8,087
Baptisms	402	492
Other Additions	567	427
SS Enrollment	6,587	6,177
DT Enrollment	1,692	1,525
Music Enrollment	1,265	1,294
WMU Enrollment	814	727
Coop. Program Gifts	\$737,659	\$656,718
Undesignated Gifts	\$10,743,744	\$8,899,952
Designated Gifts	\$1,991,191	\$1,484,081
Total Receipts	\$12,899,311	\$10,869,038
Annie Armstrong Offering (NAMB)	\$96,133	\$77,248
Lottie Moon Offering (IMB)	\$149,265	\$129,180
Total Mission Expenditures	\$1,702,045	\$1,484,081
# Churches Reporting something on Annual Church Profile	70	68

Welcome!

Tongass Baptist Association

Director of Missions

Joe (Cindy) Boney

Thorne Bay Baptist Church

Phil (Linda) Clark

**Please Pray for
our Pastorless
Churches**

Chugach Baptist Association

False Pass Baptist Mission

Filipino Bible Church

Greater Friendship Baptist Church

Nelson Lagoon

Whittier Christian Community

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

Chinese Fellowship

Tongass Baptist Association

Anchor Point Baptist Church

Glacier Valley Baptist Church

Hoonah Baptist Mission

Condolences to...

- The family of Rev. Leo Josey, Sr. who passed away on Saturday, June 5, 2010. Rev. Josey was active in early Alaska Baptist work as he served as pastor of Greater Friendship Baptist Church from 1962-1969. In 1966 he was elected to serve as the First Vice President for the Alaska Baptist Convention. In addition, he served two terms as Moderator for the Chugach Baptist Association. At the time of his death, he was the associate pastor at Solid Rock Baptist Church in Anchorage.
- Paul Worsham (Aquillaq Baptist Church) who lost his mother on June 12.



July "Nuggets"

The staff of the Alaska Baptist Convention reserves the right to edit submitted "Nuggets" for content and space.

First Baptist Church, Anchorage

FBC hosted Dr. Greg Frizzell, Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Specialist, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, as he led a prayer conference in late June. A youth choir from Pleasant Heights Baptist Church, Columbia, Tennessee, sang on June 20.

First Native Baptist Church, Anchorage



FNBC baptized three on May



23. Pictured above: Sheldon and Halane Dock; pictured right is Lucy Eagan. The church is preparing to celebrate their 50th anniversary on August 15. Charles Lane is pastor.

Frontier Baptist Church, Nome

FBC hosted a 33-member mission team for the annual CrabFest. There were eight professions of faith and the team completed 16 major service projects for the community. Gary Elmore is pastor.

First Baptist Church, Kotzebue

FBC held their VBS in May and had

60 participants and six professions of faith! John Forrester is pastor.

Thorne Bay Baptist Church

Thorne Bay has called Phil (Linda) Clark as pastor. Phil and Linda are no strangers to the church as he has been serving as interim. In addition to Thorne Bay, Phil also pastors Kasaan Mission.

Hillside Baptist Church, Anchorage

HBC will send a mission team to Koliganek July 16-23 to conduct a VBS as well as basketball and volleyball camps. Volunteers from Missouri and Kentucky will assist. The church will also celebrate "Missions Sunday" on August 1, with special guest speaker Amanda Dillon. The church will recognize all their mission volunteers.

First Baptist Church, Ketchikan

Seven adult Filipinos were baptized at FBC on June 5 by pastors Doug Edwards and Jesse Misa. Jesse is the pastor of the Filipino congregation which uses the FBC facilities.



teach a language course in preparation for a mission trip to Korea in late July.

First Baptist Church, Wasilla

The Women's "Spring Fling" in May was a great success with over 90 women in attendance. Twenty-one church youth and five from Buckland, Alaska attended a youth retreat at LGYRC in early June. FBC held their VBS in mid-June.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

Church members have started working on "Phase I" of a church remodel, demolishing the back entrance of the current facility to allow room to build a new entry, foyer, mechanical room and storage area. Children and youth will attend camps at Camp Baldwin. The church will also help with World Changers when they are in the area July 17-23. UBC has called Janie Guerra as their College Summer Missionary. Having arrived from Arkansas in June, she will attend UAF in the fall.

Winter Youth Celebration, Fairbanks

Mark your calendars now and register early! Event features Keith Deltano and will be held at First Baptist Church, Fairbanks, October 15-16. Register on-line by September 15 for an "early bird" discount: www.akwyc.com. Call FBC for more information (907)456-4923.

Camp Opportunities at LaVerne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp in Wasilla!

Daughters on a Quest Girls Camp

June 21-25

Ephesians 6:11

Bible Boot Camp Boys Camp

July 5-9

Joshua 1:9

X-Faith Youth Camp

July 19-23

Hebrews 10:39

lgyrc@mtaonline.net

Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla

FLBC had a wonderful turnout for VBS and a large group of devoted leaders. The offering collected was over \$1000 and one child came to know the Lord. Praise God! The youth group had a successful mission trip to Kodiak in mid-June where they assisted a VBS. BJ Anderson volunteered her time to

Alaska Baptist Messenger

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David Baldwin, Editor

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GraceBook

Are you a friend of God?
"Find us on FaceBook"

JAM Camp 2010 • LaVerne Griffin Camp, Wasilla

July 25-29 • Campers completed grades 3-9

Registration DEADLINE is July 10!

www.hpbaak.org



Grace Giving

"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God granted to the churches of Macedonia: during a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity. I testify that, on

their own, according to their ability and beyond their ability, they begged us insistently for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves especially to the Lord, then to us by God's will. So we urged Titus that, just as he had begun, so he should also complete this grace to you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—excel also in this grace." 2 Corinthians 8:1-7 (HCSB)

Paul said the Macedonians gave out of "deep poverty." These believers were going through hard economic times. They were having problems making ends meet, but because God's grace had touched their hearts even a poor economy couldn't keep them from giving. Their love, compassion and Christian concern was greater than their lack of resources.

When grace touches our heart, low expectations will not be an excuse for not giving. Paul not only expected much of himself, he expected much of others. Yet he said they gave "not as we had hoped" but they gave far beyond that. Paul's low expectations did not become an excuse for them. They gave out of grace.

When grace touches our hearts money will not be a substitute for giving ourselves. Paul declares, "Instead, they gave themselves especially to the Lord, then to us by God's will." It is never enough to think we can give money in place of giving ourselves. The Macedonians begged for the privilege of sharing in the ministry. They understood and practiced grace giving. Paul left the Corinthians with the challenge to "excel in this grace."

As we approach fall, Alaska Baptists will have an opportunity to practice grace giving. We have the chance to "excel in this grace." The Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering is a privilege for folks to share in the ministry around the state of Alaska. This year's theme: "Faces of Alaska" is a challenge to give thought to those around our state who will be impacted by our praying, giving and going for state missions. The theme verse is an acknowledgement of our need here in Alaska. "Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved." Psalm 80:3

Looking to get involved with a local ministry?

Alaska Baptist Family Services (ABFS) is in need of volunteers who will sign up for our backpack welcome ministry. Each year many of the children who come to our home show up with just the clothes on their backs or a trash bag of tattered things. The backpack welcome ministry ensures that they are welcomed immediately at the door with a large backpack filled with a teen Bible, a welcome card of encouragement, things so they can be ready to go to school the very next day, their very own personal hygiene items and a \$50 gift card to Wal-Mart to help with any incidentals they may still require.

We are looking for individuals, small church groups or churches to commit to providing a set number of backpacks each year. We are hoping that people will commit to do it year after year.

Items to include in each large backpack:

- teen Bible
- welcome card
- small hygiene/toiletry bag w/ toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, deodorant, floss, bar of soap with container
- 1 three-inch binder with divider tabs inside
- 2 one-inch binders with divider tabs inside
- 1 pack of pencils/1 pack of pens
- 2 packs of loose leaf college rule paper
- 2 spiral notebooks/college rule
- Pair of flip flops (shower shoes)
- \$50 Wal-Mart gift card for underwear, misc. school needs, etc...

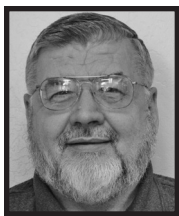


Drop off or mail backpacks to:
Alaska Baptist Family Services
Welcome Backpack Ministry

C/O Lorie Morris
1600 O'Malley Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

or contact Lorie for more information
(akfamilies@gci.net)





David Baldwin
Executive Director

I received a letter from Dr. Kenneth Chadwick, interim pastor of Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau, and former Alaska Baptist Convention Missions Director. The letter dealt with the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task Force report: “When we learn from others, we don’t have to make the mistakes they made. When we learn from history, we don’t end up repeating it. Peter Marshall tells a story in one of his sermons about the “Keeper of the Springs.” A particular man lived in the mountains in the back of a village and his job was “keeper of the springs” which furnished water for the village. In a time of economic downturn, the city fathers tried to cut the budget to the bare essentials. They came across the expense of “Keeper of the Springs” and thought it was a non-essential item. No one had ever seen the man and assumed he was a hermit. They sent a messenger to find him and tell him he was no longer needed and would not receive any more money from the village. Things went well the first year, but after that time the debris of dead leaves and dead animals began to take their toll and the water became brackish and disease laden. People began to get sick from the bad water. They forgot their history and did not appreciate what they did not understand.”

I think the GCR Task Force has forgotten the genius of Cooperative Agreements and what they have done for Southern Baptist mission work. I agree with the motive of the Task Force (reaching the lost of our nation) but not in their methodology.

Now, what do we do? All the discussion of the GCR Report is over and the Southern Baptist Convention has voted. Are we more motivated to share the Gospel after the vote or was the report a political “power” move initiated by “mega” church leaders? Was the report a distraction that diverted us from God’s Plan for Sharing (GPS) and focused our attention on something else? People still do not know Christ as their Savior. New Bible study groups need to be started and new congregations are needed. Let’s remain focused and not get sidetracked. We need Alaskans to reach Alaskans with the Gospel message. Appreciate where God has placed you and be diligent about your assigned task.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alaska Baptist missionary through this position.



Mike Procter
*Director of Missions and
Church Planting*

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings, that proclaims peace, that brings good tidings of good, that proclaims salvation...” Isaiah 52:7a. Are your feet beautiful? For some of us, our feet are anything but beautiful. We may have bunions, toes that are twisted with arthritis, flat arches, athlete’s foot, hair on our toes or we may be missing a toe or two. As I write this, the ankle on my left foot is the size of a softball, my foot is swollen to twice its normal size and is black and blue from my heel to my toes. It is not a pretty sight! “How did it happen?” you may ask. Would you believe I was standing on the sidewalk, saw a car about to strike a preschooler, dashed into the street, grabbed the preschooler and as I pulled the child to safety, the moving vehicle hit my foot? Would you believe my brother tripped me and I fell down a flight of stairs? The reality is I was with my brother and we both had our hands full. He was walking in front of me and I missed a three-inch drop-off from the pavement to a dirt path and rolled my ankle. The next thing I knew, I was on the ground and in pain. Being a man, I felt compelled to act tough. In spite of the swelling, discoloring and discomfort, my feet are still beautiful because I use them to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Obviously, Isaiah was not writing about physical beauty but about the spiritual impact people have when they share the gospel of Jesus Christ. With whom have you shared the Good News of Jesus Christ lately?

July 4 is Independence Day, the day we celebrate our freedoms as Americans. These freedoms have come at a high price, many men and women having sacrificed their lives to protect and preserve them. Our civil liberties and freedom have not been “free”... someone paid a price. Spiritually, Jesus Christ paid the price so we might have freedom -- forgiveness of sin, the confidence of our salvation, the knowledge that we are children of God, and the assurance of spending an eternity with the Father in heaven. Our spiritual freedom was purchased over 2,000 years ago. No one who is alive today observed His death on the cross so the only way the message will be conveyed is by those who acknowledge Him as Lord and tell others.

As we celebrate our freedom as a nation, let’s remember to proclaim our freedom as Christians for, as Jesus says, “...you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” and “if the Son...shall make you free, you are free indeed” John 8:32 & 36. Do you have beautiful feet? Are you proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ?

Blessings!



Jimmy Stewart
*Director of Evangelism, Prayer
 and Collegiate Ministries*

Summer activities are going strong all across Alaska. I have already heard reports that VBS is going well and attendance is high. Chugach Baptist Association is busy with mission projects around the city through GraceWorks, and churches all over the state are engaged in mission projects, camps and summer activities. It sounds like the Great Commission is on the minds of Alaskan Baptists! My prayer is that even with news of the Gulf disaster, economic hardships, Tea Party rallies, election primaries and other worldly affairs, we don't forget our main focus. We will not have joy or enthusiasm to reach our neighbors for Christ if we don't love God first. My love for others comes directly from my love for God and if I find my zeal for loving and evangelizing others beginning to wane, I start talking to God about my heart-attitude. God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) is about praying for the lost, equipping people to reach the lost, sharing with the lost, and discipling the harvest. But without a heart for God and gratitude for His redemptive love, my energy gets zapped by the daily grind and the never-ending deluge of negative news and stress of everyday life. In fact, the stress of listening to all the news about ObamaCare and the divisiveness of Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) is making it easy to get distracted and discouraged about GPS. We should never allow politics to distract us from GPS. God is in control and no matter what happens around us, He expects us to stay focused on Him. He will not be constrained by the conflicts around us but will make His presence known. Let's fall more radically in love with Jesus and let His love extend to all our relationships. The world needs to see confident, loving, joyful secure Christians who smile through turmoil. Let's win others because we have been with Jesus.

As I have been preparing for Training Teens Today (T3), I have been reading application information from the students who will be participating. First year students were asked about their salvation experience and the responses are tremendous. I have read great stories of how they came to know Christ through parents and pastors. It is a tremendous blessing when I see that some came to know Christ through Avalanche, our yearly youth evangelism conference. They shared what Christ means to them and some of the responses made me cry! Jesus is precious to our students and He impacts their lives in great ways. When I look at the second through fourth year student applications, they share the commitments and activities they have done as a result of T3. It is amazing to see students return to their own churches and take over youth ministries where there are no leaders, lead people to Christ and see students surrender to the ministry. We have the privilege of guiding these young people to a deeper relationship and greater commitment to God. I want you as pastors, parents and youth leaders to begin now to think about next summer's training and encourage your young people to step up and become leaders. We cannot train the next generation unless they are encouraged to come. Please help us enlist those who are willing to learn to be leaders. Thanks in advance for helping prepare the next generation of leaders.



Don Shannon
*Director of Ministries and
 Mission Education*

Most of the time, we're more interested in "serve us" than service. We say, "I'm looking for a church that meets my needs and blesses me," not "I'm looking for a place to serve and be a blessing." We expect others to serve us, not vice versa. Why are we this way? Does this desire to be served come because we expect to be coddled or consoled? Do we believe we are owed a place or position which affords us service? Despite this tendency to seek to be served we are told by Christ, "*Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life.*" Matthew 20:28 (LB) Jesus came "to serve" and "to give his life".

As Christians we are to serve. If we only serve when it's convenient, we're not real servants. Servants do what's needed, even when it's inconvenient. Servants pay attention to needs. Servants are always on the lookout for ways to help others. When they see a need, they seize the moment to meet it, just as the Bible commands us: "Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good for everyone, especially for the family of believers" Galatians 6:10 (GWT).

We are not to serve God out of guilt, fear or even duty, but out of joy. We are to serve with deep gratitude for what He's done for us. We owe Him our lives. Through salvation our past has been forgiven, our present is given meaning, and our future is secured. In light of these incredible benefits Paul concluded, "*Because of God's great mercy . . . Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service.*" Romans 12:1 (TEV)

It is possible to serve and to give our lives as living sacrifices if we have a Christ-like attitude. Christ went to the heart of the problem that hinders our service when he said, "If anyone wants to come with me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it." Matthew 16:24-25

Denying self is a requirement for becoming a sacrificial servant. However, we struggle to give our lives to serve Him as we face battles with materialism, entitlement, and pride. We have accepted the worldview that denying self is bad because you don't get what you desire, what you deserve, or what you demand. In reality the pleasures of this world are temporary but the blessing of service is eternal. Far too many of us have bought into a lie when we want our way rather than the best, God's way. As long as we believe the myth we will be miserable but in giving our life in service we will find fulfillment.

It comes down a choice of service which brings satisfaction or dissatisfaction because we will not deny our selves; delight or displeasure, blessing or burden.

Alaska

Baptist Messenger



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PERIODICAL POSTAGE
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calendar

July 2010

4 Citizenship and Religious Liberty Sunday
4 Independence Day
5 ABC and ABF offices closed
12-17 Denali/Healy World Changers
16-17 Salmon Frenzy
19-24 North Pole World Changers
23-24 Salmon Frenzy
25-28 NAMB State Summer Leadership Meeting
26-29 JAM Camp

August 2010

1 Social Issues Sunday
8 Living with Urgency: Student Evangelism Day
15-21 Church Music Emphasis Week
19-21 Professional Certification for Ministry Assts
 Muldoon Road BC
23-25 PCMA, Fairbanks
26-Sep 6 Alaska State Fair, Palmer

September 2010

5 Single Adult Sunday
8-12 Valeria Sherard State Mission Emphasis
19 Anti-Gambling Sunday
20 Discipleship Rally
27 Mission Rally, FBC, Wasilla
28 wMu Annual Meeting, FBC Wasilla
28 Pastor's Conference, Fairview Loop, Wasilla
28-29 Alaska Baptist Convention Annual Meeting
 FBC Wasilla
20-Oct 2 AK Native Baptist Fellowship Conf
 Anchorage Hope Comm BC



Independence Day • July 4