



Alaska

Baptist Messenger



Vol 65

August 2010

NO 8

Alaska Baptist Convention Annual Meeting September 27-29, 2010 First Baptist Church, Wasilla

(all activities at FBC Wasilla, unless noted otherwise)

Monday, September 27

- Mission Rally, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 28

- Pastor's Conference, 8:45 am
Fairview Loop Baptist Church
- WMU Annual Meeting, 8:30 am
with luncheon at noon
- Annual Convention registration, 5:00 pm
- Annual Convention Meeting, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 29

- Annual Convention meets, 8:00 am-8:00 pm
with breaks for lunch and dinner
- Staff Wives luncheon, 12:00 pm
- Wayland Baptist University "25 Years in Alaska"
Appreciation Dinner, 4:45 pm

Convention hotel is Grand View 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.*

**Annual
Pastor's Conference
Tuesday, September 28, 2010
Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla**
*Continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m.
Meeting begins at 8:45 a.m.
Lunch at noon*
Special Featured Speaker:
Dr. Jeff Iorg
President, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

unhindered!

Hebrews 12:1-2

WMU

**Annual Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2010**

First Baptist Church Wasilla

8:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

8:45 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Program begins

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

Special Guests: Alicia Wong, NAMB

Amanda Dillon, IMB

Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering State Goal: \$70,000



**Week of Prayer
September
5-12, 2010**

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

January - June 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	\$0.00
Anch Hope Comm Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$0.00	\$1,058.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquila Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Tanana Valley Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Calvary Baptist Church	\$2,436.00	\$1,203.56	\$1,156.00	\$0.00	Chinese Fellowship	\$602.00	\$280.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Christ Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Clearwater Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chugach Resort Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$3,934.00	\$0.00	\$1,843.11	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith Baptist Church Fbks	\$3,243.00	\$1,250.00	\$700.00	\$0.00
Cold Bay Chapel	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Fellowship Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Comm Baptist Church Nome	\$391.00	\$98.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Delta Jct	\$25,440.99	\$4,195.00	\$2,887.00	\$50.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$1,116.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Fairbanks	\$2,915.50	\$1,385.00	\$1,532.50	\$0.00
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church North Pole	\$15,997.82	\$1,608.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filipino Bible Church Anchorage	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Friendship Baptist Church Fbks	\$250.00	\$540.00	\$840.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Anchorage	\$43,148.14	\$5,400.59	\$7,311.69	\$0.00	Hispanic Mission	\$432.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Eagle River	\$20,919.28	\$4,315.00	\$4,045.00	\$0.00	Korean Baptist Mission Fbks	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Kotzebue	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$4,224.22	\$355.94	\$579.29	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$384.00	\$0.00	Morning Star Baptist Church	\$3,760.68	\$0.00	\$1,771.00	\$0.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$2,276.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$2,018.50	\$551.00	\$785.00	\$0.00	North Star Baptist Church	\$304.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grandview Baptist Church	\$14,730.88	\$6,487.07	\$8,950.13	\$0.00	Salcha Baptist Church	\$3,703.80	\$0.00	\$1,210.00	\$5,205.00
Greater Friendship Bapt Church	\$4,039.00	\$0.00	\$482.00	\$0.00	Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$2,305.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$6,920.53	\$750.00	\$1,185.00	\$0.00	St John Baptist Church	\$7,682.19	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$0.00
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$566.30	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$2.75	Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$1,117.69	\$58.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	University Baptist Church Fbks	\$11,836.00	\$3,120.00	\$4,442.50	\$0.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$87,231.20	\$12,833.94	\$16,555.40	\$5,255.00
Korean New Central Bapt Church	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	Tongass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Kuparuk Preaching Point	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Anchor Baptist Church	\$3,568.80	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Mount Zion Missionary Bapt Church	\$360.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Comm Bapt Church Coffman Cove	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain View Comm Church	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$1,337.06	\$800.00	\$417.00	\$0.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$5,625.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$1,580.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Juneau	\$3,363.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$9,164.04	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Ketchikan	\$4,470.61	\$1,507.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rabbit Creek Comm Church	\$3,859.02	\$6,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Petersburg	\$1,439.00	\$784.47	\$950.00	\$0.00
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$428.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Sitka	\$2,732.35	\$382.00	\$510.00	\$0.00
Samoa Alaska Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$8,757.48	\$1,911.71	\$3,250.00	\$0.00
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shungnak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Juneau Korean Church	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$0.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$125.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$11,143.78	\$7,400.50	\$3,769.00	\$0.00	New Hope Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	North Tongass Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
True North Church	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Tenakee Community Church	\$201.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
University Baptist Church Anch	\$4,266.43	\$1,574.00	\$1,253.00	\$0.00	Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$1,493.38	\$50.00	\$485.00	\$0.00
Valley View Baptist Church	\$880.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$27,543.76	\$5,510.18	\$6,002.00	\$0.00
Whittier Christian Community	\$337.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Grand Total:	\$384,459.44	\$68,288.94	\$76,096.36	\$5,282.75
Wilderness Chapel	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	Goal:	\$766,003.00	\$70,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00
Total:	\$144,243.85	\$35,982.72	\$34,560.82	\$27.75	Over/Under Goal:	(\$381,543.56)	(\$1,711.06)	(\$23,903.64)	(\$144,717.25)
Hatcher Pass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM					
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$3,573.43	\$990.00	\$2,243.63	\$0.00					
Bodenberg Butte Baptist Church	\$2,902.44	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
CrossCountry Church	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100.00	\$0.00					
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$4,021.01	\$0.00	\$1,131.01	\$0.00					
Ekwok Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$14,563.83	\$3,363.06	\$5,020.98	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Palmer	\$24,299.86	\$1,506.66	\$985.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Valdez	\$5,526.19	\$245.00	\$2,336.91	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Wasilla	\$14,605.66	\$2,228.00	\$2,692.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Willow	\$1,882.18	\$1,935.16	\$1,326.61	\$0.00					
King Salmon Comm Chapel	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$1,850.62	\$80.00	\$355.00	\$0.00					
North Bear Street Comm Church	\$10.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Schrock Road Comm Church	\$1,548.00	\$1,275.22	\$245.00	\$0.00					
Settler's Bay Comm Church	\$2,604.02	\$201.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Valley Life Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Total:	\$77,837.76	\$12,164.10	\$16,436.14	\$0.00					
Kenai Peninsula	CP	SMO	AA	LM					
College Heights Baptist Church	\$32,607.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Kenai	\$3,083.00	\$575.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Soldotna	\$3,218.84	\$165.00	\$1,542.00	\$0.00					
Lighthouse Community Church	\$7,046.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Moose Pass Community Church	\$448.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00					
Total:	\$47,602.87	\$740.00	\$2,542.00	\$0.00					

Legend:

CP: Cooperative Program, January - December

SMO: State Mission Offering, August - July

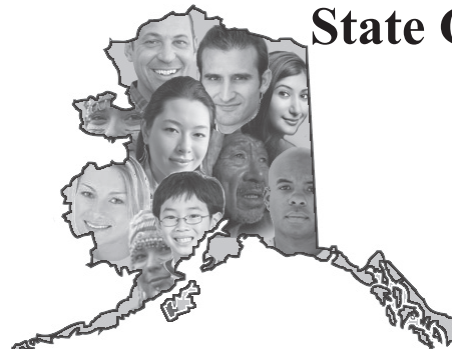
AA: Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, January - December

LM: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, June - May

Valeria Sherard

State Mission Offering

State Goal \$70,000



**Week of
Prayer
September
5-12, 2010**

On Mission Celebration



Join God on Mission through direct and personal involvement in Southern Baptist missions!

Celebrate God's work in the world and rejoice in the victories of winning the lost.

Anticipate how God can use you and your unique gifts for His work in the world.

Participate by discovering how you can develop an on-mission lifestyle.

October 22-25

Tongass Baptist Association

October 26

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

October 27

Kenai Peninsula

October 28-29

Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

October 30-31

Chugach Baptist Association

Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants

August 19-21

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Muldoon Road Baptist Church,
Anchorage

August 23-25

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

University Baptist Church,
Fairbanks

This is a free seminar for administrative staff, treasurers, and church clerks of our Alaska Southern Baptist churches. Lunch will be provided but there is no childcare available.

Certification will be provided by LifeWay Christian Resources.

Please pre-register on the Alaska Baptist Convention website,

www.alaskabaptistconvention.com.

**THE BIGGER
BREAKFAST**
The international men's breakfast day

September 25, 2010

**Gathering men for fellowship,
food, and focus
on the mission of God**

Southern Baptist Men in the United States and Canada will be joining Baptist Men in Europe and Africa on September 25, 2010 for a "simultaneous" men's breakfast.

For Southern Baptists, **The Bigger Breakfast 2010** theme is "Grasp the Vision." The Bigger Breakfast's primary objective is to gather men across the Southern Baptist Convention to launch a 40-day prayer plan for spiritual awakening among men in North America.

Registration

Southern Baptist churches planning to participate in **The Bigger Breakfast** are asked to register their intent. Register your Bigger Breakfast at www.bmen.net and follow the link for **The Bigger Breakfast**.



LifeWay Women Events

LIVING PROOF LIVE

Featuring **Beth Moore**

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Simulcast 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Lunch is included with admission price

The Living Proof Live event is a one-day event and will be simulcast from Chicago, Illinois to over 500 locations across the world using HD internet technology. To attend, call one of the following churches for further details and cost information:

*Shannon Park Baptist Church (Fairbanks) 452-4098 • Morning Star Baptist Church (Healy) 683-2704
Fairview Loop Baptist Church (Wasilla) 373-7729 • The Crossing @ Birchwood (Anchorage) 688-3222*



August "Nuggets"

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

Cross Roads Baptist Church,

North Pole

CRBC has already had a busy summer of activities! In July alone they enjoyed a Men's Prayer breakfast, Women on Mission luncheon, hosted a VBS in Anderson, had a church-wide fishing trip in Valdez and a church-wide camp at Tangle Lakes. During the church picnic at Chena Lakes, they baptized one in the lake and have baptized another five into the fellowship. Troy Gourley is pastor.

New Hope Baptist Church, Anchorage

Pastor Clifton Gay III has been elected as the president of the National African American Fellowship (NAAF) of Alaska. NAAF Alaska is part of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention and currently has seven Alaskan churches as member congregations.

Winter Youth Celebration 2010

First Baptist Church Fairbanks will host the Winter Youth Celebration on Friday-Saturday, October 15-16. Featured guest speaker/performer is Keith Deltano with the theme "Defy Conformity/Defend Your Faith." Register on-line by September 15 for "early bird discount": www.akwyc.com. Call FBC for more information (907)456-4923.

First Baptist Church, Kotzebue

Youth pastor Matt Hoke (pictured) baptized



three teens on Father's Day – two in the very cold Arctic Ocean and one in the church baptistry. FBC also sponsored a VBS in Kivalina and had six professions of faith. Over the July 4 holiday weekend, FBC gave away 502 "Bible in a Bucket" containers, 213 chil-

dren's packs with Bibles and over 1,000 snow cones! John Forrester is pastor.

Shannon Park Baptist Church,

Fairbanks

SPBC had six saved during their VBS! The church will also host another Beth Moore simulcast on September 18 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$25 which will cover lunch, snacks and materials. Register at www.shannonparkchurch.com

First Baptist Church, Fairbanks

FBC hosted a mission team from California during the first week of June. They conducted a Backyard Bible study, held revival services and made much-needed repairs to the church building.

Community Baptist Church, Nome

For the sixth year, CBC hosted a mission team from Westgate Memorial Baptist Church, who led a sports outreach in early July. They also conducted outreach activities in the community. Two former summer missionaries from CBC, Linzey Fontenot and Emily Bailey, have been instrumental in keeping teams interested in returning to work in the area.

St. John Baptist Church, Fairbanks

St. John had a successful VBS with 12 children accepting Christ. On July 4, pastor Lawrence Ellison baptized five children, conducted a wedding vow renewal, celebrated the Lord's Supper and enjoyed a church picnic following the service.

Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau

GVBC held their VBS July 19-23 and sent a mission team to work in Haines during July. The church also sent two teams on trips to Asia and Slovakia. One team is teaching English as a second language while the other is providing leadership training.

College Heights Baptist Church,

Soldotna

CHBC had 202 in their VBS and 26 professions of faith!

First Baptist Church, Eagle River

FBC participated in the annual Bear Paw Festival in July. A mission team from Hyde Park Church in Austin, Texas, along with their pastor, former Alaskan Kie Bowman, assisted in the ministry.

Kobuk Baptist Mission

KBM sent a group of their youth to camp in Unalakleet. Luke Stewart is pastor.

Aquillag Baptist Church, Ambler

Paul and Glenda Worsham are leaving Ambler to plant a church in Seward.

Chugach Resort Ministries, Girdwood

CRM has been busy with summer missionaries, playground clean-up, outreach events in parks, soccer camps, hiking trips and helping with events at the Alaska Baptist Family Services. Scott and Jennifer Capshaw lead this ministry.

GraceWorks, Anchorage

GW continues to impact several communities in the Anchorage area. Pray that God will

give wisdom and direction as community groups are formed.

Friendship Baptist Church, Fairbanks

FBC is hosting a soccer clinic August 2-5. The leaders will be members of the Oklahoma Baptist University men's soccer team. Call the church for additional information. Ramon DeLeon is pastor.

First Baptist Church, Delta Junction

FBC held their VBS in June and averaged 65 each day. They also had two professions of faith. A community picnic was held in July and a "young professional/college" Sunday school class was launched. Dave Becker is pastor.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

UBC has launched Phase I of the remodeling project on their building. Janie Guerra, new College Student Missionary leads a women's Bible Study each Tuesday and Mike Purple, UAF BCM, hosts "Thursday Nights Together." There is a Friday Fun Night each week for the young adults. The children will attend the soccer clinic hosted by Friendship Baptist Mission and the youth will attend Fusion in Anchorage. UBC will host the TVBA Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants class August 23-25.

Moose Creek Baptist Church,

North Pole

MCBC hosted a "kid's town" during the July 4 Summer Festival. VBS was held July 26-30.

First Baptist Church, Anchorage

FBC held a picnic in the church parking lot on July 4. A mission team traveled to Nome in July and the Men's Ministry participated in dip-netting on the Kenai. The Continental Singers were in concert on July 18.

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

Member churches assisted Morning Star Baptist Church in Healy and First Baptist Church in North Pole as they hosted World Changer groups.

Lighthouse Community Church, Nikiski

LCC did their usual good job of coordinating the World Changer groups working in Alaska this summer. Randy Lewis is pastor.

Frontier Baptist Church, Kodiak

FBC hosted two mission teams in July: Top O' Texas Baptist Association sent a team that conducted VBS, dock ministry and held a revival and The Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association sent a team to do construction work in

the parsonage. Both teams were a huge blessing to the community.

First Baptist Church, Wasilla

FBC held their VBS in June, with nearly 200 children attending each day. Twenty-eight accepted Christ as a result! The community picnic on June 26 featured live music, games and free food. The church entered a float in the July 4 parade and over 65 people walked with the float, passing out 1000 bags with gospel tracts and church information. Don Piper spoke at both services on July 11. Five men conducted a VBS in the village of Buckland, July 11-17.

Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches

Chugach Baptist Association

Filipino Bible Church
Greater Friendship Baptist Church
Whittier Christian Community

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

Chinese Fellowship

Tongass Baptist Association

Anchor Baptist Church
Glacier Valley Baptist Church
Hoonah Baptist Mission

Wasilla Korean Baptist Church

The church had their 10th anniversary celebration on July 11.

Calvary Baptist Church, Anchorage

Calvary is hosting a Ladies Craft Retreat September 9-11. Please contact Donna Fox (foxid52@hotmail.com) for more details.

Moose Pass Community Church

MPCC has been busy with construction on their new facility all summer. Praise God the old building sold, but will be available for use until September, when the new sanctuary should be ready to occupy. The church had 18 in VBS with one decision for Christ.

Cold Bay Chapel

A mission team from First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Georgia completely framed the new parsonage in two days!



Did you know.....?

“Churches lose out on funds because of poor preaching on giving.”

Brian Hutt's report
June 24, 2010
Christian Today
www.christiantoday.com

Alaska Baptist Messenger

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why do we need to plant more churches?

Many have asked, “why do we need to plant more or new churches when we aren’t filling the ones we have now?” Because we are not filling our current churches is evidence we are losing the battle for souls every day!

The Alaska Department of Labor, in the April 2010 issue of “Trends” magazine, listed the population of Alaska at 692,314. It has been estimated that 90 percent of Alaska’s population is “unchurched” meaning they are not affiliated with any church.

Consider some facts about what is happening across America, which is a reflection of what is happening in

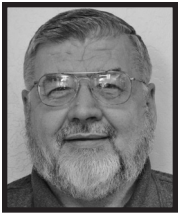
Alaska, but on a smaller scale:

- America is the third largest mission field in the world
- The lost and unchurched population of the United States is estimated at 70 million adults or 200 million adults, teens and children
- America is the only country where Christianity is not growing
- American churches are losing 2,765,000 members each year
- At the end of the twentieth century, 80-85 percent of church membership in North America had either plateaued or was declining
- Every year, 3,500-4,000 churches in America close their doors
- Many villages in Alaska have no

church or ongoing evangelical witness

“Essentially, what was a church, supposedly Christian culture, has become an unchurched, post-Christian culture. People in our culture are not anti-church; they simply view the church as irrelevant to their lives,” according to Aubrey Malphus, church growth author.

We need to start new churches because what we have been doing is not getting the job done. Not everyone is going to attend church in an existing building. We need to plant congregations where the people are and meet their needs. Jesus met people at their point of need and we need to follow His example.



David Baldwin
Executive Director

Between 1943-1948, Alaska Baptists had no official ties to the Southern Baptist Convention. On May 21, 1948, during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), W.C. Boone of Kentucky made a motion “that the Home Mission Board (HMB) be requested to investigate the desirability and possibility of entering the Territory of Alaska with a missionary program.” Since 1949, Alaska Baptists have had that connection.

As I reflected on Alaska Baptist history I remembered an article I read in the 50th Anniversary Book of the Alaska Baptist Convention. In the 1967 State Mission Season of Prayer program, Dick Miller, a pioneer missionary/pastor, listed five factors he believed explained why Southern Baptist work in Alaska experienced remarkable growth in the first 25 years:

1. The timing was exactly right. In the 1940s, Alaska was on the verge of the biggest boom in its history followed by the boom of construction of the Alaska pipeline in the 60s and 70s.
2. Early leaders had remarkable abilities. They had a vision that cannot be minimized.
3. Contributions of the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board, NAMB) were most influential -- not just the money but the personnel: simultaneous revival preachers, summer missionaries, appointed missionaries and training conferences.
4. Alaska simply followed the New Testament method of sharing the gospel, discipling and starting churches.
5. The work of God was evident in and through what was accomplished. Despite human weakness and failure that were present in the early years, the Holy Spirit of God was at work.

As I reflect on these statements, I ask myself, “are things so different today?” We can reach Alaskans easier than in the 1940s and 50s but are our leaders passionate and focused on the work God has called them to do? Or are we waiting for someone else to do our work? Are we really utilizing what HMB/NAMB has done and is doing to help Alaska Baptists? Are we focused on evangelism, discipling and planting new congregations?

The Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering is a time to examine ourselves and learn about the work we are doing in Alaska. It is also a time to recommit ourselves to reaching Alaska with the Gospel message. Join me and support the State Mission Offering with a financial gift.

I will close with something for you to think about. I read an article by Bobby Welch, former president of the SBC and pastor in Daytona Beach, Florida. The article states that 93 percent of Cooperative Program (CP) giving comes from churches with under 2,000 in attendance. 63 percent of that 93 percent comes from churches with attendance less than 500. Churches with attendance under 200 give more than 1/3 of that 93 percent total (more than 50 percent of all SBC churches have 100 or less in attendance).



Mike Procter
Director of Missions and Church Planting

According to “Real Fact #100” at Snapple.com, “in a year, the average person walks four miles making his or her bed.” I always knew making a bed was tiring and now I have proof. Fortunately, in the Procter household, Rebecca is the one who makes the bed and now I realize she insists because of the benefits that come from walking! My responsibility is to get the bed ready in the evening: take off the nice blanket we do not use because it is there for decoration; remove the numerous pillows we do not use because they are there for decoration; take off the flowery decoration we do not use because it is there for decoration; turn back the bedspread and sheets, flatten out the pillows we do use, and turn on the electric blanket (in the winter) or the fan (in the summer). No wonder I am exhausted and ready to fall into bed after all the preparations! I am sure I walk at least four miles a year, if not more, doing all of that.

Why do I bring up these interesting facts? Because we all have tasks, jobs, and responsibilities that we assume and while others may be able to do them, they are better suited for our “giftedness”, “talents” or “skills”. For example, one of my household chores is taking the trash cans to the curb on trash day. Rebecca can and has done so, but it is my “job.” Rebecca is completely capable of changing a flat tire on the car but why should she? It’s MY job to call AAA!

In the local church, there is a similar pattern. Some people are gifted or skilled in teaching, service or ministry to others, hospitality, music or administration. We need all of these and if someone is not doing their job, it can cause problems. Have you ever had a preschool or nursery worker not show up and forget to let anyone know?

In the Alaska Baptist Convention, we have the same scenario. Each one of our congregations or ministries is unique. The Cowboy Church of Anchorage reaches people that First Native Baptist Church does not. The BCMs at UAA, UAF and UAS minister to a different group of people than does Chugach Resort Ministries. While our different congregations and ministries are “walking around their beds,” we need to be thankful for each one and encourage them as they are faithful to the ministry to which God has called them.

Each congregation or ministry has a different gift so let’s celebrate with and encourage them, as we are Alaskans Reaching Alaska together.

Blessings!



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

This summer has really been a blessing in many ways. My children have all been home for the summer and I am seeing what the future holds as they follow God's path. I have looked back at my own walk with Christ and remembered how I had to leave home to follow God's leadership. It doesn't make it easier on me to see my loving little ones say goodbye. But, it has been great to have them home for the summer. Another blessing has been the many ministries in which I have been involved. Training Teens Today (T3) was incredible; the student leaders from East Texas Baptist University were marvelous and challenged our teenagers to live for Christ. Teens who attended T3 from around the state were some of the finest we have seen and they worked tirelessly to study and minister. It was really exciting to see the youth take on leadership roles, ministering during GraceWorks, to children and other teens. Youth leaders and pastors in our state are blessed with some special young people.

Another blessing in Anchorage this summer has been GraceWorks. I am amazed at how easy it is to reach out to people in Alaska. There is a tremendous group of people who work for the summer with GraceWorks to provide support for the mission teams that come our way. The results of the mission teams and volunteers reaching out and working have yielded a harvest. Two community groups have been started with some families opening their homes to their neighbors. Butch and Pam Strickland have been very busy meeting with the people who are coming to the community groups. Mike Blakeney has been a great help in these groups ministering to a group of Hmong children and youth. I can't say enough about all the volunteers and leaders of GraceWorks and our churches that are pitching in to reach their communities. Calvary Baptist, Grandview Baptist and New Hope Baptist have been leaders in GraceWorks. We are blessed to see a new church start, True North, work hard along with these groups to reach the city. I see that God is opening many doors and hearts as these folks are working each week in the city.

Several hundred folks have been touched through ministries this summer. All across the state we see people being reached for Christ. My biggest prayer is that we don't let the harvest go to waste. Our greatest need right now is for people to follow-up and disciple new believers. We need people who are willing to go into housing complexes, mobile home parks and apartments and lead community groups. Many of the people who are being reached in Anchorage may not come to our church buildings. They may not have transportation, may not feel comfortable in our cultural setting, may not have the language skills, or they may have to work on Sunday morning. There is a world of potential new members for our churches, but they may not be able to attend on Sunday morning. We have to begin thinking "outside the box" and realize that church needs to happen 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Are we preparing and equipping our members to meet this need? If your church wants to do this, please contact me. We need to begin now to plan for next summer's ministries in our cities. God is opening doors and hearts so let's prepare to minister for the long term.



Don Shannon
*Director of Ministries and
 Mission Education*

Saint Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the Gospel always; and when necessary, use words." Jesus acted out the Gospel, merging truth with proof of God's love. Sometimes we forget that Jesus rubbed shoulders with unbelievers. His dinner guests often looked like they belonged in a police lineup. He spent time talking with prostitutes, lepers, and other people who were considered complete outcasts in Jewish society. Yet Jesus had compassion for them. He healed their sicknesses and forgave their sins.

Once we begin a relationship with Christ, we have a tendency to isolate ourselves from the world. We feel called to leave behind the people and things that influenced us before we became Christians. But if we completely isolate ourselves we risk mistaking a *transformed* life for a *quarantined* life. We can so pack our schedules with church functions that we only interact with other believers. This can hinder us from fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ, which is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. . ." (Matthew 28:19a)

We can't make an *impact* without making *contact*. Though we are not of the world, we are in the world, seasoning it and illuminating it as the salt and light that God has called us to be. "You are the salt of the earth..." (Matthew 5:13) Salt is more than a condiment. Salt serves four purposes: it cleanses, it preserves, it adds flavor, and it creates thirst. "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14a). The world without Christ is as dark as a sky devoid of stars. In the midst of such moral and spiritual blackness, Jesus calls us "the light." Light serves three purposes in our lives: it attracts attention, it gives hope and it dispels darkness.

When our salt is flavorful and our light is radiant, people take notice: "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Christ calls us all to shake our salt into the world and shine our light. We are to minister to the individuals around us who are hurting, broken, and outcast. If we fall in love with the truth of the Gospel without providing proof of our faith, we miss our divine calling to be salt and light to a desperate world. So seize every opportunity to shake and shine.

A first step I would challenge you to take in shaking and shining for Jesus is to pray. Sometime after Timothy became the pastor in Ephesus, Paul wrote him a letter of instruction and it is not surprising that he in effect said, "First of all, I urge you, I plea with you to pray." A primary purpose of prayer is connecting with God in order to transfer His will into our life. It is collaborating with God to accomplish His goals for our lives. Each day we need His guidance to live out the gospel in word and deed. Let's live transformed lives making an impact on our world!

Alaska

Baptist Messenger



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PERIODICAL POSTAGE
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ANCHORAGE, AK

calendar

August 2010

1 Social Issues Sunday
8 Living with Urgency: Student Evangelism Day
11-14 Fusion, ABT
15-21 Church Music Emphasis Week
19-21 Professional Certification for Ministry Assts
Muldoon Road, Anchorage
23-25 PCMA, University Baptist, Fairbanks
26-Sep 6 Alaska State Fair, Palmer

September 2010

5 Single Adult Sunday
8-12 Valeria Sherard State Mission Emphasis
10-11 Tongass Baptist Assn Board Mtg
19 Anti-Gambling Sunday
20 Discipleship Rally
22 See You At The Pole
25 The "Bigger Breakfast" Men's Emphasis
27 Mission Rally, First Baptist Church, Wasilla
28 wMu Annual Meeting, FBC Wasilla
28 Pastor's Conference, Fairview Loop, Wasilla

28-29 Alaska Baptist Convention Annual Meeting,
FBC Wasilla
30-Oct 1 Alaska Native Baptist Fellowship Conference
Anchorage Hope Comm BC

October 2010

1-31 Cooperative Program Emphasis Month
3 On Mission Together: Sharing the Good News
8-9 Bible Study Directors Retreat
10 World Hunger Sunday
14-16 ESL Training, Glacier Valley BC, Juneau
15-16 Winter Youth Celebration
FBC Fairbanks
National Boss's Day
16 TBA On Mission Celebration Rallies
22-25 TVBA On Mission Celebration Rally
26 Kenai Peninsula On Mission Celebration Rally
27 HPBA On Mission Celebration Rallies
28-29 CBA On Mission Celebration Rallies
30-31