



Alaska

Baptist Messenger



Vol 65

October 2010

NO 10

On Mission Celebration



Rallies

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 24 in Juneau

Emmanuel Baptist • First Baptist • Glacier Valley Baptist

October 25

King Salmon Community Baptist Chapel

October 26

Dillingham Bible Fellowship • Cold Bay Chapel

October 27

Sand Point Chapel

October 28

Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

October 29

First Baptist, Valdez

October 30

Faith Baptist, Fairbanks



Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

Baptist women in about 130 countries will gather to pray for one another on **Monday, November 1**. They can use a program published by the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, which is composed of seven Continental Unions representing 229 national Baptist women's organizations. The 2010 program can be downloaded at www.bwawd.org.

The Day of Prayer is for all Baptist women, not just those who are part of your women's organization. What would appeal to most women in your church – breakfast, Saturday retreat, evening meetings? Let that determine your date, place and time.

- Consider involving women of nearby Baptist churches.
- Explore all the additional resources and ideas posted at www.bwawd.org and plan your program around the materials that would work best for you.
- Provide Day of Prayer offering envelopes or little offering bags.
- Promote the Day in all your church's media, emphasizing the worldwide scope of the event. Make strategic use of posters. But remember that nothing works better than a personal invitation.

May you experience God's richest blessings as you gather in small and large groups at the foot of the cross, interceding for the world!

WINTER YOUTH CELEBRATION 2010 • OCTOBER 15-16

"DEFY CONFORMITY • DEFEND YOUR FAITH"

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRBANKS • 805 SIXTH AVENUE • (907)456-4923

WWW.AKWYC.COM

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

January - August 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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anchorage Hope Comm Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquilaq Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Tanana Valley Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Calvary Baptist Church	\$3,287.00	\$0.00	\$1,156.00	\$0.00	Chinese Fellowship	\$724.00	\$0.00	\$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	\$5,666.00	\$0.00	\$1,843.11	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith Baptist Church Fbks	\$4,339.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$0.00
Cold Bay Chapel	\$331.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Fellowship Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Baptist Church Nome	\$443.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Delta Jct	\$33,486.99	\$0.00	\$2,887.00	\$200.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$1,643.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Fairbanks	\$4,226.18	\$0.00	\$1,532.50	\$0.00
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church North Pole	\$20,534.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filipino Bible Church Anchorage	\$3,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Friendship Baptist Church Fbks	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$840.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Anchorage	\$53,208.19	\$0.00	\$7,311.69	\$0.00	Hispanic Mission	\$519.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Eagle River	\$25,999.57	\$0.00	\$4,045.00	\$0.00	Korean Baptist Mission Fbks	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Kotzebue	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$6,059.09	\$0.00	\$579.29	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$384.00	\$0.00	Morning Star Baptist Church	\$5,870.71	\$0.00	\$1,771.00	\$0.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$3,037.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$2,691.95	\$0.00	\$785.00	\$0.00	North Star Baptist Church	\$415.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grandview Baptist Church	\$19,310.68	\$0.00	\$8,950.13	\$0.00	Salcha Baptist Church	\$3,703.80	\$0.00	\$1,210.00	\$5,205.00
Greater Friendship Bapt Church	\$5,211.00	\$100.00	\$482.00	\$0.00	Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$4,845.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$8,849.49	\$0.00	\$1,185.00	\$0.00	St John Baptist Church	\$9,750.72	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$0.00
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$701.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.75	Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$1,117.69	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	University Baptist Church Fbks	\$15,040.00	\$0.00	\$4,442.50	\$0.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$116,129.67	\$0.00	\$16,555.40	\$5,405.00
Korean New Central Bapt Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$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	\$4,754.81	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Mount Zion Missionary Bapt Church	\$720.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Comm Baptist Church Coffman Cove	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain View Comm Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$1,724.11	\$0.00	\$417.00	\$0.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$6,325.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$1,880.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Juneau	\$5,220.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$13,849.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Ketchikan	\$6,265.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rabbit Creek Comm Church	\$5,145.36	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Petersburg	\$1,623.00	\$0.00	\$950.00	\$0.00
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$562.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Sitka	\$3,409.92	\$0.00	\$510.00	\$0.00
Samoa Alaska Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$15,043.21	\$0.00	\$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	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Juneau Korean Church	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$90.00	\$0.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$15,502.56	\$0.00	\$3,769.00	\$0.00	New Hope Fellowship	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	North Tongass Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$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	\$5,081.78	\$0.00	\$1,253.00	\$0.00	Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$1,493.38	\$0.00	\$485.00	\$0.00
Valley View Baptist Church	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$40,676.73	\$0.00	\$6,002.00	\$0.00
Whittier Christian Community	\$602.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Grand Total:	\$487,373.96	\$100.00	\$79,309.81	\$6,495.40
Wilderness Chapel	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	Goal:	\$766,003.00	\$70,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00
Total:	\$187,650.47	\$100.00	\$34,560.82	\$27.75	Over/Under Goal:	(\$278,629.04)	(\$69,900.00)	(\$20,690.19)	(\$143,504.60)
Hatcher Pass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM	Legend:				
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$5,205.11	\$0.00	\$2,243.63	\$0.00	CP: Cooperative Program, January - December				
Bodenberg Butte Baptist Church	\$5,075.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	SMO: State Mission Offering, August - July				
CrossCountry Church	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	AA: Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, January - December				
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$4,487.44	\$0.00	\$1,131.01	\$0.00	LM: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, June - May				
Ekwok Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$17,695.73	\$0.00	\$5,020.98	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Palmer	\$26,799.85	\$0.00	\$985.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Valdez	\$6,420.96	\$0.00	\$2,336.91	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Wasilla	\$18,862.70	\$0.00	\$2,692.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Willow	\$2,652.46	\$0.00	\$1,326.61	\$0.00					
King Salmon Comm Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$2,190.52	\$0.00	\$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	\$2,810.97	\$0.00	\$535.00	\$290.00					
Settler's Bay Comm Church	\$3,998.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Valley Life Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Total:	\$96,810.25	\$0.00	\$16,726.14	\$290.00					
Kenai Peninsula	CP	SMO	AA	LM					
College Heights Baptist Church	\$25,574.03	\$0.00	\$2,923.45	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Kenai	\$4,039.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$772.65					
First Baptist Church Soldotna	\$4,803.84	\$0.00	\$1,542.00	\$0.00					
Lighthouse Community Church	\$9,680.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Moose Pass Community Church	\$809.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00					
Total:	\$46,106.84	\$0.00	\$5,465.45	\$772.65					



Join the 2000 Club and support capital needs projects in our Alaska Baptist Convention churches! **See the fourth quarter request in this issue of the Alaska Baptist Messenger.** Each quarter, individuals, mission groups, Sunday School classes and churches strive to meet the

\$20,000 goal. It takes just 2000 gifts of \$10 each quarter to accomplish it. In the last 13 years, the 2000 Club has assisted 44 congregations with construction or renovation projects. Won't you join us and be part of expanding God's Kingdom in Alaska? For more information, contact Mike Procter, Director of Missions, ABC at (907)344-9627 or mike@alaska-baptistconvention.com.

2011

State Evangelism Conference

Monday, January 31 - Tuesday, February 1
First Baptist Church, Anchorage



"Transformed Lives" based on 2 Corinthians 3:18

New this year! All SEC meal and childcare registrations will be taken on-line. Be watching for more information.

Bible Study Leadership Training


Saturday, November 6
in Tanana Valley Baptist Association

Monday, November 8
in Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

Tuesday, November 9
in Chugach Baptist Association

Locations and times to be announced.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).					

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

clergy appreciation month



October "Nuggets"

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

Cold Bay Chapel

Cold Bay had a record-breaking Sunday on August 15 with 40 in worship! Every child in the town was reached with VBS and they enjoyed 100% attendance all week. Monte Chitty is pastor.

Togiak Baptist Mission

Pastor Paul Frost was recently at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, where he testified on Indigenous People concerns.

Juneau Korean Church



Juneau Korean baptized three on August 15. Peter Oh is pastor.

Thorne Bay Baptist Church

TBBC had a busy summer, working on their facility and hosting retreats. They had several decisions for Christ and five baptisms. They are currently working on a comprehensive library in the church where church and community members can check-out Christian materials. The church is also asking support in supplying crafts items, bookshelves and toys to set up a children's department. Philip Clark is pastor.

Valley View Baptist Church, Eagle River

On August 15, VVBC celebrated the baptism of six into the faith, which is a new record for the church! John Jemar is pastor.

Kiana Baptist Mission

After ten years of service in Kiana, John and Kim Piepmeier are returning to the Lower 48. Their faithfulness and persistence has impacted many people in the Northwest

Arctic. Pray for them as they make their transition.

Chugach Resort Ministries, Girdwood

CRM continues to make an impact in Girdwood as they build relationships with their neighbors. Our Mission Service Corps volunteers Scott and Jennifer Capshaw have been installed into the local Rotary. Recently, they painted over graffiti on the playground. Pray for the Capshaw's as they continue their work in this resort area.

First Baptist Church, Anchorage

FBC recently had a "Wacky Women's Wearable Fashion Show and Tea." Their annual Family Camp will be held October 8-9.

First Native Baptist Church, Anchorage

FNBC celebrated their 50th anniversary in August. Jonathan Wilson (pictured right), former pastor, and his family attended the celebration. Natalie Angapuk



(pictured left) was a featured singer. For the third summer, a team from FBC Charleston, Missouri went to the village of Napakiak to work in the cemetery, repairing crosses, cutting grass and rebuilding

the fence. The team also conducted a VBS and there were two professions of faith. Mary Roberson, member of FNBC, who was born and grew up in Napakiak, has been instrumental in helping the Missouri team each year.

Anchorage Hope Community Baptist Church

AHCBC hosted the Alaska Native Baptist Fellowship Conference September

30-October 2. Davis Hobson is pastor.

Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau

GVBC sent food to Bill and Ruth Brown (MSC) at Hoonah Baptist Mission following the recent shooting in the village. The Brown's helped provide food to displaced families who were forced to evacuate their homes during the ordeal. English as a Second Language (ESL) training will be provided October 14-16.

BLUME 2011

Blume is a mission gathering for teen girls who have completed grades 7-12 and is being held in Orlando, Florida, July 13-16, 2011. For information, visit www.blumeforgirls.com

North Tongass Baptist Church,

Ward Cove

NTBC had eight children attend VBS. This was the first VBS they have had in several years. There were Bible lessons, games, crafts, snacks and loads of fun! Mike Hatter is pastor.



Sunset Hill Baptist Church, Anchorage

Pastor Judson Owen announced his retirement effective October 31, 2010.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

The MOPS program has changed its name to UBC Women's LIFE Group and expanded to welcome young wives as well as mothers of preschoolers. The group meets two Saturdays each month, as well as hosting other special events. The College/Career group is active with weekly Bible Studies, and twice-monthly "fun" nights. Youth will participate in the Winter Youth Celebration, October 15-16. The annual Children's Fall Festival will replace the evening service on October 31.

Help Wanted • Youth and Music Pastor

Big Lake Baptist Church (15 miles west of Wasilla) is seeking a part-time youth and music pastor who possesses a committed Christian faith, a burden for the lost and a love for youth to help us expand our ever-growing youth and music programs. Two years experience working with youth and minimum education of high school diploma with two years of college preferred. Primary duties will be to plan, direct, evaluate and conduct a comprehensive youth ministry. Duties will be to plan, lead and direct the music and worship arts program. For more information, call (907)892-6646.

First Baptist Church, Fairbanks

FBC is gearing up to host the annual Winter Youth Celebration, October 15-16. Visit the website for more information, www.akwyc.com. Mark Howdeshell is pastor.

North Star Baptist Church, Anderson

Hugh and Marilyn Long, Mission Service Corps missionaries serving at North Star, provided homemade cookies to every student and teacher at the local school. The Long's are becoming known for their

servant hearts and ministering spirits.

Moose Pass Community Church

The congregation of MPCC closed on the sold their old building and until the new building is ready, are meeting in the school gymnasium. They are grateful for its use! There have been unexpected financial challenges finishing the new facility so please pray for this congregation. Mark Milligan is pastor.

Welcome!

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

*Korean Baptist Mission
Jacob Lee*

Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches

Chugach Baptist Association

Aquillaq Baptist Church
Filipino Bible Church
Greater Friendship Baptist Church
Kiana Baptist Mission
Whittier Christian Community

Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

King Salmon Comm Baptist Chapel

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

Chinese Fellowship

Tongass Baptist Association

Anchor Baptist Church
Glacier Valley Baptist Church
Hoonah Baptist Mission

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Fast facts:

- 11,588 people groups worldwide; 6.8 billion people
- 6,426 unreached people groups (less than 2 percent evangelical)
- 3,724 unreached/unengaged people groups (among whom no one is spreading the Gospel)
- 1,041 people groups directly or indirectly engaged by IMB personnel (reported in April 2010 Global Status of Evangelical Christianity)

Missionaries:

- 5,376 missionaries (as of 4/19/2010); 4,284 career, 1,092 short-term

Church growth:

- 24,650 new churches
 - 505,297 new believers in discipleship
 - 506,019 baptisms
- (reported in the 2009 Annual Statistical Report)



*National
Goal:
\$175
million*

Churches Ministering to Teenagers

(Source: Outreach Magazine, Sep/Oct2009)

- 2 out of 3 high school students leave the church after graduation.
- 77% of Christians come to faith by the age of 21.
- More than 40% of young people aged 16 to 29 are now outside the Christian faith, up from 27% during the previous generation.
- In 2009 the number of text messages teens sent or received in a typical day was 96.
- In 2009 47% of teens said their social lives would be worsened or end if text messaging was not an option.
- In 2009 61% of 13 to 17 year olds have a personal profile on social media sites such as MySpace, Friendster or Xanga. Half have posted pictures of themselves on line.
- 52% of teens listened to online radio in 2008, up from 34% in 2007.

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David Baldwin, Editor

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Alaska Native Baptist Fellowship Annual Meeting Thursday-Saturday September 30-October 2

Anchorage Hope Community Baptist Church
(meets at Muldoon Road Baptist Church)

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon

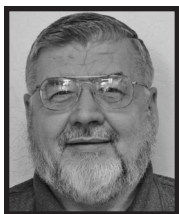
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon

6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!



David Baldwin
Executive Director

To those who knew Nancy was having hip replacement surgery, she is doing great! Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls and inquiries.

Too often we forget about the people who came before us. We do not know how church buildings were built or who paid the bills; we assume the current congregation paid for it all. In Alaska, I know of few churches who have not received help from the Alaska Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board (NAMB), the 2000 Club and the Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering. As I think about literacy work and disaster relief efforts (including the “Buckets of Hope” in Haiti) I realize they all have roots in Alaska. When John and Lillian Isaacs went to Fairbanks in the 1960s, part of their assignment was to teach English as a Second Language (ESL). They were so successful and Lillian was such a master storyteller, literacy work exploded across the Southern Baptist Convention. The small group/classroom concept was developed out of necessity at Friendship Baptist Church in Fairbanks and at least six language churches in Alaska are the result of that literacy work.

In August 1967 the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention was scheduled to meet in Fairbanks. Home Mission Board (now NAMB) representatives were to attend, along with the Director of the Brotherhood Commission. When word came that Fairbanks had flooded, the Convention meeting was canceled and telephone calls were made for help. Winter was coming. Airlines that serviced Fairbanks at that time donated planes to carry construction teams to help repair damage. As a result of the flood, discussions began in earnest about mobilizing response teams. Today, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is the third largest disaster response organization in the world.

With the arrival of John Forrester to First Baptist Church, Kotzebue, and Brenda Crim, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, University of Alaska Anchorage, the idea of “Bible in a Bucket” was born and has been used annually in Nome during the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and in Kotzebue during their July 4 celebration. The bucket contains a Bible and other Christian materials. “Buckets of Hope” started during the Haitian relief effort, has food, a Bible and other material and is a spinoff of Alaska’s “Bible in a Bucket.”

As I reflect on these and other ministries, I realize every one of them has a common thread – the Cooperative Mission Program. The Isaacs, Forresters and Brenda are appointed missionaries supported through Cooperative Program and NAMB. Disaster Relief is supported through the Cooperative Mission Program and the North American Mission Offering. I am so thankful that in Alaska, even though we are small in numbers, we can be part of ministries that impact the cause of Christ all over the world. Thank you for supporting missions through the Cooperative Program and the direct mission offerings. Remain faithful doing what you can, where you are, using what you have, to the glory of God.



Mike Procter
*Director of Missions and
Church Planting*

As a child, I used to dress up and play “pretend.” My three favorite characters were cowboy, soldier and super hero. Superman was my favorite super hero because he was “faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound” and what boy wouldn’t want to be able to do all those things? I remember one day I was in a friend’s garage and we were playing “super heroes.” I stood on his dad’s workbench and tried to fly by jumping. Unfortunately the law of gravity kicked in and my one-second flight ended in an abrupt landing on the cement floor. While I did not break any bones, I severely injured my arm and realized that flying was for birds and planes.

Halloween is October 31 and on that night, children will dress in costumes and pretend to be someone or something else. They will do this to get candy, snacks and other treats associated with “trick-or-treating.” And we all know “CANDY” is an acronym for “Continually Advertized Nutritionally Deficit Yummies”!

As we think of “dressing up,” remember that we, as Christians, are to put on the Armor of God so we can reflect Christ who is our Hope of Glory, and be a witness for Him. The Armor of God is loins girded with truth; breastplate of righteousness; feet shod with the gospel of peace; shield of faith; helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. Notice there is no back plate to the armor. Could that mean we are never to turn our backs on the Lord because if we do, we will make ourselves vulnerable to the attacks of the devil and will not have the armor of God to protect us?

On October 31, when children are coming to your door “trick-or-treating” or as you see adults dressed up, let this be a reminder to ask yourself if you are wearing the Armor of God. Are we walking by faith, trusting and obeying, being a verbal and lifestyle witness for Him? If not, let me encourage you to put on the Armor of God and allow Him to live in and through you.

Blessings!



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

As a new church year begins, we will start the process of switching from one calendar to the next for the purpose of filling out our Annual Church Profiles (ACP). Is this record-keeping system one of those things in ministry that we see as a nuisance, or non-negotiable to our work? How many of us keep records? How many of us like statistics? Why do we keep those numbers and what do they represent? They represent lives, souls, people and hearts. They reflect whether or not our churches are reaching more people for Christ or if we have the same number of people in our churches as we did a year ago. I am sure every pastor looks at his church budget; ACP numbers are just as important and I take them very seriously.

When God is blessing a ministry, part of that blessing is an increase in attendance. But here is a problem I have encountered when speaking to church members, and I need some help understanding it. Pastors, how do you answer members who say things like “I really like the church the way it is now” or “I like the fact that I know everyone in my church” or “If our church gets any larger, I am going to have to find a small church to attend.”? I heard these types of comments when I was a pastor and I have heard the same thing from church members today. Increased attendance is a threat to those who make these statements. Pastor, how do you help these folks see the selfish side of their comments? Please call or write to let me know the strategies you use to help people see beyond themselves. I wonder if the lack of growth in churches comes from within the church, and the complacency we see is the result of wrong motives and lack of love for the lost and needy? Recently, someone made a simple statement that gave me pause. They said “not everyone wants to go to a mega-church.” There is great truth to that and one we must understand in the climate of the Alaska Baptist Convention. There has always been a tendency to promote success of the “mega-church.” The implication is that the small church cannot be successful but we all know some Alaskan cities could not sustain a “mega-church.” It is hard to have a “mega” anything when there are less than 500 people in town.

What is the definition of a successful church? Biblically, the most successful church is one that encompasses the functions of prayer, worship, ministry, community, evangelism and discipleship. That’s why we need to keep ACP statistics to gauge if we are maintaining or growing our church membership. The bottom line is, are we making disciples in our churches and in our communities? Have the activities of your church resulted in members who exhibit the characteristics of a disciple of Christ? If you need help with this, give me a call. I would love to talk with you about establishing a great disciple-making plan.



Don Shannon
*Director of Ministries and
 Mission Education*

A vision is not a dream, and not a plan on how to achieve anything. A vision is what you see as your “promised land.” The mountain climber stands on the slope and peers into the sky at the distant peak; that’s where he’s headed. It’s his vision. The pastor sees a congregation saturating the community with ministry and service and witness. That is his vision. A businessman knows exactly the kind of company he is setting out to build. The maestro begins assembling musicians with a definite idea in mind as to the kind of symphony he is creating. The chef prepares a feast for a wedding party. An engineer draws a picture of the bridge which will span the river. Each has a vision.

If you plan to lead, it might be a good idea to know where you’re going. The folks coming along behind you would like to know where you plan to take them. That concept, that goal, that’s your vision. Your vision is the answer to the question: when you get where you are going, what will it look like?

“Some men see things as they are and ask why; I see things that never were and ask why not.” That memorable line, often attributed to Robert F. Kennedy, actually belongs to the playwright, George Bernard Shaw from his “Back to Methuselah.” The mixup resulted from Senator Ted Kennedy’s quoting it about President Kennedy at his funeral in 1968.

It’s a great line. It’s reminiscent of something from the 11th chapter of Hebrews. “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (11:3)

There are those who see things no one else sees, who hear music unheard by the human ear, who know things not revealed in the physical world. These are people of a faith-vision.

The writer of Hebrews gives numerous instances of people with faith-vision which enabled them to see what God wanted them to do, where He wanted them to go, how He wished them to live. One example is Moses. “By faith (Moses) left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.” People of faith see things otherwise unseen. Faith-vision.

A vision is not about leadership. It comes before leadership. One can have a vision but no leadership, but real leadership requires a vision. As you are called to lead you must answer the question, “What is my vision?”

Alaska

Baptist Messenger



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PERIODICAL POSTAGE
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calendar

October 2010

Sep30-2	Alaska Native Baptist Fellowship Conference	7
	Anchorage Hope Community Baptist Church	10
1-31	Cooperative Program Emphasis Month	11
3	On Mission Together: Sharing the Good News	15
8-9	Bible Study Directors Retreat	15
10	World Hunger Sunday	15
14-16	ESL Training, Glacier Valley BC, Juneau	16
15-16	Winter Youth Celebration	24
	FBC Fairbanks	25-26
16	National Boss's Day	28-Dec 5
24	OMC, Emmanuel, First, Glacier Valley, Juneau	
25	OMC, King Salmon	
26	OMC, Dillingham Bible, Cold Bay	
27	OMC, Sand Point	
28	OMC, HPBA	
29	OMC, First, Valdez	
30	OMC, Faith, Fairbanks	23

November 2010

1	Baptist Women World Day of Prayer
1-6	Bible Study Leadership Training
5	Living with Urgency: Children's Missions
	Celebration Day

December 2010

28-Dec 5	Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
23	ABC and ABF offices close at 1pm
24-Jan 2	ABC and ABF offices closed

Daylight Savings Time Ends
ABF Orientation for new Trustees
ABF Trustee meeting
Annual Church Profiles Due
Orientation for ABC Executive Board members
ABC Executive Board Committees
ABC Executive Board meeting
ABC and ABF offices close at 1pm
ABC and ABF offices closed
Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

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