



Alaska

Baptist Messenger



Vol 11

November 2010

NO 11

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**ARE WE
THERE
YET?**

**Boldly give to
reach all peoples.**

imb
connecting

imb.org/offering

**National Goal: \$175 million
Alaska Goal: \$150,000**

Bible Study Leadership Training

**Saturday, November 6
Shannon Park Baptist Church, Fairbanks**

**Monday, November 8
First Baptist Church, Palmer**

**Tuesday, November 9
New Hope Baptist Church, Anchorage**

**Thursday, November 11
First Baptist Church, Soldotna**

**Special featured speaker is Michael Smith
Evangelism and Discipleship Specialist
LifeWay Christian Resources**

**Register on-line at
www.alaskabaptistconvention.com**

No childcare will be available.



Welcome our new Executive Director!

At the 65th annual meeting of the ABC, an overwhelming majority voted to elect Michael (Mike) Procter as the 14th Executive Director of the Alaska Baptist Convention and Foundation. Mike will assume the helm of the ABC following Dave Baldwin's retirement effective December 31, 2010. Send your well-wishes to Mike at mike@alaskabaptistconvention.com.

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

January-September 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	\$538.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anch Hope Comm Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$0.00	\$538.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquillaa Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Tanana Valley Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Calvary Baptist Church	\$3,685.00	\$791.00	\$1,156.00	\$0.00	Chinese Fellowship	\$918.50	\$265.00	\$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	\$7,591.00	\$0.00	\$1,843.11	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith Baptist Church Fbks	\$5,501.00	\$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
Comm Baptist Church Nome	\$443.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Delta Jct	\$38,018.99	\$0.00	\$2,887.00	\$275.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$1,643.87	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Fairbanks	\$5,816.78	\$0.00	\$1,532.50	\$0.00
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church North Pole	\$22,776.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filipino Bible Church Anchorage	\$3,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Friendship Baptist Church Fbks	\$450.00	\$300.00	\$840.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Anchorage	\$60,545.80	\$0.00	\$7,311.69	\$0.00	Hispanic Mission	\$622.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Eagle River	\$29,842.03	\$1,268.00	\$4,045.00	\$0.00	Korean Baptist Mission Fbks	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Kotzebue	\$2,500.00	\$800.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$6,737.72	\$0.00	\$579.29	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$384.00	\$0.00	Morning Star Baptist Church	\$6,668.85	\$0.00	\$1,771.00	\$0.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$3,624.00	\$0.00	\$1,051.00	\$0.00	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$3,154.91	\$0.00	\$785.00	\$0.00	North Star Baptist Church	\$476.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grandview Baptist Church	\$22,336.15	\$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	\$5,594.33	\$100.00	\$482.00	\$0.00	Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$4,845.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$10,024.81	\$0.00	\$1,185.00	\$0.00	St John Baptist Church	\$11,050.81	\$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:	\$130,816.55	\$565.00	\$16,555.40	\$5,480.00
Korean New Central Bapt Church	\$600.00	\$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	\$5,428.96	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Mt Zion Missionary Bapt Church	\$840.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Comm Baptist Church Coff Cove	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
Mountain View Community Church	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$2,257.17	\$530.23	\$417.00	\$0.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$7,525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Church KTN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$2,480.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Juneau	\$6,218.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$15,536.04	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Ketchikan	\$6,265.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rabbit Creek Comm Church	\$5,788.53	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Petersburg	\$2,149.00	\$0.00	\$950.00	\$0.00
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$562.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Sitka	\$4,349.96	\$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	\$270.00	\$81.00	\$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	\$17,922.86	\$0.00	\$3,769.00	\$0.00	New Hope Fellowship	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$2,700.00	\$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	\$6,586.78	\$0.00	\$1,253.00	\$0.00	Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$3,192.77	\$505.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Valley View Baptist Church	\$1,820.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$46,927.37	\$1,116.23	\$6,167.00	\$0.00
Whittier Christian Community	\$762.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Grand Total:	\$558,483.33	\$9,188.32	\$81,816.81	\$7,361.40
Wilderness Chapel	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	Goal:	\$766,003.00	\$70,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00
Total:	\$215,393.21	\$2,959.00	\$36,111.82	\$27.75	Over/Under Goal:	(\$207,519.67)	(\$60,811.68)	(\$18,183.19)	(\$142,638.60)
Hatcher Pass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM	Legend:				
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$6,338.39	\$0.00	\$2,243.63	\$0.00	CP: Cooperative Program, January - December				
Bodenberg Butte Baptist Church	\$5,551.58	\$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	\$5,876.69	\$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	\$19,412.01	\$0.00	\$5,020.98	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Palmer	\$30,133.17	\$0.00	\$985.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Valdez	\$8,492.45	\$1,959.03	\$2,336.91	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Wasilla	\$21,361.94	\$0.00	\$2,692.00	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Willow	\$3,355.83	\$1,614.09	\$1,326.61	\$0.00					
King Salmon Community Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$2,538.15	\$0.00	\$355.00	\$0.00					
North Bear Street Comm Church	\$97.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Schrock Road Comm Church	\$3,787.97	\$436.50	\$826.00	\$581.00					
Settler's Bay Comm Church	\$4,523.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Valley Life Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Total:	\$112,119.42	\$4,009.62	\$17,017.14	\$581.00					
Kenai Peninsula	CP	SMO	AA	LM					
College Heights Baptist Church	\$29,251.97	\$0.00	\$2,923.45	\$0.00					
First Baptist Church Kenai	\$4,039.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$772.65					
First Baptist Church Soldotna	\$6,837.84	\$0.00	\$1,542.00	\$0.00					
Lighthouse Community Church	\$10,929.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00					
Moose Pass Community Church	\$968.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00					
Total:	\$53,226.78	\$0.00	\$5,965.45	\$1,272.65					

**Introductory Workshop for
POWER CHURCH PLUS**
*an administrative/bookkeeping computer program
designed specifically for smaller churches.*

**Two sessions available on Thursday, Nov. 4
1:00-4:00 p.m. OR 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

*Register by November 1, 2010
by calling Debra Long, (907)344-9627*

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
must be made online at
www.alaskabaptistconvention.com

Welcome!

Chugach Baptist Association

*New Beginnings Church, Seward
Paul (Glenda) Worsham*

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

*North Star Baptist Church
Hugh (Marilyn) Long*

Tongass Baptist Association

*Tenakee Community Church
Todd (Jodie) Buck*

Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches

Chugach Baptist Association

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

Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

*Ekwok Christian Church
King Salmon Comm Baptist Chapel*

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

Chinese Fellowship

Tongass Baptist Association

*Anchor Baptist Church
Glacier Valley Baptist Church
Hoonah Baptist Mission*

More pictures from the

65th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention Annual Mission Rally • 61st Annual WMU Meeting



The staff of Wayland Baptist University provided dinner on Wednesday night in commemoration of 25 years of WBU serving in Alaska! Pictured l to r (back row) Eric Ash, Mike Zimmerman, Carrie Humphries, Jeff Anderson, (front row) Dawn Ash, Linda Hoffman, John Copeland.



Roy Spannagel (r) making a NAMB presentation to retiring ABC Executive Director Dave Baldwin (l) and Nancy.



Dave and Nancy Baldwin at a retirement reception held in their honor.

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November "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

The Women on Mission group meets the first Saturday of each month and current projects include care packages for military personnel and Christmas "shoe boxes." In October, the ladies had a luncheon and the church enjoyed their Fall Festival. During a recent church work day, volunteers prepared church grounds for winter and put up new dividers in the ladies restroom. Thanks to all who helped out! During November, members will prepare a Thanksgiving meal and decorate the church for Christmas. Troy Gourley is pastor.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church,

Fairbanks

A ten-member construction work team from the Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association helped to renovate the building MPBC is using for worship, training and community affairs. The teams completely framed the building for sheetrock and rewired the heating system with sectional thermostats. Joe Blackburn is pastor.

Chugach Baptist Association

CBA held their annual meeting on October 19 at University Baptist Church in Anchorage. The association welcomed two new church planters for Anchorage: Inky Bushnell and Kevin Jones.

St. John Baptist Church, Fairbanks

The church hosted their 22nd annual women's day program at the end of August. Their theme, "By the Grace of God, I Am What I Am" based on 1 Corinthians 15:10. Keynote speaker was Gloria Paul. Lawrence Ellison is pastor.

First Baptist Church, Anchorage

The McKay Mission House was officially dedicated on September 19. The Men's

Ministry held a "Wild Game Dinner" on October 21; a Thanksgiving dinner service is planned for November 21. Patti Coghill is the new administrative assistant. Ed Gregory is pastor.

Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla

FLBC hosted the Beth Moore simulcast on September 18 and the Alaska Baptist Convention Pastor conference on September 28.

First Native Baptist Church, Anchorage

Ruby Stogsdill, president, Alaska WMU met with the women of FNBC on September 11, and spoke during the church service on September 12.

Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau

GVBC showed the "Angola Prison Story" during their movie night on October 3.

Alaska Baptist Convention

The ABC held a special retirement reception for David and Nancy Baldwin on September 28. David is retiring as Executive Director of the ABC after 10 years of service in that position. The unplanned theme was "When You're Gone, You're Gone."

Clearwater Baptist Church,

Delta Junction

CBC has called Glen (Kathy) Cotton as full-time pastor. Glen has served as bivocational pastor of the church for 18 years. Cotton's also celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on November 7.

First Baptist Church, Palmer

FBC launched Phase 3 of their fundraising efforts to reach a goal of \$120,000 to expand their educational facilities. \$60,000 has already been given toward the effort.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

The College/Career group will have their Recharge Retreat November 12-14 at Mt. Aurora Lodge with David and Nancy Baldwin as special guests. The retreat will end with a college-led evening service and church-wide potluck supper. The church will dedicate their Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on November 21.

First Baptist Church, Wasilla

A Women's Retreat was held at LaVerne Griffin September 17-18 with 60 in attendance. The church also hosted the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention September 27-29 with

Thank You!



The staff of the Alaska Baptist Convention wishes to thank Pastor Stephen Shrimplin, the staff and members of First Baptist Church Wasilla for hosting the 65th Annual Convention meeting, Mission Rally and WMU Annual Meeting, September 27-29, 2010.

churches represented from throughout the state. It was an exciting time in the life of the church!

ESL Training for Tongass Baptist Association

Kendale Moore from NAMB led the training for 24 individuals from five cities in TBA. They discovered you don't have to speak another language or be a professional teacher to learn to teach English to internationals as a mission outreach. A special thanks to Barbara and Kenneth Chadwick for all their help in making this a great meeting. (pictured l to r: Shawn Kantola, Colleen Webb, Katie Coate)



Help Wanted

First Korean Baptist Church needs a part-time Children's Ministry Director. This person would be responsible to facilitate the Sunday morning children's ministry, 10:00 a.m. – noon. College students are encouraged to apply. Please contact pastor Jea One Lee, 301-2901; hoinlee2003@yahoo.co.kr

Help Wanted

Hillside Baptist Church, Anchorage is looking for a part-time youth minister to lead and coordinate their youth program. Please contact pastor Garry Loeffler, 346-3050; pastorgarry@hbc-ak.org

65th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention Annual Mission Rally • 61st Annual WMU Meeting



Annual Mission Rally "Are You Smarter Than a Missionary?"; (l) Kay Carter, Mike Procter. Panel of Experts (above, l to r) Brenda Crim, Don Shannon, Jimmy Stewart



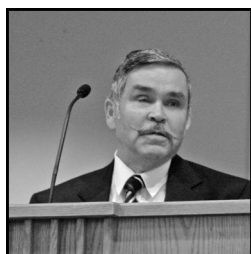
Prayer by Judy Rice for 2010-2011 WMU Leadership Team (pictured l to r) Karen Chambers, Judy Ann Cabe, Barbara Young, Ruby Stogsdill



Presentation by Executive Director Dave Baldwin (l) to outgoing Convention president Ed Gregory (r)



New Staff to State (l to r); Stephen and Dana Shrimplin, Hugh and Marilyn Long, Butch Strickland, Cindy and Joe Boney, Charles Lane, Paul and Glenda Worsham, Doug Burrows



Russell Lamont
First Native



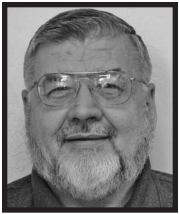
Kwang Park
Wasilla Korean



John Smith
Mt. Zion Missionary



Executive Director Search Committee (l to r); Bryan Myers, Kerry Chadwick, Garry Loeffler, Meggie DeMers, Johnny McCoy, Jeff Anderson



David Baldwin

Executive Director

In August 1981, Nancy, our two children, and I arrived in Fairbanks. We attended our first Alaska Baptist Convention meeting at First Baptist Church, Soldotna six days later. I remember thinking, “how in the world do all these people know each other when they live so far apart?” In November 1981, we hosted the 4th annual Alaska Baptist Native Conference at Friendship Baptist Mission in Fairbanks where we were serving with Valeria Sherard. I asked myself how the Native people knew each other when Alaska was so big. At that time Willie Johnson taught me my first Eskimo word, “O wha-da-goose-I-am” (You have to say it fast.) [Translation: “Oh what a goose I am.” Eskimo humor]. (Both groups knew each other from convention meetings.)

Looking back and remembering is fun when the memories are good. Dreaming about the future can be a good thing too. When I visit churches, sometimes I have a vision for the church that is bigger than the pastor’s dream! That can get me into trouble and be frustrating. Too often though, we become content where we are. We don’t think much about the past and we surely don’t think about the future. The future includes introducing the people of Alaska to Jesus!

At our weekly Wednesday staff prayer time at the Alaska Baptist Convention office, I shared a devotional with the staff as it related to Jonah; “...when God invites us to take part in His plan, it is often because there is something He wants to do in us, not necessarily something He wants to do through us.” God wants to do something in us and we are trying to do things for God. God used a big fish to get Jonah’s attention. What is God going to use to get the attention of Alaska Baptists? Our people need to know Jesus!

In the 30 years we have lived in Alaska, Nancy and I have not missed giving to the designated mission offerings. We use a simple method to remember our financial support for missions. We decide how much we want to give to Alaska, North American and International Missions and divide that amount by 12. Every month, as we give God’s tithe and our offering to our church, we also give a gift to one of the designated mission offerings: for example, January-May, we give our offering to North American Missions; June-September, to Alaska State Missions; and October-December, to International Missions. In this simple way, we never forget the special mission offerings.

First Baptist Church, Wasilla, did a great job hosting the Mission Rally, the annual WMU meeting and the 65th Alaska Baptist Convention annual meeting. Thank you for a job well done! Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla, hosted the Pastor’s Conference and did a wonderful job. Returning to the ABC office on Monday, October 4, the support staff reminded me “When you’re gone, you’re gone.” Nancy and I also want to thank everyone for the words and acts of kindness. Thank you also for allowing us to serve the people who make up the Alaska Baptist Convention. We are blessed!

Remember to pray for Mike and Rebecca Procter as Mike assumes the position of Executive Director for the Alaska Baptist Convention. The changes coming to Alaska Baptist mission work are going to be many. Mike will have to make some hard decisions and he needs our prayerful support. Remain faithful! Proverbs 3:5-6

Together we will share the gospel with a state that needs Jesus.



Mike Procter

Director of Missions and Church Planting

In the August 8, 2010 edition of *Parade* magazine, editors published the following: “Americans eat seven billion hot dogs between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Laid end-to-end, the links would circle the earth about 21.5 times.” That is a lot of hot dogs!

Anyone at the Alaska Baptist Convention office will tell you that I like hot dogs. In fact, one of my favorite places to eat lunch is Sam’s Club. I order the Polish Dog combo, put on crushed red chili flakes (no mustard, ketchup, onions or sauerkraut for me), have my ice tea and I am in “hog heaven.” If Rebecca would allow me to, I could eat a polish dog every day of the year.

I enjoy eating! I have had the opportunity to experience unique culinary treats from around the world: in Australia, I ate live grubs; in Ghana, rat; in the Netherlands, raw herring (right off of the fishing boat) and onions (I burped for a week); in Panama, cat; in Egypt, camel; in Canada, French fries and gravy; in Japan, sushi; in Korea, kimchi; in Germany, horse; in Albania, baked cow stomach; in Southeastern parts USA, the most frightening of all, Sweet Tea (aka syrup). I have even been known to eat vegetables. Every nation, people, ethnicity or culture have their favorite foods and sometimes, other people groups may not appreciate or enjoy them. I remember describing hog’s head cheese to someone and my eating it and that person nearly gagged.

November 25 is the day set aside for us to celebrate Thanksgiving. Originally established as a time to give thanks to God for a bountiful harvest and His provision, today Thanksgiving is known as a time for “chowing down”, watching football and visiting with family and friends. How many people do you know who get up long before the rest of the family to put the turkey in the oven? How many pies are baked? How many cranberries are sacrificed? How many jello salads are prepared? How many rolls are tossed from one end of the table to the other? In the Procter household, our tradition made me responsible for the appetizers and snacks to nibble while waiting for the main course. As I was laying out the relish trays, chips and dip, crackers and cheese and assorted sweets, Rebecca would be in the kitchen preparing the main meal. By the time the meal was ready, the boys and I would be so stuffed with all the goodies, we could only eat two or three helpings and not really enjoy it like we would if we were hungry!

Yes, Thanksgiving has become associated more with food and visiting than with giving thanks to the Father. Let’s decide this year, while we are enjoying the food, friends and family, to truly be thankful and give thanks to God. After all, every good and perfect gift comes from Him and we are instructed “in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” We are to be “**thanks living**” people, as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Please read Philippians 1:2-6 as this is my prayer of thanksgiving for you. Blessings!



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

Every church has a strategy for ministry and mission. Some churches are “attractional” with people attending a large group gathering on Sunday and participating in small group fellowship. Fewer churches are intentional in inviting people to small groups or Sunday School, followed by a worship service. When people look at our statistics as a convention, they realize that when we had people directed toward small group/Bible Study and discipleship classes, we were much more effective in growing churches and reaching the lost. It takes twice as many churches today to reach the same number of people today as it did in the “heyday” of the Southern Baptist Convention. I believe the emphasis on relationships is key to our effectiveness. I urge you to return to the time when people attended a Bible Study and discipleship class prior to attending a worship service. It is not necessarily bad for someone to just come to worship services, but if I were a pastor today, I would prefer people to grow in a healthy small group of believers who invest in lives, and teach people to be transformed through the Word and relationships. Let’s emphasize this important aspect of discipling believers again.

Sunday School, Bible Study groups, small groups, community groups and cell groups can all be places where people find relationships and grow through the Word. Small groups are where real transformation takes place in new believers or lost people. I was talking with a pastor recently who concurred that we need to get people back to a small community of believers who are growing together. This can be done in a variety of settings. We need to focus our attention on the current culture of people who want to be independent and non-committal. I am amazed to hear of a new trend in people who attend, but do not become members of, a local church. What does this say about the health of our churches if people want to keep their distance? What is your strategy for developing believers into disciples? Do you have a strategy that engages and entices people to join?

Fall is Bible Study Leadership Training (BSLT) time. I have a great team of workers who are available to prepare and inspire teachers. November 6-11, the BSLT will travel from Fairbanks to Soldotna to train teachers who are currently working in preschool, children, youth and adult classes. This year, Mike Smith, Evangelism and Discipleship Specialist from LifeWay Christian Resources will work with Pastors and General Officers. Mike will teach the base conferences for those leaders and a breakout session open to anyone. I believe it is absolutely vital each year for all teachers to have time to refocus on their teaching. They need to be with others to learn, be inspired and share their work. Please have your workers attend the training in your association. We will provide a meal and training materials for attendees. Please register on line at www.alaskabaptistconvention.com so our host churches will know how many to expect for the meal.



Don Shannon
*Director of Ministries and
 Mission Education*

Last month I wrote, “If you plan to lead, it might be a good idea to know where you’re going.” There are times when we know the God-given direction, and where we are supposed to go, but getting there is tough. In fact, we are willing to yield to the temptation to go back to doing things like we always have and hope to get somewhere new. How can we continue when we are ready to quit the journey?

Discouragement is a powerful weapon. If Satan can’t get you to put off your life mission, he’ll try to make you quit altogether. Galatians says: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Do you ever get tired of doing what’s right? Sure you do, because it is only natural to grow tired when you labor.

When I’m discouraged, I’m ineffective. When I am discouraged, I’m saying, “It can’t be done.” That’s the exact opposite of saying, “I know God can do it because He’s said...” The Bible says to resist discouragement. Don’t give in without a fight. To fight effectively means to understand and trust God’s provision. The fight is a battle of faith. Do I trust God and His Word?

In Habakkuk 2:3 God challenges us to trust Him even when we don’t understand why events happen as they do. God has a plan and slowly, steadily, surely, the vision is being fulfilled. God’s delay is not a denial. Just because you haven’t heard the answer or seen the miracle doesn’t mean God isn’t going to do it, eventually. It simply means not yet!

You’re going to be tested by God in your perseverance. The really good news is you’re not going to be tested just once; you’re going to be tested again and again. So why do we face the test? So God will know how patient you are? No. It is to help you know that you can trust Him.

Some of you are discouraged because the situation seems unmanageable, unreasonable, or unfair. In the midst of this we are told to “throw off everything that hinders and the sins that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross...consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

You can make it because God is with you. He’ll enable you. It is His vision you follow. The secret is learning to draw on Christ’s power and rely on God’s promises. Like Paul, we need to state with confidence, “I have learned the secret of being content. . . I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:12-13)

Alaska

Baptist Messenger



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PERIODICAL POSTAGE
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ANCHORAGE, AK

calendar

November 2010

1 Baptist Women World Day of Prayer
5 Living with Urgency: Children's Missions
Celebration Day
6 BSLT, Shannon Park, Fbks
7 Daylight Savings Time ends
8 BSLT, FBC Palmer
9 BSLT, New Hope, Anc
10 ABF Orientation for new Trustees
11 BSLT, FBC Soldotna
11 ABF Trustee meeting
15 Annual Church Profiles due
15 Orientation for ABC Executive Board members
15 ABC Executive Board Committees
16 ABC Executive Board meeting
24 ABC and ABF offices close at 1 pm
25-26 ABC and ABF offices closed
28-Dec 5 Week of Prayer and Mission Study
for International Missions and the
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 2010

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Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
ABC and ABF offices close at 1pm
ABC and ABF offices closed

January 2011

16 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
31-Feb 1 State Evangelism Conference