



Alaska

Baptist Messenger



Vol 66

January 2011

NO 1

2011 State Evangelism Conference

Transformed Lives

January 31-February 1 • First Baptist Church, Anchorage

Featured speakers:

- Dr. Tommy and Rita Teague, North Richland Hills Baptist Church, Texas
- Jack Lawlor, Real Life Ministries
- Keith Strasburger, Real Life Ministries
- Dr. Jerry Pipes, Jerry Pipes Productions
- Bruce Raley, Lifeway Christian Resources
- Dr. Wayne Shuffield, Baptist General Convention of Texas
- Roger Byrd (leading Worship), California Southern Baptist Convention



Monday, January 31

12:00-1:00 p.m.

1:30-3:40 p.m.

3:40-4:40 p.m.

5:00-6:00 p.m.

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Lunch (provided)

General Session

Break-out Session #1

Supper (provided)

General Session

Tuesday, February 1

9:00-11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.-Noon

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Dinner on your own

6:30-9:00 p.m.

General Session

Break-out Session #2

Lunch (provided)

General Session

**Reservations for meals, childcare and hotel must be made online at
www.alaskabaptistconvention.com under "events."**

sponsored by the Alaska Baptist Convention • 1750 O'Malley Rd., Anchorage, AK 99507

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

January - November 2010 Gifts from ABC churches

Chugach Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM	Other	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Alaska Iu-Mienh First Bapt 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	\$4,493.00	\$1,351.00	\$1,156.00	\$100.00	Chinese Fellowship	\$983.50	\$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	\$9,188.00	\$0.00	\$1,843.11	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith Baptist Church Fbks	\$6,322.00	\$1,150.00	\$700.00	\$0.00
Cold Bay Chapel	\$618.50	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Fellowship Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Comm Baptist Church Nome	\$498.00	\$85.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Delta Jct	\$47,427.99	\$4,220.00	\$2,887.00	\$350.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$2,485.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Fairbanks	\$6,869.58	\$1,336.00	\$1,532.50	\$0.00
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church North Pole	\$28,053.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filipino Bible Church Anchorage	\$3,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Friendship Baptist Church Fbks	\$500.00	\$350.00	\$840.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Anchorage	\$72,109.08	\$6,761.63	\$7,311.69	\$0.00	Hispanic Mission	\$687.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Eagle River	\$35,438.17	\$1,318.00	\$4,045.00	\$0.00	Korean Baptist Mission Fbks	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Kotzebue	\$3,500.00	\$800.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$8,274.04	\$352.10	\$579.29	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Soldotna	\$7,830.84	\$1,264.25	\$1,542.00	\$0.00	Morning Star Baptist Church	\$8,198.43	\$0.00	\$1,771.00	\$0.00
First Hmong Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Pleasant Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$384.00	\$0.00	North Star Baptist Church	\$619.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$4,540.00	\$2,343.00	\$1,545.00	\$1,110.00	Salcha Baptist Church	\$6,370.72	\$0.00	\$1,337.00	\$5,205.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$4,026.91	\$0.00	\$785.00	\$0.00	Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$6,311.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grandview Baptist Church	\$28,458.82	\$11,689.00	\$8,950.13	\$0.00	St John Baptist Church	\$13,028.96	\$0.00	\$320.00	\$0.00
Greater Friendship Bapt Church	\$6,948.33	\$600.00	\$482.00	\$0.00	Togiak Baptist Mission	\$250.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$12,687.28	\$725.00	\$1,185.00	\$0.00	University Bapt Church Fbks	\$21,370.00	\$1,145.00	\$4,442.50	\$0.00
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$1,015.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.75	Total:	\$165,054.00	\$8,918.10	\$16,782.40	\$5,655.00
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$1,117.69	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	Tongass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	Anchor Baptist Church	\$6,863.88	\$610.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
Korean New Central Bapt Church	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	Comm Bapt Church Coff Cove	\$1,613.60	\$0.00	\$323.70	\$0.00
Kuparuk Preaching Point	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$2,555.35	\$530.23	\$417.00	\$0.00
Mt Zion Missionary Bapt Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Filipino Baptist Church KTN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain View Comm Church	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Juneau	\$8,545.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$8,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Ketchikan	\$6,265.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$3,380.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Petersburg	\$2,465.00	\$0.00	\$950.00	\$0.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$18,604.04	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	First Baptist Church Sitka	\$4,930.47	\$0.00	\$510.00	\$0.00
Rabbit Creek Community Church	\$6,431.70	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$15,043.21	\$2,431.00	\$3,250.00	\$0.00
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$562.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Samoa Alaska Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	Juneau Korean Church	\$330.00	\$81.00	\$90.00	\$0.00
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shungnak Baptist Mission	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Hope Fellowship	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	North Tongass Baptist Church	\$78.25	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$22,688.51	\$2,739.00	\$3,769.00	\$0.00	Tenakee Community Church	\$201.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Church of New Beginnings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$3,192.77	\$505.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$3,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total:	\$52,785.62	\$4,382.23	\$6,340.70	\$0.00
True North Church	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Grand Total:	\$678,361.99	\$59,564.09	\$83,468.30	\$8,872.40
University Baptist Church Anc	\$8,241.01	\$1,432.00	\$1,253.00	\$0.00	Goal:	\$766,003.00	\$70,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00
Valley View Baptist Church	\$3,230.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Under/Over Goal:	(\$87,641.01)	(\$10,435.91)	(\$16,531.70)	(\$141,127.60)
Whittier Christian Comm	\$762.86	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Wilderness Chapel	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00					
Total:	\$270,892.50	\$31,382.88	\$38,147.82	\$1,237.75					

Hatcher Pass Baptist Association	CP	SMO	AA	LM
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$8,217.31	\$1,662.00	\$2,243.63	\$0.00
Bodenberg Butte Bapt Church	\$6,563.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CrossCountry Church	\$950.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$6,597.75	\$0.00	\$1,131.01	\$0.00
Ekwok Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$24,029.56	\$0.00	\$5,020.98	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Palmer	\$32,633.16	\$900.00	\$985.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Valdez	\$9,729.50	\$2,000.03	\$2,336.91	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Wasilla	\$26,149.48	\$2,851.81	\$2,692.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Willow	\$4,324.74	\$2,031.77	\$1,326.61	\$0.00
King Salmon Comm Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$3,195.96	\$0.00	\$355.00	\$0.00
North Bear St 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	\$4,258.73	\$625.50	\$952.00	\$707.00
Settler's Bay Comm Church	\$5,868.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Valley Life Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$133,165.40	\$10,171.11	\$17,143.14	\$707.00

Kenai Peninsula	CP	SMO	AA	LM
College Heights Baptist Church	\$34,915.93	\$4,071.30	\$2,923.45	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Kenai	\$5,733.54	\$100.00	\$630.79	\$772.65
Lighthouse Community Church	\$13,381.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Moose Pass Comm Church	\$1,234.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$56,464.47	\$4,171.30	\$5,054.24	\$1,272.65

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



Join the 2000 Club and support capital needs projects in our Alaska Baptist Convention churches! **See the first 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 the Alaska Baptist Convention at (907)344-9627 or abc@alaskabaptistconvention.com.

Women on Mission Celebration

**"Unhindered:
Freedom in Christ"**

**April 7-9, 2011
First Baptist Church
Anchorage**

Featuring:

- Guest speakers from NAMB, IMB and WMU
- Break-out sessions
- Bookstore
- WorldCrafts store
- Door prizes each session
- Dinner on Thursday
- Lunch on Saturday

Register by March 7 to receive Early Bird price!

**Registrations must be submitted online at
www.alaskabaptistconvention.com**

Deadlines:

Early Bird registration for \$30, March 7

Registration after March 7, \$45

Hotel reservations, March 24

Childcare reservations (birth-K only), April 4

Avalanche '11 Youth Evangelism Conference March 18-19 Anchorage Baptist Temple

**featuring Jeff Wallace, Peace Baptist Church
CBU Praise Band**

**"Minute to Win It" Competition
\$20 per person**

(includes t-shirt if ordered before Feb 17)

register online at www.alaskabaptistconvention.com



January “Nuggets”

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

Community Baptist Church, Nome

CBC enjoyed a great turnout for their Thanksgiving fellowship and worship service. A Bible study group from FBC Carrolton (Texas) is sending kuspuk material to Nome as an outreach project. If you would also like to send material, please contact pastor Bruce Landry, ranger1401@hotmail.com. The church was blessed by Euto Baptist Church in Marshville, North Carolina, who sent two boxes of hats and gloves.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

In September, the church honored pastor Gary (Jennifer) Cox for ten years of service. The children’s ministry is preparing for the annual “Cabin Night” for children in grades 1-6. Two training nights prepare youth and college/career helpers for this event, which takes place January 21.

First Baptist Church, Palmer

FBC had their “Hanging of the Green” on November 28 to kick-off the Christmas season celebration. On December 1, the WMU hosted a special International Missions dinner. The men of the church had an “Alaska Golf Shot” on December 4, which included golfing, shooting and hunting through an indoor simulator. Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters was a special guest at the December 12 service. The children and youth enjoyed a lock-in/retreat on December 17; the Christmas Festival and dessert fellowship was on December 19.

First Baptist Church, Anchorage

FBC held their “Hanging of the Green” service on December 5 and the adult choir presented “Joy Has Dawned” on December 11 and 12. During their emphasis on International Missions, former IMB missionaries Alan Dial (Lesotho, Africa) and Inky Bushnell (London, England) spoke at the church. Family Fun Night was held on December 31 which included a prayer for the new year.

St. John Baptist Church, Fairbanks

St. John participated in Baptist women’s World Day of Prayer on November 1 when women in the community prayed for the peace and freedom to worship God for women in other countries. On November 28, the church hosted their annual usher

program. In December, the church honored pastor Lawrence (Karen) Ellison for two years of service. Watch night services were held on New Year’s eve.

First Baptist Church, Fairbanks

FBC served as the Regional Collection Point for Operation Christmas Child and 1811 shoeboxes were processed and shipped out. Thanks to the hard work of the OCC coordinators, Rick and Ellen Leech from Salcha Baptist Church! The church held their Family Christmas Party on December 11 and had their annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration on the 24th.

Cross Roads Baptist Church, North Pole

CRBC licensed their youth leader, Roy Hobbs, into the ministry on November 28. The church held their Christmas eve candlelight service on December 24 and church-wide Christmas meal on December 26. They also had a New Year’s party with food, games and fireworks. Troy Gourley is pastor.

Chugach Resort Ministries, Girdwood

CRM will be ministering to snowmachiners at Turnagain Pass this winter by “tailgating” in one of the large parking lots. They will serve hot dogs and hot chocolate while encouraging safety. They will also assist the National Forest by cleaning privies at the Pass. Please pray for this ministry as they look for creative ways to reach out to their community. Scott Capshaw is director.

Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau

The Christmas choir of GVBC sang at the Governor’s mansion on December 8.

Wayland Baptist University, Anchorage campus

WBU thanks the following churches for their help in hosting the Fall Spiritual Emphasis Week: First Baptist Church, Hillside Baptist, Grandview Baptist, and University Baptist (Anchorage). These churches served hot meals to 40-80 students each evening. The program celebrated 25 years of Wayland’s work in Alaska.

First Baptist Church, Wasilla

On December 11, FBC delivered 90 Christmas shoeboxes to the village of Buckland and shared the Gospel with children and their parents. The church had a float in the Colony Christmas Parade on

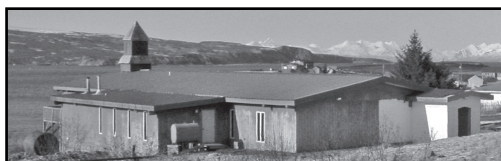
December 12, with members handing out tracts and candy.

Frontier Baptist Church, Kodiak

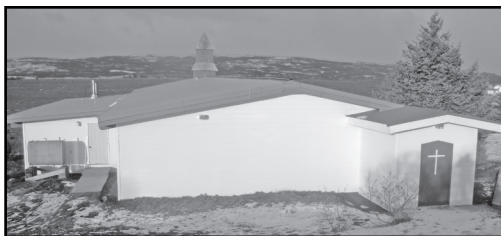
FBC licensed Rick Knox to the Gospel ministry.

Sand Point Chapel

The congregation of Sand Point Chapel expressed appreciation to all those who contributed to the First Quarter Call 2010 of the 2000 Club. With the funds, they were able to re-side their church building.



Before....



...and AFTER!

Highly Effective Church

A recent study by the Scarborough Center for Baptist Church Planting revealed that holding neighborhood evangelical outreach events could spur a church on to become more influential and effective in communities. These churches host several community-wide events annually, including holiday-related and seasonal outreaches, Bible clubs and revivals, and sports and recreation events. Two-thirds of churches that sponsor these types of events already have an active personal evangelism program in their church. Consider how your church can begin to develop an evangelism strategy to welcome and reach out to the community around you.

Source: Baptist Press, July 7, 2010; On Mission magazine, Winter 2011 issue.

Forrest and Sybillia Fuhr Memorial Scholarship

Application deadline is April 30, 2011

A total of five scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$760 per year (full-time status only). The funds may be used for tuition, room and board, fees or books. Award notification letters are mailed by May 31, 2011. Visit the website of the Alaska Baptist Foundation (www.alaskabaptistfoundation.com) for information and application. If you have questions, please contact Adam Long, foundation@alaskabaptistfoundation.com

The M Factor

The Millennials are America's newest generation, 76 million strong and ranging in age from 10-30. Who are they and what makes them tick?

- They are the most ethnically and racially diverse cohort of youth in the nation's history. Among those ages 13 to 29: 18.5% are Hispanic; 14.2% are black; 4.3% are Asian; 3.2% are mixed race or other; and 59.8%, a record low, are white.
- They are the least religiously observant generation since survey research began charting religious behavior. One-in-four are unaffiliated with any religion.
- Millennials are the first "always connected" generation. 90% are connected to the Internet. Nearly three in four of those who go online use social networking sites. One-in-five have posted a video of themselves online.
- Millennials are on track to become the most educated generation in American history.
- More than three quarters of young adults (76%) agree there are absolute standards of right and wrong. More than half of young adults (55%) say that houses of worship should speak out on social and political matters.

Source: Pew Research; On Mission magazine, Winter 2011 issue

Church Ladies

Women are more involved in church than any other American Christian demographic. Women make up more than half of church attendees (53%) and have the widest presence in church involvement, with 60% of small group attendees and 57% of volunteers being women.

Source: The Barna Group, June 28, 2010; On Mission magazine, Winter 2011 issue.

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

Alaska Baptist Messenger

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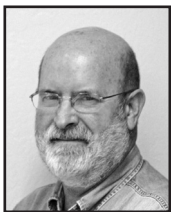
2011 Statewide Vacation Bible School Training April 11-16



Big City, bigger fun!

*So faith comes from what is heard,
and what is heard comes through
the message about Christ.*

Romans 10:17 (HCSB)



Mike Procter
Executive Director

January 1, 2011 is especially significant to me for four reasons:

1. It is the start of a new year, and with that comes all the optimism and promises a new year brings.
2. It is my mother's 79th birthday. Happy birthday, Mom!
3. It is my 35th wedding anniversary. Happy Anniversary, Rebecca!
4. It is my first day serving our congregations and ministries as your Executive Director. In 1986, when my family came to the pastorate of Glacier Valley Baptist Church in Juneau, I couldn't have imagined the opportunity and blessing to serve you in this way.

As we enter 2011, your staff at the Alaska Baptist Convention (ABC) covets your prayers as we face the opportunities and challenges before us. It is estimated that 95-97 percent of our population is unchurched, and 95 percent of those are lost and do not know Jesus Christ as Lord. This means we need to become more proactive in our evangelistic and church planting efforts. Jimmy Stewart and Don Shannon are available to assist your congregation/ministry with developing strategies to impact your community for Jesus Christ. Additionally, our two Church Starter Strategists, Butch Strickland (Contextualized Church Starter Strategist) and Alan Dial (Alaska Native Church Starter Strategist) are ready to assist any way they can.

With the approval of the recommendations from the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) task force at the June 2010 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, it is still unclear how the ABC will be impacted. The main message I hear is "change is coming." The ABC staff is discussing our leadership vision and strategy and I have asked them to provide the top five priorities in their respective ministry areas. During February, March and April, the ABC staff will visit each association, meeting with Associational Directors of Missions, pastors and members listening to their strategy and vision to reach their communities, and determining how we can partner more effectively.

During the next five to seven years, the GCR strategies will be phased in across the nation. I ask that you pray for me every day, and as the Lord brings me to mind. We are praying for you and are ready to serve and partner with you in every way we can. Our desire is to assist you to be the persons and congregations that God has called you to be, as we are "Alaskans Reaching Alaska."



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

Christmas was an incredible season and I had so many opportunities to share Christ with others. I know great things happened in our churches as a result of the ministries and events planned around the Christmas holiday. I hope you will take time to tell me about those results. I am excited about the upcoming State Evangelism Conference (SEC) and the wonderful line-up of special guests: Tommy and Rita Teague (North Richland Hills Baptist Church, Texas), Wayne Shuffield (Baptist General Convention of Texas), Bruce Raley (Lifeway Christian Resources), Jerry Pipes (Jerry Pipes Productions), Jack Lawlor (Real Life Ministries) and Roger Byrd (California Southern Baptist Convention). There is so much they will share with us during the SEC and I know your "cup" will be filled. In fact, I hope that you will bring extra "cups" with you. I encourage you to bring your music leaders and those responsible for evangelism, Bible study and vision planning in your church. I know they will all be challenged as we seek God's face in reaching Alaska for Christ. The more messages they hear and breakouts they attend the better. I pray God will renew in us a vision and passion for reaching Alaska.

What is your church dreaming and planning for this new year? How will you reach out to those around you? How will you help others grow to be followers and disciples of Christ? About 55 pastors requested the book "Transformational Church" and I hope you will read your copy before the SEC. The theme for our conference is "Transformation" -- transformation that needs to take place in my life, in my home, in my witness, in my walk, in my church and in our state. Transformation will result in a new "scorecard" for our churches. Simply counting "noses and nickels" doesn't reflect what God is doing and wants to do in our churches. Transformation will discern the needs around us, embrace the walk and character of Christ and engage in the mission to which He has called us. Have you thought about how you might change the way you disciple those who attend your church which will result in a more measurable outcome? Has your church set new goals to challenge your people to be more "radical" in their faith and the way they share that faith with others? Many of the churches in our convention participated in taking the Gospel to homes around their churches this past year. That may have been very radical for some people. What will you do this year? For those of us in the Anchorage area, I want to challenge believers to begin something new outside of their church building -- an English as a Second Language (ESL) class in a housing complex, a Bible study in an apartment, a theology discussion in a coffee house or a seeker group for individuals who want to ask the hard questions of Christians. Have you thought about doing a specific evangelism training event for your members, or a special Bible study training for your leaders? We offer some great conferences for churches wanting help in the area of apologetics and dealing with cults. Last year was an exciting year of ministry and I believe this year will be even more exciting. I pray we will see God bless our ministries and our churches as they seek to be transformational in everything they do.



Don Shannon
*Director of Ministries and
 Mission Education*

We're preoccupied with the future. It's amazing how people do all kinds of different things to forecast the future: palm-reading, astrology, reading tea leaves and fortune cookies - different ways to get a grasp on the future. We read books, subscribe to seminars that forecast the economic predictions and we attend conferences and seminars on planning and goal setting. What is the Christian viewpoint toward the future?

Here's what James says in the fourth chapter. "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

The starting point in facing the future is to ask, "God, what do you want me to do and not to do?" Planning without prayer is presumptuous. He says we should preface all of our planning with the phrase, "if the Lord wills". You could trivialize it, however, James is saying that the whole attitude of our life should be whatever God wants us to do is what we want.

Just because the future is uncertain, unsure and brief, that doesn't mean you need to get uptight and paralyzed with panic and worry. Instead, it should be the motivation to trust God more. Put your trust in God to face the future. Don't make the mistake of presuming about tomorrow include God in your planning and make the most of today.

There are three things you can do with your life: spend it, waste it, or invest it. The best use of life is to invest it in something that is going to last. What's going to last forever? God's Word and people will last forever. People will last one of two places for eternity. Invest your life in things that will last -- the word of God and people. Make it count.

The greatest mistake in life is to forget God - to leave Him out of your life. We can go to church on Sunday, talk about the Lord, and never consult Him, or have any reference, much less, preference for Him in our business, our families, our marriage, or our schoolwork. In facing the future we need to pray, "Lord help me to plan according to Your will. Lord, help me to live one day at a time. Lord, help me to do what I know is right to do."

The Bible says, "God will take care of your tomorrow too." We don't know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future.

What is blume?

blume is an intense and fun, four-day focus on missions for teenage girls and collegiate young women. Blume only happens once every four years! The overall theme passage is 2 Timothy 1:3-14 with the focus on verse 7.

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calendar

January 2011

1-31	January Bible Study
	"Galations: Truth About Grace"
16	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
31-Feb 1	State Evangelism Conference

February 2011

Jan31-1	State Evangelism Conference
1-28	True Love Waits Emphasis
2	ABC Executive Board Meeting
5	Yukon Quest Dog Race
6	Souper Bowl Sunday for Hunger Relief
13	Racial Reconciliation Sunday
14-20	Focus on wMu
19	Children's Ministry Day
23-26	Church Planter's Forum

March 2011

5	Iditarod Ceremonial Start
6	Iditarod restart in Willow
6-12	Youth Week
6-13	Week of Prayer and Mission Study
13	Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
18-19	Daylight Savings Time Starts
20	Avalanche '11
27	Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday
31-Apr 2	On Mission Together: Planting New Congregations Sunday Alaska Leadership Event

calendar