



Alaska

Baptist Messenger



Vol 66

May 2011

NO 5



Change Your World

GA Girls Camp

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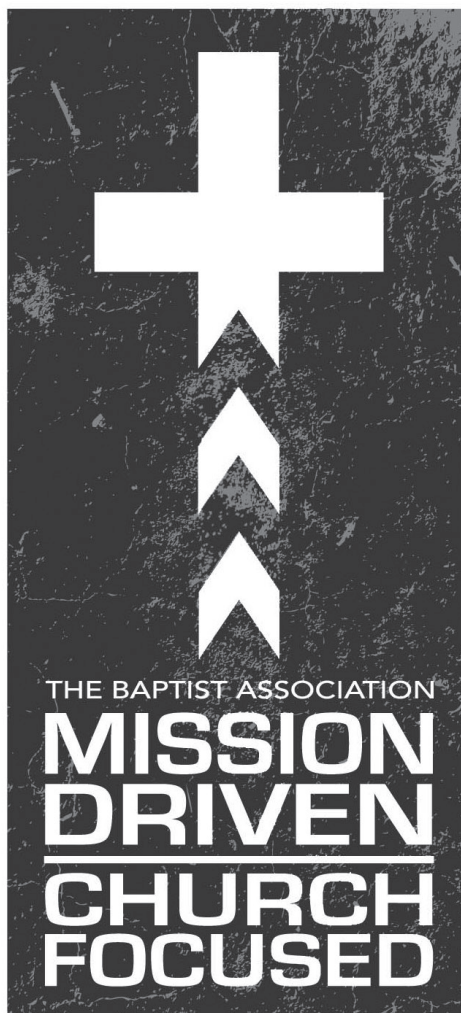
**Simple Discipleship
Removing Barriers
Multiplying Leaders**



Equip anyone for
small group discipleship

Two Saturday Opportunities
May 14 at Grandview Baptist Church
May 21 at Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Happy Mother's Day
May 8



In Alaska, the four directors of mission and their associations are: Dr. David George (Chugach Baptist Association), Gary Bearce (Hatcher Pass Baptist Association), Paul Wells (Tanana Valley Baptist Association), and Joe Boney (Tongass Baptist Association).

Alaska Baptist Messenger

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Associate Editor

1750 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
<i>Chugach Baptist Association</i>						
Alaska Iu-Mienh First Bapt Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anch Hope Comm Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquillaq Baptist Mission	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Calvary Baptist Church	\$1,192.00	\$1,351.00	\$116.00	\$918.60	\$0.00	\$3,577.60
Christ Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chugach Resort Ministries	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Cold Bay Chapel	\$352.97	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$627.97
Community Baptist Church Nome	\$215.00	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$752.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$752.81
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Filipino Bible Church Anchorage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$602.00	\$0.00	\$602.00
First Baptist Church Anchorage	\$17,416.46	\$6,879.13	\$740.00	\$11,294.50	\$0.00	\$36,330.09
First Baptist Church Kotzebue	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
First Baptist Church Eagle River	\$8,424.33	\$1,338.00	\$91.00	\$5,232.00	\$0.00	\$15,085.33
First Baptist Church Soldotna	\$1,288.00	\$1,264.25	\$0.00	\$1,599.65	\$0.00	\$4,151.90
First Hmong Baptist Church	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$438.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$1,188.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$1,133.00	\$2,343.00	\$0.00	\$1,110.00	\$0.00	\$4,586.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$948.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,016.00	\$0.00	\$1,964.00
Grandview Baptist Church	\$6,950.58	\$11,704.00	\$25.00	\$11,058.00	\$0.00	\$29,737.58
Greater Friendship Bapt Church	\$1,722.00	\$600.00	\$70.00	\$615.00	\$0.00	\$3,007.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$3,152.63	\$755.00	\$0.00	\$2,320.00	\$0.00	\$6,227.63
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$173.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$773.62	\$0.00	\$947.12
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Korean New Central Bapt Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Kuparuk Preaching Point	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Zion Missionary Bapt Church	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$765.00	\$0.00	\$1,125.00
Mountain View Comm Church	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,092.70	\$0.00	\$3,342.70
New Grace Christian Church	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$4,903.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,903.00
Rabbit Creek Comm Church	\$1,000.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,525.00	\$0.00	\$2,525.07
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$490.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$490.00
Samoa Alaska Baptist Church	\$114.00	\$57.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$171.00
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shungnak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$4,093.19	\$2,739.00	\$0.00	\$3,477.00	\$0.00	\$10,309.19
The Church of New Beginnings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$1,050.00	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,380.00
True North Church	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
University Baptist Church Anch	\$2,478.80	\$1,432.00	\$0.00	\$1,668.00	\$0.00	\$5,578.80
Valley View Baptist Church	\$925.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$684.00	\$0.00	\$1,609.00
Whittier Christian Community	\$202.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$202.30
Wilderness Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Totals:	\$64,887.64	\$32,390.38	\$1,392.00	\$47,876.07	\$0.00	\$146,546.09

Hatcher Pass Baptist Association

Big Lake Baptist Church	\$1,432.33	\$1,662.00	\$0.00	\$3,678.00	\$0.00	\$6,772.33
Bodenberg Butte Baptist Church	\$1,165.55	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$1,760.55
CrossCountry Church	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$2,308.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,285.00	\$0.00	\$5,593.84
Ekwo Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$7,864.89	\$2,435.62	\$0.00	\$5,553.00	\$0.00	\$15,853.51
First Baptist Church Palmer	\$4,999.98	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$1,356.00	\$0.00	\$7,255.98
First Baptist Church Valdez	\$2,651.30	\$2,000.03	\$325.00	\$5,798.10	\$0.00	\$10,774.43
First Baptist Church Wasilla	\$13,467.72	\$2,851.81	\$0.00	\$7,992.46	\$0.00	\$24,311.99
First Baptist Church Willow	\$2,351.67	\$2,031.77	\$0.00	\$3,498.13	\$0.00	\$7,881.57
King Salmon Community Chapel	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$629.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$355.00	\$0.00	\$984.72
North Bear Street Comm Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$145.00	\$0.00	\$895.00	\$0.00	\$1,040.00
Schrock Road Community Church	\$892.24	\$1,589.52	\$209.68	\$1,349.68	\$0.00	\$4,041.12
Settler's Bay Community Church	\$1,204.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,847.27	\$0.00	\$3,051.71
Valley Life Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Totals:	\$39,313.68	\$13,890.75	\$534.68	\$36,902.64	\$0.00	\$90,641.75

Kenai Peninsula

College Heights Baptist Church	\$15,871.83	\$4,071.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,943.13
First Baptist Church Kenai	\$1,468.74	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$2,851.66	\$0.00	\$4,420.40
Lighthouse Community Church	\$3,290.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$3,790.00
Moose Pass Community Church	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:	\$20,700.57	\$4,171.30	\$0.00	\$3,351.66	\$0.00	\$28,223.53

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
<i>Other</i>						
Misc. Contributors-Cash	\$0.00	\$721.42	\$500.00	\$3,025.00	\$0.00	\$4,246.42
Totals:	\$0.00	\$721.42	\$500.00	\$3,025.00	\$0.00	\$4,246.42
<i>Tanana Valley Baptist Association</i>						
Chinese Fellowship	\$336.00	\$265.00	\$0.00	\$420.00	\$0.00	\$1,021.00
Clearwater Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$2,368.00	\$704.17	\$0.00	\$3,549.12	\$0.00	\$6,621.29
Faith Baptist Church Fbks	\$968.00	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,927.00	\$0.00	\$4,145.00
Filipino Baptist Fellowship Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Delta Jet	\$14,836.00	\$4,220.00	\$5,983.50	\$5,575.25	\$0.00	\$30,614.75
First Baptist Church Fairbanks	\$2,293.60	\$1,336.00	\$0.00	\$2,516.50	\$0.00	\$6,146.10
First Baptist Church North Pole	\$4,479.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,122.25	\$0.00	\$6,601.86
Friendship Baptist Church Fbks	\$150.00	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$843.00	\$0.00	\$1,353.00
Hispanic Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Korean Baptist Mission Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$1,635.81	\$352.10	\$0.00	\$361.13	\$0.00	\$2,349.04
Morning Star Baptist Church	\$1,994.43	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,981.00	\$0.00	\$5,975.43
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
North Star Baptist Church	\$318.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$368.00
Salcha Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,205.00	\$0.00	\$5,205.00
Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
St John Baptist Church	\$3,877.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,877.60
Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
University Baptist Church Fbks	\$6,391.00	\$1,145.00	\$0.00	\$5,640.92	\$0.00	\$13,176.92
Totals:	\$39,848.05	\$9,732.27	\$6,133.50	\$35,391.17	\$0.00	\$91,104.99
<i>Tongass Baptist Association</i>						
Anchor Baptist Church	\$1,518.62	\$610.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$2,628.62
Comm Bapt Church Coffman Cove	\$400.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,584.00	\$0.00	\$2,984.50
Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$1,015.87	\$530.23	\$0.00	\$603.00	\$0.00	\$2,149.10
Filipino Baptist Church	\$250.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$365.00
First Baptist Church Juneau	\$2,016.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$440.00	\$0.00	\$2,456.02
First Baptist Church Ketchikan	\$7,239.92	\$2,455.00	\$0.00	\$2,095.00	\$0.00	\$11,789.92
First Baptist Church Petersburg	\$866.00	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$802.00	\$0.00	\$2,518.00
First Baptist Church Sitka	\$1,000.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.78
Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$1,234.64	\$2,431.00	\$0.00	\$6,667.12	\$0.00	\$10,332.76
Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Juneau Korean Church	\$90.00	\$81.00	\$0.00	\$290.00	\$0.00	\$461.00
Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope Fellowship	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
North Tongass Baptist Church	\$305.75	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$375.00	\$0.00	\$905.75
Tenakee Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$148.12	\$515.00	\$0.00	\$1,208.00	\$0.00	\$1,871.12
Totals:	\$16,786.22	\$7,812.23	\$0.00	\$15,664.12	\$0.00	\$40,262.57
Grand Totals:	\$181,536.16	\$68,718.35	\$8,560.18	\$142,210.66	\$0.00	\$401,025.35
Goals:	\$772,855.00	\$70,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00		
Over/Under Goal:	(\$591,318.84)	(\$1,281.65)	(\$91,439.82)	(\$7,789.34)		

Legend:

CP:

SMO:

AA:

LM:

WH:

Cooperative Program, January - December
State Mission Offering, August - July
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, January - December
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, June - May
World Hunger



Quarterly Goal is \$20,000

Received to date:

First Quarter 2011 \$6,055

Second Quarter 2011 \$3,170

Third Quarter 2011 \$475

Fourth Quarter 2011 \$515

It takes just 2,000 gifts of \$10 each quarter to accomplish the goal of \$20,000. Won't you join us and be part of expanding God's Kingdom in Alaska?

Welcome!

Tongass Baptist Association
Glacier Valley Baptist Church
Gordon (Kelly) Mills

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

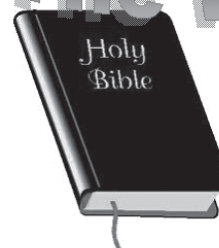
Anchor Baptist Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Hoonah Baptist Mission

Alaska Baptist Convention
Annual Meeting
First Baptist Church
North Pole
September 26-28, 2011

The World



The WORD



Winter Youth
Celebration
2011

October 14-15

First Baptist Church-
Fairbanks

www.akwyc.com

Taking the "L"s out...
Lies, Lust, Lucifer

1 John 2:15-17



May "Nuggets"

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

Sand Point Chapel

Pastor Alan Ward hosts "My Dad Rocks!", a radio program on 830AM KSDP that explores the golden era of Christian hard rock music.

Juneau Korean Church

Pastor and Mrs. Oh received their permanent work permits! They wish to thank all who prayed for their situation.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

The college group will have their first "transfer site resurrection party" and the whole church will enjoy a potluck on May 18. A volunteer mission team arrives on May 22, and will assist with Vacation Bible School, as well as other construction projects at the church.

Shannon Park Baptist Church,

Fairbanks

SPBC will host a Beth Moore Simulcast "Because You Are Living Proof of God's Love" on September 10. Sign up before August 15 and tickets cost \$20, which includes all materials and lunch. After August 15, the price is \$25. Sign up at www.shannonparkchurch.com and click on "info." Payment should be mailed to SPBC, P.O. Box 73573, Fairbanks, AK 99707. Seating is limited.

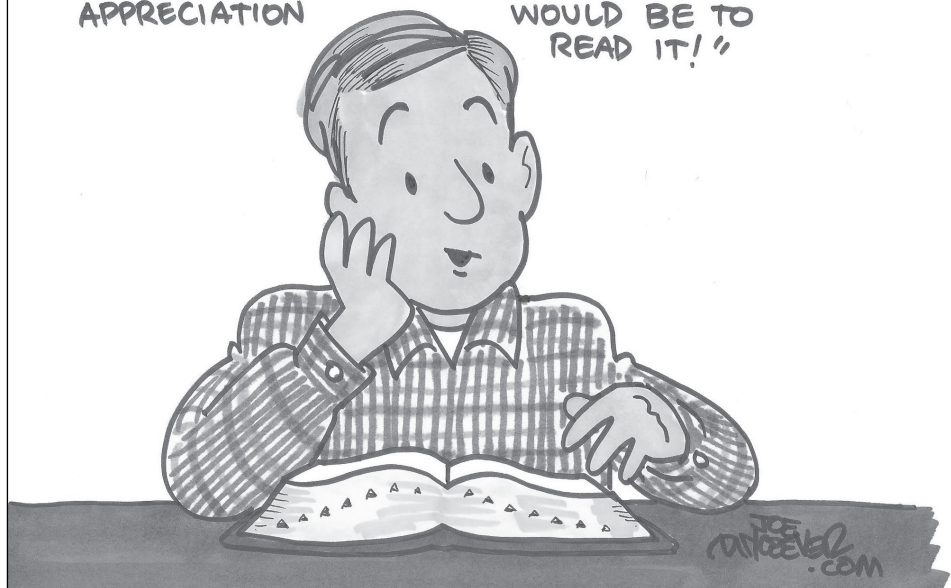
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Juneau

EBC has called Nathan (Dominika) Buck as interim pastor. They plan to attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in the fall.

First Baptist Church, Kotzebue

FBC hosted a mission team from Georgia and held an Ice Fishing Day in April. The team caught 21 large sheefish which they gave to needy families in the area. The team also held a fish fry and concert at the church, and worked the Kobuk 440 dog mushing race, both in Kotzebue and Ambler.

"THE KING JAMES VERSION OF SCRIPTURES CELEBRATES ITS 400TH BIRTHDAY IN 2011. SO, I'VE DECIDED THE LEAST I COULD DO IN APPRECIATION WOULD BE TO READ IT!"



MESSENGER REGISTRATION

FOR THE 66TH ANNUAL MEETING

ON-LINE ONLY

Each church will receive an

E-MAIL INVITATION

to register for the event

Registration opens June 1, 2011

Watch your in-box for details in late May

Condolences to Ray Nelson in the loss of his wife Jane, who died March 30. Ray and Jane served many churches in Alaska, including Faith Baptist Church (Fairbanks), First Baptist Church (Delta Junction), King Salmon Community Baptist Chapel and Muldoon Road Baptist Church (Anchorage). If you would like to send a note to Ray, you may do so by e-mailing rpn7756@att.net



The Annual Alaska Leadership Event was held March 31-April 2 at First Baptist Church in Anchorage. Leaders for the event were (pictured l to r); Robby and Cynthia Tingle, Susie and Jeff Thompson (Arkansas Baptist State Convention) and David Jackson (Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware).

The King James Version of the Bible, first published 400 years ago on May 5, 1611, is the Bible God used to give believers many of the riches of the Puritan movement, and it was the Bible at the heart of the Great Awakenings of the 18th century and the modern missionary movement, an expert noted.

“Until the 1950s, the King James Bible was ‘the Bible.’ It’s the version that English-speaking Christians used,” Michael Haykin, professor of church history and biblical spirituality at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, told Baptist Press.

“People like John Wesley and George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards would all have used this version in their preaching. When the modern missionary movement begins with people like William Carey and Hudson Taylor and David Livingstone, this again is the Bible that’s used through the 19th century,” Haykin said. “It’s the Bible Charles Spurgeon would have preached from, and so on.”

The King James Version is the most important piece of literature in the West in the past 500 years, profoundly shaping language and thought, Haykin said. The English

language is peppered with phrases that come from the KJV, and from the 1650s onward, poets such as Alfred Lord Tennyson, William Blake and T.S. Eliot and secular authors including Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters and Charles Dickens were influenced by that particular translation.

In the 20th century, what is known as the King James Only controversy arose when some believers maintained that the King James Version was the inspired version of the Bible and no other version should be used. All other versions, as one author said, were considered “perverse.”

“The debate obviously turns on two things. One is the issue of the actual translation. The other issue has to do with the underlying text,” Haykin said. “There are problems on both levels. The King James Version that a person picks up today and buys today is not the exact version that was published in 1611. There have been modifications and changes to it.

“In the 1760s, which is probably the heaviest era of modifications and changes, there are somewhere around 24,000 changes that are made to the actual King James Version that was published in 1611,” he said.

Those changes consisted of the addition of commas, italicization and changes of singulars to plurals, but the text was essentially the same.

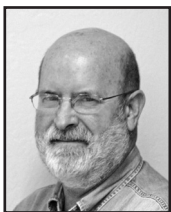
The English Standard Version (ESV), Haykin said, is probably the key Bible today that is in the King James Version tradition. Another is the New American Standard Version, which was published first in the 1970s as a revision of the American Standard Version published in 1901.

“The American Standard Version was a revision of the King James. So the New American Standard, then, is a revision of a revision of the King James,” he said. Neither the New International Version nor the Holman Christian Standard Bible are part of that tradition.

Southern Baptists should realize that when the first Baptist church in the South, First Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C., was planted in 1682, the Bible they used was the King James Version.

“So the Bible of our grandparents was this version, and it shaped their lives. Therefore, it’s important to honor, I think, God’s use of this Bible and to remember it and celebrate it,” Haykin said.

Excerpts from Baptist Press. Written by Erin Roach, assistant editor of Baptist Press, Nashville, TN



Mike Procter
Executive Director

We have all heard things that sound like they came from the Bible when they didn't: "God helps those who help themselves" and "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." Just because someone says something is found in the Bible does not necessarily mean it is. That is why the Apostle Paul commended the church in Berea (Acts 17:11) for searching the scriptures to see if what they had been taught was true.

If something is in the Bible, does that make it "biblical"? There have been many teachers and preachers who have taken scripture out of context and taught lies, mistruths and false teachings. Many cults begin this way because people do not know the Word of God and are easily led astray (Galatians 1:6-9). It is like the following story of a man being examined by an ordination council:

Council: "Sam, what part of the Bible do you like best?"

Sam: "Well, I like the New Testament best."

Council: "What book in the New Testament do you like best?"

Sam: "I like the book of parables the best."

Council: "Would you share the parable you like best?"

Sam: "Once upon a time a man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves where thorns grew up and choked him but he went on and did not have any money but he met the Queen of Sheba and she gave the man a thousand talents of gold and silver and a hundred changes of clothes. As he was driving his chariot under a big tree, his hair got caught in a limb and he was left hanging there. He hung there many days and nights and the ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink. One night, while he was hanging there sleeping, his wife, Delilah, came along and cut his hair off and he dropped and fell on stony ground, when it began to rain for forty days and forty nights and he hid himself in a cave. When he went out, he met a man who said, "Come in and take supper with me" but he said, "I can't come, I have married a wife." And the man went out into the highways and byways compelling them to come in and went to Jerusalem where he saw Jezebel sitting high up in a window and when she saw him, she laughed and he said, "Throw her down" and they threw her down. And he said, "Throw her down again" and they threw her down seventy times seven times and the fragments they picked up were twelve baskets full. Now, whose wife will she be in the days of judgment?"

When it came time to vote, no one on the ordination council felt qualified to question the candidate any further and Sam passed.

It is vitally important that we teach the Word of God, encourage people to study the Bible and memorize scripture. The Bible is as relevant today as ever and as we live according to Biblical principles and truths, we will be able to recognize when false teachings present themselves. As Baptists, we have always been known as people of "the Book" -- the Bible. Let's continue to be! See what the Bible says, "Thy Word have I hidden in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalms 119:11)

Blessings!



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

It is time to celebrate and there are many reasons we should celebrate every day. In springtime, Alaskans celebrate increased light and warmth and with all the sun and warmth, I feel more energetic. This is a great thing to celebrate. I will need that energy to get yard work done. Easter is another reason to celebrate. We celebrate the victory of our risen Lord over death. We celebrate that we can share in the same victory because of His death, burial and resurrection. We celebrate that every year people come to our churches who have not been attending. We get to encourage them and hopefully reestablish relationships that lead to discipleship. Maybe these are people who need to hear the beautiful message of Love that did not fear the cross, but gladly paid for our unrighteousness through His selfless act. This is reason to celebrate as we reflect on what God has accomplished and that grace abounds rather than the restrictiveness of the law. We celebrate a relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit because the new covenant moved us from a sacrificial religious system to a life of sacrificial living.

Let me give you one more reason to celebrate. This past year, baptisms for all our churches increased by almost 100 -- that is a 25% increase in one year. As I looked at the churches who baptized and reported those increases, it did not reflect a dramatic increase in one or two churches. It was a consistent increase across all of the churches and that is reason to celebrate. I don't know if we can point to any one contributing factor, but we did have an emphasis on God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) this past year. Churches delivered the Gospel presentation to thousands of homes. Overall, our churches have grown and leaders are continuing to do a great job of praying, preaching, ministering, training and reaching. GPS is the emphasis to pray, equip, share and disciple the harvest that is produced. Can you imagine the celebration going on in heaven? Let's not give the angels a break. Vacation Bible School, city-wide outreach events, summer feeding programs, World Changers, camps, T3, missions in every imaginable place in Alaska and in other parts of the country and world will take place in the days ahead. Let's continue the great work so there will be much celebration in heaven. Bless you and all you do. If I can help with dreaming, planning, equipping and participating in your summer projects, please let me know.



Don Shannon

***Director of Ministries and
Mission Education***

A common practice among pickpockets is distraction. Pickpockets know it's impossible to focus on two things at once. An "accidental" bump allows the thieving hand to steal, completely undetected by the victim. The apostle Peter says, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). It takes self-control to stay alert. Why would Peter tell us to stay alert? We are to stay alert because it's easy to get distracted. If Satan can get our eyes on something other than what he's doing, we will give our attention to what seems urgent instead of what is important.

Satan often uses the issue of methods to distract us. If Satan can convince us that certain techniques of sharing our faith are the only legitimate ones, he will convince us to chase after them and distract us from what God designed us to do. We'll be ineffective in the battle, because we will be using someone else's tools and techniques. Plus we will be focused on our frustration, since the methods don't seem to be working. We will be distracted from the immediacy of the battle.

In Acts 1:8 we read that "you shall be my witnesses". This is not a command; it's a description of fact. We are told that we are witnesses – whether we like it or not and whether we feel qualified or not. As a witness, God has put a life message within you. When you became a believer you also became God's messenger. God wants to speak to the world through you. Paul said, "... we speak the truth before God, as messengers of God." Peter tells us that we were chosen by God "to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you." (1 Peter 2:9 MSG)

We allow ourselves to be distracted by methods of evangelism. It is not an issue about how to be a witness, rather we confirm we are witnesses. Each believer has a unique witness. Just as there are many parts that form our body so there are many witnesses in the body of Christ. An effective witness knows his story in order to make disciples.

We are commanded to make disciples in Matthew 28:19. Discipleship involves guiding people closer to God from whatever place they are. For unbelievers, it is moving them one step closer to salvation. For believers, it is moving them one step closer to a mature walk with God. This is our mission. Let's not be distracted from our focus, the Great Commission. We are to make disciples.

Procter's Ponderings...

The first four months of 2011 are behind us and they have been interesting and challenging:

1. We have begun to get a glimpse of the impact the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task Force recommendations will have on the Alaska Baptist Convention (ABC)
2. We have completed the following events, all of which were successful: State Evangelism Conference, Alaska Leadership Event, Women on Mission Celebration, Minister's Financial Issues Seminars, Vacation Bible School Training, New Pastor/Full-time Staff Orientation, Ministers and Spouses Retreat and Singles Conference.
3. I have my first ABC Executive Board Meeting "under my belt" as Executive Director.

The next months promise to be rewarding:

1. Alaska Baptist Foundation Board will meet on May 5
2. Alaska Baptist Convention Executive Board will meet May 9-10
3. Learner-to-Leader training will be May 14 at Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage and May 21 at Mt Zion Baptist Church, Anchorage
4. GA Girls Camp will be June 20-24 at Laverne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp in Wasilla

In addition to these events, Jimmy Stewart, Don Shannon, Ed Gregory, Charles Worthy and I will meet with pastors, staff and congregational members in our associations to discuss strategy and developments brought about because of GCR Task Force.

While we did not meet our budget, with "under spends" and unfilled jointly-appointed missionary positions, we are on the positive side of the books. Our budget calls for a first quarter income of \$183,363.75 and through your congregation's support of the Cooperative Program, we have received \$172,405.12. Of that amount, \$115,511.45 (67%) stayed in our State for various ministry and mission activities and \$56,893.67 (33%) was forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program for use to support various ministries and mission activities in North America and around the world.

As I have shared in other venues, the North American Mission Board's interpretation and implementation of the GCR Task Force recommendations will bring changes and we will need to reexamine what God is calling us to do in our State, and reprioritize our strategies accordingly.

Remember, the Alaska Baptist Convention exists to resource our congregations to: Seek Christ, Share Christ, Strengthen Congregations, Start Congregations and Send Christians.

If you will, allow me to request you pray daily for your Alaska Baptist Convention staff: Michael Blakeney, Alan Dial, Linda Hokit, Adam Long, Debra Long, Sylvia Rylander, Don Shannon, Betsy Shilling, Jimmy Stewart, Butch Strickland and me.

As you have questions, concerns or needs that we may be able to assist with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Blessings!

Alaska

Baptist Messenger



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calendar

May 2011

1	Senior Adult Sunday	12-13
5	ABF Trustee meeting	13-17
1-8	Christian Home Week	14-15
8	Mother's Day	19
	Day of Prayer for Alaska Baptist Family Services	
9	ABC Budget and Finance Cmte Mtg	19-25
9	ABC all Committee Mtgs	20-24
10	ABC Executive Board Convenes	26
14	Learner-to-Leader Tng, Grandview	27-Jul 1
15-21	On Mission in Baptist Associations	
21	Learner-to-Leader Tng, Mt. Zion	
21	Clean-up Day at Laverne Griffin YRC	
22	Day of Prayer and Fasting	
	for World Evangelization	
30	ABC and ABF office closed	

June 2011

6-10	Alaska Native Youth Camp, LGYRC	24-28
12	Crossover	

WMU National Annual Meeting
Youth Camp, LGYRC
Annual Southern Baptist Convention
Father's Day
Baptist Men's Emphasis
Training Teens Today (T3)
Girl's Camp, LGYRC
Mission: Dignity Sunday
Boy's Camp, LGYRC

July 2011

Jun 27-1	Boy's Camp, LGYRC
3	Citizenship and Religious Liberty Sunday
4	Independence Day
4	ABC and ABF office closed
6-8	ACTS 1:8 Forum
13-16	BLUME 2011 (Acteens)
24-28	JAM Camp