




Alaska Baptist Messenger



The Alaska Baptist Convention exists to assist congregations to **SEEK** Christ, **SHARE** Christ, **STRENGTHEN** Congregations, **START** Congregations and **SEND** Christians.



unhindered!

WMU Annual Meeting
Tuesday, September 27
 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 First Baptist Church, North Pole

Featured speaker is Debby Akerman, president of National WMU. Lunch is provided on a donation basis.

Annual
Pastor's Conference
Tuesday, September 27
 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Hotel North Pole

"Hearing and Heeding the Call of God"
Exodus 3

Featured speaker is Dr. Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board. Lunch is provided by GuideStone Financial Resources. Contact Pastor Jeff Baxter, Moose Creek Baptist Church, for additional information, mcbc@mosquito.net.



Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention First Baptist Church North Pole September 27-28, 2011

Tuesday evening, September 27, 2011

- 5:00 Registration
- 5:50 Call to Order
- 8:00 Prayer/Benediction

Wednesday morning, September 28, 2011

- 8:00 Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 Call to Order
- 11:45 Benediction

Lunch is provided in the church fellowship hall on a donation basis.

Wednesday afternoon, September 28, 2011

- 1:30 Call to Order
- 4:40 Announcements
- Benediction

Dinner is provided in the church fellowship hall on a donation basis.

Wednesday evening, September 28, 2011

- 5:55 Call to Order
- 8:00 Adjournment, Announcements
- Benediction

MESSENGERS: Must register online. Contact your church office for additional information or call the ABC office, (907)344-9627 or (800)883-9627.

CHILD CARE: Available for children age Birth-K only.

HOTEL: Hotel North Pole, (907)488-4800 or (877)488-4801; \$95/night (plus taxes). You must mention the Alaska Baptist Convention in order to receive the discounted rate.

Annual Mission Rally

Jesus
Always the Same
 Hebrews 13

Monday, September 26, 2011
7:00-8:00 p.m.
 First Baptist Church North Pole

Reception immediately following

**Your Cooperative Program giving
impacts Alaska churches....**

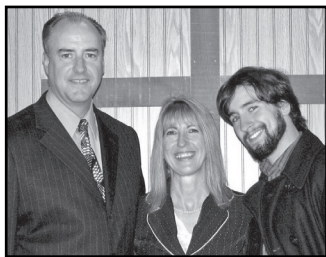


I support the Cooperative program because I believe we are all better when we work together in unity. We accomplish more and strive for greater goals when we work cooperatively and not competitively. I was not raised in a Southern Baptist Church. As a matter of fact the first Southern Baptist preacher I ever heard was a U.S. Air Force Chaplain. I had been saved years earlier but I knew when he preached that it was the Gospel. It was because of his faithful proclamation that my family sought out a Southern Baptist Church.

Growing up in a non-denominational church in rural Pennsylvania, missionaries would pass through our area several times a year going from church to church to try and raise enough financial support to return to the mission field. It was great to see and hear them, but their time on the mission field was extremely limited because once on the mission field resources were quickly exhausted. I think this background prepared me for the first time someone explained the Southern

Baptist Cooperative program to me. I instantly saw the wisdom, potential, and the great benefit of many churches serving, praying, and giving cooperatively to ensure mission work

increased, missionaries were well cared for, and all the churches whether small or large each played a significant part. I teach a new members class in our church and teach about the cooperative program as part of the class. I am always blessed when I see the light bulb go on for people when we talk about the Cooperative Program. I think it is important that we all thankfully consider how God has wonderfully blessed so many through something so simple. Do I support the Cooperative program? Absolutely I do!



*Pastor Tom, Linda and Thomas
Hoffman*

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
<i>Chugach Baptist Association</i>						
Alaska Lu-Mienh First Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anchorage Hope Comm Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquillaq Baptist Mission	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Calvary Baptist Church	\$2,634.00	\$1,351.00	\$642.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,627.00
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	\$1,214.33	\$275.00	\$570.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,059.33
Community Baptist Church Nome	\$513.00	\$85.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$678.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$2,151.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,151.16
Eagle River Korean Bapt Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Filipino Bible Church Anchorage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Anchorage	\$34,568.39	\$6,879.13	\$8,875.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,322.52
First Baptist Church Kotzebue	\$500.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
First Baptist Church of Eagle River	\$17,228.19	\$1,691.00	\$8,309.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,228.19
First Baptist Church Soldotna	\$3,584.00	\$1,264.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,848.25
First Hmong Baptist Church	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$600.00	\$438.00	\$474.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,512.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$3,537.00	\$2,343.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,880.00
Frontier Baptist Church	\$1,749.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,749.75
Grandview Baptist Church	\$17,103.54	\$11,704.00	\$2,977.00	\$1,350.00	\$20.00	\$33,154.54
Greater Friendship Bapt Church	\$3,533.00	\$600.00	\$570.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,703.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$6,842.95	\$755.00	\$790.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,387.95
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$474.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$474.12
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Korean New Central Bapt Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Kuparuk Preaching Point	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Zion Missionary Bapt Church	\$720.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$720.00
Mountain View Comm Church	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$3,750.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,250.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$9,182.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,182.00
Rabbit Creek Comm Church	\$2,000.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.18
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	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$10,411.72	\$2,739.00	\$3,394.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,545.22
The Church of New Beginnings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$2,100.00	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,430.00
True North Church	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
University Baptist Church Anch	\$4,224.60	\$1,432.00	\$1,069.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,725.60
Valley View Baptist Church	\$1,850.00	\$0.00	\$659.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,509.00
Whittier Christian Community	\$405.40	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$440.40
Wilderness Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$137,156.33	\$33,278.38	\$29,259.50	\$1,350.00	\$20.00	\$201,064.21
<i>Hatcher Pass Baptist Association</i>						
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$3,925.45	\$1,662.00	\$2,275.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,862.95
Bodenberg Butte Baptist Church	\$2,918.54	\$75.00	\$351.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,344.54
CrossCountry Church	\$100.00	\$600.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$4,298.90	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,698.90
Ekwo Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$11,488.33	\$2,435.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,923.95
First Baptist Church Palmer	\$10,833.29	\$900.00	\$1,590.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,323.79
First Baptist Church Valdez	\$8,261.17	\$2,000.03	\$3,446.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,707.96
First Baptist Church Wasilla	\$20,452.74	\$2,851.81	\$2,199.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,504.05
First Baptist Church Willow	\$3,347.97	\$2,031.77	\$1,740.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,119.74
King Salmon Community Chapel	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$629.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$629.72
North Bear Street Comm Church	\$43.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43.00
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$145.00	\$305.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
Schrock Road Comm Church	\$2,280.48	\$2,168.22	\$595.48	\$254.20	\$0.00	\$5,298.38
Settler's Bay Comm Church	\$2,779.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,779.44
Valley Life Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Total:	\$71,809.03	\$14,869.45	\$15,603.74	\$254.20	\$0.00	\$102,536.42
<i>Kenai Peninsula</i>						
College Heights Baptist Church	\$25,257.99	\$4,071.30	\$4,439.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,769.08
First Baptist Church Kenai	\$2,904.65	\$100.00	\$642.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,646.65
Lighthouse Community Church	\$6,613.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,613.00
Moose Pass Community Church	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.00
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$34,910.64	\$4,171.30	\$5,081.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,163.73

January-June 2011 Gifts from ABC churches

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
<i>Other</i>						
Misc. Contributors-Cash	\$0.00	\$878.82	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,378.82
Total:	\$0.00	\$878.82	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,378.82
<i>Tanana Valley Baptist Association</i>						
Chinese Fellowship	\$729.03	\$265.00	\$461.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,455.03
Clearwater Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$5,446.00	\$704.17	\$2,919.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,069.91
Faith Baptist Church Fbks	\$2,840.00	\$1,250.00	\$776.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,866.65
Filipino Baptist Fellowship Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Baptist Church Delta Jct	\$23,588.00	\$4,220.00	\$6,203.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,011.50
First Baptist Church Fairbanks	\$3,596.36	\$1,336.00	\$2,029.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,961.36
First Baptist Church North Pole	\$11,338.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,338.40
Friendship Baptist Church Fbks	\$350.00	\$360.00	\$1,082.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,792.17
Hispanic Mission	\$72.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$72.00
Korean Baptist Mission Fbks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$2,495.69	\$588.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,083.75
Morning Star Baptist Church	\$3,192.39	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,272.39
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
North Star Baptist Church	\$566.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$566.00
Salcha Baptist Church	\$3,690.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,690.01
Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$1,716.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,716.40
St John Baptist Church	\$7,041.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,041.52
Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
University Baptist Church Fbks	\$12,832.00	\$1,145.00	\$5,591.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,568.78
Total:	\$79,693.80	\$9,968.23	\$19,293.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108,955.87

<i>Tongass Baptist Association</i>						
Anchor Baptist Church	\$3,673.57	\$610.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,283.57
Comm Bapt Church Coffman Cove	\$990.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$990.50
Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$1,568.36	\$530.23	\$590.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,688.59
Filipino Baptist Church KTN	\$250.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$365.00
First Baptist Church Juneau	\$3,855.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,855.38
First Baptist Church Ketchikan	\$7,239.92	\$2,455.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,694.92
First Baptist Church Petersburg	\$1,539.00	\$850.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,889.00
First Baptist Church Sitka	\$2,544.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,544.62
Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$1,234.64	\$2,431.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,665.64
Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Juneau Korean Church	\$180.00	\$81.00	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$541.00
Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope Fellowship	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
North Tongass Baptist Church	\$358.25	\$225.00	\$545.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,128.25
Tenakee Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$445.40	\$522.00	\$90.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$1,067.40
Total:	\$24,579.64	\$7,819.23	\$2,005.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$34,413.87

Grand Total:	\$348,149.44	\$70,985.41	\$71,743.87	\$1,614.20	\$20.00	\$492,512.92
Goals:	\$772,855.00	\$70,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$150,000.00		
Over/Under Goal:	(\$424,705.56)	\$985.41	(\$28,256.13)	(\$148,385.80)		

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
WH:	World Hunger

Quarterly Goal is \$20,000 • 2,000 ppl x \$10



Received as of June 31, 2011:

First Quarter 2011	\$6485
Second Quarter 2011	\$6615
Third Quarter 2011	\$655
Fourth Quarter 2011	\$695

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

There are currently 230 regular contributors...imagine how much more we could do with an additional 1770 contributors?

Alaska Baptist Convention

Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches

Chugach Baptist Association

Aquillaq Baptist Church
Filipino Bible Church
Kiana Baptist Mission

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

Ministry Vision Rally

hear the story...
catch the vision

Sunday, August 14

6:30 p.m.

Sunset Hills Baptist Church, Anchorage

Featured speaker Charles Roesel, Pastor Emeritus, First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Florida, and founder of the Christian Care Center

Alaska Baptist Messenger

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August "Nuggets"

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

First Baptist Church, Wasilla

Our condolences to Dana Shrimplin in the loss of her mother.

Filipino Bible Church, Anchorage

FBC called Val Natcher as their new pastor. Since Pastor Natcher and his family will be coming from the Philippines, the church has begun the immigration process and would appreciate prayer support from sister churches that the process go smoothly and quickly.

Kobuk Baptist Mission

Through God's provision, KBM helped eight children attend Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet. The students raised their own money over the winter by selling pizzas and ice cream, the ingredients of which were donated by churches and individuals. MARC Aviation (Soldotna) also provided reduced airfares which helped with transportation costs.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

UBC celebrated summer with Camp Baldwin and assorted pool parties in July. Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla FLBC hosted World Changers while they worked to meet housing needs in the community. Eight youth and three adults went to Old Harbor on a youth mission trip to help with VBS, a youth retreat, community service projects and fishing! The VBS at FLBC included 12 children and three adults from the South Korean church FLBC members visited last summer. Preparations continue for the Beth Moore Living Proof Live simulcast in September.

First Baptist Church, Ketchikan

FBC held its annual youth and children's camps in June with 54 campers in attendance. God moved in a powerful way and 22 kids made professions of faith. The



church is grateful for the financial support of the Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering which allows FBC to provide camp scholarships to children in the community.

Alaska Baptist Convention

Dale and Lynne Martin, MOST Missionaries serving at Camp Baldwin, Butch Strickland and Alan Dial combined their labor, skills and expertise to construct a much-needed handicap access ramp for the ABC office. Dale, Lynne and Alan are pictured. Thank you for a great job!



Shannon Park Baptist Church,

Fairbanks

Mark your calendars to attend the Beth Moore Simulcast, "Because You Are Living Proof of God's Love", September 10, 9:30-4:00. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased online at www.shannonparkchurch.com. Lunch and materials are included.

Sunset Hills Baptist Church, Anchorage

Our condolences to Natalie Talbot in the loss of her mother.

First Baptist Church, Fairbanks

FBC will host the Winter Youth Celebration October 14-15. See www.akwyc.com for more information.



Don't forget to report your VBS statistics to Lifeway! If you need your church password and/or SBC ID number, please call Debra Long in the ABC office, 344-9627 (800-883-9627).

GuideStone announces release of Small business Healthcare Tax Credit resources for churches

DALLAS—Small churches can find additional help from GuideStone in evaluating whether they wish to pursue the Small Business Healthcare Tax Credit that was created under the healthcare reform law. GuideStone has created a number of resources designed to help churches evaluate the new credit.

The resource page includes a comprehensive Q&A, step-by-step guide for determining eligibility and amount of the credit, necessary forms and other frequently asked questions. The resource also includes a webinar with Danny Miller of Connor & Winters. Miller is a noted attorney who specializes in benefits issues for ministers.

"We urge churches to evaluate all factors before deciding whether to pursue the credit," said O.S. Hawkins, GuideStone president. "These resources provide tools to help in that process. These resources can be accessed free of charge on GuideStone's Healthcare Reform website, www.GuideStoneInsurance.org/Healthreform."

The IRS confirmed in Notice 2010-82 in December that the Small Business Healthcare Tax Credit is available to churches who participate through a self-funded denominational church health plan, including GuideStone health plans.

Jennifer Carter is Senior Marketing Editor for the Insurance division of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Reprinted from April 21, 2011 issue of The Baptist Messenger.

Gwich'in New Testament finished

GOOD NEWS: Couple spends 31 years translating into what's called one of the most difficult languages.

By MARY BETH SMETZER

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner via The Associated Press

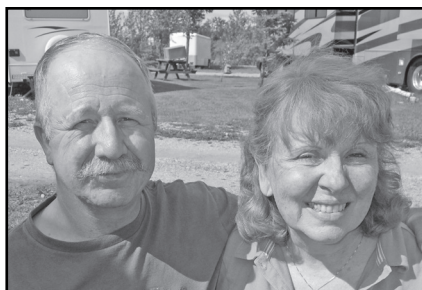
Published: June 12th, 2011 09:24 PM

FAIRBANKS -- The gold-lettered title of the plain-covered book reads "Vit'eegwijyahchy'aa: Vagwandak Nizii," Gwich'in for, "God: His Good News."

"Remember the words of our Lord are blessed to give and to receive," said St. Matthew's rector, the Rev. Scott Fisher, following the announcement Sunday that the translation of the New Testament to the Gwich'in Athabaskan language is available.

The service was a joyous occasion for the diverse congregation. There was an adult Baptism and more than a dozen parishioners were confirmed by Alaska Episcopal Bishop Mark Lattime.

The final highlight was the introduction of the second



team of Wycliffe volunteers, **Meggie and Pierre DeMers of Healy (Morning Star Baptist Church)**, who spent 31 years completing the Gwich'in translation of the New Testament.

Parishioners responded with a standing ovation for the couple.

The Bible, both Old and New testaments was translated in the latter half of the 1800s by Church of England missionary Archdeacon Robert McDonald. He was the first to put Gwich'in into a written form that is no longer used today.

In addition to translating the Book of Common Prayer and a hymnal in Tadhukh, a Canadian Gwich'in dialect, by 1897 McDonald also translated the Bible.

Since then, a new Gwich'in spelling/writing system was created by Wycliffe translators Richard and Susan Mueller, who started working on translating the New Testament into the new format more than 50 years ago.

The DeMers arrived in Alaska in 1979 and spent seven years in Venetie where the bulk of the work was done, Meggie said. They had the invaluable aid of Mary Rose Gamboa, who was a main translator, Katherine Peter, David Salmon, Judy Erick, Fannie Gimmel, Addie Shewfelt and Ethel Simple.

"Gwich'in is rated as one of the most difficult languages in the world, probably harder than Chinese," Meggie said. "There are 24 vowels and 46 consonants and the majority of words are verbs; even colors are verbs."

The new Gwich'in writing system was designed in conjunction with Native people and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Pierre said.

"The easiest gospel to translate was that of John, a fisherman by trade. The gospel of Luke, a doctor, was much more involved and detailed," Pierre said, and took much longer to smooth out. But the hardest was the Book of Hebrews, which he described as "sermon after sermon."

Alaska Baptist Family Services

Treatment Counselors

**group home setting working with adolescent boys
part-time and relief positions available**

\$13-\$16/hr DOE

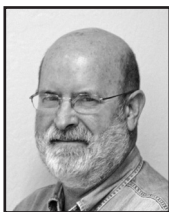
job description and application,

abfsadmin@gei.net

or call (907)349-2222

Position Available

Big Lake Baptist Church (located about 15 miles north-west of Wasilla, AK) is seeking a motivated leader to fill a part-time position (~10hr/wk) as 'Music Director/Worship Leader' for blended services; both contemporary and traditional music in the same service; as well as special programs. The qualified candidate will select, coordinate, arrange, and lead worship and special music programs; as well as oversee implementation of sound & projection technology for our growing congregation. If you possess these skills & abilities and sense the Spirits leading, please send your resume to blbc@mtaonline.net.



Mike Procter
Executive Director

Do you remember in elementary school when your class would visit the library, and if you began to talk the librarian would say, “shhh”? Without actually saying a word, she would communicate she wanted you to be quiet. Did you know in German, the “shhh” sound means “hurry up” (Real Fact #923 at Snapple.com)? Without saying a word, an idea is communicated.

Jesus conveyed something very similar when He said, “By this shall all men know you are my disciples, by your love one for another.” This does not mean that we should not verbalize our love for other Christians but, that people around us are watching to see if we put love into action by actually doing something. James reminds us that we are to be “doers of the word and not hearers only.”

Sunday, August 14, 6:30pm, Sunset Hills Baptist Church will host a statewide Ministry Vision Rally. Dr. Charles Roessel, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Florida and founder of the Christian Care Center, will share how any congregation can meet physical needs in order to develop a platform to meet spiritual needs. We have several congregations involved in ministering to physical needs in their respective communities: Grandview Baptist Church is involved with GraceWorks; Sunset Hills Baptist Church has an English as a Second Language ministry; Morning Star Baptist Church opens their facility to those who do not have showers or running water; North Star Baptist Church has a feeding ministry; and First Baptist Church in Soldotna has a clothes closet. These are just a few examples of needs that can be met.

I often hear “our church is too small to be involved with meeting physical needs.” If you look at the churches listed above, you will notice that none of them are “big churches” but are just doing whatever they can. They cannot do everything, but they can do something, and that is the key. These churches have identified a need within their community and are striving to meet that need.

Is there a need in your community that your congregation might be able to meet? Could you offer after-school tutoring? How about a consistent worship service in a senior adult residential facility? Could you mow a lawn for someone who is unable to do so? Could you volunteer to hold, rock and sing to infants in the hospital? I firmly believe any gift, talent and skill can be used by God to meet a human need so you will be able to build the credibility to speak to the spiritual needs. No one person can do everything but “we can all do what we can, with what we have, where we are, for the glory of God.” Where are you? What do you have? What will you do?

I pray God’s deepest and richest blessings upon all of our congregations, as we become “doers of the words and not hearers only.” As Jesus said, “Let your light so shine among men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”



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

I just returned from Sunday School week at Ridgecrest where I worked with our partner, Lifeway Christian Resources, in planning upcoming events and training opportunities. Sunday morning Bible Study is one of the best ways to see life transformation. One presentation at the conference centered on a critical need for our churches. Read the following excerpt from an article related to the topic “Does your church have a plan for helping people grow to be like Christ over the course of their lifetime?”

“Every day churches are faced with more and more Bible study options from a growing list of publishers. It’s a difficult job to build a plan for a congregation’s spiritual growth. And far too many churches seem to change their plans as they pursue ‘the latest and the greatest.’

That’s why everything LifeWay produces - from daily devotionals, family magazines, Bible and small group studies, to worship helps, camps, and events - follows LifeSpan, a lifelong plan for spiritual transformation that is steady, dependable, and long-term. You can be sure the LifeWay resources you use are designed specifically to

- Help you effectively communicate biblical truth with people of any age
- Advance an intentional, lifelong spiritual transformation strategy
- Work together to ultimately produce spiritually balanced Christians, groups, and churches

Why LifeSpan?

We care about the individuals and families in your church like you do. We want to see them become more like Christ through His Word, grow and mature in their faith, serve others, and share the Good News of Jesus with people in their circles of influence. That’s why we developed LifeSpan.

LifeSpan is a promise backed by a plan. It’s a lifelong strategy for the spiritual transformation of the people entrusted to your care. From “birth to heaven,” LifeWay has resources for all ages that work together to create learning opportunities that lead to spiritual transformation. Of course, because adults and children learn differently, there is some variation on how, and how often, subjects are taught. Overall, LifeSpan enables every family member to experience comprehensive, balanced, and age-appropriate spiritual growth.

LifeSpan is important to your church in several ways:

- It is for the lifetime of the individual.
- It is a plan you don’t have to change every few years.
- Its resources have strong biblical content and solid application.
- It is centered around the spiritual transformation of people.
- It has multiple curriculum options.
- It has extensive resources for leaders to aid preparation and effectiveness.
- It is extremely cost-effective and high-quality.

LifeSpan is produced by men and women who are passionate about helping you lead your church, grow your people, and see transformation in the lives of individuals. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in building strong, healthy churches, individuals, and families.”

If you have questions about the Lifespan strategy, please give me a call. I will be glad to make a presentation and explain this process. At our Bible Study Director’s Retreat in October, I will share LifeSpan and ways churches can have a life transformational impact on their members.



Don Shannon
*Director of Ministries and
 Mission Education*

With the economy still struggling, national security still an issue, continual advances in technology, and a myriad of moral and legal challenges rewriting people's sense of propriety, Americans have pushed the reset button regarding their lifestyle and future expectations. The traditional "American Dream" – which included a house in the suburbs, two cars, two children, a stay-at-home mom and a gainfully employed father – is being revised.

According to the Barna Group, the reshaping of the Dream is a reaction to mistakes of the recent past. Those missteps include:

- Living beyond the family's economic means, in the expectation that the future will provide greater financial capacity.
- Piling on unsustainable levels of household debt, in the belief that future financial gains from housing and employment will cover the burden.
- The absence of savings, trusting that the future will provide increased income and decreased prices.

The problem Americans face in this reshaping of the American dream is the question of the shape. When you talk about a dream, what is the picture you see? If we revise the dream, is there a new template we should use?

Today, the American dream continues to be an all-consuming concern. It usually takes both the husband and the wife working outside the home to even try to keep up. This rat race becomes your total focus. If you want to get serious about what God's dream is for your life, you have to decide if you're going to settle for the American dream or go big with God's dream. Is it the good life or God's life? The Bible says, dedicate yourself to God's plan and don't worry about being like everybody else.

The Bible gives us the key to this dedication in Hebrews 12:1, "Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back. Let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us." God has a particular life course for you to run. If you're always looking at other people, you're going to end up running their race. God has a particular life race for you to run and nobody else can run it.

God tells you to focus on the race and lay aside all the excess baggage. A lot of things aren't necessarily wrong but they're not necessary. There are a lot of things I could do in life that keep me from the best- things that keep me from what God really wants me to do with my life. The challenge is to seek first His kingdom, His righteousness, and then the template is set for fulfilling my life. If you look to reshape, revise or redo the American dream, then it needs to be guided by God's will as you dedicate your life to Him, as you lay aside all that keeps you from Him, and you run the race He has set before you.

**Bible Study
 Directors Retreat**
Friday-Saturday
October 7-8, 2011
First Baptist Church, Wasilla

**Featured speaker Mark Snowden, Church
 Equipping Group, North American Mission
 Board; co-author of "Truth That Sticks."**

2007 Shaun Lunt

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\$75,000



They are Precious in His Sight...

Matthew 9:35-36

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PERIODICAL POSTAGE
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calendar

August 2011

3-6	Youth FUSION, ABT	9	World Hunger Sunday
7	Social Issues Sunday	14-15	Winter Youth Celebration
14	Living with Urgency:	22-31	Statewide OMC Rallies
	Student Evangelism Day		
14	Ministry Vision Rally		
14-20	Church Music Emphasis Week		

September 2011

4	Single Adult Sunday
4-11	Valeria Sherard State Mission Emphasis
18	Anti-Gambling Sunday
26	Mission Rally, FBC North Pole
27	wMu Annual Meeting
27	Pastor's Conference
27-28	ABC Annual Meeting, FBC North Pole

SEE YOU AT THE POLE™
GLOBAL DAY OF STUDENT PRAYER
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011



October 2011

1-31	Cooperative Program Emphasis Month
2	On Mission Together: Sharing the Good News
7-8	Bible Study Directors Retreat

Oct. 22, Hatcher Pass Baptist Association
Oct. 23, Chugach Baptist Association
Oct. 24, Kenai Peninsula
Oct. 25, Tanana Valley Baptist Association
Oct. 26, Juneau
Oct. 28, Prince of Wales Island
Oct. 30, Ketchikan