

MILEPOST

ALASKA BAPTIST

December 2013
Vol 68 • No 12

The Alaska Baptist Convention is congregations cooperating together to **SEEK** Christ, **SHARE** Christ, **STRENGTHEN** congregations, **START** congregations and **SEND** Christians.



pictured left to right, front to back: Butch Strickland, Mike Procter, Jimmy Stewart, Sylvia Rylander, Betsy Shilling, Eugene Ward, Adam Long, Alan Dial, Debra Long

2000 Club

Goal: \$20,000 each quarter

ARISE AND BUILD

4th quarter recipient: Village Congregations

assistance with fuel oil
and heating costs

Make your check payable to the Alaska Baptist Convention, 1750 O'Malley Rd., Anchorage, AK 99507. Note the quarter for which you are contributing.

Alaska State Evangelism Conference

January 27-28
First Baptist Church
Anchorage

full details inside
pages 6-7



Luke and Sarah Stewart
Kobuk Baptist Mission



Since 2008 Luke and Sarah Stewart have been serving as Mission Service Corps missionaries in Kobuk. Your congregation's mission giving through the Cooperative Program and the Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering has assisted them in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those in the village. In addition to their Sunday worship services, they have special activities for youth and children during the week and in the summer. Alaska Baptists have also been able to assist them with travel to and from the village and provided a grant to help them repair and renovate their home after flooding last spring. Pray for Luke and Sarah as they serve the Lord in Kobuk.

God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
Alaska Iu-Mienh First Baptist Church	\$461.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$461.80
Anchor Baptist Church	\$2,840.61	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,950.61
Anch Hope Comm Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anderson Church Plant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquilaq Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$10,677.90	\$1,446.10	\$2,359.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,483.02
Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church	\$5,266.14	\$0.00	\$427.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,693.14
Calvary Baptist Church	\$3,161.76	\$0.00	\$1,030.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,191.76
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
City on a Hill Church	\$71.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.00
Clearwater Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cold Bay Chapel	\$804.34	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,004.34
College Heights Baptist Church	\$36,868.29	\$3,174.80	\$6,692.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46,735.67
Comm Bapt Church, Coffman Cove	\$4,810.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,810.20
Community Baptist Church, Nome	\$962.00	\$0.00	\$366.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,328.00
Community Christian Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cowboy Church of Anchorage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$12,424.00	\$10.00	\$3,500.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,934.80
CrossCountry Church	\$1,350.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$7,229.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,229.50
Eagle River Korean Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$3,014.28	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,374.28
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$20,079.90	\$0.00	\$3,025.43	\$4,655.35	\$0.00	\$27,760.68
Faith Baptist Church	\$5,386.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,386.72
False Pass Christian Fellowship	\$222.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$222.45
Filipino Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$270.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$270.00
Filipino Bible Church, Anchorage	\$1,750.00	\$427.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,177.00
First Baptist Church, Anchorage	\$42,657.81	\$2,799.00	\$5,674.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,131.56
First Baptist Church, Eagle River	\$26,120.09	\$2,776.50	\$4,253.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,150.54
First Baptist Church, Fairbanks	\$6,857.82	\$1,096.00	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,253.82
First Baptist Church, North Pole	\$21,112.28	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,712.28
First Baptist Church, Delta Junction	\$41,498.00	\$4,070.00	\$4,180.00	\$625.00	\$0.00	\$50,373.00
First Baptist Church, Juneau	\$8,171.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,171.09
First Baptist Church, Kenai	\$4,664.49	\$701.00	\$660.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,025.49
First Baptist Church, Ketchikan	\$7,586.94	\$0.00	\$3,029.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,615.94
First Baptist Church, Kotzebue	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
First Baptist Church, Palmer	\$16,666.60	\$0.00	\$2,849.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,515.60
First Baptist Church, Petersburg	\$4,200.64	\$1,298.00	\$909.12	\$435.00	\$0.00	\$6,842.76
First Baptist Church, Sitka	\$6,708.54	\$620.00	\$1,263.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,591.54
First Baptist Church, Soldotna	\$10,418.00	\$1,204.00	\$1,363.09	\$231.00	\$0.00	\$13,216.09
First Baptist Church, Valdez	\$16,090.55	\$1,188.00	\$4,035.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,313.95
First Baptist Church, Wasilla	\$9,958.01	\$1,128.84	\$2,327.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,413.90
First Baptist Church, Willow	\$4,755.43	\$0.00	\$756.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,511.43
First Hmong Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$487.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,487.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$3,541.00	\$0.00	\$1,065.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,606.00
Friendship Baptist Mission	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Frontier Southern Baptist Church	\$3,166.50	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,326.50
Gilead Ministries	\$1,631.25	\$0.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,736.25
Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$23,494.29	\$2,971.85	\$3,630.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,096.14
Grandview Baptist Church	\$32,267.71	\$3,005.00	\$1,862.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$37,434.71
Greater Friendship Baptist Church	\$7,752.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,752.10
Hillside Baptist Church	\$9,325.86	\$150.00	\$746.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,222.19
Hoonah Baptist Mission	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
Hydaburg Baptist Mission	\$72.00	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$117.00
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$708.02	\$0.00	\$1,435.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$2,168.02
Journey Church	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.00
Juneau Korean Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$310.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$610.00
Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$739.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$739.63
Korean Baptist Mission	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$170.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$470.00
Korean New Central Baptist Church	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00
Lighthouse Community Church	\$7,566.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,566.00
Misc. Contributors-Cash	\$500.00	\$636.25	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$180.00	\$1,466.25
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$6,986.19	\$435.00	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,661.19
Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$6,468.72	\$1,055.44	\$398.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,922.56
Moose Pass Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Moriah Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Morning Star Baptist Church	\$2,759.06	\$0.00	\$2,160.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,919.06
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
Mountain View Community Church	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00

January-October 2013 Gifts from ABC Churches

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$7,187.66	\$0.00	\$646.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,833.66
New Beginnings Baptist Church	\$1,166.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,166.27
New Birth Christian Church	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$2,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,750.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$8,790.24	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,290.24
New Hope Community Church	\$950.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$950.00
New Hope Fellowship	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$820.00
North Bear St Comm Church	\$49.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49.18
North Tongass Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
OnMission Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Rabbit Creek Community Church	\$2,250.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,250.00
River In The Desert Comm Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110.00
Riverside Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Salcha Baptist Church	\$8,210.59	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,610.59
Samoa Alaska Baptist Church	\$637.92	\$0.00	\$136.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$774.28
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Schrock Road Community Church	\$3,490.24	\$680.00	\$804.80	\$525.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.04
Settler's Bay Community Church	\$6,363.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,363.63
Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$908.48	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,258.48
Shungnak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. John Baptist Church	\$9,120.59	\$217.00	\$519.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,856.59
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$23,378.44	\$3,565.00	\$9,588.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36,531.94
Tenakee Community Church	\$202.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$202.26
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$563.66	\$0.00	\$87.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.66
Togiak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
True North Church	\$5,625.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,625.00
True North Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
UBC-Chinese Fellowship	\$582.64	\$0.00	\$370.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$952.64
University Baptist Church, Anc	\$8,150.93	\$1,604.00	\$1,943.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,697.93
University Baptist Church, Fbks	\$14,353.00	\$833.00	\$3,788.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$19,049.00
Valley View Baptist Church	\$4,250.00	\$0.00	\$558.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,808.00
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,150.00
Whittier Christian Comm Church	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$965.00
Grand Totals:	\$574,146.24	\$39,266.78	\$88,315.58	\$6,871.35	\$230.00	\$708,829.95
Goals:	\$683,679.00	\$90,000.00	\$95,000.00	\$150,000.00		
Over/Under Goal:	\$(109,532.76)	\$(50,733.22)	\$(6,684.42)	\$(143,128.65)		

Legend:

CP: Cooperative Program, January - December
SMO: Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering, August - July
AA: Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, January - December
LM: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, June - May
WH: World Hunger, January - December



Received as of October 31, 2013 • 173 contributors

1st Qtr \$18582.50 • 2nd Qtr \$6894.50
3rd Qtr \$6444.50 • 4th Qtr \$5317.50

Your Cooperative Program dollars at work in Alaska...



Pray for the congregation of True North Downtown as they minister in Anchorage. Your congregation's mission support through the Cooperative Program is a vital resource to this congregation.

Alaska Baptist Convention

Welcome!

Dr. Euikyo Ahn

Korean Baptist Mission, Fairbanks

Larry Macknicki

Pioneer Baptist Church, Wasilla

**Please Pray for
our Pastorless
Churches**

Big Lake Baptist Church, Wasilla
 Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks
 Chugach Resort Ministries, Girdwood
 Cowboy Church of Anchorage
 First Baptist Church, Valdez
 Greater Friendship Bapt Church, Anch
 Kiana Baptist Mission
 Lighthouse Community Church, Nikiski
 Moose Pass Community Church
 New Beginnings Baptist Church, Seward
 New Hope Baptist Church, Anchorage
 North Tongass Baptist Church
 Shungnak Baptist Mission
 University Baptist Church, Anchorage

Save the Dates!

**Disaster Relief
Chaplain Training**
March 18-19

Suicide Prevention Training
March 20-21

**Ministers and Spouses
Retreat**
April 24-26

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 11 12 13 14 15 16

December 2013 • Page 3

Background check “helps keep kids safe”

By Aaron Earls

(reprinted from *California Southern Baptist* November 2013 newsletter)

Nashville (BP)—The man serving snow cones at your Vacation Bible School is a convicted sex offender.

That was the news Bill Jones had to deliver to one of the pastors in his association.

The pastor came to Jones after learning a volunteer, who had been a “model church member” for two years, may have had a criminal record.

“(The pastor) asked if I would do a background search, as I often do for our smaller churches that cannot afford it themselves,” said Jones, executive director of Neches River Baptist Association in Crockett, TX.

The report did uncover a sex offense conviction, so the pastor and one of his deacons dealt with the volunteer.

Tom Belew, California Southern Baptist Convention childhood specialist, noted that background checks are “an important part of providing a safe and secure place for kids. Effective worker screening for volunteers and staff include an application, a background check, reference checks and an interview prior to placement in a ministry.”

“A person should be a member of the church for six months before being placed in a ministry position,” Belew added.

The Texas church was one of nearly 5,000 congregations and religious organizations that have used www.backgroundchecks.com over the past five years, through a relationship with LifeWay Christian Resources. There have been more than 84,500 background checks run through the www.LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks program during that time.

Of those checks, 53 percent (44,946) returned some type of issue, according to Jennie Taylor, a LifeWay coordinator who manages the backgroundchecks.com program. The issues range from minor traffic violations to felony convictions, Taylor said. Not all of the issues required any action, but more than 22.5 percent (19,202) of the screenings returned records with misdemeanor or felony offenses.

Jones said the Texas church now understands the importance of running background checks ahead of time.

“They now have a policy that everyone who works in

(children and youth) areas will have a current background check on file,” Jones said.

Belew noted that in addition to worker screening, “churches need to provide adequate worker supervision. Good supervision includes two adults in every class or activity, windows in each classroom door to enable supervisors to monitor activities, greeters to assist guests and prevent unwanted intrusions in the classroom area, all approved children’s activities placed on the church calendar and an incident reporting process.”

Monongahela Baptist Association in West Virginia also uses the LifeWay service to run background checks on all volunteers for their children and youth camps.

“It’s a way to help keep kids safe,” said Jerilyn Smith, administrative assistant at the association.

“We want to assure parents that we are doing all we can do to protect their children from those who would want to harm them,” she added.

Under the LifeWay program, churches and religious organizations can use the background check service at discounted rates. It is used to run background screenings on children’s ministry workers, camp counselors, bus drivers or other volunteers and staff.

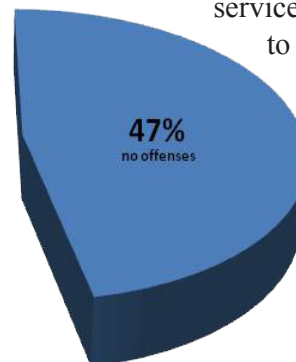
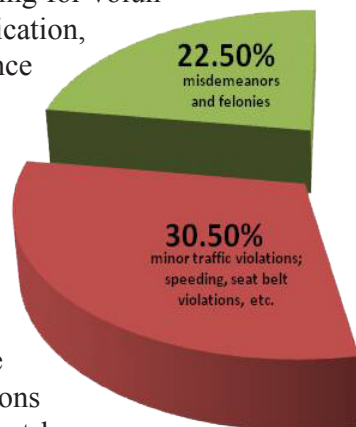
“Leaders from churches and organizations who use LifeWay’s background checks service say protecting those God has placed under their care is paramount,” Taylor said.

She added backgroundchecks.com has “an extensive collection of public record sources,” including more than 450 million records in its database. It also provides easy-to-read reports, she said.

“All churches...should have policies in effect on how those checks can be used in a redemptive manner for those that come back with a criminal past,” Bill Jones added.

For more about background checks, visit LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks or call 800.464.2799. For additional resources to help churches avoid the devastating effects of sexual abuse and other moral failures by staff members or volunteers, visit www.sbc.net/localchurches/ministry-help.asp or <http://sbclife.net/pdf/ProtectingOurChildren.pdf>.

(Statistics reflect results from clients who have purchased services from www.backgroundchecks.com through LifeWay’s OneSource program.)



NOW THAT'S AN IDEA

Four Steps to Encourage a Church Planter

It can be lonely out there. When a new church is begun, its pastor may sometimes feel isolated, especially during the initial months.

Planting new churches in North America is a high priority of Southern Baptists. As a member of a Southern Baptist church, you're already involved in church planting! Your church's contributions through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® help support hundreds of new church plants every year.

Would you go a step further, and personally encourage one church planter? Here are a few tips:

1 FIND ONE. Intentionally befriend a church planter and his family, whether he lives across town or across the country. If your church sponsors a plant, encourage that planter. Otherwise, ask your pastor to recommend one or search the online church plant map at www.namb.net/churchplants or meet planters at your local Baptist association or state convention.

2 BE AN ENCOURAGER. Give relational and prayer support. Study their newsletter, blog or website. Send email encouragements. Ask how things are going and how you can pray. Take him to lunch. Listen well. Praise God for blessings. Pray weekly at a specific time, i.e. Mondays at 9 p.m. send a note to remind him you're praying. Your small encouragements make a huge difference.

3 SHARE YOUR RESOURCES. Share monetarily. Your tithe is given to your local church, but God may prompt you to give additional weekly or monthly offerings to the church plant, such as \$20 or \$200. Contribute a one-time offering for a specific need, like a coffee pot, a down payment for land, Bibles, sound equipment or furniture. Organize a garage sale to fund a church sign. Bless the pastor with bookstore gift cards or a scholarship to attend a conference, convention or seminary class.

4 SHARE YOURSELF. Visit their worship service, constitution or groundbreaking event. Organize a mission trip for a building project, survey or event. Offer your skills and contacts. Can you teach, clean, organize or paint? Design a website, build a wall, play guitar, make outreach visits?

A new church needs a quality core group. If God leads, would you relocate to the church plant area to help for a few years or months? If God calls you, He'll provide a way.

As your church and denomination send new planters, will you personally encourage just one of them?

Reprinted from On Mission magazine, Winter 2012 issue; article written by Diana Davis, author, speaker and wife of Steve Davis, the NAMB vice president for the Midwest region. She and Steve have helped plant several churches.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



**2013 Alaska Goal
\$150,000**

Alaska Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Support

	2013		2012	
October				
Receipts	\$67,440.13		\$68,230.09	
CP Goal	56,973.25		60,026.83	
Variance	10,466.88	18%	8,203.26	14%
Year-to-Date				
Receipts	\$574,146.24		\$580,139.67	
CP Goal	569,732.50		600,268.30	
Variance	4,413.74	1%	(20,128.63)	-3%

The OUTWARD FOCUSED LIFE

Special
Musical Guests

Veritas

Jeff Anderson
James Berrian
Andrew Goodwin
Jordan Johnson
Lucas Scott Lawrence

Serve Life

Philippians 2:5-11

Alaska State Evangelism Conference • Jan 27-28
First Baptist Church, Anchorage

Schedule

Monday, Jan. 27 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 • 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(lunch and supper on Tuesday included with sign up)
childcare available all sessions for birth-Kindergarten only
sign-up online, www.alaskabaptistconvention.com

Conference Hotel

Clarion Suites Downtown

907.929.6460

(use code ABC-SEC. Deadline Jan. 9)

Featured guests:

Greg Goforth, Worship Pastor, The Crossing @ E...
Keith Jefferson, Missional Church Strategist for A...
International Mission Board
Michael Lewis, Executive Director of Revitalization...
North American Mission Board
Nick Nye, Lead Pastor, Veritas Community Church...
Brittany Nye, Veritas Community Church, Columbi...
Mike Stewart, Executive Director of Missions, Ce...
California

by the numbers

In the past six months, how many times have you made a decision
to obey God knowing it may cost you something?

37% zero times

14% 3 - 5 times

36% 1 - 2 times

13% 6 or more times

Time for family

Roughly 10 percent of Protestant
pastors nationwide say they
spend nine hours a week or less
with their family members.

Source: LifeWay Research



Birchwood, Chugiak
African American Churches,
on and Pastor Relations,
ch, Columbus, Ohio
ous, Ohio
ntral Coast Baptist Association,

happy family, happy life

Around 80% of young people who say they have a good relationship with their parents are happier with life in general than those who have strained parental relationships. Consider what your church can do to foster positive family relationships.

Source: *Time*, July 15, 2013

There is **STILL TIME!**

Alaska Baptist Family Services is still accepting Christmas donations for their residents. Items include clothing, games and gift cards. See the November issue of the Alaska Baptist Milepost for a detailed list or call ABFS at 907.349.2222.

Please make sure any donations arrive at 1600 O'Malley Road, Anchorage AK 99507 by **Friday December 13, 2013** or call (907) 349-2222. If you are located out of Anchorage, a check may be sent to ABFS c/o Christmas Wish List and gifts will be purchased locally on your behalf. Thank you for your continued support and help as we serve children and families in the Spirit of Christ!

A Report from our Church Planters

Here is some news from our church planters' October reports to encourage you to pray for them:

243 evangelistic encounters • 4 salvations

Your Alaska church planters are:

Willie Austin, Billy Barnhill, Gary Bearce, Joe Blackburn, Bryant Blakley, Oleg Bondar, Joe Boney, Monte Chitty, Will Cole, Jay Dagenhart, Alan Dial, David Gamble, Clifton Gay, David George, Matt Hoke, Pete Kuhn, Priestley Lee, Dawson Lindblom, Bill Little, Larry Macknicki, Leon May, Kwang Oh, Su'e Su'e, Daryl Turley, Andy Vaughn, Brent Williams, Paul Worsham.

Our church planters are fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ in Alaska!

Butch Strickland
Director of Church Planting and Missions



MILEPOST MOMENTS

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

First Baptist Church, Palmer

On October 26, FBC hosted a simulcast "For God's Sake: Fight" with 30 men from FBC and Montana Creek Baptist Church in attendance.

Fairview Loop Baptist Church, Wasilla

FLBC celebrated the ordination of their new youth pastor, Peter (KD) Kanz, on October 27. November 15-17, the church hosted Danny John-



son, from Pulaski Baptist Association in Little Rock, Arkansas, during the "Just a Minute: Share Your Faith in 60 Seconds or Less" conference. Tom Hoffman is pastor.

Tanana Valley Baptist Association

TVBA held their annual meeting on October 19 at St. John Baptist Church in Fairbanks. Elected officers for 2013-14 are: Bryan Myers, pastor, Faith Baptist Church Fairbanks, moderator; Paul Wells, pastor, Shannon Park Baptist Church Fairbanks, vice-moderator; Howard Zach, MSC for the Chinese Fellowship Fairbanks, treasurer; Sandy Buchanan, TVBA secretary, recording secretary/clerk. Messengers and guests heard reports about ministries at UAF, Camp Baldwin and Upper Tanana Valley Regional Church Planting Center; and local congregation reports. They also welcomed New Birth Christian Church (Eric Jones, pastor) into

the association. St. John's provided breakfast and lunch.

Glacier Valley Baptist Church, Juneau

GVBC celebrated their 50th anniversary the weekend before hosting the annual meeting of the ABC! Both events were well received. Just this fall, seven have come to Christ! Pray for this congregation as they continue to minister to their community. Gordon Mills is pastor.

Alaska Baptist Convention

November 1-8, a three-person "vision team" from the Oregon Trail Baptist Association (OTBA) in western Nebraska visited Alaska exploring mission team opportunities. This team traveled from the Kenai Peninsula to Tok and places in between. The OTBA is considering a three-year partnership with the Alaska Baptist Convention. (picture l to r: Ryan Alexander, Doug Lee, Dave McDonald, Butch Strickland)



Korean Baptist Mission, Fairbanks

KBM called Dr. Euikyoony "Bernard" Ahn as pastor. He and his family arrived in Fairbanks at the end of October.

Community Christian Fellowship, Wasilla

CCF participated in the "My Hope America" Billy Graham study, focusing on home evangelism and witnessing. The goal of CCF is to build relationships while reaching people for Christ. Dawson Lindblom is pastor.

Cold Bay Chapel

CBC had a great response from the community during their Harvest Carnival in October. Josh Kremer is pastor.

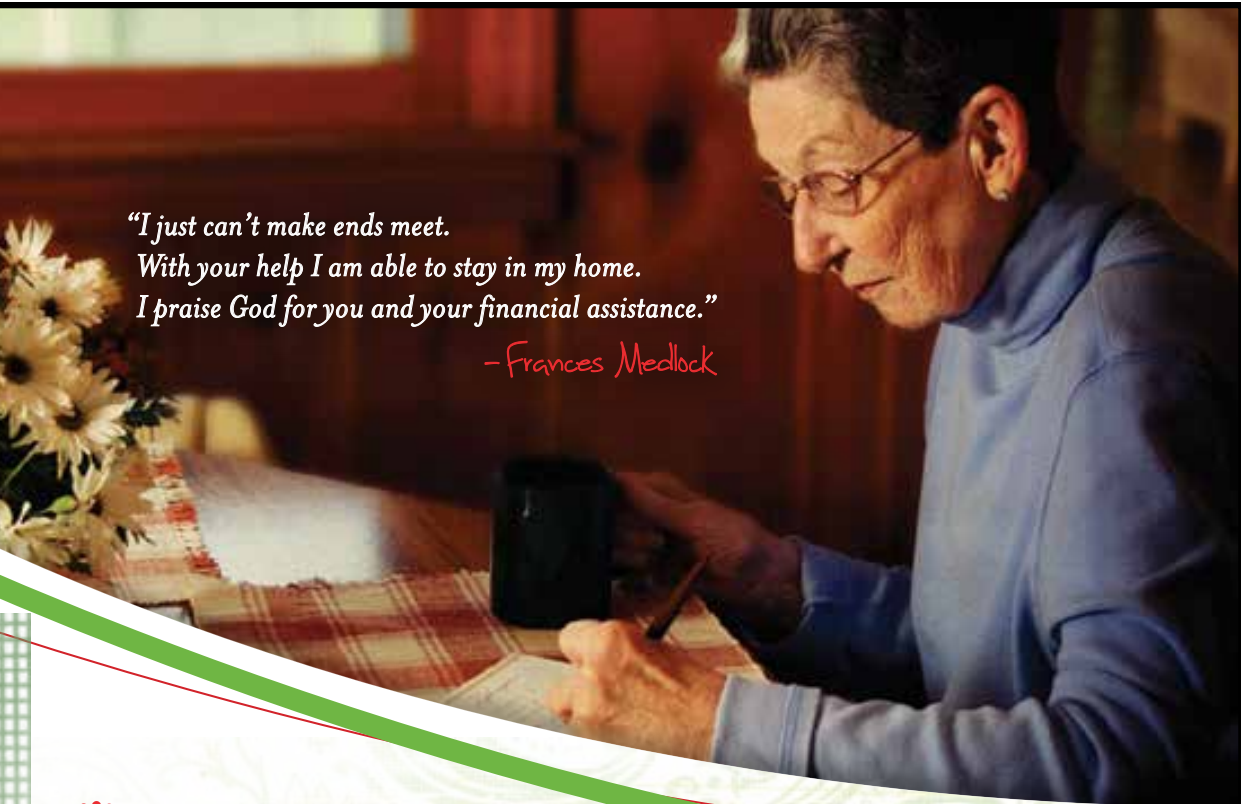


University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

Students in the college ministry at UBC are preparing survival bags for students taking college finals. On December 8, the congregation will support the "Jubilee Bells" as they join the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra in concert. Preschoolers will have a birthday party for Jesus after the morning worship service on December 15; that evening the whole church will enjoy a Christmas celebration program at 6:00, followed by a potluck dessert social. Their Christmas Eve candlelight service will be at 7:00 p.m. and the youth will have a lock-in at the end of the month.

Tenakee Community Church

TCC hosted their 4th annual Thanksgiving dinner with members of the community. A group of UAS students helped serve the meal this year. The church also hosted a "Billy Graham service" as well as a viewing of "The Cross." Todd Buck is pastor.



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I praise God for you and your financial assistance."*

-Frances Medlock



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Mike Procter
Executive Director

When Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany, he was determined to take over the church and dictate the nation's religion. He falsely accused many clergy of being unpatriotic and traitors because they did not agree with him. Religious publications were suspended, couples were encouraged to be married in non-religious ceremonies and in 1935, Hitler outlawed prayer in schools. He did all he could to replace the Bible with Nazi propaganda.

Hitler had a more difficult time replacing traditional holidays, so he secularized them and changed their meaning; Easter became a celebration to mark the beginning of Spring (what do we now call what used to be "Easter" vacation? – "Spring break"); Christmas was renamed "Yuletide" and its celebration as a religious holiday was banned in schools in 1938. Holy days became holidays and the sacred became secularized.

We see the same thing happening in America today: social libertarians, along with the media and court system, seem determined to drain Christmas of its religious significance and make it a purely secular, pagan holiday. Go into nearly any store across America and what do you see as symbols of Christmas? – Santa Claus, snowmen, reindeer and elves. Store clerks wish you a "happy holiday"; and schools have "holiday" programs rather than Christmas programs. For many people, to wish someone "Merry Christmas" is interpreted as intolerance and religious bigotry. After all, aren't we supposed to be "all inclusive"?

Another Christmas season is upon us, so let's do whatever we can to remind our society that there cannot be **Christmas** without **Christ**. We need to stay focused on Him during the season; proclaim His birth, life, death and resurrection; worship Him; and follow the example of the shepherds "...When they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child..." (Luke 2:17)

This year, when someone says "happy holidays" to me, I am going to respond with "Merry Christmas." I want them to think, if only for a moment, about the real reason for the season.

Merry **Christmas** and may the Lord bless you exceedingly and abundantly!



Jimmy Stewart
Director of Evangelism and Church Development

In John 17, the apostle John gave the account of the prayer of Jesus for his disciples. Jesus prayed the church would be unified. I had the privilege to see a gathering of the body of Christ in Anchorage come together for one purpose – to pray and ask God to stir the hearts of Alaskans toward God. It was a truly inspiring event held at Anchorage Grace Church, with standing room only in the main auditorium. More importantly, God reached into our hearts and drew us together, challenging us about the "season of service and harvest" event sponsored by Luis Palau Association being held next year. Visit www.palau.org/go/lovealaska for additional information. Tom Mueller, Church and Community Relations Director for the Alaska

event said this about the Re:NEW Gathering Kick-Off, "What a powerful night of prayer and worship! A thousand be-



lievers gathered at Anchorage Grace Church to pray for our city, region and state. We enjoyed a fantastic time of worship led by a region-wide band and prayer times directed by representatives from different churches and ministries. Luis Palau shared an encouraging word as well. Thanks for coming Anchorage! What a blessing!" I hope your church will engage in this tremendous opportunity to reach Alaskans for Christ. There will be service projects, counselor training, evangelistic opportunities and a great family festival in May. I encourage you to join us in prayer and action. As evidenced by the spirit of those in attendance at the November event, I believe God is up to something great.

The Alaska State Evangelism Conference is January 27-28, 2014, at First Baptist Church, Anchorage. We will be hosting a church planter from Columbus, Ohio; an International Mission Board representative; the pastoral leader from the North American Mission Board; and many others. The music group "Veritas" will bless us with special music. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Sign up at www.alaskabaptistconvention.com.



Butch Strickland
*Director of Church Planting
 and Missions*

Cross-Cultural *training*

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Alaska Baptist Convention

Guest speaker:

Keith Jefferson

**Missional Church Strategist
 for African American churches,
 International Mission Board**

*lunch and all training materials
 included*

*sponsored by the Alaska Baptist Convention
www.alakabaptistconvention.com*

About a year ago I heard a prayer I have not been able to forget – as a matter of fact, I don't want to forget it. I think it expresses the heart of God, "God, my flesh wants to escape this world, its pain, its stress, its evil. I want to pray with the Apostle John, 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus.' What a joy it would be to go to heaven! But, God, my neighbor doesn't know you. Neither does my cousin. Can you wait until they get saved?" Imagine what is going on in the heart of God when He sees whole villages, tribes, peoples and thousands of individuals who do not know Him. No wonder we read in His word, *"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9

This year the theme of the International Mission Board Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) is "ALL ...or nothing." It is based on the passage found in Matthew 22:36-39 where Jesus calls on us to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind, and to love our neighbor as ourself. It is a call to love God and to love others like God loves them. To share the heart of God means to give anything and everything to make sure others have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. Remember, it is not God's will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Support missionaries around the world by giving to the LMCO. Go to that person (or persons) God has laid on your heart. Pray the Holy Spirit would have free reign in the hearts of His people and that He would bring repentance and salvation to the ends of the earth.

Merry Christmas everyone!

"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." *Augustine*

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HEART, HANDS, VOICE

Matthew 22:36-39

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calendar

December 2013

- 2-9 Week of Prayer and Mission Study
for International Missions
and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 13 Deadline for ABFS Christmas donations
- 19-20 Winter Blast youth conference
- 23 ABC and ABF offices close at 1:00 p.m.
- 24-Jan 1 ABC and ABF offices closed for Christmas

January 2014

- 1-31 Call to Prayer Month
- 1-5 January Bible Study
- 18 TVBA Executive Board meeting
- 19 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 26 Day of Prayer for the SBC
- 27-28 State Evangelism Conference
- 29 Cross Cultural Training

February 2014

- 1-28 "True Love Waits" Emphasis Month
- 2 Souper Bowl Sunday for Hunger Relief
- 7 Alaska Native Baptist Fellowship Board Meeting
- 9 Racial Reconciliation Sunday
- 10-16 Focus on wMu
- 15 Children's Ministry Day

upcoming events

- Avalanche '14, Youth Evangelism Conference
- Alaska Leadership Event
- Vacation Bible School training clinics
- New Pastor/Staff Orientation
- Ministers and Spouses Retreat