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January - March 2017 Gifts from ABC Churches

| Organization | CP | SMO | AA | LM | WH | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Agape Fellowship | \$1,851.43 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,851.43 |
| Alaska Iu-Mienh First Baptist Church | \$94.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$94.00 |
| Anchor Baptist Church | \$608.54 | \$0.00 | \$76.07 | \$174.76 | \$0.00 | \$859.37 |
| Anderson Community Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Aquillaq Baptist Mission | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Big Lake Baptist Church | \$1,929.82 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,124.00 | \$0.00 | \$6,053.82 |
| Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church | \$931.64 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$931.64 |
| Calvary Baptist Church | \$1,207.93 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$884.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,091.93 |
| Catalyst Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Christ Community Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 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 | \$58.95 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$58.95 |
| College Heights Baptist Church | \$15,439.49 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$9,827.00 | \$0.00 | \$25,266.49 |
| Comm Baptist Church, Coffman Cove | \$2,737.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,737.00 |
| Community Baptist Church, Nome | \$240.98 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$240.98 |
| Cross Roads Baptist Church | \$2,092.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$250.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,342.00 |
| CrossCountry Church | \$600.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$800.00 |
| Dillingham Bible Fellowship | \$1,954.56 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$800.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,754.56 |
| Eagle River Korean Baptist Church | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Emmanuel Baptist Church | \$620.59 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$620.59 |
| Fairview Loop Baptist Church | \$7,862.53 | \$113.93 | \$50.00 | \$5,052.19 | \$0.00 | \$13,078.65 |
| Faith Baptist Church | \$1,234.61 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$40.00 | \$1,274.61 |
| False Pass Christian Fellowship | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Filipino Bible Church | \$875.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$875.00 |
| First Baptist Church, Anchorage | \$6,380.66 | \$0.00 | \$890.00 | \$574.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,844.66 |
| First Baptist Church, Eagle River | \$6,944.22 | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,578.00 | \$140.00 | \$9,962.22 |
| First Baptist Church, Fairbanks | \$3,018.95 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,090.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,108.95 |
| First Baptist Church, North Pole | \$6,979.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,611.00 | \$0.00 | \$10,590.00 |
| First Baptist Church, Delta Junction | \$14,314.14 | \$25.00 | \$5,697.71 | \$11,168.46 | \$0.00 | \$31,205.31 |
| First Baptist Church, Juneau | \$2,042.24 | \$35.00 | \$56.00 | \$84.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,217.24 |
| First Baptist Church, Kenai | \$1,710.36 | \$0.00 | \$285.06 | \$929.06 | \$0.00 | \$2,924.48 |
| First Baptist Church, Ketchikan | \$3,979.24 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | \$2,636.00 | \$0.00 | \$6,715.24 |
| First Baptist Church, Kotzebue | \$1,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| First Baptist Church, Palmer | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| First Baptist Church, Petersburg | \$24.18 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$24.18 |
| First Baptist Church, Sitka | \$2,003.13 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,216.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,219.13 |
| First Baptist Church, Soldotna | \$1,354.00 | \$770.00 | \$0.00 | \$930.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,054.00 |
| First Baptist Church, Valdez | \$5,442.45 | \$0.00 | \$2,140.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,582.45 |
| First Baptist Church, Wasilla | \$2,928.61 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,037.50 | \$0.00 | \$7,966.11 |
| First Baptist Church, Willow | \$1,149.55 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,294.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,443.55 |
| First Hmong Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| First Korean Baptist Church | \$450.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$468.00 | \$0.00 | \$918.00 |
| First Native Baptist Church | \$572.00 | \$39.60 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$611.60 |
| Friendship Baptist Mission | \$578.93 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,110.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,688.93 |
| Frontier Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Frontier Fellowship | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Frontier Southern Baptist Church | \$457.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$457.00 |
| Gilead Ministries | \$684.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$684.00 |
| Glacier Valley Baptist Church | \$4,060.27 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,606.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,666.27 |
| Grandview Baptist Church | \$8,059.42 | \$0.00 | \$140.00 | \$3,105.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,304.42 |
| Greater Friendship Baptist Church | \$2,744.16 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,744.16 |
| Hillside Baptist Church | \$2,765.89 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$850.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,615.89 |
| Iglesia Bautista Hispana Sunset Hills | \$220.51 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$220.51 |
| Immanuel Baptist Church | \$267.18 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,316.09 | \$0.00 | \$1,583.27 |
| In His Steps Community Fellowship | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Journey Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$250.00 | \$0.00 | \$250.00 |
| Juneau Korean Church | \$90.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$405.00 | \$0.00 | \$495.00 |
| Kasaan Fellowship | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission | \$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 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Korean Baptist Mission | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Korean New Central Baptist Church | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$300.00 |
| Lighthouse Community Church | \$1,980.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,980.00 |
| Living Water Church | \$143.28 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$143.28 |
| Malamalama Fou Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Misc. Contributors-Cash | \$0.00 | \$8,487.37 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,487.37 |
| Montana Creek Baptist Church | \$4,540.41 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,540.41 |
| Moose Creek Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Moose Pass Community Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Morning Star Baptist Church | \$925.23 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,307.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,232.23 |
| Mount Pleasant Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Mount Redoubt Baptist Church | \$1,200.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,200.00 |

January - March 2017 Gifts from ABC Churches

| Organization | CP | SMO | AA | LM | WH | Total |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Mountain View Community Church | \$150.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$150.00 |
| Muldoon Road Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| New Beginnings Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| New Birth Christian Church | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| New Grace Christian Church | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| New Hope Baptist Church | \$3,200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,700.00 |
| New Hope Fellowship | \$175.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$225.00 |
| North Bear Street Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| North Tongass Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Northern Lights Missions | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$60.00 | \$15.00 | \$0.00 | \$75.00 |
| OnMission Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Pioneer Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Rabbit Creek Church | \$365.71 | \$125.71 | \$0.00 | \$251.43 | \$0.00 | \$742.85 |
| River In The Desert Community Church | \$601.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$601.00 |
| Riverside Chapel | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Roots Family Church, Kasilof | \$285.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$285.00 |
| Roots Family Church, Soldotna | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Sabbath Peace Fellowship | \$480.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$480.00 |
| Salcha Baptist Church | \$1,831.98 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$4,620.00 | \$0.00 | \$6,451.98 |
| Sand Lake Fellowship | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Sand Point Baptist Chapel | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Schrock Road Community Church | \$514.00 | \$222.00 | \$148.00 | \$148.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,032.00 |
| Settler's Bay Community Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Shannon Park Baptist Church | \$479.18 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$870.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,349.18 |
| 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 | \$1,615.90 | \$0.00 | \$285.00 | \$70.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,970.90 |
| Sunset Hills Baptist Church | \$5,840.30 | \$0.00 | \$1,641.25 | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,531.55 |
| Tenakee Community Church | \$319.25 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$319.25 |
| The Church @ Commodore Park | \$5.00 | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$15.00 |
| The Crossing @ Birchwood | \$1,200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| The Way | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Thorne Bay Baptist Church | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Togiak Baptist Mission | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| True North Church | \$3,338.23 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$11,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$14,838.23 |
| True North Church Girdwood | \$847.09 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,347.09 |
| UBC-Chinese Fellowship | \$336.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$336.00 |
| University Baptist Church, Anchorage | \$786.10 | \$0.00 | \$705.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,491.10 |
| University Baptist Church, Fairbanks | \$1,769.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,878.80 | \$0.00 | \$5,647.80 |
| Valley View Baptist Church | \$1,200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,200.00 |
| Wasilla Korean Baptist Church | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$300.00 |
| Whittier Christian Community Church | \$91.44 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$191.44 |
| | \$156,778.26 | \$2,631.24 | \$13,384.09 | \$93,430.29 | \$180.00 | \$274,891.25 |
| | <u>4Q 2016</u> | <u>1Q 2017</u> | <u>2Q 2017</u> | <u>3Q 2017</u> | <u>4Q 2017</u> | |
| 2000 Club receipts as of Mar. 31, 2017 | \$55.00 | \$7,490.00 | \$3,370.00 | \$2,920.00 | \$2,920.00 | \$16,755.00 |
| | | | | | | \$291,646.25 |

Legend:

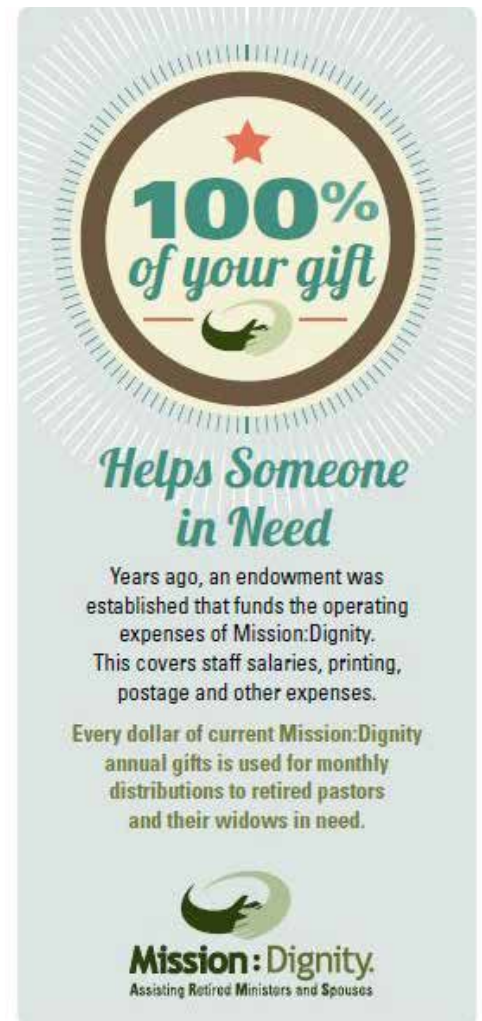
| | |
|------|--|
| CP: | Cooperative Program |
| SMO: | Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering |
| AA: | Annie Armstrong Easter Offering |
| LM: | Lottie Moon Christmas Offering |
| WH: | World Hunger |

Alaska Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Support

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| March | | | | |
| Receipts | \$60,916.37 | | \$52,834.67 | |
| CP Goal | 57,628.80 | | 57,531.16 | |
| Variance | 3,287.57 | 5.70% | (4,696.49) | -8.16% |
| Year-to-Date | | | | |
| Receipts | \$156,778.26 | | \$170,308.25 | |
| CP Goal | 172,886.40 | | 172,593.48 | |
| Variance | (16,108.14) | -9.32% | (2,285.23) | -1.32% |

Please Pray for
our Pastorless Churches

Aquillaq Baptist Mission, Ambler
Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks
Community Baptist Church,
Coffman Cove
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Juneau
First Baptist Church, Soldotna
New Hope Baptist Church, Anchorage
Riverside Chapel, King Salmon
Shungnak Baptist Mission



MILEPOST MOMENTS

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

Condolences

Our condolences to David Gamble, church planter, Sand Lake Fellowship, in the loss of his mother, Martea, who passed away on March 31. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at dvdgamble@yahoo.com

Condolences

Our condolences to the family of Phyllis Brandon, who passed away on March 21. Phyllis and her family were long-time Alaskan transplants who furthered Baptist work in the state, starting in the 1960s. Donations may be made in Phyllis' name to Temple Bible Church, 3205 Oak View Drive, Temple, TX, 76502; please designate Church Plant, Penang, Malaysia.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

UBC will observe National Day of Prayer on May 4. The church recently added a Sunday prayer group, which meets following morning worship. Gary Cox is pastor.

Laverne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp, Wasilla

Alaska Native youth camp (June 5-9); X-Faith youth camp (June 12-16); Boys camp (June 19-23); Girls camp (June 26-30). Contact the camp for additional information, lgycr@mtaonline.net. Summer intern posi-

tions are also available and applicants should contact the camp directly.

Camp Baldwin, Delta Junction

K-2 grade camp (June 21-23); 3-4 grade camp (June 26-30); 5-6 grade camp (July 3-7); 7-8 grade camp (July 10-14); 9-12 grade camp (July 17-21).

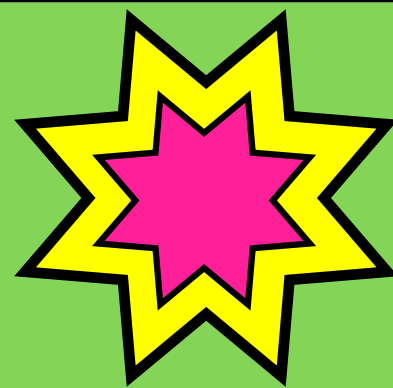
Tanana Valley Baptist Association, Fairbanks

Salcha Baptist Church hosted a craft day to complete ministry projects. Ellen Leetch, local coordinator for Operation Christmas Child spoke about her trip to Paraguay to distribute the OCC shoeboxes. The group of 13 ladies made tote bags, jewelry and pencil bags.



The Church@Commodore Park, Anchorage

Members of Iglesia Bautista Hispana Sunset Hills performed a concert for the congregation of The Church @Commodore Park on March 26. Steve Kim is pastor of the church plant.



Evangelism Funds Available

If you plan to host an evangelistic event this summer, please contact Jimmy Stewart jimmy@alaskabaptistconvention.com for financial assistance. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Chugach Baptist Association (CBA) in Anchorage, Alaska is seeking God's leadership for a **part-time Director of Missions**. Job description is available upon request. Resumes accepted until May 15. After prayerful consideration, send resumes to Randy Graham, CBA moderator, rlgraham@gci.net

Worship Leader Opportunity
Rabbit Creek Church (Anchorage) is looking for a part-time Worship Leader, the primary focus of which will be to provide leadership for the creative, technical and worship teams. A full job description can be found on the ABC website; for additional information, contact Henry Couser, henry@rabbitcreekchurch.org

Top 10 reasons for not attending church services

The definition of what constitutes “regular attendance” in church services has been redefined downward as competition on weekends has increased. Some congregations are realizing that very active and loyal people are attending church much less frequently than before. As a result, average weekly attendance is in serious decline for many.

In the last year, the group I work with has engaged 50 different churches from 16 states and eight denominations. They ranged in size from 32 weekly attenders to 5,000. In nearly every situation, the conversation has turned to frequency of attendance. Rather than conjecture about why people are attending less frequently, we decided to ask them where they are when they are not attending church.

Here are the 10 reasons (in alphabetical order) most frequently mentioned by those we polled.

1. **Athletic events.** College and professional athletic events evoke intense loyalty. For those who travel to Saturday night games, showing up on Sunday mornings is a stretch. Many professional athletic events take place on Sundays and force a choice between attending church or being at the game or tailgate event.
2. **Commitment.** Many told us that the depth of their commitment to weekly attendance is eroding. There are multiple reasons, but at the heart of the matter is a sense that what is offered on Sunday mornings is not meaningful or valuable enough to make the effort to attend.
3. **Exhaustion.** On several occasions we heard younger families say that they find themselves exhausted by a six-day workweek, overactive social life, over-engaged children and a host of other stresses. Several mentioned that Sundays are now their only day to be together as a family. Occasionally, they choose to spend the morning together.
4. **Holidays.** The number of Sundays that are now part of holiday weekends has risen dramatically. One church counted and discovered that 26 Sundays in the previous year were impacted by a holiday or vacation week. Long weekends and breaks invite travel and time away from home.

5. **Illness.** Several senior adults shared with us that they are living with chronic illness that inhibits their ability to attend weekly worship. In previous years, they would not have survived such a serious illness. Now they find their ability to get out and participate severely restricted.
6. **Children.** The array of activities for children offered only on weekends is overwhelming. Athletic travel teams, academic conferences, chess tournaments, cheering competitions, parties and trips have proliferated in the last 30 years. Many parents tag along and find themselves far from home on Sunday mornings.
7. **Parents.** Related to no. 5 above, several median-age adults recounted that they miss Sundays because they are caring for aging and ill parents. We frequently heard about rotation systems among siblings to care for an invalid parent. Taking your turn for a weekend each month keeps you out of your church.
8. **Travel.** The proliferation of travel as a high-value activity for Americans impacts weekend activities. The ease of travel in our day is a huge shift from 50 years ago.
9. **Vacations, timeshares, second homes.** Many admitted they spend multiple weekends a year on vacation or taking advantage of second homes or timeshares.
10. **Work.** Nearly every gathering evoked stories of people who work, or travel for work, on Sundays. The official estimate is that 1 in 3 American regularly work on Sundays.

The best response?

Here are possible strategies to explore:

- Measure your impact rather than simply count your attendance.
- Count participants over the course of a month/year rather than by the week.
- Investigate Bible study and worship on alternate days and locations.
- If nothing else, have an honest conversation about the issue. It isn't going away.

By Bill Wilson. Reprinted with permission from Baptist News Global, May-June 2015 issue.



Randy Covington,
Executive Director

What's Your Handicap?

I'm sure I have already grabbed the attention of golfers who might be reading this. I am not much of a golfer, but I hang out with a bunch of guys who love to play golf. If I were really interested in taking the time to calculate my golf handicap, it would probably bring a smile to your face. To some, it might even bring a hearty laugh! However, I'm not really talking about a golf handicap.

A few months ago, I was playing racquetball and ruptured my Achilles tendon requiring a surgical procedure to re-attach the tendon. Now I find myself temporarily handicapped. For someone who is very active, I'm finding it hard to adjust to this new reality. It takes me much longer in the morning to get ready for work. I can't drive, so I'm dependent upon my wife to drive me wherever I go. I can't carry anything because my hands are occupied with crutches or a scooter. And with spring in the air, everybody else is outside enjoying the sunshine while I am confined to the house. I don't like being handicapped!

My convalescence has given me lots of time to think about the limitations of any handicap. I have known some permanently handicapped people who have adjusted well to their handicap and I have a great deal of respect for them. But it has also become apparent to me that oftentimes we create our own limitations, or handicaps, that unnecessarily restrict what we are able to achieve. Of course, I am speaking in spiritual terms.

Our Christian journey can be hampered by self-imposed handicaps. Just as there are exercises to enhance our physical ability to perform at optimal efficiency, there are spiritual exercises that allow us to pursue a fruitful and abundant spiritual life. Prayer is an exercise offering us constant interaction with the Creator of the Universe. Daily study of the Word of God prepares us to relate to a world that is out of touch with God. Fellowship and being part of a group of committed believers such as the church is essential to personal growth and learning to live in accordance with the will of the Father.

These are some of the most important spiritual disciplines to a healthy spiritual life in service to God. So, I return to the question with which I began: What is your handicap? What are you choosing to ignore that is seriously handicapping your ability to be all that God wants you to be. Let's be proactive in maintaining healthy spiritual disciplines in order that we might know the pleasure of God in our lives.



Jimmy Stewart,
Director of Evangelism

It is a treat to contribute to the Alaska Baptist Milepost; I hope the articles are interesting and challenging, and that many of you take the time to read it. In my articles, I encourage the good work of evangelism and discipleship in our churches and I pray that pastors and other church leaders remember their ministry calling. Our churches are doing many important things, but we still must continue to ask if we are impacting lostness and creating disciples.

This month, I encourage you in the summer plans for your church. The Alaska Baptist Convention is privileged to partner with the North American Mission Board, with funds to help churches in evangelism projects and events, and evangelism related to church planting. The summer is a great time to harvest the "white fields" in Alaska. In a state where over 90 percent of people are unchurched, there is plenty of sowing and reaping that needs to be done. Vacation Bible School, block parties, special events, sports camps and music camps are just a few examples of ways to reach into your community. We have some money available to help you conduct these events. The funds should be used for more "reaping" than "sowing" events – the distinction being that the gospel should be presented during the event, so a decision to follow Christ is the result. Contact Betsy (betsy@alaskabaptistconvention.com) and she will send you a short form to fill out, describing your event plans, and plans for follow-up after the event. Let's drain that account! Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't delay in getting your request into our office. Summer is almost here!

If you would like some assistance in the planning or cost of a summer evangelism event, I would love to help. Take advantage of this summer and try to reach as many Alaskans for Christ as you can. God bless and have a great summer!

ACTS

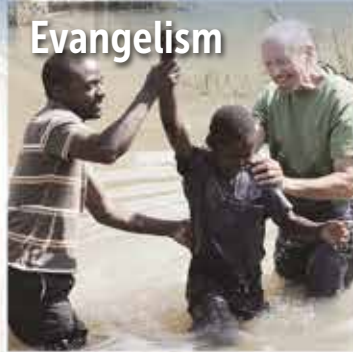
of a HEALTHY Church

ACTS CHAPTER 2

Worship



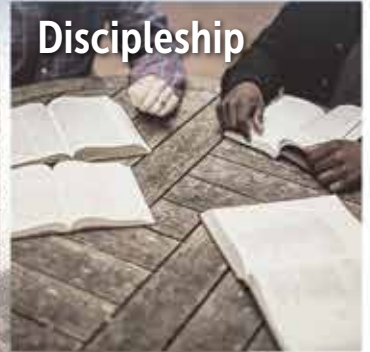
Evangelism



Prayer



Discipleship



Ministry



Fellowship



Missions



Associational Missions Emphasis Season of Prayer

LABOR OF Love

First Native Baptist Church in Anchorage needs to replace the leaking roof of the church, as it has led to black mold in interior walls. Additional damage may be discovered following a professional inspection. The kitchen also needs to be updated to accommodate the outreach to the area homeless population and current facilities are insufficient.

2000 Club • Second Quarter 2017

\$7,490
has been
received for
1Q 2017*
*as of 3/31/17

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN — MAY • JUN • JUL —

May

- 4-6 ReFRESH Conference
- 8-9 ABC Executive Board meeting
- 18 ABF Trustee meeting
- 29 ABC and ABF offices closed for Memorial Day

June

- 5-9 Alaska Native Youth Camp, LGYRC
- 11-12 WMU national annual meeting
- 12-16 X-Faith Youth Camp, LGYRC
- 13-14 Southern Baptist Convention
- 21-23 K-grade 2 camp, Camp Baldwin
- 19-23 Boys Camp, LGYRC
- 26-30 Girls Camp, LGYRC
- 26-30 Grades 3-4 camp, Camp Baldwin

July

- 3-7 Grades 5-6 camp, Camp Baldwin
- 4 ABC and AFB offices closed for Independence Day
- 10-14 Grades 7-8 camp, Camp Baldwin
- 16-20 JAM Camp
- 17-21 Grades 9-12 camp, Camp Baldwin

Because of
your congregation's
Cooperative Program giving
through the
Alaska Baptist Convention,
in March 2017

\$40,180.44

remained in Alaska
for
missions and ministries.