



#### Monday, February 5

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (your Tuesday lunch must be <u>preordered</u>. Visit our website for complete information, www.alaskabaptistconvention.com)

#### Tuesday, February 6

9:00 a.m. - Noon (pick up your preordered lunch) 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, February 6 LUNCH instructions:**

Pick up your <u>preordered</u> lunch from the food truck located in the RCC parking lot. Then choose the speaker you wish to hear, and go to that location to eat lunch. Each location is limited to 40 people.

Fellowship Hall at Rabbit Creek: Rob Zinn (hosted by Jimmy Stewart)
Sanctuary at Rabbit Creek: Jason Breland (hosted by Josh Travis)

**12100 Coffee and Communitas** (12100 Old Seward Highway): Stuart Bell (hosted by Jae McKee)

**Anchorage ReMADE** (13500 Old Seward Highway): Mark Edworthy (hosted by Randy Covington

#### **Featured guests:**

Stuart Bell, church planter, Pike Place Baptist Church, Seattle, Washington Jason Breland, worship pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee Dr. Mark Edworthy, European Affinity Group Strategy Leader, International Mission Board Dr. Rob Zinn, senior pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Highland, California

# In this ISSUE

State Evangelism Conference February 5-6 in Anchorage • front cover

# Church safety Myths dispelled: critical tips shared

• *page 5* 

Ministers and Spouses Conference April 26-28 in Anchorage

• page 6

Women on Mission Celebration April 5-7 in Anchorage

• *page 7* 



To receive an electronic version of the Alaska Baptist *Milepost* please email

 $\underline{betsy@alaskabaptist convention.com}$ 

# **January - December 2017 Gifts from ABC Churches**

| Organization   | СР                         | 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                                 | \$265.00                   | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$265.00                   |
| Anchor Baptist Church  | \$1,515.17                 | \$0.00                 | \$895.21                 | \$487.40                 | \$0.00               | \$2,897.78                 |
| Anderson Community Church  | \$0.00<br>\$0.00           | \$0.00<br>\$0.00       | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$0.00<br>\$0.00           |
| Aquillaq Baptist Mission Big Lake Baptist Church                     | \$8,056.11                 | \$1,495.00             | \$1,000.00               | \$4,124.00               | \$0.00               | \$14,675.11                |
| Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church                                       | \$3,009.59                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$825.00                 | \$0.00               | \$3,834.59                 |
| Calvary Baptist Church   | \$4,883.78                 | \$1,000.22             | \$1,011.00               | \$934.00                 | \$0.00               | \$7,829.00                 |
| Catalyst Church  | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00               | \$0.00                     |
| Christ Community Church Clearwater Baptist Church                    | \$700.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00<br>\$0.00       | \$210.00<br>\$0.00       | \$0.00                   | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$910.00<br>\$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                                       | \$47,962.52                | \$635.00               | \$3,956.00               | \$9,827.00               | \$0.00               | \$62,380.52                |
| Comm Baptist Church, Coffman Cove<br>Community Baptist Church, Nome  | \$4,071.25<br>\$542.32     | \$0.00<br>\$0.00       | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$176.00<br>\$0.00       | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$4,247.25<br>\$542.32     |
| Cross Roads Baptist Church   | \$15,914.00                | \$0.00                 | \$1,687.81               | \$1,170.00               | \$0.00               | \$18,771.81                |
| CrossCountry Church  | \$2,250.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$22.00                  | \$200.00                 | \$0.00               | \$2,472.00                 |
| Dillingham Bible Fellowship  | \$8,792.95                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$800.00                 | \$0.00               | \$9,592.95                 |
| Eagle River Korean Baptist Church                                    | \$600.00                   | \$0.00                 | \$200.00                 | \$200.00                 | \$0.00               | \$1,000.00                 |
| Emmanuel Baptist Church Fairbanks Korean Baptist Church              | \$2,505.43<br>\$0.00       | \$100.00<br>\$0.00     | \$550.00<br>\$0.00       | \$320.00<br>\$0.00       | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$3,475.43<br>\$0.00       |
| Fairview Loop Baptist Church   | \$24,709.48                | \$113.93               | \$2,547.14               | \$5,335.04               | \$0.00               | \$32,705.59                |
| Faith Baptist Church   | \$7,954.45                 | \$0.00                 | \$1,752.00               | \$2,655.85               | \$160.00             | \$12,522.30                |
| Faith Recovery Fellowship  | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$0.00                     |
| Filipino Bible Church  | \$3,500.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$3,500.00                 |
| First Baptist Church, Anchorage<br>First Baptist Church, Eagle River | \$26,209.87<br>\$29,619.07 | \$985.00<br>\$1,420.00 | \$2,540.00<br>\$3,262.00 | \$4,737.50<br>\$5,723.00 | \$0.00<br>\$2,106.15 | \$34,472.37<br>\$42,130.22 |
| First Baptist Church, Fairbanks                                      | \$7,226.59                 | \$870.00               | \$1,515.50               | \$2,090.00               | \$0.00               | \$11,702.09                |
| First Baptist Church, North Pole                                     | \$32,489.00                | \$700.00               | \$1,410.00               | \$3,611.00               | \$0.00               | \$38,210.00                |
| First Baptist Church, Delta Junction                                 | \$59,101.90                | \$25.00                | \$11,884.49              | \$25,670.67              | \$0.00               | \$96,682.06                |
| First Baptist Church, Juneau   | \$10,374.66                | \$641.88               | \$2,500.00               | \$1,370.00               | \$0.00               | \$14,886.54                |
| First Baptist Church, Kenai<br>First Baptist Church, Ketchikan       | \$7,253.76<br>\$15,146.98  | \$250.00<br>\$6,039.38 | \$1,428.96<br>\$2,866.00 | \$1,852.96<br>\$2,636.00 | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$10,785.68<br>\$26,688.36 |
| First Baptist Church, Kotzebue                                       | \$1,500.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$1,500.00                 |
| First Baptist Church, Palmer   | \$3,000.00                 | \$1,025.00             | \$1,534.96               | \$1,677.00               | \$0.00               | \$7,236.96                 |
| First Baptist Church, Petersburg                                     | \$9,649.52                 | \$0.00                 | \$1,283.00               | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$10,932.52                |
| First Baptist Church, Sitka  | \$11,909.44                | \$570.00               | \$900.00                 | \$1,216.00               | \$0.00               | \$14,595.44                |
| First Baptist Church, Soldotna<br>First Baptist Church, Valdez       | \$5,656.00<br>\$20,883.61  | \$770.00<br>\$2,569.00 | \$732.50<br>\$3,340.00   | \$930.00<br>\$7,101.16   | \$0.00<br>\$2,000.00 | \$8,088.50<br>\$35,893.77  |
| First Baptist Church, Wasilla  | \$12,882.63                | \$1,504.10             | \$1,941.30               | \$12,309.26              | \$0.00               | \$28,637.29                |
| First Baptist Church, Willow   | \$5,725.03                 | \$1,120.00             | \$150.00                 | \$4,294.00               | \$0.00               | \$11,289.03                |
| First Hmong Baptist Church   | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$0.00                     |
| First Korean Baptist Church  | \$1,800.00                 | \$300.00               | \$300.00                 | \$468.00                 | \$0.00               | \$2,868.00                 |
| First Native Baptist Church<br>Friendship Baptist Mission            | \$2,571.00<br>\$2,340.27   | \$39.60<br>\$1,700.00  | \$1,020.00<br>\$1,050.00 | \$1,045.01<br>\$1,110.00 | \$0.00<br>\$370.00   | \$4,675.61<br>\$6,570.27   |
| Frontier Baptist Church  | \$1,000.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$1,000.00                 |
| Frontier Fellowship  | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$0.00                     |
| Frontier Native Church   | \$375.76                   | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$375.76                   |
| Frontier Southern Baptist Church<br>Gilead Ministries                | \$2,282.44                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$2,282.44                 |
| Glacier Valley Baptist Church  | \$1,252.00<br>\$17,314.79  | \$0.00<br>\$730.00     | \$3,341.00               | \$0.00<br>\$3,606.00     | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$1,252.00<br>\$24,991.79  |
| Grandview Baptist Church   | \$37,354.84                | \$1,760.00             | \$1,991.00               | \$3,650.00               | \$0.00               | \$44,755.84                |
| Greater Friendship Baptist Church                                    | \$11,720.30                | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$11,720.30                |
| Hillside Baptist Church  | \$11,914.38                | \$820.00               | \$520.00                 | \$850.00                 | \$0.00               | \$14,104.38                |
| Hoonah Baptist Mission<br>Iglesia Bautista Hispana Sunset Hills      | \$0.00<br>\$965.64         | \$0.00<br>\$0.00       | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00<br>\$50.00        | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$0.00<br>\$1,015.64       |
| Immanuel Baptist Church  | \$1,505.66                 | \$1,663.00             | \$1,500.00               | \$3,871.71               | \$0.00               | \$8,540.37                 |
| Journey Church   | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$250.00                 | \$0.00               | \$250.00                   |
| Juneau Korean Church   | \$360.00                   | \$0.00                 | \$505.00                 | \$405.00                 | \$0.00               | \$1,270.00                 |
| Kasaan Fellowship  | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$0.00                     |
| Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission<br>Kiana Baptist Mission          | \$0.00<br>\$0.00           | \$650.00<br>\$0.00     | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00<br>\$0.00         | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$650.00<br>\$0.00         |
| Kobuk Baptist Mission  | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$0.00                     |
| Korean New Central Baptist Church                                    | \$1,200.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$320.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$1,520.00                 |
| Lighthouse Community Church  | \$7,114.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$7,114.00                 |
| Living Water Church  | \$349.46                   | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$349.46                   |
| Malamalama Fou Church<br>Misc. Contributors-Cash                     | \$270.00<br>\$0.00         | \$50.00<br>\$10,259.37 | \$100.00<br>\$150.00     | \$0.00<br>\$250.00       | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$420.00<br>\$10,659.37    |
| Montana Creek Baptist Church   | \$14,424.50                | \$0.00                 | \$426.00                 | \$327.00                 | \$0.00               | \$15,177.50                |
| 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  | \$6,325.23                 | \$0.00                 | \$872.00                 | \$1,507.00               | \$0.00               | \$8,704.23                 |
| Mount Pleasant Baptist Church<br>Mount Redoubt Baptist Church        | \$500.00<br>\$1,200.00     | \$0.00<br>\$1,000.00   | \$0.00<br>\$1,000.00     | \$0.00<br>\$1,000.00     | \$0.00<br>\$0.00     | \$500.00<br>\$4,200.00     |
| Mountain View Community Church                                       | \$550.00                   | \$0.00                 | \$1,000.00               | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$4,200.00<br>\$550.00     |
| 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   | \$1,150.00                 | \$150.00               | \$400.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$1,700.00                 |
| New Grace Christian Church   | \$3,500.00                 | \$0.00                 | \$0.00                   | \$0.00                   | \$0.00               | \$3,500.00                 |

# January - December 2017 Gifts from ABC Churches

| Organization                           | CP           | SMO             | AA             | LM             | WH          | Total        |
|--|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| New Hope Baptist Church                | \$11,811.00  | \$561.00        | \$500.00       | \$500.00       | \$0.00      | \$13,372.00  |
| New Hope Fellowship                    | \$700.00     | \$50.00         | \$70.00        | \$50.00        | \$0.00      | \$870.00     |
| North Bear Street Baptist Church       | \$0.00       | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$0.00       |
| North Tongass Baptist Church           | \$1,200.00   | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$1,200.00   |
| Northern Lights Missions               | \$225.00     | \$0.00          | \$120.00       | \$30.00        | \$0.00      | \$375.00     |
| Pathway Discipleship Church            | \$240.00     | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$240.00     |
| OnMission Church                       | \$200.00     | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$200.00     |
| Pioneer Baptist Church                 | \$0.00       | \$0.00          | \$500.00       | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$500.00     |
| Rabbit Creek Church                    | \$2,499.73   | \$859.28        | \$0.00         | \$1,718.58     | \$0.00      | \$5,077.59   |
| River In The Desert Community Churc    | h \$2,706.00 | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$2,706.00   |
| Riverside Chapel                       | \$0.00       | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$0.00       |
| Roots Family Church, Kasilof           | \$1,140.00   | \$100.00        | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$1,240.00   |
| Roots Family Church, Soldotna          | \$300.00     | \$25.00         | \$100.00       | \$100.00       | \$0.00      | \$525.00     |
| Sabbath Peace Fellowship               | \$1,560.00   | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$1,560.00   |
| Salcha Baptist Church                  | \$6,262.65   | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$4,620.00     | \$0.00      | \$10,882.65  |
| Sand Lake Fellowship                   | \$228.75     | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$228.75     |
| Sand Point Baptist Chapel              | \$0.00       | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$0.00       |
| Schrock Road Community Church          | \$3,126.00   | \$1,026.00      | \$684.00       | \$684.00       | \$0.00      | \$5,520.00   |
| Settler's Bay Community Church         | \$1,800.00   | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$4,290.17     | \$0.00      | \$6,090.17   |
| Shannon Park Baptist Church            | \$2,609.83   | \$0.00          | \$937.60       | \$870.00       | \$0.00      | \$4,417.43   |
| 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                | \$7,615.52   | \$310.35        | \$420.00       | \$426.63       | \$0.00      | \$8,772.50   |
| Sunset Hills Baptist Church            | \$24,529.38  | \$4,138.50      | \$3,313.25     | \$4,381.50     | \$0.00      | \$36,362.63  |
| Tenakee Springs Community Church       | \$610.75     | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$610.75     |
| The Crossing @ Birchwood               | \$4,800.00   | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$4,800.00   |
| The Way                                | \$0.00       | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$0.00       |
| Thorne Bay Baptist Church              | \$414.64     | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$414.64     |
| Togiak Baptist Mission                 | \$200.00     | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$200.00     |
| Transitional Ministries                | \$20.00      | \$10.00         | \$10.00        | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$40.00      |
| True North Church                      | \$15,438.88  | \$0.00          | \$2,000.00     | \$11,500.00    | \$0.00      | \$28,938.88  |
| True North Church Girdwood             | \$2,963.32   | \$0.00          | \$500.00       | \$1,500.00     | \$0.00      | \$4,963.32   |
| UBC-Chinese Fellowship                 | \$1,488.11   | \$0.00          | \$230.00       | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$1,718.11   |
| University Baptist Church, Anchorage   | \$4,198.54   | \$1,216.00      | \$1,661.00     | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$7,075.54   |
| University Baptist Church, Fairbanks   | \$12,143.00  | \$1,245.00      | \$5,020.00     | \$4,593.80     | \$0.00      | \$23,001.80  |
| Valley View Baptist Church             | \$4,800.00   | \$0.00          | \$570.00       | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$5,370.00   |
| Wasilla Korean Baptist Church          | \$1,200.00   | \$0.00          | \$300.00       | \$0.00         | \$0.00      | \$1,500.00   |
| Whittier Christian Community Church    | \$912.56     | \$0.00          | \$0.00         | \$100.00       | \$0.00      | \$1,012.56   |
|  | \$645,054.42 | \$50,496.61     | \$81,550.72    | \$156,027.24   | \$4,636.15  | \$937,765.14 |
| 2000 Club receipts as of Dec. 31, 2107 | 4Q 2016      | <u>10 2017</u>  | <u>2O 2017</u> | <u>3O 2017</u> | 4O 2017     |              |
|  | \$55.00      | \$7,732.50      | \$8,221.50     | \$12,639.00    | \$14,180.00 |              |
|  | 1Q 2018      | 2 <u>Q 2018</u> | 3Q 2018        | 4Q 2018        |             |              |
|  | \$920.00     | \$75.00         | \$75.00        | \$75.00        |             | \$43,973.00  |
| GRAND TOTAL                            |              |                 |                |                |             | \$981,738.14 |

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         |        |
|-------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| December    |              |        |              |        |
| Receipts    | \$62,771.65  |        | \$60,136.47  |        |
| CP Goal     | 57,628.80    |        | 57,531.16    |        |
| Variance    | 5,142.85     | 8.92%  | 2,605.31     | 4.53%  |
|             |              |        |              |        |
| Year-to-Dat | e            |        |              |        |
| Receipts    | \$645,054.42 |        | \$671,835.83 |        |
| CP Goal     | 691,545.60   |        | 690,373.92   |        |
| Variance    | (46,491.18)  | -6.72% | (18,538.09)  | -2.69% |
|             |              |        |              |        |

#### Welcome

Jerrod (Melissa) Clark Community Baptist Church, Coffman Cove

## Please Pray for our Pastorless Churches

Aquillaq Baptist Mission, Ambler
Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church, Palmer
Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Juneau
First Baptist Church, Eagle River
First Baptist Church, Petersburg
First Baptist Church, Soldotna
Hillside Baptist Church, Anchorage
New Hope Baptist Church, Anchorage
North Tongass Baptist Church, Ward Cove
Riverside Chapel, King Salmon
Shungnak Baptist Mission
Solid Rock Baptist Church, Anchorage



## Randy Covington, Executive Director



### WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

"Pappou! Can you say, Pappou?" That's the question I have asked each of my grandchildren when they were beginning to speak; Pappou is Greek for grandfather. Having lived overseas, I studied four foreign languages and the first few phrases you must learn are "my name is . . ." and "what is your name?" Names are important not only in getting acquainted with someone, but in representing yourself to others.

At a very early age, my father instilled in me the reputation that came with the Covington name. He said that whatever I did reflected on all Covingtons. He also taught me that when I commit to work for someone, I have given my word - my personal pledge - to fulfill that obligation and my name becomes my bond. Once that bond has been broken, it damages the trust associated with my name.

In the Old Testament, the familial name not only carried with it the legacy of generations of family members, but it also carried the blessing of God for future generations. Time and again, we see how royal descendants began acting contrary to their predecessors and the covenant of God, and brought shame and destruction on their name and on the Hebrew nation.

As believers, we carry another name: *Christian!* I have heard many say that we are little "christs", however I believe that is a misunderstanding of who we really are. Christ is the one and only true Son of God, however according to John 1:12, if we have received Him, He has given us the right to be the children of God because we have believed in His name. We are adopted sons. John tells us in 1 John 3:2 that "we are already God's children, but He has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is."

Ultimately, the question we must ask ourselves is,"what are we becoming?" What is our reputation to those who know us by His name? Does it honor the One who gave us His Name? Is He pleased with what we have done with His Name?

My prayer for each of you is that you will carry the name "Christian" honorably, and be ready to give an answer when someone asks you, "What is your name?"



100% of your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering\*

supports North American missionaries.

NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 Million





# Church safety:

# Myths dispelled, critical tips shared

Lisa Falknor, Arkansas Baptist News

hree dominant myths regarding church safety were dispelled and various tips for enhancing church security were shared at a recent church safety seminar held November 16 at First Baptist Church, Rogers (Arkansas).

People buy into three myths about church violence, said Tim Keck, retired Rogers police chief and keynote speaker at the three-hour seminar titled "Worship Safe: How to Prevent a Tragedy at Your Church" that attracted 150 people from northwest Arkansas.

The first myth is, "It won't happen to us." In 2004-07 there were 82 deadly force church incidents nationwide, and in 2014-17 there were 799 deadly force incidents, an 874 percent increase.

Examples of threats include domestic violence spillovers, attempted robbery and terrorism, he said.

"Talk to anybody in the know – what's coming is worse. I wish I had good news to tell you."

The second myth, Keck said, is, "Church violence can't be predicted." However, he said violent acts rarely occur without warning.

Church staff should know of any threats, Keck said, assess how dangerous those threats are, and keep a close watch on potential escalations.

Keck said myth three is, "Church violence can't be prevented."

The retired police chief referenced the November 5 shooting at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where 26 people were killed.

"The knowledge that I have in my head could've prevented that tragedy," he said. "If you know what to look for, it can be prevented."

Keck said increased stress and violence, coupled with the godlessness of today's society, have resulted in more



of these types of incidents occurring in churches.

"We're reaping the benefits of a society which wants to be free from God," he said. "This is the result."

If there's any place we should feel safe, said Keck, it should be in a church. Church security resembles a bullseye target. In the middle of the bullseye is deadly force, but "we should start in the outer rings."

Jack Wassman, a former police officer and member at Immanuel Baptist church, Rogers, agreed.

"A lot of people give a knee-jerk reaction, 'Let's just arm people and put them into church with no training or with minimal training,' like you get with conceal and carry – a decision which would cause chaos," Wassman said. "Like the chief says: 'There are other steps you can take.""

Seventy-five percent of violence begins in the parking lot, so Keck suggested putting trained volunteers among the cars and at every door. Give these attendants equipment — walkie-talkies and earpieces — and use a color-code language. For example, yellow can be caution, indicating a suspicious person on the property; code red can be shut the doors and call 911, and code green means all clear.

Also, because 61 percent of tragedies occur before or after a service, it makes sense to add not only ushers, but also

observers. Observers should look for a person who does not fit the norm.

"Trust your instincts," Keck said. "You can call it training instincts or the Holy Spirit's prompting, but take it seriously."

Since violence is complex and churches vary, said Keck, church security also may differ among churches.

For example, some churches might lock their doors during the week, while others might install a video doorbell.

A good idea for all churches is to ask police officers to drive their patrol cars to church, which can be a visual deterrent to a person wanting to cause harm at the church.

"You can even buy a used car and paint it to look like a police car. Be innovative!" he said.

Ernie McNair, a member of First Baptist Church, Pea Ridge, believes church security is important. He attended the conference to get ideas and to report back to his church's new security committee.

"I think it (church security) is like a spare tire," he said. "I never want to use that spare tire; but, if I need it, it had better be there."

Lisa Falknor is the northwest Arkansas regional correspondent for the Arkansas Baptist News. This article first appeared in the Arkansas Baptist News, November 30, 2017, and is reprinted with permission.

# Jimmy Stewart, Director of Evangelism and Church Development

am privileged to hear stories from pastors and church leaders about all that God is doing in their ministries. These stories are a tremendous encouragement. For the 2017 reporting year, a number of churches filed their Annual Church Profile (ACP). That report

impacts our work because the more churches that report, the greater the funds we receive from Lifeway Christian Resources. It also provides a clearer picture of how our convention is doing year-to-year. The good news is that baptisms have increased which is a direct reflection of the work our churches are doing by sharing the gospel! The ACP also reports how many people heard the gospel; if we were to share the gospel ten times, one person would likely be saved. The other nine just aren't ready yet! For the (almost) 400 reported baptisms in 2017, there may have been 4000 gospel conversations. What if half of those who attend worship shared the

gospel ten times this year. What would happen? The result would be 30,000 gospel conversations! Divide that number by ten, and we might see 3000 salvations! The average number of gospel conversations a person has is about five, so in 2018 we should challenge ourselves to have at least ten gospel conversations. Pastors, you may want to schedule an evangelism training session to help teach your people how to share the gospel. We have tools to assist in that training and I will be happy to help. When was the last time you held an evangelism training for the congregation, deacons, elders or teachers? As the church leader, make sure your congregants are able to confidently share with others. The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is promoting the Gospel Conversation Challenge on their website (www.gcchallenge. com) and you can find support in resources and artwork to promote these gospel conversations. On the NAMB website (www.namb.org) you will find a list of evangelism resources tailored to help you. Keep sharing the gospel and spreading the good news!



# MILEPOST MOMENTS

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

### Faith Recovery Fellowship, Wasilla

FRF, through the chaplaincy ministry at Goose Creek Correctional Center, baptized 66 new believers in 2017. Please continue to pray for this ministry as they strive to serve the inmates at GCCC.

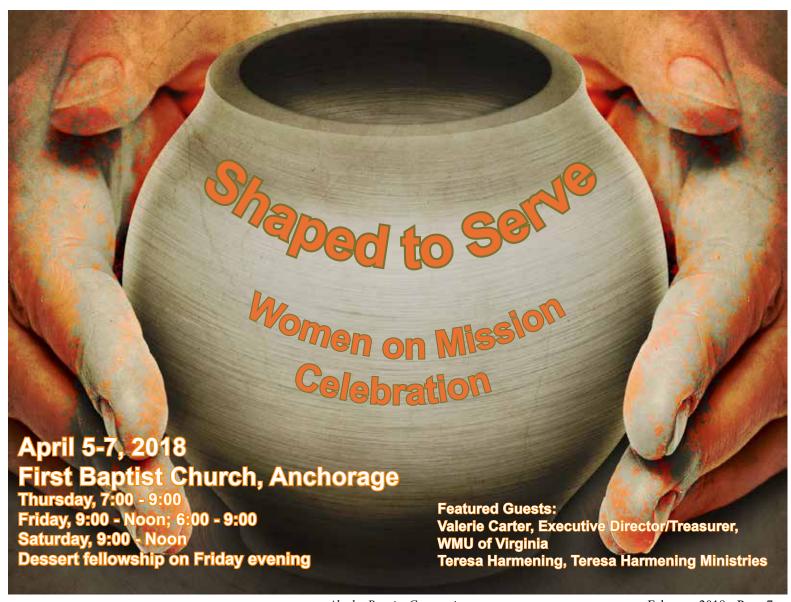
#### California Baptist University, Riverside, California

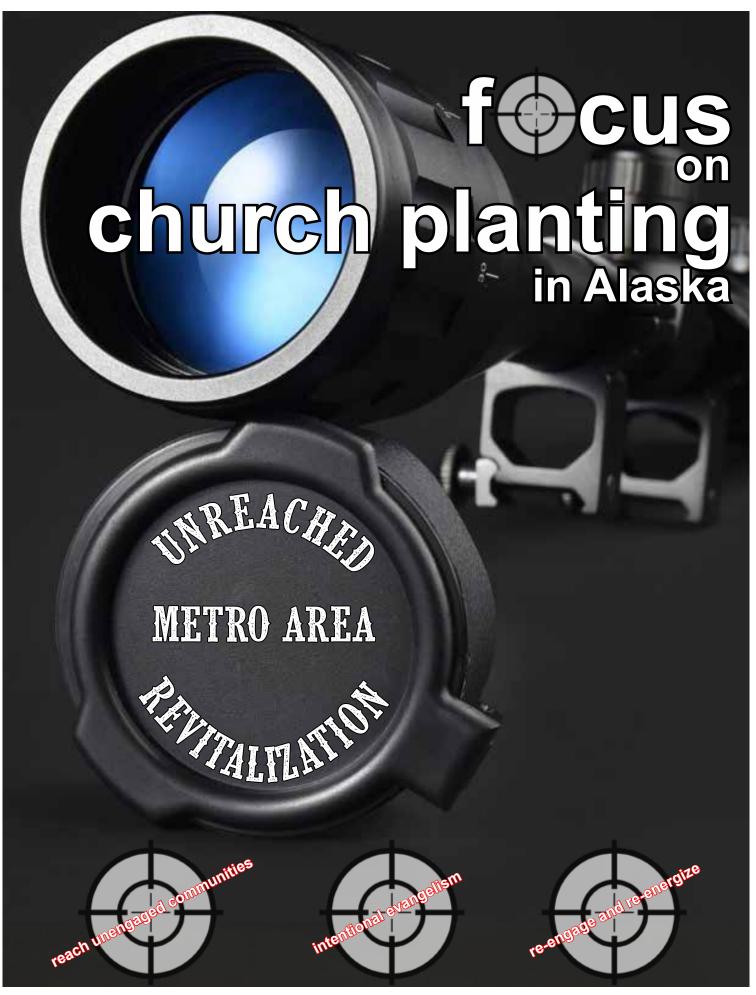
Mike Procter, trustee for California Baptist University (CBU) and former executive director of the Alaska Baptist Convention, had lunch with six Alaskans attending CBU. Pictured at left, (left row, front to back): Jakob Hartt (Kodiak), Josh Laker (Anchorage), Sarah Laker (Anchorage), Makenna Shamburger (Anchorage); (right row, front to back) Shannon Lemay (Anchorage), Ben Higgins (Petersburg), Mike Procter (Anchorage). *(photo provided)* 



## LMCO gifts 4.1% ahead of last year!

Southern Baptist's contributions to support international missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering are 4.1 percent ahead of the same time frame as last year, according to the International Mission Board.





Please join us in praying for the villages and communities in Alaska that need consistent gospel ministry. As you pray, ask God to reveal one (or more) of these communities for your church family to bless. If you want to "adopt a village," please let me know so we can serve as a resource to minister to the unreached.

jae@alaskabaptistconvention.com 907.344.9627

| pop | census area   |
|-----|---|
| 329 |   |
| 71  | Kodiak Isla <mark>nd</mark>   |
| 37  | Yukon-Koyuk <mark>uk</mark>   |
|     | Western   |
| 86  | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
| 152 | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
| 74  | Aleutians   |
| 32  | Kenai Peninsula   |
| 12  | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
|     | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
|     | Mat-Su  |
|     | Bethel  |
|     | Valdez-Cordova  |
| 272 | Mat-Su  |
| 73  | Lake and Peninsula  |
|     | Kodiak Island   |
|     | Valdez-Cordova  |
|     | Bethel  |
|     | Kenai Peninsula   |
|     | Haines  |
|     | Kenai Peninsula   |
|     | Nome  |
|     | SE Fairbanks  |
|     | Hoonah-Angoon   |
|     | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
|     | Valdez-Cordova  |
|     | Denali  |
|     | Fairbanks North Star Borough  |
|     | Kenai Peninsula<br>Kenai Peninsula  |
|     |   |
|     | Hoonah-Angoon<br>Kenai Peninsula  |
|     | Kenai Peninsula   |
|     |   |
|     | Fairbanks North Star Borough<br>SE Fairbanks  |
|     | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
|     | Lake and Peninsula  |
| _   | Kenai Peninsula   |
|     | Kenai Peninsula<br>Kenai Peninsula  |
|     | Kodiak Island   |
|     | Lake and Peninsula  |
|     | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
|     | Petersburg  |
|     | Mat-Su  |
| 32  | Yukon-Koyukuk   |
|     | part of Healy   |
|     | 329 71 37 86 152 74 32 12 33 34 454 76 272 73 47 126 126 176 86 74 118 94 20 28 168 33 417 616 1653 18 76 489 299 13 78 7 40 472 37 170 101 23 46 |

# ad pt a village

| <u>name</u>        | pop  | census area                  |
|--------------------|------|------------------------------|
| Lime Village       | 29   | Bethel                       |
| Livengood          | 13   | Yukon-Koyukuk                |
| Lutak              | 49   | Haines                       |
| Manley Hot Springs | 89   | Yukon-Koyukuk                |
| McCarthy           | 28   | Valdez-Cordova               |
| McKinley Park      | 185  | Denali                       |
| Meyers Chuck       | 21   | Wrangell                     |
| Nanwalek           | 177  | Kenai Peninsula              |
| Nelchina           | 59   | Valdez-Cordova               |
| Nelson Lagoon      | 52   | Aleutians                    |
| Newtok             | 354  | Bethel                       |
| Nikolaevsk         | 345  | Kenai Peninsula              |
| Nikolski           | 18   | Aleutians                    |
| Nondalton          | 158  | Lake and Peninsula           |
| Northway Jct       | 54   | SE Fairbanks                 |
| Northway Village   | 98   | SE Fairbanks                 |
| Oscarville         | 70   | Bethel                       |
| Paxson             | 40   | Valdez-Cordova               |
| Perryville         | 113  | Lake and Peninsula           |
| Petersville        | 4    | Mat-Su                       |
| Pilot Point        | 68   | Lake and Peninsula           |
| Pilot Station      | 607  | Kusilvak                     |
| Pitkas Point       | 123  | Kusilvak                     |
| Pleasant Valley    | 725  | Fairbanks North Star Borough |
| Point Baker        | 35   | Princes of Wales-Hyder       |
| Port Alexander     | 54   | Princes of Wales-Hyder       |
| Port Clarence      | 24   | Nome                         |
| Port Protection    | 63   | Princes of Wales-Hyder       |
| Primrose           | 93   | Kenai Peninsula              |
| Rampart            | 24   | Yukon-Koyukuk                |
| Red Devil          | 23   | Bethel                       |
| Ridgeway           | 1932 | Kenai Peninsula              |
| Shageluk           | 129  | Yukon-Koyukuk                |
| Skwentna           | 37   | Mat-Su                       |
| St. George         | 105  | Aleutians                    |
| Stony River        | 54   | Bethel                       |
| Susitna            | 18   | Mat-Su                       |
| Tonsina            | 78   | Valdez-Cordova               |
| Tununak            | 327  | Bethel                       |
| Venetie            | 202  | Yukon-Koyukuk                |
| Wiseman            | 14   | Yukon-Koyukuk                |
| Womens Bay         | 719  | Kodiak Island                |



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN — FEB • MAR • APR —

2-3 Women's Winter Wake-Up, Fairbanks5-6 State Evangelism Conference

#### March

4-11 Week of prayer and mission study for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
 Vacation Bible School training, Anchorage area
 Vacation Bible School training, Fairbanks area
 Vacation Bible School training, the Valley

## **April**

April 5-7 Women on Mission Celebration
April 26-28 Ministers and Spouses Conference

Because of your congregation's Cooperative Program giving through the Alaska Baptist Convention, in December 2017 \$41,404.18 remained in Alaska missions and ministries.