



Eight stars of gold on a field of blue,
Alaska's flag, may it mean to you,
The blue of the sea, the evening sky,
The mountain lakes and the flowers nearby,
The gold of the early sourdough's dreams,
The precious gold of the hills and streams,
The brilliant stars in the northern sky,
The "Bear," the "Dipper," and shining high,
The great North Star with its steady light,
O'er land and sea a beacon bright,
Alaska's flag to Alaskans dear,
The simple flag of a last frontier.

FAQ'S

Alaska became the 49th state in 1959.

The strongest earthquake in North America occurred here on Good Friday, 1964. It registered 9.2 on the Richter scale.

Alaska is 2 1/2 times larger than Texas. If Alaska was split in half Texas would be the third largest state.

There are 139 communities in Alaska that collect their own water to use on a daily basis.

There are at least 65 communities without access to running water.

Alaska could contain the 21 smallest states within its borders.

Seventeen of the 20 highest mountains in North America are in Alaska.

There are 3,000 rivers, three million lakes, 5000 glaciers, and 70 active volcanoes.

The distance from Point Barrow to Ketchikan is 1327 miles which is further than Seattle to Mexico.

Alaska is the northern most state, the westernmost state (Amatignak Island), and the easternmost state (Semisopochnoi Island).

The three major native cultures are Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut. Each has numerous sub-cultures.

The majority of communities have no road access. They are reached by airplane, boat, train, snow machine or ATV. Many communities do not have electricity, indoor plumbing or running water.

Alaska has a unique climate. Some communities can accumulate 300 inches of rain and 30 feet of snow a year. In Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), there are three months of 24-hours-a-day sunlight and three months of 24-hours-a-day darkness. Temperatures can range from -100 °F to 100 °F.

There are 97 different languages spoken in the Anchorage school district.

Towns and villages in an area constituting 51 percent of the land mass of Alaska are without a local Southern Baptist church.

Alaska has one of the highest rates of alcoholism, teen pregnancy, incest, sexual assault, and suicide of anywhere in the US.



But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Romans 10:18

WELCOME TO ALASKA

We aren't really that different...however...here are a few words, slang, or facts it may be helpful to know. That way, you'll understand what folks up here are saying and learn a few interesting facts about the "Last Frontier."

Local Vocabulary

Break Up is the END OF WINTER!!! It refers to the time of year when the ice and snow begin to melt.

Cheechako is a newcomer to Alaska. It is actually a mispronunciation of early missionaries, miners and trappers from Chicago who were called Cheechakos.

Eagles are endangered. It is illegal to possess any part of an eagle, including feathers, unless you are an Alaskan Native.

Fireweed is the unofficial state flower. It is a weed that grows wild and is also known as "flaming arrow" in Arizona. Legend has it the snow will be as deep as the fireweed is tall and after the fireweed tops out, there are six weeks until snow flies.

Interior is the central part of the state and is a place of extremes: sunlight, darkness, cold, snow, and bugs.

King Salmon is the biggest of all freshwater game fish to be had in Alaska. It is pronounced "sam-on", no "L" sound.

Lower 48 are the 48 contiguous states (not including Hawaii.)

Outside is anywhere other than Alaska and refers to leaving the state to go somewhere else: "I'm going Outside for a couple of weeks to visit family or to get away from cabin fever."

Willow Ptarmigan, an arctic grouse, which changes color in winter, is the official state bird.

Sockeye (Reds) are the best tasting of all the salmon and are best caught on a fly rod with hand-tied flies.

Sourdough is someone who has lived in Alaska a long time and is now sour on snow and cold but doesn't have enough dough to leave.



Southeast is the part of Alaska that is home to our state capital, Juneau, and other coastal cities, which can only be reached by plane or boat.

Termination Dust is the first snow in the fall that remains on the mountaintops. It's a sure sign of rapidly approaching winter at ground level. The phrase was coined by early miners and construction workers when it was time to terminate work or be snowed-in.

The Slope is the uppermost part of Alaska, above the Arctic Circle where oil was discovered, as in Prudhoe Bay, Utqiagvik (formerly, Barrow), and Deadhorse. It is the north slope of the Brooks Range.

Two On/Two Off or two on two, or three and two, refers to a work schedule for the Slope where people work two weeks and are off for two weeks at a time.



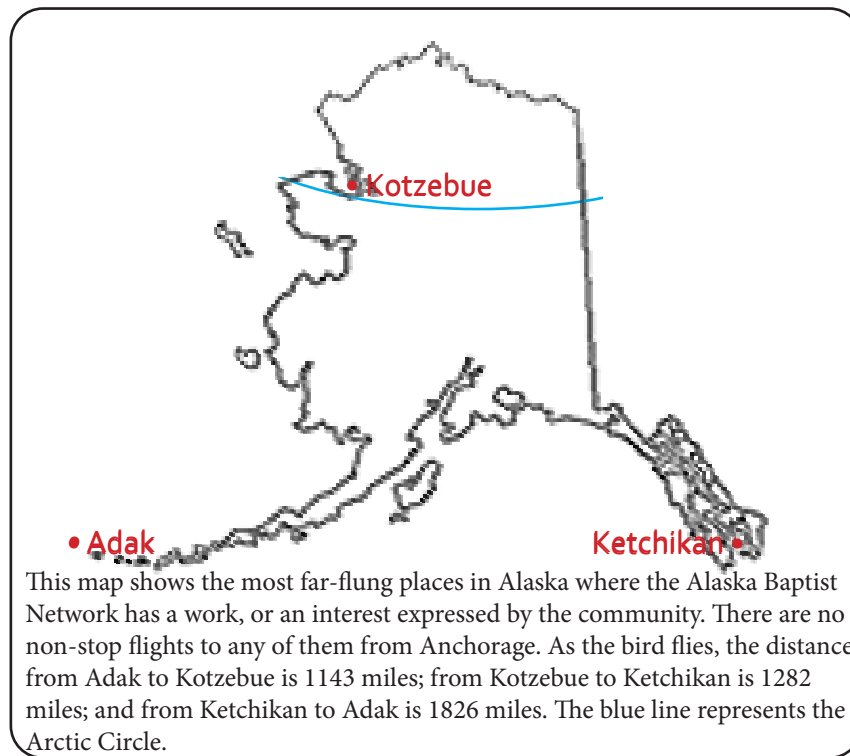
VISION and MISSION of the ALASKA BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK

- A. The vision of the Alaska Baptist Convention/Alaska Baptist Resource Network (ABC/ABRN) is to **Abide** in Christ (John 15:5), **Build** the kingdom of heaven on earth (Matthew 6:10, 16:19, and **Cooperate** in one sacred effort (Acts 1:8).
- B. The mission statement of the ABC/ABRN is to glorify God as we assist churches to: **Evangelize** the lost, **Equip** new believers, **Establish** new churches, **Encourage** the saints, and **Extend** the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Churches	113
Ethnic/Cultural Groups in Alaska:	120
Communities Without an Evangelical Congregation:	77

Ethnic/Cultural Congregations Represented

Alaska Native	Hispanic
African American	Hmong
Korean	Mienh
Filipino	Samoan
Chinese	Cowboy



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