

Static Yet Dynamic

Kevin Miller, Alaska Conference President

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”

Hebrews 1:1 (NKJV)

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)



Kevin Miller

Two texts that seem strangely at odds with one another. There is a debate in Christian circles whether God is static, meaning He remains immovable or whether He is dynamic, meaning He changes and is changeable. These two texts from the same author in the same book seem to say that God is both static and dynamic. Could He really be both?

The question that needs asked is what is God immovable on? And what is He changing or changeable on? I would suggest that God's nature is static or immovable. He is love (1 John 4:8) that never changes for His children. That is who He is. His message to people never changes as He calls them to return to Him through faith, repentance, and a growing relationship with Him (Matt 3:2; Matt 4:17; Acts 3:38; Ephesians 2:8-10). Also, His gospel never changes. The gospel of Jesus Christ who lived the life we should and can't without Him, died the death we deserve at Calvary (Romans 5:8-11; Revelation 14:6). These things about God never change.

However, God is not sitting in heaven not moving on our behalf. The book of Hebrews was written to the “church” to encourage them in what God was changing. He was changing His

method in reaching people. The old system was fading away as the substance took its place. Hebrews even says the law was changed so the priesthood could change (Hebrews 7:12). He talked to people in the historical and cultural contexts they lived and live in. Things we take for granted in 2019 (digital communication, medical technology) would have no meaning in 1819 or in the ancient world. Just as it's very difficult for us to picture Ezekiel having a meaningful ministry in 2019, laying around saying that God told him to.

Jesus ministered under principles that are timeless and universal but His methods fit the time, place, and personality of the person/s He was revealing God to. He didn't heal blind people the same way. He didn't heal lame people the same way. He even raised the dead differently based on the circumstances. He taught differently to different kinds of people. The message, gospel, and nature of God was the same but the methods changed. That's why in the book of Acts it was so important for the believers to sensitively listen to the Holy Spirit moving because they were confronted with how dynamic God is in His passion to save His children from sin and death.

This conference is trying to follow the Savior in His balance of ensuring the unchanging nature of God with His sensitivity to the Holy

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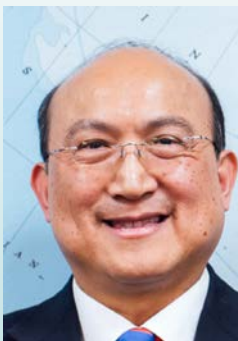


Why Change?

Melvin Santos, VP of Administration

Some change can be painful. Sometimes, it is imperative. Sometimes, God just needs willing, broken vessels. He'll do the rest.

Before accepting the invitation to serve as Alaska Conference's VP of Administration and to oversee the execution of discipleship, evangelism and church growth, I spent weeks agonizing with God. Harsh winters in a far-away land boggled our minds. My hesitation stemmed from the magnitude of the responsibilities and being too comfortable in my current ministries. After much prayer, God assured me that I didn't need to depend on my own abilities. With His call comes enabling and provision for all our needs. He just needed me to "Go."



Melvin Santos

Pastoral to Administrative Change

Moving to America's "Last Frontier" required enlarging my territory...literally. Vast landscape, challenging administrative responsibilities during the week, and training churches on the weekends made me wonder if it's possible. However, my love for the possibilities trumped my hesitation. After all, training disciples is the equivalent of training new recruits in the Army to become soldiers. Without soldiers, how can you have an army?

The Alaska Conference faces new challenges with higher levels of complexity today. New spiritual challenges abound. We have the largest land mass and challenging demographics. We operate leaner--fewer paid staff and less resources. Yet, we're not unusual. There is a steady decline in the baptism trends throughout the North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC) and the North American Division (NAD). As of 2019, Alaska still aims to reach the 4,000 members mark. We urgently need positive change.

Mission Objectives & Vision

To refine our strategy for church growth, we need to shift the paradigm to ensure positive changes occur through our proposed mission objectives:

- **Volunteerism** (total member involvement) – training and activating Holy Spirit-powered disciples to do God's work
- **Use of technology** – connect churches with each other to share ideas, resources, problem solve, and pray together
- **Process improvement** – refine and document what works well; eliminate time and money wasters; focus people on specific objectives vs. being "busy"
- **Administrative simplification** – focus on the most important priorities to grow God's kingdom; train and equip others to SHARE the work of the ministry (equates to shared blessings!)
- **Holy Spirit-powered leadership and churches** – point everyone to lean and depend on the Holy Spirit at all levels while launching Discipleship, Evangelism, Church Planting, Young Adult Ministries, and Arctic Missions.

Our ultimate vision is to have countless Holy Spirit-powered disciples and disciplers for Jesus to share the work of the ministry and subsequent blessings. Members are great, but we need disciples! Without Holy Spirit-powered disciples, personal or mass evangelism is just an event with little results. There won't be kingdom growth which means the Holy Spirit didn't have the opportunity to work through us. Without the Holy Spirit, all of us would be lost. However, by God's grace and through prayer, the Holy Spirit is on the move in Alaska!

Our Secret to Successful Change

The success of God's work will not be determined by our own effort and hard work, but through the depth of our willingness to submit and be used by the Holy Spirit. It's "not by my might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord." (Zech.4:6) This means that true success comes not by change in strategies or methods, but only through the mighty power and indwelling of the Holy Spirit in each of us. The changes and miracles from Jesus and His disciples in the book of Acts were not simply due to their own actions. They were 100% dependent on God and the Holy Spirit for the miracles! As we strive to make positive changes, may our craving and thirst for the Holy Spirit grow deeper each day.

“...Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.”

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

New In Ministry Training
January 20-21

Office Closed: MLK Jr Day
January 21

Pastors Meetings
January 21-24

AMA Training
January 25

Elders Training
January 26-27

Alaska Conference Executive Committee
January 27

God's Unchanging Principals In A World Of Perpetual Change

Jim Jensen, VP of Finance



Crypto currencies, banking apps, online giving. Every day it seems that creative people come up with new ways to do business and grab your attention. As followers of Christ we seek to live in this world, but still follow the principles that were given in the Bible thousands of years ago. The term "tithe" means 10% of your income or increase. How that was collected has changed from bringing crops and coins to the temple to a check in the offering plate and now giving online or even through an app on your mobile device.

In seeking to pass the blessings of giving to the current generation, the Alaska Conference Executive Committee has approved the creation of a small committee of young people from the age of 15-29. If you are in this age range or know someone who is, please encourage them to contact the conference office or send

us their contact information. We would like the group to be representative so even if you are still experimenting with occasional donations or less, we would like to include you.

This group will help us in how we

communicate in tone, method and accountable reporting. If we can find ways of using or modifying what others are using, we will do that. If not, this group will develop their own materials.

God has promised blessings to those who follow His principles and we want to make sure that we do not get in the way of that plan with how we share those principles with the current generation.

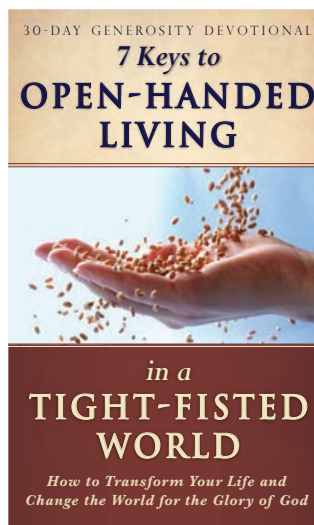
If you want to be the first, we still have not received a crypto currency donation.

Tithe Report

2018	\$4,367,145	=	8.98%
2017	\$4,007,248		GAIN

We never budget on what appears to be one-time donations of stock, sale of property or an unusual business gain. In 2018, that came to about \$160,000. Thank you to each member who has been faithful in their tithe and offerings. Alaska has come through a multiyear recession. 2018 was a good year and it is encouraging to see positive growth, but we are still only slightly higher than we were five years ago in 2014 when tithe was \$4,217,157.

One of the books/themes we are using in 2019 is *7 Keys To Open-Handed Living In A Tight-Fisted World*. You will see more throughout the year on living generously.



Jim Jensen

CONFERENCE CALENDAR CONT.

AMA Board Meeting
January 28

Teachers Meetings
February 7-8

Closed: President's Day
February 18

Arctic Camp Meetings
February 22-23
Nome & St Lawrence Island

March 8-9
Bristol Bay

March 22-23
Bethel

April 19-20
Barrow

THANKS TO YOU!

We are SO blessed to have a dedicated community of friends who are unwavering in their support of Arctic Missions. The conference is profoundly grateful that you are why we not only met, but SURPASSED our 2018 fundraising goal of \$300,000. Thank you for your support!!

As promised, Kevin Miller, Jim Jensen and Tobin Dodge shaved their heads on January 21st. Visit the [AMA Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/ArcticMissionAdventure/) at www.facebook.com/ArcticMissionAdventure/ for pictures and video.





Arctic Missions Renewed

Tobin Dodge, Arctic Mission Director

November 30, 2018 has gone down in Alaska history quite memorably: the largest earthquake in Anchorage and Matanuska Valley area since 1964. Many, if not most of you, know about or personally experienced the 7.0 initial quake and the over 4,000 aftershocks and counting. A big quake like that shakes people to the core and in this case, has helped many Alaskans to focus on the priorities of life and let the trivial dissipate.

Alaska's Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) 2018 has been kind of like that for us. We have seen God bless in the past and have recognized His mighty hand, yet we feel that 2019 is the opportunity to continue to focus in on the priorities of AMA in bush Alaska. In general terms, our priority is to live and represent Jesus in all that we do. However, the pragmatic application in each village will look different. Whether we have a local mission volunteer stationed in the village, a radio station broadcasting the Good News, or "circuit-flying" preacher types, our goal is to meet the people where they are and bring hope and healing to people in the village.

We, as Seventh-day Adventists, have been called to mingle, love the people God

has gifted us to work with, minister to their needs and then invite them to follow Jesus. In most villages, this means working with local people, village leadership and organizations to collaborate with them.

AMA, in this same spirit of collaboration and team work, is excited that the Dutch Harbor project is back on line. God has provided a mission volunteer, a place to live, and funding to move forward. In addition to Dutch Harbor, Utqiagvik (aka Barrow) has a pastoral couple as of June 2018 and God is continuing to bless the group. The Barrow Church family just purchased a place of worship with a parsonage for its traveling pastors, and the location is an amazing blessing as well. In April, 2019 they will be hosting a Native Evangelism Field School with Monte Church, culminating in the first Arctic camp meeting on April 19 & 20. Kotzebue is also a top priority and AMA leadership is developing a strategy for funding and staffing that outpost again.

Each village outpost—Togiak, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Selawik, Shungnak, Birch Creek, Galena, Barrow, Gambell & Savoonga—has God-sized dreams for 2019, from getting a place of worship and a place to stay, to having a building to call home; feeding the hungry to having a safe place to come in time of need. We know that God is at work in the villages because we see the walls of separation coming down as His Holy Spirit leads our people deeper into compassionate and fulfilling ministry.



Tobin Dodge

ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE

ADOPT-A-VILLAGE

Building community through spiritual, emotional, physical and mental support to native Alaskans living in the outposts of the Alaska frontier.

OBJECTIVES

- To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Third Angels Message to those who need the hope of salvation and a future with God**
- To partner with churches across the nation to financially support the placement of a church planting pastor or Bible worker in bush Alaska**
- Church support will enable AMA to initiate outreach to kids through day camps, Vacation Bible School and afterschool programs**
- To aid those in need of food and clothing and after school programs**

HOW ADOPT-A-VILLAGE WORKS

- 1 The church prayerfully considers the amount of support for one year. This can be the total amount needed by the village or a portion of it.
- 2 Decide how the dollars will be given: all at once, monthly, bi-monthly, etc.
- 3 Contact Tandi Perkins, Director of Development, Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to initiate the adoption process.
- 4 AMA commits to providing progress updates, stories and video of how God is moving in your adopted village
- 5 When possible, adoptee church members participate in mission trips to help in outreach efforts in the village. This may be in the form of VBS, camps and volunteer work.

ADOPT-A-VILLAGE IN ACTION

Place of Worship
Establish a place of worship (or improvements to existing facilities) and/or parsonage for AMA volunteers

Food Bank
With the cost of food in bush Alaska triple that of most locations, adequate food is an on-going struggle

Clothing & Back To School Drives
Due to high transportation costs, there is need for new, adequate clothing and supplies

Outreach
Community events include VBS, camp meetings, ministry outreach, suicide prevention, etc., as identified by the AMA volunteer(s).

CONTACT

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Phone: 907-346-3279 Ext 1017





Camp Lorraine
June 23-30, 2019

Camp Tuk Teen Xtreme
June 30-July 7, 2019

Camp Tuk Juniors
July 7-July 14, 2019

Camp Polaris
July 28-August 4, 2019



Praying For Pastors

Steve Evenson, Ministerial Director

As the ministerial director for the conference, I have the privilege of working with a group of dedicated pastors. Each year in January, we gather in Anchorage to fellowship, renew our commitment and plan out the year's activities. At each encounter, I see how God has blessed our conference with a great pastoral staff.

There are challenges however. As you know, Alaska is a transient state. Those that come to the Last Frontier either fall in love and make it their forever home while others find the challenges of Alaska does not fit their lives. Here are the most recent changes to the team:

Juneau/Sitka District: Nathan and Gina Stearman have accepted a call to the New England Conference. They have settled in their new home and are moving to expand their family through adoption. We are seeking a pastoral couple for the district.

Anchorage Northside: Pastor Jim John and his wife, Darla, have settled in nicely with their Northside family. Accepting the call in January 2018, the church is excited to have their leadership. Darla is the Pre-K/ Kindergarten teacher at Anchorage Junior Academy. Jim enthusiastically shares his time and talents wherever needed. They are a great addition to the Alaska team.

Barrow/Delta Junction/North Pole: Pastoral couple Celesta and Zack Babb joined the conference in June 2018. Both are recent graduates of Andrews University with degrees

in Theology. Their excitement and dedication to work for Jesus is evident. The district is large, requiring travel to Utqiagvik (Barrow) each month and logging many road miles to minister to their churches. Please keep them in prayer, especially that God calls the right person to be placed in Utqiagvik as an Arctic Mission volunteer.

Kenai/Homer, Bristol Bay (Dillingham) and Palmer Districts: The search continues for pastors for these areas and we are close! (Closer in some districts than others.) In the interim, retired pastor Brad Traxler is supporting the Kenai and Homer churches. Don Barnt, another retired pastor, has been leading in Bristol Bay since the summer. The Palmer Church's lay leaders have stepped in to keep the church running smoothly until God brings them their pastor.

Kotzebue/Nome Districts: Retired Pastor Leon Ringering has lead in the Nome District for over three years. He and his wife, Delores, have decided to "re-enter" retirement and will be leaving us this spring. We eagerly await the return of Chad and Elizabeth Angasan to Alaska who will be covering these districts. They are currently at Andrews completing their degrees.

At times it feels it takes so long for the right leader to be found, but we must remember that God operates on His time, not ours. He knows who He wants for these positions. It is our job to put our faith in Him, ask for guidance (and patience) so God can call whom He has chosen.

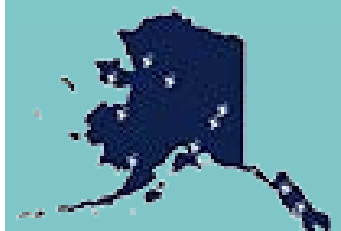


Steve Evenson

NO CHURCH IN YOUR AREA?

Join the Remote Sabbath School Class!

**Sabbath Mornings at 9:30 a.m.
1-800-719-6100
Access Code: 4760107**



ALASKA CONFERENCE PASTORAL TEAM



Chad & Elizabeth Angasan
Seminary



Zack & Celesta Babb
Barrow/Delta Jct/
North Pole



Don Barnt
Bristol Bay



Carl & Elizabeth
Butler Jr
Eagle River/Wasilla



Steve & Judy Evenson
Fairbanks



Jim & Darla John
Anchorage Northside



Don Jr & Francine Lee
Tok



Kyoung & Insun Lee
Anchorage Korean/
Talkeetna



Edmore Mangena
Glennallen/Valdez



Charlie & Dena Meigs
Wrangell



Adrian Neacsu
Craig/Ketchikan



Tana & Nama Neufeldt
Anch Samoan/The
2nd Mile



Leon & Delores Ringering
Nome/St Lawrence Island



David & Tennifer Shin
Anchorage Hillside-
O'Malley



Brad & Cheryl Traxler
Kenai/Homer



Don & Tracia West
Anchorage Community/
Spanish



Noel Wilton
Barrow/Delta Jct



Communications—An Everchanging Landscape

Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Communications Director

I have always considered myself to be pretty savvy when it comes to technology. I am proficient on a variety of computer programs (as long as it is PC based), can troubleshoot basic equipment issues and am a self-proclaimed Microsoft Office and iPhone/iPad guru. But, as I get older it is more challenging to stay current. With the various forms of communication today: television, radio, telephone, internet, social media—it's daunting! However, I subscribe to the thought that if you don't try to keep up with new technology, as you move through life you will become extinct. Since my goal is to be a groovy grandma, I continue to attempt to be a jack of all trades (but master of none) in the various forms of communication.

As the communications director, I am tasked with maintaining the website and social media, and printed publications including the *Alyeskan* and articles for the *Gleaner*. Last year the conference introduced its monthly email communique with the goal of sharing happenings in our churches and schools across the state.



Brenda Campbell-Johnson

Communication Changes

This year, you will see changes in how both the conference and NPUC communicates to members. Here's what you can expect:

Social Media: Recognizing the need for more Young Adult (YA) resources, the conference is considering a YA Instagram page. We are looking for YA ambassadors to assist in this digital ministry.

Email: We will be using the conference email communique to relay information to members when time constraints prohibits more traditional means of church communication. Don't worry, we will be limiting these emails to a maximum of two or three per month.

Church Websites: The conference is encouraging all our churches and schools to have an active website. Adventist Church

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:18

Connect offers free websites to these organizations. They are easy to use and again, FREE! I encourage you to "search" for your organization and see what results come back. Do the results reflect your organization correctly? Is it providing information that people need to connect with you?

Pause for Praise Concerts: The conference would like to feature its musical artists via mini-concerts similar to NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts. These are short (3-4 selections), informal music sessions that will be featured on our website and social media. If you would like to audition, please let us know.

Alyeskan: The *Alyeskan* is moving to theme-based issues. In addition to our annual camp meeting issue, you will see topics on family, discipleship, stewardship, Arctic Missions, youth, etc. In an effort to reduce costs, we'd like to distribute the *Alyeskan* digitally for those who prefer electronic delivery. I will be reaching out to see how families would like to receive their copy.

Gleaner: The *Gleaner* will be published six times in 2019: Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, etc. We welcome news articles to share with readers. Keep in mind that articles should be approximately 350 words, have at minimum two high resolution pictures (1 MB or higher) with captions, and submitted to the conference office rather than direct to the *Gleaner*.

Change...it is inevitable. You will see it in how the conference communicates, in its evangelism efforts, and in our youth and AMA programs. However, there is one thing that never changes and that is our Lord and Savior: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8).

Do you receive the **AROUND THE CONFERENCE** email? To join our mailing list, send your email address to alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org

Attention Churches & Schools

The conference would like to include your ministry event in our monthly broadcast. Simply send event information to us the month prior.

APRIL 26 & 27

DINOSAURS!
WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Rich Aguilera

one mustard seed OFFICIAL PAGE

Annual Youth Rally | Ages 8-17

Executive Committee Minutes

September 23, 2018 | Melvin Santos, VP of Administration

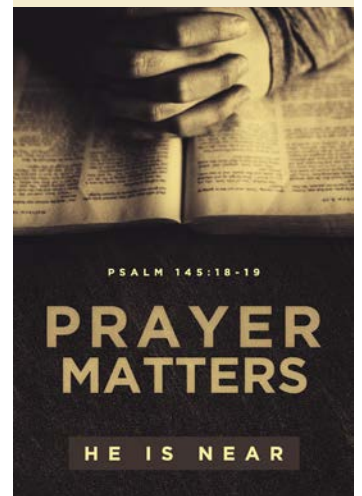


Present	Kevin Miller, Melvin Santos, Jim Jensen, Elsa Coronado, Steve Evenson, Missy Harriss, Steve Lewis, Tau Siaki, Ryan Woehler
	Invitees: Tobin Dodge, Tandi Perkins
Absent	Joe Chythlook, David King, Warren Libby, Ed Mangena, Alice Moncher, Nathan Stearman, Don West
NPUC Representative	John Freedman, NPUC President
Devotional/Prayer	Melvin Santos gave the devotional and prayer
REPORTS	
Agenda (18-21)	VOTED to accept the Agenda
President's Report (18-22)	VOTED to request the NAD to reevaluate the Small Conference Reduction plan Kevin talked about organizational structures and Pacific Union Conference letter regarding the GC's compliance
Minutes (18-23)	VOTED to approve the minutes for June 3, 2018
Vice-President's Report	Melvin reported on baptisms and attendance for last quarter. Also noted state of Discipleship training for conference
Treasurer's Report (18-24)	VOTED to accept the treasurer's report
Barrow Purchase (18-25)	VOTED to approve Barrow building purchase for \$230,000 with a loan from the Revolving Fund for \$150,000 and this will be a contingent liability for the conference
Inspection (18-26)	VOTED to accept having home inspection by Mark McCumber (whose license lapsed as home building inspector) subject to consulting with Risk Management on insurance and Union Revolving Fund approval
AGA Financial Request (18-27)	VOTED to approve AGA's financial request from conference equivalent to pastor's salary to go to the school while they are without a pastor
AGA Security (18-28)	VOTED to accept motion that if a school seeks their own armed security, they need to provide their own liability insurance
Youth Department Report	Tobin Dodge gave an update on Camp Lorraine, Polaris, Tuk and Arctic Missions day camps with 85 commitments for Christ, 18 baptized: 16 campers, 2 staff
Radio/AMA Report	Tobin also reported on Radio Ministry and Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA)
AMA Development Report	Tandi Perkins gave a report on fundraising and the <i>Healed Enough</i> event on Oct 14
Ministerial Report	Steve Evenson reported on camp meetings for Interior and Southcentral
Armed Greeter Policy (18-29)	VOTED to accept policy: If a school seeks their own armed security, they need to provide their own liability insurance
Adjourn (18-30)	VOTED to adjourn



Melvin Santos

ALASKA PRAYER TEAM
CALL TO PRAYER
 Teleconference Prayer Meeting
 Fridays | 7-8 pm
Join fellow believers each Friday for prayer and praise!
1-800-719-6100
Access Code 4760107



Static Yet Dynamic

Cont. from Page 1

Spirit's leading in the dynamic nature of ministry. We have seen the Lord work by bringing people to the frontlines, both lay people and full-time ministers, to creatively, timely, and culturally move His nature, message, and gospel forward in this field. We are committed to listening to the Holy Spirit even if that means changing things up to accomplish His mission. My prayer is you will join us in this exciting adventure with Jesus.

Alyeskan

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Educating Alaska

Rod Rau, Education Director

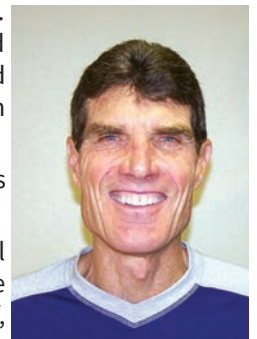
The 2018-2019 school year got off to a strong start and we are blessed to have a strong team of teachers. We had a few changes in personnel: Anchorage Junior Academy welcomed principal Katie Richmond (G1-G3) and teachers Jeanie de la Torre (G4-G8) and Darla John (GPk-GK). Two staff, Jason (G5-G6) and Marita McClin (G1-G2), joined the Amazing Grace Academy team. We also welcomed back Kallie McCutcheon to Sitka (G1-G8) and retired teacher Nickie Romine who felt led to support our Dillingham school (GPk-GK).

As director, major responsibilities of my position are hiring and supporting staff and promoting our schools to our communities. I have set two major goals in these areas:

1. **Increase enrollment at Anchorage Junior Academy (AJA).** AJA is a Pre-K through Grade 8 school located in Anchorage, the most populated city in the state, yet because of a variety of educational options, we struggle in drawing students. To increase visibility, I will be visiting area churches, introducing school staff, inviting potential families to visit the school and sharing school successes. AJA has an excellent teaching team, all of whom are certified educators, working collectively to exemplify Christ, make a positive impact on their students and represent the school to the best of their ability.

2. **Obtain full academy status for Amazing Grace Academy (AGA).** AGA is the only Pre-K through Grade 12 school in Alaska with the largest teaching staff. Currently it works with Griggs International to ensure students in grades 11 and 12 meet academic requirements, however the school and conference would like to see AGA gain full academy status. This would allow the school to develop a stronger curriculum and a more unified overall program and stronger curriculum. A committee has been formed and is moving ahead on the application status. The conference would like to team with Arctic Missions and Adventist World Aviation to introduce a mission-centered curriculum particularly to upper level students.

The Adventist Alaska education community has many challenges—transient families, transportation challenges, remote locations—yet God continues to bless our schools with qualified, loving teachers who believe in Christian education and lifting up Christ. If you live near one of our schools, consider volunteering; educators can always use an extra hand! Above all, please keep our students and teachers in your prayers.



Rod Rau