



ALASKA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2008

CONFERENCE NEWS



Pastor Ken Crawford
Conference President

THE WINDS OF STRIFE: HAVE YOU READ THE FINANCIAL TIMES THIS WEEK?

According to the *Financial Times*, Britain is considering some "drastic measures" to recapitalize its banking sector. "In Britain", reports the *Wall Street Journal*, "private output is falling faster than it ever has since they began keeping records. In Europe governments are rushing to prop up failing banks". "Iceland, the world's financial darling of the last decade, is currently in talks to prevent meltdown." California is only two weeks away from being unable to pay teachers and firefighters says the *Financial Times*. Although it is the world's 6th largest economy, it is currently ready to fold. *Financial Times* further reports, "A virtual funding freeze...has affected even top-rated companies such as General Electric...and AT&T.' It's a dangerous time. The fear out there is extreme. Currently, Zimbabwe's inflation is running at 200,000%. By the time a Social Security check or indexed bond is adjusted for the previous quarter's inflation, it's worthless. Can you picture this happening in America? The *Financial Times* is forecasting a "glut of retail failures in the retail sector." It says that in the coming months, every business is cutting back...trimming...saving...trying to protect what they have. And consumers too are beginning to grow more cautious. The *New York Times* said this week that airline travel is collapsing. They note, "Until the wave of bank failures and credit scares dies down, I don't think we'll see these trends reverse anytime really soon."

Where is it all going? God is in control. The economic events of the past month are giving the world food for deep thought and concern. I personally believe we are seeing the coming together of the Perfect Storm that will be the end of society as we know it and it will come rapidly. Is this the time when Michael stands up and there will be a time of trouble such as has never been? I believe the times are a call to prayer for God's people such as never has been, for doors will open to men and women's hearts through this time. I invite all to pray and plan for ways to reach those who may be open to hearing the hope-filled message we have to offer.

SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT PROJECT

- We have just appointed our first suicide prevention couple. Bill and Eloise Hawkes will arrive in Savoonga around mid-December. They are both retired nurses who will work with depression recovery and other innovative programs as well as lead in the services at the church.
- Togiak will also be getting a missionary-spirited volunteer. Dan Rotoff from Idaho will be arriving sometime in November to serve in that capacity.

EVANGELISM AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ShareHim:** The ShareHim program is really developing in Alaska as groups sign up and conduct meetings. Several meetings are taking place right now and a number are planned for the near future in the villages. Nita Larson and Doug Blair are our trained facilitators for conducting boot camps at the local churches. If your church would like training, please contact Nita at nita.larson@ac.npuc.org to plan one.
- **Palmer Evangelism:** Palmer Church is launching an innovative approach to Evangelism. Starting the weekend of January 9-10, 2009, there will be three consecutive weekends with emphasis on vital subjects that will be of interest to the public. Subjects will be on Evolution/Creation with Dr. Art Chadwick, Archeology with Dr. Larry Herr, the "Left Behind Series" with Pastor Lynn Bryson and "Modern Spiritualism" with Pastor Steve Wohlberg. These weekends will be followed by a full month-long Bible series. Please keep them in your prayers.

CONFERENCE NEWS CONT.

- ShareHim Mission Trip to Tanzania: Leaders are busy organizing an overseas mission trip to Africa. They will participate in a seven-site evangelistic series. For more information contact Nita Larson at the Conference Office Treasury Department.
- Pastors' Meetings: On another note, our January Pastors' Meetings will be from **Sunday evening, January 11 to Wednesday noon, January 14th**. Our guest presenter will be Dr. Jere Page, President of the Central California Conference. Dr. Page has developed a prayer ministry that has revolutionized his conference. His wife, Janet, will be the presenter at the Shepherdess Retreat the weekend before. PFD airline sales are on and purchases must be made by October 13. If you are flying, please get your tickets soon.

SEPTEMBER WAS STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS MONTH

Thank you to each pastor and elder who presented Stewardship sermons last month. I heard of some excellent presentations. The people were blessed and convicted of the need to be faithful to God.

PRAYER CONFERENCE & BIBLE WORKER TRAINING

The Prayer Conference held last month received rave responses from those who attended. Thank you to each one that participated. My wife and I were personally richly blessed by the presentations and group interaction.

TRANSITIONS

Pastor Butch Palmero has had some health concerns that necessitate a transition, so he will be relocating to the conference office for the next 12 months. He will be directing our ADRA/Community Services program and doing grant-writing for our Arctic Mission Adventure program. Bible Worker Tony Asherman will cover Delta for this time. We are currently looking for someone to do the same for Tok.

PASTOR SEARCH FOR PALMER CHURCH

Conference administration and a search committee from the Palmer church are looking at prospective pastors for the Palmer church. We would be open to additional suggestions of names if you have an outstanding pastor you would like to suggest.

AROUND THE NPUC

Jere Patzer Update: As of 9/24 Sue Patzer reports no "new" news; Jere is in a holding pattern—a waiting game. The doctor has reminded them that a body that has been hit over time with chemo must take time for the bone marrow to regroup and recoup before the next phase of treatment. A once-a-week chemo treatment continues with minimal side-effects. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

AROUND THE NAD

Elder Don Schneider, North American Division President, had surgery Friday, October 3, when a cyst-like, benign tumor that he was treated for two years ago returned. After resting in the hospital on Sabbath, he returned home Sunday. Reports are he feels good and has no pain.

Upcoming NAD Events:

- **Health Summit West**, October 17-20, Loma Linda CA—www.plusline.org
- **NET 2008** with Mark Finley live via satellite, October 24—November 29, Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL—www.acn.info
- **Women & The Word and LeaderShaping '08**, 2-in-1 conference, Oct 31—Nov 2, Andrews University, Berring Springs, MI—www.leadershaping.blogspot.com.

For a complete list of upcoming events go to <http://www.nadadventist.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

7-9 Leadership Retreat
17-19 Executive Committee

NOVEMBER

tba AK K-10 Board of Education
27-28 Thanksgiving—Office Closed

DECEMBER

24-25 Christmas—Office Closed

JANUARY 2009

1 New Years—Office Closed
9-11 Shepherdess Meetings
11-14 Minister's Meetings
18-24 NAD Religious Liberty Week
19 MLK Jr Day—Office Closed
tbd Arctic Mission Mini-Camp Meeting (Bethel)

For a complete listing of events visit
www.alaskaconference.org

OFFERING SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

04 Church Budget
11 Voice of Prophecy
18 Church Budget
25 YES

NOVEMBER

01 AK Adventist Education
08 Annual Sacrifice
15 Church Budget
22 YES
29 Church Budget

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