



ALASKA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



Pastor Ken Crawford
Conference President

George Barna, the founder of The **Barna** Group, a market research firm specializing in studying the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans, recently noted 85 percent of adults in America call themselves Christian, even though half of those people admit that they have no relationship with Jesus Christ. He further noted that nine out of ten churches in America call themselves Evangelistic even though most of them have not seen a new convert in the past year.

I am happy to say that this is not true of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and particularly not true in the Alaska Conference. At a recent Pastors' Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska pastors committed to a yearly baptismal goal of 10% of church attendance. A number of churches have already surpassed that goal.

For example, in one recent reaping series in the Anchorage Community church, baptisms at the end of the crusade represented more than 30% of their attendance with further studies and preparation still ongoing.

Hillside-O'Malley Church just finished its crusade and baptized more than one third of their active attendance in the one reaping event.

The body of Christ is a living growing organism, full of life, and replication of itself with new life. Let's never forget that.

Blessings,
Pastor Ken

The Great Escape

Marriage Retreat with
Ken & Colleen Crawford



March 8—10, 2008

Leave the kids behind
for a romantic weekend in
Central Alaska

Limited to 12 couples so register soon!
Cost \$220 per couple with a \$50 non-
refundable deposit at time of registration.

Contact JoAnn Stevens
at 346-1004 for more information.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Kodiak Evangelistic Series

Pastor Brian and Denise Bechtold have finished a series in Kodiak. Reports are good with several baptisms and a number of interests for Dan Lesch to continue studying with. The Bechtolds will be having some baptisms this Sabbath then moving on for a series in Gambell followed by Savoonga in March.

One of the people being baptized is Gregory Fox, an ex biker once associated with Hell's Angels. Since he gave his heart to Jesus, he has been studying on his own and came to believe in the Sabbath. He will be baptized this Sabbath. He has since renamed his charter fishing boat, "Devocean" and plans to use it to take the Adventist message to the villages on the Aleutian chain.

Hillside O'Malley's Series

NPUC Evangelist and Speaker Pastor Jac Colon, has just concluded a series in the O'Malley church with 40 plus baptisms so far and a number of new interests. Pastor Donavon Kack will be following up with his series on "Journey to the Cross" for new members and interests.

Health Fair

Pastor Ed and Cheryl Dunn in conjunction with Pastor Wendell and Linda Downs finished an exceptional health fair last week in Dillingham. I understand the response was excellent with many positive affirmations for the work of the church in that area.

Share Him

Northside Church is very active right now in conducting Share Him series. A team is currently doing a multi-village series in Manokotak and Togiak. Please remember them in your prayers.

Eagle River Depression Recovery

The Eagle River church is currently doing another depression recovery seminar. The members were pleased with the excellent response and will continue with follow-up.



Evangelist Jac Colon at Hillside

Want to be added to the President's Report email list? Simply email us at alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org

CONFERENCE NEWS CONT.

Samoan Church Grand Opening and Organizational Meeting

Pastor Lauilo Poua has led the Samoan church in exciting growth. On Sabbath Feb 9, they had the Grand Opening Celebration of their recently purchased church facility. Their first official Sabbath was an exciting day. The church was packed as we conducted the ceremony that officially recognized them as a functioning church. Average attendance at the Samoan church has been over 150 people. Watch for an article and pictures on our website at www.alaskaconference.org

Finances

Sharon informs us that we ended 2007 with a deficit of around \$150,000. Most of this was due to unusually high health care costs. The Executive Committee will grapple with the budget for 2008 in March.

Kotzebue

Jim and Linda Kincaid recently noted that their new group in Kotzebue has outgrown their house. They have 12 to 14 people meeting on a regular basis. They are now looking for a place to rent.

Arctic Mission Adventure

We have been working diligently for some time now to start a suicide prevention program in the Arctic region. We have chosen Savoonga as our target because of the high suicide rate and the fact that their village council already has a committee in place. Next week we have a young couple coming to Savoonga to analyze their role in leading out to put a program in place there. We solicit your prayers for this endeavor.

Transitions

Pastor Samuel Lee has returned to San Jose to be with his wife Denise. They have decided to stay in California. Please remember the Korean Church as they continue to help us in a search for a new Pastor.

Constituency at Camp Meeting 2008

We are thankful for the responses of your delegates. We are currently working on a date for the large committee to meet. Their role is to elect the nominating committee. It is important that you submit your delegates names as soon as you can, so we can contact them. The organizational committee will meet in Anchorage April 20th to choose the nominating committee.

Camp Meeting 2008

We are delighted to have an excellent lineup of presenters for 2008. Elder Jose Rojas will be our guest presenter in the main auditorium. Because Pastor Rojas has such a dynamic presentation and emphasis on the young adult population, we will be closing the evening Collegiate meetings and inviting all Collegiate and Young Adults to the main auditorium.

NPUC NEWS

REVELATION SPEAKS PEACE: A series with It Is Written speaker Shawn Boonstra is taking place at the Portland Convention Center. Nearly every one of the 2,300 seats in the Oregon Ballroom have been filled and another 200 in the children's department.

AROUND THE NAD

Jan Paulsen, General Conference President, is the featured speaker for Vol 19 of Great Adventist Preaching. Five sermons selected from Paulsen's addresses during his years as President of the World Church, are titled *Almost Home: Completing the Journey*. During his tenure as President, Paulsen has traveled to all thirteen Divisions of the World Church to encourage and inspire its members in mission and to uphold one another in faithful witness. Since it is not possible for him to visit every church or camp meeting, you may now hear his messages via DVD. Order online at www.acn.info or www.adventsource.org or call 800-ACN-1119 or 800-328-0525.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 7-8 Faith-in Focus Weekend: also known as our "South Central Winter Cam Meeting Weekend" at the Palmer Church. Dr. John McVay, President of Walla Walla University, will be guest speaker for the weekend. His topics are:
Friday
7:30 pm *Growing in Christ*
Sabbath
11:00 am *Paul's Call to Arms*
2:00 pm *Christ as Victor*
- 9 Alaska Executive Committee Meeting, at 9:00 am at the new Samoan Church.

For a complete listing of events in Alaska Conference Churches visit www.alaskaconference.org

OFFERING SCHEDULE

MARCH

- 01 Church Budget
08 Adventist World Radio
15 Church Budget
22 YES
29 Spring Mission Appeal

APRIL

- 05 Church Budget
12 Christian Record Services
19 Church Budget
26 YES

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