

ALASKA



ARCTIC MISSION

ADVENTURE

ALASKA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
6100 O'Malley Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Alaska Conference



ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE

September 4, 2007

Thank you for your request for information on Arctic Mission Adventure.
Please find enclosed several documents for your study. They are:

6100 O'Malley Road
Anchorage AK 99507-6958
Telephone 907.346.1004
Fax 907.346.3279
www.alaskaconference.org

- 1) **Arctic Mission Adventure Challenge**-noting the goals and objectives of this initiative.
- 2) **Arctic Mission Adventure Timelines**-suggesting the steps that would lead to involvement.
- 3) **Arctic Mission Adventure Application** which is the first step in the process.
- 4) **Arctic Mission Adventure map** of Alaska with the targeted villages highlighted.
- 5) **Arctic Mission Adventure Living Costs**-projection

As 30-year Alaska residents and missionaries among the Eskimos of northwest Alaska for many years, Jim and Linda Kincaid can testify to the challenges and rewards of village ministry. The years they spent raising their small children in the Alaska bush were some of the most rewarding, fulfilling, and challenging of their years of ministry. They both heartily recommend the experience to anyone who is passionate about taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. Jim has recently retired from his position as conference secretary and Linda has left her position as assistant treasurer to once again return to the bush village of Kotzebue to start a faith based ministry.

The cause of Christ in Alaska is right now in need of a few stalwart missionaries who will go the extra mile for their Lord—who will locate in an area outside of their comfort zone for the sake of the gospel.

After prayerfully considering the documents enclosed, fill out completely the application and send it in to the address shown on the front or fax it to the number at our office if God leads you to do so. References would then be checked and the required background check completed prior to approval and placement. Once these steps are completed satisfactorily, the applicant would be notified and further orientation initiated.

Once again thanks very much for your interest. May God bless you as you consider your potential involvement in this strategic ministry.

Sincerely,
Ed Dunn, Native Ministries Coordinator
Alaska Conference

I. **ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE CHALLENGE**

The Goal: To fulfill the commission of Jesus Christ to make disciples of *all* nations, teaching them to observe all that Jesus taught.

An Extended Stay: In any mission field in the world the greatest success has occurred when indigenous people have been trained and empowered to live the gospel and lead their own people by example. In some cases it has taken several generations to touch this milestone. In Alaska this goal has been marginally reached in only a few places and without consistency by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It may require a commitment to live in a particular native community for an extended period of time by those individuals suited to do so.

Meeting Them Where They Are: Missionaries have tended to superimpose North American Adventism upon whatever culture they encounter. This has led to long-term impediments to the spread of the gospel. For example: Native people of Alaska generally follow a subsistence lifestyle when available. This means that they have a high intake of animal based foods in season. For an Alaska native to suddenly adopt a vegan vegetarian dietary program would cause malnourishment at the least and possibly serious harm. But if taught by example and incremental steps were taken toward a more healthy lifestyle, much good can be accomplished.

Training In Leadership: The nature of life in the Alaskan villages more closely parallels that of Third-world developing countries than any other paradigm. Because Alaska is part of the United States of America, there are social safety nets which do not exist in many foreign countries. Because unemployment is high (close to 90%) many people survive on the benefits of entitlement programs such as food stamps, energy grants, housing assistance, and other forms of government support. It is wonderful that these programs exist, however a social barrier to self-dependence and indigenous leadership pursuit is erected. The church must overcome these obstacles in its quest to encourage self-reliance and the development of spiritual gifts within the native community. A worthwhile motto to follow for the church might be: *“To develop a place where people have their spiritual needs met and everyone has a chance to serve”*. A very fine line exists between cross-cultural leadership which is committed to developing local leadership and creating just another dependence in their lives complete with a glass ceiling.

Job Description: No matter what your training is, when you arrive in the village to provide spiritual leadership and discipleship you will be viewed as the pastoral team for the church. This is as it should be. The villagers need to be made aware that you are primarily supported by your local employment or distant donors rather than a consistent stream of funds from the Alaska Conference.

II. ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE TIMELINES

Summary: This initiative makes provision for a missionary to be placed in one of the native villages where the *Alaska Conference* has historically worked and currently has living quarters and a chapel. If an individual wishes to go to a village where the *Alaska Conference* does not have any history or buildings, similar options may be available, but housing and worship options may be limited.

First Step: Submit an Arctic Adventure Application. Determine whether you are able to support yourself through employment in the local setting or by fund-raising with committed donors.

Second Step: *Alaska Conference* approval for a specific village. Upon approval the *Alaska Conference* will provide the potential missionary a fund-raising kit if the applicant so desires. It will include a short video depicting village life and ministry as well as informational brochures.

Third Step: Each missionary must raise a total of three months support before launching and signed commitments from sufficient donors to carry their program for one year. If following the employment option, they must document their employment before deployment to the village.

III. ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE APPLICATION

Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
6100 O'Malley RD
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
907-346-1004
907-346-3279 FAX
Attention: Ed Dunn ed.dunn@ac.npuc.org

I. Personal Information

[Please type or print clearly]

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Cell _____ Fax _____

Birth Date _____ Gender M / F *circle one*

Marital Status: Single / Married / Widow / Divorced *circle one*
Name of Spouse _____ Birth Date _____

Children:	Name	Age	M/F

Are you a U. S. Citizen? Yes / No *circle one* Spouse? Yes / No *circle one*

II. Church Involvement

Which church do you attend? _____ State _____

How long have you been a baptized member? _____

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How has your education prepared you for Mission Service?

How would you prefer to meet the educational needs of your children?

Home School Local Church School if available
 Public school Boarding school

V. Financial Information

Present indebtedness:

Educational Loans _____
Bank/Personal Loans _____
Credit Card Debt _____

Do you have debt that can be paid off before your move? Yes No
Will you need to raise funds in order to accept a position? Yes No
Do you have financial support already in place? Yes No

VI. Mission Preferences and History

Check your initial area of Interest:

Short-term Missions (1-2 years) Career Missions (5-10 years)

List in order of preference three places you are interested in going. (Optional)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Have you had previous Mission Service experience? Yes No

If "yes", how many years? _____ In what location? _____

What were your responsibilities?

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VII. Availability

By what date could you be available? _____

Request three recommendation letters (your pastor, employer, non-family member)

List names of references chosen. Your application will be processed as soon as your reference letters have been received by mail or fax.

Name: _____ received _____

Name: _____ received _____

Name: _____ received _____

I agree that the information given is accurate. I authorize the Alaska Conference and its affiliates to investigate my suitability for a potential assignment, which may include criminal background checks. I authorize the references above to release any and all of my personal information to the Alaska Conference and its affiliates investigating my suitability for service to the Alaska Conference and its affiliates. I agree to represent the standards, procedures and Biblical beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Signature _____ Date _____

IV. ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE MAP

Targeted Villages:

- Ambler
- Bethel
- Gambell
- Savoonga
- Selawik
- Shungnak
- Togiak



V. ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE LIVING COSTS

(as of 7-13-05)

Village used to calculate costs is: Selawik, Alaska

<u>Living Expenses</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
Rent	500.00
Phone (basic)	35.00
Heat (stove oil @ 3.50/gal)	210.00
Electricity	150.00
Internet	45.00
Water/Sewer	110.00
Local Transportation (4-wheeler)	50.00
Medical	300.00
<u>Groceries (2-people)</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,700.00

VI. ORIENTATION TO VILLAGE LIVING—SELAWIK

Travel

People normally travel to Selawik via commuter service such as Bering Air connecting with Alaska Airlines through Kotzebue. Adventist missionaries have often bypassed the normal travel lines, often arriving by light aircraft. Selawik lies directly under an airway, with a VOR radio beacon located on the airfield. There are also two bridges crossing the two branches of the Selawik River. This makes locating Selawik much easier than it used to be, considering the thousands of small lakes surrounding the village, coupled with a meandering river and terrain with few outstanding other features.

In summer, people travel within the village by 4-wheeler, and by boat up and down river. In winter, people travel almost exclusively by snowmachine as far as Kotzebue, and to villages surrounding Selawik.

Daily Cycle of Living

In summer, with 24 hour daylight, adults are often up morning through evening, while children and youth are often awake evening through early morning. Some families will go berry picking up or down river at traditional sites.

In winter, the daily cycle of living revolves around school life. Men will often go hunting, sometimes just for the day, and sometimes they will spend the night at a camp up river. Due to difficulty of dressing in heavy outdoor clothing, indoor and outdoor activities are often grouped separately.

Yearly Cycle Living

The yearly cycle of living revolves around seasons: Freeze Up, Holiday Season / Winter Games, Spring hunting, Break Up, and Summer berry picking and fishing / drying. Since the high school has been built, basket ball games and other school events also draw the village together. Some summers, different churches have provided Vacation Bible School for children and youth.

Travel Safety

Travel safety by boat or snowmobile is important. Due to strong storms on the large lakes near Selawik during the boating season, and violent blizzards in winter coupled with monotonously repetitive lakes and rivers, it is easy to become disoriented without navigational aids. The village men have had an active trail committee which is responsible for marking snowmobile trails from Selawik to Kiana, Selawik to Noorvik and Kotzebue, and Selawik to Ambler. Hazards such as **overflow on top of ice** but under the snow, and **thin ice on certain rivers**, can catch the uninitiated or unwary person. It is important to consult with trustworthy and competent village men when planning to travel away from the village. They have much wisdom to share with anyone willing to listen. Know how to get back on the marked trail anytime you are out of sight of the village, especially if the snow is blowing, etc. Sometimes you can follow your tracks backward, but often they blow and drift over quickly.

Try to carry a dry pair of socks and waterproof snow packs if traveling away from the village more than a mile or two **(In sub-zero weather, it does not take wet feet long to freeze, and there is no way to get out of overflow without getting your feet wet .)**

Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Safety is another area of concern. The people of Selawik love children. Alcoholism is a serious problem in the village, more or less all the time, but more acutely at some times than others. Sexual abuse also happens, requiring parents of small children, both boys and girls, to be extra cautious. Drug abuse has come into Alaskan villages, and also presents some concern for unattended children.

Maintenance

Snowmachine Maintenance: Always carry a spare set of spark plugs when traveling in case a plug fouls. Also carry a spare drive belt which is in good condition, and know how to replace a broken belt. Make a habit of traveling with a well maintained machine, with a companion who also has a reliable machine when traveling away from the village. An exception might be made when traveling during a time when others are known to be traveling on the same trail behind you.

Propane Bottles: Propane is a highly explosive gas. Propane tank handling requires extra caution on several counts:

- **A full tank is under very high pressure. If something breaks off the nozzle/valve, the tank may turn into a missile, causing great damage or explosion.**
- **If the connection or valve leaks propane gas, explosion due to a spark or flame may surround the tank for many yards on every side. Recently, three men were badly burned when they damaged a propane bottle while moving it out of their**

boat. The escaping gas was ignited by a near-by campfire. Years ago, escaping propane from a bottle hooked to a gas clothes dryer exploded, burning down the girls' dorm at the Bristol Bay Mission School, and causing the death of a child.

- **Propane bottle thread fitting rotation is opposite (left-handed) from normal, and will not fit an oxygen bottle fitting (right-handed). Remember that to loosen a propane fitting, turn as if “tightening” it (to the right).**
- **After installing a new tank, ALWAYS check for leaks by placing dish detergent/water around threads.**
- **Safety rules dictate that propane tanks are always kept outdoors rather than inside a building. In the Arctic, this rule is often “bent” due to extremely cold/windy weather, which causes the propane tank to “run out of pressure” while there still is propane inside (below zero degrees F, propane does not liquefy readily, and as propane is used from the tank, internal pressure drops, causing an even greater temperature drop than ambient. If a tank is in use inside an enclosed building or hallway, double check for leaks as specified above, and remember that a distant pilot light is all that is needed to engulf an entire building in an instant inferno!!!**

Health:

The best health program is good health habits. Don't share germs. Keep things clean. Drink half of your pound weight in ounces of water every day. Keep skin clean and moist (use Vaseline on chapped hands) and keep hair clean. Eat a well balanced diet with some source of vitamin c daily, green and yellow vegetables, variety of fruits even canned or frozen or dried, apples, at least 4 servings of whole grains daily, 2-3 servings of protein beans, lentils, split peas, and a source of Vitamin D and calcium. Learn the native edible greens, enjoy the berries in season. Get outside for fresh air and sunlight as often as you can. Dress up well whenever you go out. Keep extremities warm. Get 8-9 hours of sleep at night, 10-12 hours for children. Get 20-30 min. of aerobic exercise at least 5 days a week. Have a good first aid kit with Neosporin antibiotic ointment, thermometer, Band-Aids, alcohol, cotton balls, Q tips, hydrogen peroxide, betadine, silvadene for burns, larger dressings and tape, ace wrap, tinactin, deep heat or Vicks, use a vaporizer for congestion or cough (if you don't have one, boil water on the stove or take a hot shower and spend time in the steamy bathroom) hot and cold baths help to keep the germ fighters active, use charcoal for infections and meat tenderizer for bee stings and bug bites. For vomiting do not eat until you are really hungry, keep drinking water until it can be tolerated. Then Jello or other clear liquids, broth, or juice. Follow this with the BRAT diet: banana, rice, applesauce, toast. For diarrhea after antibiotics take acidophilus or yogurt. For bad diarrhea use Imodium and if it continues see the health aid. Use Echinacea and Vitamin C or zinc at the first sign of a cold. Use hot compresses on chest and a hot foot bath for chest congestion.

Common Sense

Common sense is really not all that common. Common sense usually consists of accumulated wisdom from your mistakes and mistakes of other people that you have known. Common sense varies from culture to culture, and usually reflects wisdom commonly needed by that culture. Ask questions before attempting anything that might be risky.

History of the work in Selawik

The following are some of the workers who served in the village of Selawik, along with approximate dates. The first missionaries were the Merle Smith family during various years from 1930-1950. Glenn Murphy, now a retired dentist in Spokane, lived with his wife and family in Selawik from about 1957-60; John and Naomi Topkok 1962-1968; Mike and Carol Schwartz 1971; Jan Parker and Verla Newman for the summer of 1972; Wendell and Linda Downs 1972-74; Derris and Linda Krause, Richard and Mary Lynn Grizzell in the late 70s, Jim and Linda Kincaid 1980-85, Mark and Sharon Carr 1986, Ken and Michelle Nash 1987-88; Mark and Deanna Dekle 1988-89, Rudy Harnisch 1989-90; Bill Nevis 1994; Leon Ringering 1994-2001; Rick Binford 2002-2005.

During the Mission School days, students were flown from the villages by various pilots in small planes to Aleknagik, Alaska. Glenn Murphy adopted a boy from Mabel Berry, of Selawik. John Topkok floated the logs down the river and sawed them in the mill which the mission provided, to build the original church and house. Student nurses from WWC spent summers in villages for a number of years. Following the mission school era, the Alaska Student Mission program was instituted whereby college aged couples spent one or two years pastoring in a village. Later this was expanded to include other workers. Jim and Linda Kincaid built the present house and church. During the 1990's Roger and Diane Merrill attempted to develop a rehab project 10 miles away known as the Spud Farm, which eventually reverted back to the native corporation.

Church Discipline

A person working with the Selawik Church will find baptized members dating back to each era when missionaries were present. Often these members have become discouraged and have reverted back to their pre-Adventist lifestyles. There is no such thing as an "Ex-Adventist" in native thinking. The village as a whole, and members from other clans, may have actually "disowned" Adventist members so that they cannot ever "go back." Once a person has stepped across the line, they will always be an Adventist in the eyes of the village, whether good or bad. In this sense, it does no good to disfellowship them for aberrant behavior. It does do some good to visit them, pray with them, and encourage them.