



ALASKA CONFERENCE  
OF SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTISTS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

### CONFERENCE NEWS



**Pastor Ken Crawford**  
Conference President

*“Power will come from God to man in answer to the prayer of faith.”*

{4T 402}

#### YESTERDAY'S FIRE

Today I awoke before sunrise, went to an early meeting, discussed fundraising techniques, rushed to the office, fielded numerous phone calls, answered e-mails, sent memos, worked through a family crisis, skipped lunch, tried to give some counsel on the phone to a divorcee, then planned a quick and quiet supper with my wife. She wasn't able to make it due to her own late work, so I ate alone. I later drove to some meetings about 70 miles way, then came home to try and get some last minute conversations in from the answering machine that need to be returned today. The rest is added to my list for tomorrow. That sermon preparation time I had planned for today is also pushed to another day. There—the day is done, I kiss my neglected wife good night and fall asleep wondering what I had accomplished.

In the rush and chaos of our life, how do we sort out the important from the urgent? There are some things of infinite value that get neglected just because of the way we go through life.

This morning I think back to a few days last fall—a different day, a different setting. The day has the chill of autumn in the air and as I step outside, the low clouds tell of an approaching weather front. I gather in arm loads of stacked wood not far from the corner of the house and, after filling the wood box, proceed to build a fire against the chill. I carefully lay the kindling in the cold gray ashes of yesterday. Yesterday's flame only warms me for the present, not the future, and today I start again to rebuild my flame of warmth. The small fire crackles and spits as the wood catches and the cabin is filled with a pungent odor. Soon a clean, fresh warmth is seeping through the cabin dispelling the chill of the morning. To me, building a new fire is an act of pure magic that I never cease to marvel at.

Building a spiritual fire is also an act of pure magic and I realize the significance of rekindling my own inner flame, fresh, new and warm to the soul. I suddenly realize that I am the keeper of my own flame of spirituality. No one is going to step to the forefront to plan my priorities, to arrange my life or my schedule. No divine act of intervention, no Savior of my soul, is going to do what I must do myself. I am solely responsible for the act of reaching out for the heart of God. He waits with infinite patience for those moments when I rekindle the flame and stretch forth my hand to touch His. To rebuild a fresh fire on the ashes of yesterday is not a sacrifice or a burden; it is a ritual act of worship and is a thing of pure beauty. Today, in the midst of the urgent, I will be the keeper of my own flame.

Blessings, Ken Crawford

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE JANUARY 2009

After a morning of emphasis on prayer, the Executive Committee dealt with several reports for the last quarter of 2008 and several items of business. The bulk of the afternoon was spent planning the 2009 budget. Finishing the budget process so early in the year was a tribute to our excellent leadership in Treasury.

##### Financial Report

- The year ended with an increase in tithes of 1%. We have been blessed with a healthy tithe increase over the last three months. We would like to thank our membership for their faithfulness to God in their stewardship.
- We currently have two pastoral openings and one teacher opening.
- The Executive Committee voted to go from three meetings and one conference call to four meetings per year. Dates for 2009 are: January 11; March 8; July 14 and October 18.

Want to be added to the President's Report email list? Simply email us at [alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org](mailto:alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org)

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

### Shepherdess Retreat

Pastors' wives experienced a full weekend of bonding with guest speaker Janet Page. After a restful retreat in the Colony Inn in Palmer, Alaska, they felt blessed and rejuvenated.

### Pastors' Banquet

After a busy weekend and an all-day meeting with Executive Committee, pastors, wives and committee members were treated to a South Pacific Samoan cultural experience. Our annual Pastors' Banquet this year was put on by the Samoan Youth. Approximately 80+ youth, with the support of 25-30 adults, treated us to a cultural extravaganza. The food was overwhelming and delicious and the evening of traditional ceremonies, song and dance was designed to carry us from the -20 degree weather outside to the islands in the South Pacific.



### Pastors' Meetings

The new year started off with a leap into the world of prayer. More than 40 pastors, bi-vocational pastors, Bible workers, and some of their spouses met together at the conference office for a three-day intensive on prayer. Pastor Jerry and Janet Page led the seminar. Pastor Page is President of the Central California Conference and Janet leads the Prayer Ministry for the conference. In the last several years they have seen wonderful miracles in answer to prayer. One miracle was a tenfold yearly evangelism offering increase to over three million dollars per year. Their seminar helped launch our focus on prayer in every church. The series will be available on DVD as soon as it is edited.



### Elder Ramon Canals Helps Launch "Share the Hope"

Elder Canals is the Ministerial Director for Hispanic Ministries at NPUC. At our recent Pastors' Meeting he gave direction to help church leaders launch an evangelism initiative. This year has been designated as the North American Year of Evangelism. Every pastor is encouraged to conduct at least one public reaping series either in their home district or some place in the local conference. Visit <http://www.sharethehope2009.com/> for more information.

### Pastoral Searches

We are well along in our process of pastoral searches for both the Fairbanks and Palmer churches. The search assistance committees from each church have met and given consideration to several names. Now we are involved in referencing and interviews. Pray for a successful outcome and additions to our Alaska pastoral team.

### Togiak Missionary In Place

Dan Rothoff is a busy man. He is already involved in a number of Bible studies and preparing several folks for baptism. He is also working with Maranatha to complete the building exterior.

### Bible Worker in Tok

Don Lee has graciously accepted the role of Bible worker in the Tok church. He has been a lay leader there for a number of years and will continue to serve until a full-time pastor is found.



## RADIO STATION UPDATE

Our low power FM stations are a hit wherever they are placed. Judi Thompson from Dillingham has now placed several stations in the surrounding villages. The plan is to set up a toll free number as soon as possible for inquiries that are starting to come in.

Wasilla Church recently received full licensing and permits for a 10,000 watt AM station that will beam to all of Matanuska Valley and the Anchorage bowl. Thanks to the foresight of one of the church members in Wasilla, they already have purchased a strategic site to put up the 200-foot tower. In addition, 3ABN has received licensing for a TV satellite downlink that will reach the same footprint. Plans are underway to place the television receiver on the same tower. Wasilla is looking for a used 200-foot tower if you know of one.



## SOUL WINNING

### Dillingham

Dillingham Church will be hosting Brian and Denise Bechtold in February. They have been involved in our evangelism outreach placing low-power FM radio programming in the villages. Dillingham will host a country gospel concert as an introduction to the nightly series. Please remember them in prayer.

### Eagle River

I attended the church recently and it was full with several young couples attending from Ft. Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force Base. The church is currently doing a health seminar for the public. They have had encouraging attendance and the Lord is blessing their efforts.

### Hillside O'Malley

Pastor Donavon Kack reports that the Hillside-O'Malley church now has over 100 Bible studies going on in their prison ministry.

### Homer

What an exciting place to be as Homer Church has as many non-Adventists attending as they do members. The church is planning several exciting events over the next year including a 10-day "Power of the Cross" series with Pastor Donavon Kack.

### Northside

Pastor Kevin Miller reports that Northside Church is full every week with a number of new seekers attending regularly. The church is giving thought to going to two services to accommodate everyone. It is also developing a strong small group Bible study program with the youth and young adults.

### Palmer Church

Even without a pastor, Palmer Church launched its two month evangelistic reaping series. The initiative started with four weekend seminars each designed to draw a different audience:

- **Weekend One:** Dr. Art Chadwick, Scientist and Geology Professor at SWAU, presented "Why I'm Not An Evolutionist From One Who Should Be."
- **Weekend Two:** Dr. Larry Herr, Professor of Biblical studies at CUC (Canada), message was on archeological evidence that supports the Bible.
- **Weekend Three:** McMinnville, Oregon, Pastor Lynn Bryson's specialty is presentations on the fallacy of the Secret Rapture and the truth about the Second Coming and the Millennium.
- **Weekend Four:** Elder Steve Wolberg's series on the development of Spiritualism and Wicca in America and the truth about the Holy Spirit in the last days.

February will be a full-month evangelistic series, led by Don Barnt, Shaun Brinkman and Ken Crawford. Please pray for its success in reaching those who are open to digging for the truth. All presentations are available at <http://www.diggingforthetruth.org/>

## SHARE HIM SERIES

Northside Church is planning a Boot Camp Training session in the next month. Anyone wanting additional training for doing ShareHim presentations, please contact Nita Larsen at the conference office.

Doug and Lowana Blair spent last weekend in Bethel. They demonstrated the capabilities of ShareHim presentations and encouraged the church there to get involved in the ShareHim initiative. They had a wonderful time and the Bethel people were kind and gracious to them.

## SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Alaska's six Adventist schools have opened with a total enrollment of approximately 100. This is about the same as last year. Some schools have increased, while others have decreased. An informal survey of the North Pacific Union academies shows a bit of a drop in overall enrollments. Please keep our teachers in your prayers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February

- 1-28 Alaska Conference Prayer Month  
7-3/1 Palmer Church Series  
12-15 AMA Mini Camp Meeting (Dillingham)  
13-15 Educators' Weekend  
16 President's Day—Closed

### March

- 8 Executive Committee  
27-29 Native Ministries Mini Camp Meeting (Anch)  
AMA Mini Camp Meeting (Nome)

### April

- 3-4 AMA Mini Camp Meeting (Kotz-Gambell-Savoonga)  
10-12 AMA Mini Camp Meeting (Selawik)  
24-26 Women's Retreat  
26 K-10 Board of Education

For the complete 2009 calendar, visit [www.alaskaconference.org](http://www.alaskaconference.org)

## OFFERING SCHEDULE

### February

#### Family Life/Black History Month

- 7 Local Church Budget  
14 Adventist TV Ministries  
21 Local Church Budget  
*Health Ministries Sabbath*  
28 YES

### March

#### Women in the Church Month

- 7 Local Church Budget  
*Women's Day of Prayer*  
14 Adventist World Radio  
21 Local Church Budget  
*Disability Awareness Sabbath*  
28 YES

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