



ALASKA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

MARCH/APRIL 2009

CONFERENCE NEWS



Pastor Ken Crawford
Conference President

From the desk of the President *Updates to Pastors, Teachers and Elders* *March/April, 2009*

“In His wisdom, the Lord brings those who are seeking truth, in touch with fellow beings who know the truth. It is heaven’s plan that those who have received light shall impart it to those in darkness. {CS p8}

God of the Impossible

After 30 days in my new district I knew we were in trouble. The church had a beautiful facility that seated over 200 people and about 35 in attendance. The church was also behind on their mortgage, the fuel tank was empty and we had no money to fill it for the winter. Our tiny school in the basement needed to be heated. It comprised of Debbie, our teacher and three students, her younger sister and her two daughters. Debbie was working for free to keep the school open.

There are times when there is nothing else to carry you but naked faith in Divine Providence, so we began to pray. Every day at noon the elders came from work and gathered in my little office to beseech the Lord of the Harvest for answers we didn’t have. As the first snows of November came, we pleaded with God for a miracle. Then one day, Tony, our Head Elder, stated emphatically. “This is not right; we may be in tough straights but there are many in our town who are struggling more than us. I really feel that we need to offer something more for them.” After discussion and planning it was felt that we should ask the church members to bring food and old clothes every week, and we would begin to help those in need by starting a small clothing distribution room. We designated an unused room in the basement and advertised in the local free weekly paper that we were offering service every Thursday morning. An amazing thing happened. People began to come and soon several members were involved in sorting cloths and arranging hampers of food.

I still don’t know how it happened but we were able to get through the winter. Our school began to grow and another church member decided to open a daycare in another room in the basement of the church.

By spring our little community service center had outgrown the basement. Every Thursday morning there was a lineup of people down the stairs waiting access to the food and clothing bank.

It was the first of May, as I recall, when we decided to step out in faith again and test the Lord. Early on a Sunday morning, every able bodied member met at the church and together we drove to Harvey Station. Elwood Graham was a lumberman and he had a number of logs at his mill that he donated to our project if we would be willing to saw them ourselves.

So a group of novice lumberjacks spent the day at Elwood’s mill, sawing logs into lumber. By the end of the day, we loaded those rough cut planks and timber onto trailers, pickups and even on roof racks of a car and headed back to town.

That evening we laid the lumber out on the pavement in the form of a building 24 ft. by 40 ft. Then, together we fell on our knees inside the square and prayed. “God of the Impossible, we have done all that we can, now it’s your turn. We have no idea how to continue, but you do. Please multiply our humble efforts and grow a community service center for us.

It was our annual ingathering time and as a pastor, I was scheduled to make the rounds of businesses to solicit donations for our community service work. There had been little work to solicit for, but now I was inspired. The first stop was a large lumber mill not far from my house. As I explained to the owner our need for a building, he said. “I will donate all the lumber you need, just make up a materials list and fax it to me.”



God of the Impossible

Alaska Conference
Camp Meeting 2009
July 14—18



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

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Excited, I stopped at a local building store and told the owner what the lumber mill had offered. They donated insulation and sheetrock. Another company donated the trusses and the shingles. As winter progressed, we were able to complete each phase with the right amount of material, just when it was needed. There was never abundance, nor were we ever short so that the work had to stop. Tony volunteered his time that first winter to oversee the project and within six months, we had a completed building sitting in our parking lot, all donated materials. It was a celebration to see how God had worked miracle after miracle. Our school and day care had grown to the place where when we moved out of the church, they were ready to occupy the space that was vacated.

Since then, God has grown that prayer food bank to the place where, from its 6,000 sq. ft. facility, it supplies the whole region. It distributes over 700,000 pounds of food and 250,000 articles of clothing each year. Its annual budget is in excess of 1.3 million dollars. God is truly **God of the Impossible**.

Executive Committee Highlights

Education Superintendant/Youth Director invited:

Alaska Conference Executive Committee has voted to invite Laurie Hosey to fill the position vacated by John Kriegelstein. Laurie is currently principal of Harrison Academy in Pendleton, Oregon. She and her husband have a number of years experience here in Alaska, as they run our summer camp program.

Amazing Grace Academy (Palmer):

Palmer school board has invited Dane Bailey to become their new principal. Dane and his wife and children have accepted and will be relocating to Palmer this summer. Dane can be reached at: danecerise@hotmail.com

Anchorage Junior Academy:

Principal Ruth Farnsworth has submitted her notice to retire at the end of this school year. The Anchorage school board has asked Boyde Hosey to consider the principal's position beginning in September of 2009. Boyd can be reached at boyde@hosey.com

Sitka Adventist School:

Ruth Millard is retiring at the end of the school year and Sitka school board has invited Nickie Linder to teach there next year. They are awaiting her answer.

Pastoral Openings

Palmer Anticipates the Arrival of Their New Pastor:

Palmer church extended a call to Pastor Aaron Payne. He and his wife, Peggy have accepted and are excited to be moving to Alaska. Aaron is currently Youth and Preaching Pastor for the Meadow Glade Adventist Church. He has been there since 2003.

Aaron, Peggy and their two small boys plan to be relocated here by the beginning of June. He will be a blessing to the Palmer Church and a real asset to the Alaska Conference. Why not send him an email and welcome him to Alaska? payaaron@gmail.com

Juneau/Sitka District:

Pastor Gary Waterhouse announced to the Juneau and Sitka Churches that he will be retiring at the end of the August. We are starting a search for a pastor for Juneau and Sitka.

Alaska Women's Ministry Retreat: Is scheduled for April 24-26 in Anchorage. For more information on this special weekend, Please email Nita Larsen at: Nita.Larson@ac.npuc.org

Soul Winning

Wrangell Church: Pastor Kevin Miller conducted a weekend revival in Wrangell, one visitor stated that it was a spiritually transformational weekend for her.

Homer church is now conducting a 10 day revival series with Pastor Donovan Kack. Please keep them in your prayers.

Dillingham church has started its spring Evangelistic series with Pastor Brian Bechtold. Please keep them in your prayers as well.

Share Him Series:

We have a number of churches requesting Share-Him training. Northside church is planning a Boot Camp Training session in the next month so if you wish to receive additional training for doing Share-Him presentations please contact Nita at the conference office.

Radio Station updates:

Juneau Church radio application has been tied up in competition with another applicant. We were told by the attorney that they had little chance of receiving a full license, and it would cost \$25-30 thousand dollars to buy out the competing party.

Then last Friday, March 27, an FCC license showed up in the mail at the church. Members acknowledge that it was a heaven-sent miracle. Juneau can now proceed with the purchase of a 100 foot tower to place on the school property. They will be able to beam 10,000 FM watts to all of Juneau and Douglas island.

Wasilla Church recently received full licensing and permits for a 10,000 watt AM station that will beam to all of Matanuska Valley and Anchorage bowl. Thanks to the foresight of one of the church members of Wasilla, they have already purchased a strategic site to put up the 200 foot tower. In addition, **3ABN** has received licensing for a satellite downlink for TV that will reach the same footprint. Plans are underway to place the receiver for TV on a 100 ft. tower that will be at the church. Wasilla is looking for a used 200 ft. tower if you know of one.

Health Ministries:

Dr. Butch Palmero is our new coordinator for Health Ministries in Alaska and can be reached here at the conference office.

He has been preparing a new website as an outreach tool: www.alyeskahealthquest.org or <http://alyeskahealthquest.org/default.aspx> offering service and health advocacy.

Dr. Palmero noted:

"As the page develops we hope to function as a "junction station" from where you can proceed to other health websites that highlight activities of our different partners. Soon a links page will be operational and health and wholeness resources will be at your point and click. We do have fairly strict requirements for those to whom we link, in an effort to maintain a scientifically-supported, balanced approach. We also wish to be a reference base for those who would like to learn more about Adventist health beliefs. Our philosophy in this web page is to make available information that is useful to you and helpful in your lifestyle. We believe in a "ministry of healing" by which we can be more nearly made whole. Our concept of "whole" involves "the whole person": spiritual, physical, mental and social — as we cannot exist in isolation."

To all Churches using NetAdventist websites:

Your current version (netAdventist V2) will be need to be upgraded to (netAdventist V3) effective May 1, 2009. There are transition guides and tutorials available at <http://www.netaserve.com> and <http://www.adventistnw.org>.

Note: Your church will be charged by the Union thru the Conference. A monthly fee will be charged, it is not free anymore!

However, there's another option, If your church has a tight budget for this web ministry, you can join a free service provided by the NAD:

www.adventistchurchconnect.com

If you would like more information follow these links:

<http://www.adventistchurchconnect.com/article.php?id=58>

<http://www.adventistchurchconnect.com/article.php?id=59>

<http://www.adventistchurchconnect.com/article.php?id=57>

<http://www.adventistchurchconnect.com/article.php?id=3>

Conference Blessings From Our Treasurer, Sharon Staddon

As we look back over the past year our hearts overflow in praise to God from whom all blessings flow! Over-all (which includes our operating and plant funds) we had a net increase of just over \$303,000! At the very time we were laying plans for expanding our outreach through Bible workers and radio ministry, the Lord began providing the funds! Are you eager to participate with God?

God commissions us to *Share the Light!* Contribute to the Capital Campaign, and your donation will do just that—through Evangelism, Bible workers, Bibleinfo.com, Arctic Mission Adventure and increasing the Education Endowment. *God-centered living leads to God-centered giving!*

Blessings to all, Ken Crawford

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

May

- 7-11 SE Alaska Admin. Tour
- 22-24 AKC Family Bike Trip
- 25 Office Closed: Memorial Day

June

- 19-21 Interior Camp Mtg. Harding Lake
- 28-7/5 Alaska Camps Begin (Camp Tuk- Juniors)

OFFERING SCHEDULE

April

Stewardship Month

- 4 Local Church Budget
- 11 Christian Record Services Stewardship Sabbath
- 18 Local Church Budget Literature Evangelism Sabbath
- 25 YES Education Sabbath

May

Community Services Month

- 2 Local Church Budget Community Services Sabbath
- 9 Disaster & Famine Relief Youth Sabbath
- 16 Local Church Budget
- 23 YES
- 30 Spring Mission Appeal

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