



Our Mission

Our Lord commissioned His people to make disciples of all nations. Arctic Mission Adventure has been designed to help implement that discipling, especially of Alaska native peoples of Northern and Northwestern Alaska.

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WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

Warren Downs, Selawik AMA Volunteer

Reflecting on what we have accomplished in the last year here in Selawik, I decided to review the pictures we have taken in the last 12 months. Here are five representative pictures:



The story in pictures...

I helped fight three fires last year; two house fires and the Friends (Quakers) church fire. Unfortunately, all three structures were burned to the ground, and one of the house fires resulted in a death.

I believe we had 15 kids in our house this day, packed into our 10x10 living room.

We decided we needed a more structured way to share Jesus with the kids, and something we could do on days other than Sabbath. We settled on starting an Adventurers' club.

We added Pathfinders a few weeks later. Here, we are making candles from old crayons. However, we ended up having some of the same kids attend both club meetings.



What the pictures don't tell...

As I reflect on these pictures, I realize that there are many stories that the pictures don't tell. They don't reveal the many new adult friendships we began in 2008. They don't show the Bibles, Steps to Jesus, and other sharing books we gave away. They don't tell about the people who have begun to find Jesus as their friend. One young man in particular decided to stop drinking and smoking, and has kept his promise for the last six months, against peer pressure. He has begun reading the Bible and enjoys sharing Steps to Jesus with his mom.

Some of the challenges we have faced have led us to do a lot of searching for the best ways to reach people. Getting children to attend our Sabbath School is relatively easy, but the challenges we've faced include: 1) Different children coming each week, so we can't use a consistent set of lessons without kids missing out on portions. 2) Discipline is hard to enforce when we have more than 5 kids or so (with three of our own in addition). At one point, when we had about 30 kids, we had some kids beating up on others and parents blaming us for the riot that ensued. Due to these issues, we have had to stop trying to get a large attendance, and focus on a few at a time. In addition, we did not want to make Sabbath a marathon for ourselves, trying to manage church, Sabbath school, and visitation, all by ourselves.

To help offload some of the Sabbath School teaching, we added Adventurers and Pathfinders for a while, (though we are not operating them at this time). We will probably have them again when we have passed the holiday season. We have found that the kids enjoy the music DVD from our Castles and Crowns VBS, and we wish we had many more like it to work with, for our song service. We can actually get participation using it.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR ALASKA VILLAGE RADIO STATIONS

Judi Thompson– Dillingham Teacher

Volunteers can be used in a number of areas, for example:

1. Coordinating other volunteers' efforts.
2. Researching contact people for a village (e.g. village or council leaders, or people who've had previous contact with other members, or taken Bible studies, etc.) I have leads to follow up but not enough time to pursue it all, so someone could definitely help here.
3. For each village we target, develop a "best approach" to outreach in that village, whether it be VBS, health education, Bible studies, radio station, music ministry, or some other outreach or ministry we haven't considered.
4. Provide or assist with travel to a village, but optimizing to save money when possible (e.g. combine trips to multiple villages, etc.). This could include anything from donating money/miles to being a pilot or providing an airplane, or finding pilots or airplanes that are available for the job (s). One person I know even has free travel with their past National Guard experience, depending on availability.
5. Actual assistance with one of the outreaches determined in No. 3 above.

Once we have contacts in a village, we can work to get a radio station there to keep spreading the gospel even when we are not available. By using low-power transmitters we can avoid the requirement for an FCC license. Most villages are small enough that even a low-power transmitter can reach

most or all of the village. The cost of each station is under \$500, but there are ongoing costs of time and/or money.

Stations can receive programming in a number of ways:

1. Yearly mailing of audio files (very outdated but may be "good enough" once we have a year's worth of 3ABN Radio recorded).
2. Monthly or bi-weekly mailing of audio files. This will be more labor intensive for both volunteer support person in Anchorage area, and village station host. But it would be more up to date.
3. Internet delivery of audio. This would be the nicest option but the monthly cost of Internet would have to be included.

In any case, we'll need volunteers to either donate money for Internet streaming or to physically mail audio files e.g. on flash drives.



Gavin & Judi Thompson of Dillingham stands next to a radio unit

ANSWERING THE SABBATH CALL

Ed Dunn, AMA Coordinator



Bill and Elouise Hawkes were attending Carolina Conference camp meeting at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina where they responded to an appeal to be missionaries. Every evening they listened to the Alaska Conference President Elder Ken Crawford give a continued story of mission experiences in bush Alaska, especially about Savoonga. Their hearts were touched when they heard about the needs of the Yup'ik people of

Savoonga on St Lawrence Island doing their best to cope with their village's high rate of teen suicide. After Elder Crawford's third presentation during that camp meeting, the Hawkes volunteered to move to Savoonga to work with the village leaders to develop a Suicide Prevention Program.

Bill and Elouise drove from Durham, NC 4,780 miles through ice and snow to Anchorage where they acclimated in preparation to flying on to Savoonga just 55 miles from the mainland of Russia. They are both nurses with many years of valuable medical experience caring for people of varied cultures. While they waited in Anchorage they took specialized training in depression recovery and represented Adventist Community Services, helping at the local homeless shelter serving evening meals.

February 16, 2009 Bill and Elouise landed in their new home Savoonga and were greeted by their new church family and village members. Please pray for them as they serve the Lord and the people of Savoonga.



BIBLE WORKERS IN BETHEL

Ed Dunn

Doug and Lowana have chosen to respond to the Savior's call to be missionaries to Bethel. They presently attend the Northside Church and have worked in Anchorage for many years. Doug as an estimator for a large heating company and Lowana is an active massage therapist. Doug will be retiring from his company in August and directly after that they will be leaving on their mission to Bethel.



In Bethel, Doug will be the Bible Worker, under the direction of the district pastor, Pastor Edson Joseph. The Blairs are experienced workers; they have done ShareHim series in Texas as well as in Anchorage, worked with the Gospel Mission, assisted in prison ministry and they are now planning to open a homeless shelter in Bethel.

Needless to say, the church members in Bethel are excited about this new Arctic Mission Adventure. Pray for the church and the Blairs as they make this transition.

MISSIONARY IN TOGIAK

Ken Crawford



Wrangler, Guide, pilot, octogenarian and front line Missionary. Dan Rotthoff has joined our Alaska Mission adventure team as a Bible worker in the Native Village of Togiak.

Three years ago, the Alaska Conference stepped out in faith and when someone offered to donate the money to build a new Church and Parsonage in this village situated on the banks of the Bering Sea, the conference responded and ordered the materials. To get materials to this remote village was costly. The materials cost over sixty thousand dollars and the shipping was even more. Shortly after the materials arrived, the donor, called and notified us that he was unable to meet the donation obligation. It was voted to ask Maranatha to come and proceed on faith anyway. Then as the work progressed and we started praying for a worker, God sent us a most unlikely one. Yet Dan has made remarkable inroads into the village since his move there last fall. The Sabbath School and church services has grown and Dan has a number of Bible Studies in the village. Every week or so, there is a Phone call from Dan to Ed Dunn, director of the Alaska native work. "I need more Bible Studies, or I need Baptismal certificates. Things are moving here.

We welcome Dan to the Alaska Team and pray for his continued success.

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE CONT

In March, we borrowed the school gym on Friday afternoon to hold a health expo. While it was intended to reach adults and older kids, we had no adults (save the teachers who brought their classes), and many younger kids. It was a learning experience, but also helped to build a working relationship with the principal and teachers of the school. In addition to the kids program, Darlene Heckler (an Adventist native from Selawik, who is a new member of the O'Malley Church) shared "The Power of the Cross Revealed" seminar. While attendance started at less than 20 and went down from there, the seminar was a healing time for Darlene and her past in Selawik, as well as helping to build some bridges with those who attended.

In August, another major event was the production of Castles and Crowns Vacation Bible School with the aid of a team from the Palmer and Wasilla churches. We were able to borrow the school gym again and had upwards of 60 kids on the opening day. With an average attendance of over 40 kids per day, we were blessed with assistance from some of the new incoming teachers.

Another ongoing service which helps to connect us with Selawik adults has fallen in our lap, so to speak. I have become an assistant to people in dealing with the Internet, taxes, paying bills, mail-order purchases, and other similar services. This has helped to build trust with those who have come for assistance and we pray that it will lead to trust in Spiritual matters as well, when we have the opportunity to share spiritual things.

One of the "silent witnesses" we have employed is a low-power FM radio transmitter. Operating legally unlicensed, it barely covers the village. However, an idea has begun to grow: We would like to set up similar radio stations in every Alaska village. Every station costs less than \$500 to set up, and has a low ongoing cost (electricity plus Internet if we use 3ABN radio over the Internet). I have been using my computer programming skills to program recording and playback computer software to download and play the correct audio files automatically. For villages not having Internet, we hope to find volunteers willing to regularly mail files to the station operator in each village as well as people willing to host the stations in each village. Following, I've included my brainstorm for needed volunteers. They do not have to live in Alaska to participate in many of the areas (even including doing research to find village leadership, etc.)

Pray that the Lord of the harvest will **throw** workers into his vineyard!

Arctic Mission Adventure

Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
6100 O'Malley Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Sharing the Light till the Lights Go Out!

Our Goal

To see the Seventh-day Adventist Church in villages such as Ambler, Bethel, Gambell, Savoonga, Selawik, Shungnak and Togiak grow into dynamic, vibrant spiritual centers is our goal. Most of these villages have an Adventist church and parsonage and our goal is to have each one filled with enthusiastic worshippers and workers.

Our Objectives

- *Develop and mentor native Alaskan leadership by forming a steering committee*
- *Recruit, train and sustain a group of AMA workers*
- *Promote Arctic Mission Adventure to the Alaska Conference, NPUC and NAD*
- *Sustain the AMA program as a permanent program in the Alaska Conference*
- *Expand AMA village coverage*
- *Recruit groups to do mission trips to AMA territory*

AMA TARGET VILLAGES

The AMA initiative encompasses seven villages in Alaska:

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

God has led individuals to serve in the communities of Savoonga & Selawik, but there is so much more work to be done!

With over 175 remote villages throughout Alaska, the need is great. Wouldn't it be a blessing to have an AMA volunteer and radio station in every village!

To learn more about AMA volunteer opportunities, visit www.alaskaconference.org. For more information on village life, http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.htm

