



**ALASKA CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-
DAY ADVENTISTS**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2010

ALASKA CONFERENCE AIM

"To Be the Lights When The Lights Go Out!"



**Pastor Ken Crawford
Conference President**

Dear Pastors, Teachers and Elders,

I would like to share some of my priorities for the next year. It is hard to write my thoughts without sounding preachy, but I have never felt so strongly about this as now.

Just about every segment of the daily news is a jolt of reality as to the world we live in. I believe we are going to see all the prophecies of Revelation unfolding before our eyes. Revelation 7:1-3 says that the four angels are holding back the winds of strife that will destroy the world. We are seeing those winds of strife being released now. Soon, the world as we know it will be gone, replaced by a new regime that will be foreign to the freedom we now know. It is at that time that we will be called to share our faith in ways that we have not been doing now.

I shared with the Executive Committee and the pastors that it is my observation that as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we are living on a substandard level of spirituality than is the norm for Christians. As you read the history of both apostolic times and the beginning of this church, you quickly see what I mean. The pervasive priority of these two groups was their commitment to deep spirituality and to prayer.

Isaiah 8:6 states that the people of God refused: "the waters of Shiloh that flow softly." They refused the waters of grace that flowed out of heaven and would have filled their lives.

I guess this is my call to you, as leaders, to a deeper spirituality and prayer life. You are the spiritual influencers in your community and classroom and it is not a time to live on a substandard level of spirituality. I feel the need to grow into maturity in my walk with God. We are a spiritual organization. The business in which we are engaged is the spiritual business of touching the lives on heaven's behalf.

If I, or anyone here in the office can be of help to you in your journey to the heart of God, don't hesitate to ask. We are on this journey together.

Blessings,
Pastor Ken

CONFERENCE EDUCATION SUMMIT, FEB 12-13, 2010

An exciting weekend was held for the conference on the transmission of spiritual values of parents to children. Elder Mark Witas held adults and children alike spellbound with his humor, exciting stories and illustrations. Sabbath afternoon offered breakout sessions on home schooling, Cognitive Genesis and shepherding our children. Musician Janice Renck provided music throughout the event.



**Pastor Mark Witas
Keynote Speaker**



Home Schooling Session

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

COMBINED PASTORS & TEACHERS MEETING

As soon as the Education Summit finished, pastors and teachers spent the day on Sunday, February 14, 2010, discussing the potential of clearer lines of mutual support and envisioning ways to win our children's hearts to Jesus. After this combined meeting, the teachers and pastors held their specialized, profession-specific meetings focusing on goals for 2010. Notes from the meeting are included in this report.



PALMER CHURCH LAUNCHES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO RETIRE DEBT



The Palmer church has recently launched a major capital campaign to retire their debt of \$550,000. Under Pastor Aaron Payne's initiative, the campaign started with a persuasive Sabbath sermon by Dr. Harold Smith from Andrews University. Dr. Smith is a former pastor of the Palmer Church and was instrumental in building the old school and gymnasium at the campground. Sunday night, February 21, the church rented the banquet room at the Palmer Railway Station and started the campaign with a kick-off banquet where more than \$300,000 was raised at that time.

BETHEL EVANGELISTIC SERIES

Evangelists Brian & Denise Bechtold conducted a series of meeting in Bethel in the early part of February and as a result 15 people were baptized! Several others expressed interest and currently studying with Bible workers Lowana & Doug Blair. One couple who, who had lived together for 24 years and have eight children, decided to join in marriage the Friday before their Sabbath baptism. At the time of their baptism, one of their children made the decision to be baptized as well. In addition, Conference Prayer Coordinator Joan Tobuk has two people from the meetings enrolled in Native New Day Bible lessons. The work in Bethel is increasing exponentially with the Blairs now living in Bethel and the recent Bechtold meetings. Praise God!



Brian & Denise with new baptized members



Brian Bechtold & Yupik Translator Mary Boan

2010 SOUTHCENTRAL CAMP MEETING

Plans are being made for the 2010 Southcentral Camp Meeting, *The Safest Place on Earth*. Each year we strive to improve upon last year's program in both speakers and children's programming. This year our keynote speaker is Ty Gibson, Co-Director and Speaker with Light Bearers. Other speakers include Vicki Griffin on health, G. Edward Reid on stewardship, Paddy McCoy, Young Adults, and Dr. Lowell Cooper, Vice President of the General Conference, as the featured Sabbath Speaker.

I bring this to your attention as we have several positions that need filling particularly in the children's department. If you or your spouse has a desire to work in any of the divisions as a leader, assistant or musician, please let us know. We welcome any and all assistance!

TEACHER TRANSITIONS

Anchorage Junior Academy: Erwin and Ruth DeGraff have accepted the position of interim teacher and Principal for Anchorage Junior Academy for the rest of this school year.



Edwin & Ruth de Graff

DID YOU KNOW...

Haiti relief donations qualify for immediate tax relief? People who give to charities providing earthquake relief in Haiti can claim these donations on the tax return they are completing this season, [according to the Internal Revenue Service](#). Taxpayers who itemize deductions on their 2009 return qualify for this special tax relief provision, enacted Jan. 22. Only cash contributions made to these charities after Jan. 11, 2010, and before March 1, 2010, are eligible. This includes contributions made by text message, check, credit card or debit card. The new law only applies to cash (as opposed to property) contributions. The contributions must be made specifically for the relief of victims in areas affected by the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. Taxpayers have the option of deducting these contributions on either their 2009 or 2010 returns, but not both.

SHARE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR CHURCH

We are always “on the look out” for activities happening in your church community. If you have a story of interest, meetings, special events, etc., please send us a brief paragraph and photos. We’d be happy to feature it in the newsletter, the website or even the Gleaner (150-200 words please)! Let’s let the world know how we’re *being the light when the lights go out* here in Alaska!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

10-28 Peru Mission Trip

April

2-4 Women’s Retreat
 16-18 Mini Camp Meeting: Nome
 19-23 Mini Camp Meeting:
 Gambell & Savoonga
 24-25 Native Camp Meeting:
 Anchorage
 tba K-10 Board of Education

May

6-10 Southeast Camp Meeting
 31 Office Closed: Memorial Day
 31-6/5 Family Ministries Leadership
 Colloquium

June

18-20 Interior Camp Meeting @
 Harding Lake
 23-7/3 59th GC Session, Atlanta
 27-7/4 Camp Tuk (Juniors)

PLAN AHEAD

21-23 Fall Pastors Meetings
 24-26 Alaska Youth Summit

For the complete 2010 calendar, visit www.alaskaconference.org

OFFERING SCHEDULE

March

Women in the Church Month
 6 Local Church Budget
 13 Adventist World Radio
 20 Local Church Budget
 27 YES—Alaska’s Youth, Education, Schools & Churches

April

Stewardship Month
 3 Local Church Budget
 10 Christian Record Service
 17 Local Church Budget
 24 YES



Faith Ministries Leadership Colloquium

May 31- June 5, 2010, Anchorage, Alaska

Anchorage Junior Academy Gym
 5511 O’Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507

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| Church Leadership | Sung Kwon |
| Elder Care | Marilyn Renk |
| Disaster Relief Ministry | Joe Watts |
| Youth Ministries | James Black |
| Women’s Ministries | Carol Baker |
| Children’s Ministries | Phyllis Washington |
| Crisis Care Intervention | Martin Feldbush |
| Family Ministries* | Willie Oliver |

Leadership Registration: \$50.00 payable at door (lunch provided)
 Full-day Marriage Retreat begins Friday Evening at the Palmer SDA Church.
 Registration is \$20.00

QUESTIONS?? Email: alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org or phone 907.346.1004

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6100 O’Malley Road
 Anchorage, AK 99507
 Phone: 907.346.1004
 Fax: 907.346.3279
 Email: alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org
 Web: www.alaskaconference.org

Pastor-Teacher's Meetings
Combined Meeting February 14, 2010

SESSION 1: Analysis on Growing Spiritual Children—Groups combined results

- a) *What makes children turn into solid spiritual adults?*
- b) *Prioritize five things that influence the spiritual value of children.*
- c) *Who contributes to their growth spiritually? How can you enhance that?*
- d) *How can a church and school collaborate to facilitate that?*

A. Solid Spiritual Family

- Experience and opportunity to apply spiritual values
- Solid church foundation
- Bringing others to Christ, connection personally to Jesus-God
- Reinforcement of beliefs—school, youth group, church

B. Role Models

- Media
- Role Models
- Peers
- Involvement in spiritual activities
- Things that are taught—home and school
- Consistency of role models

C. Opportunities

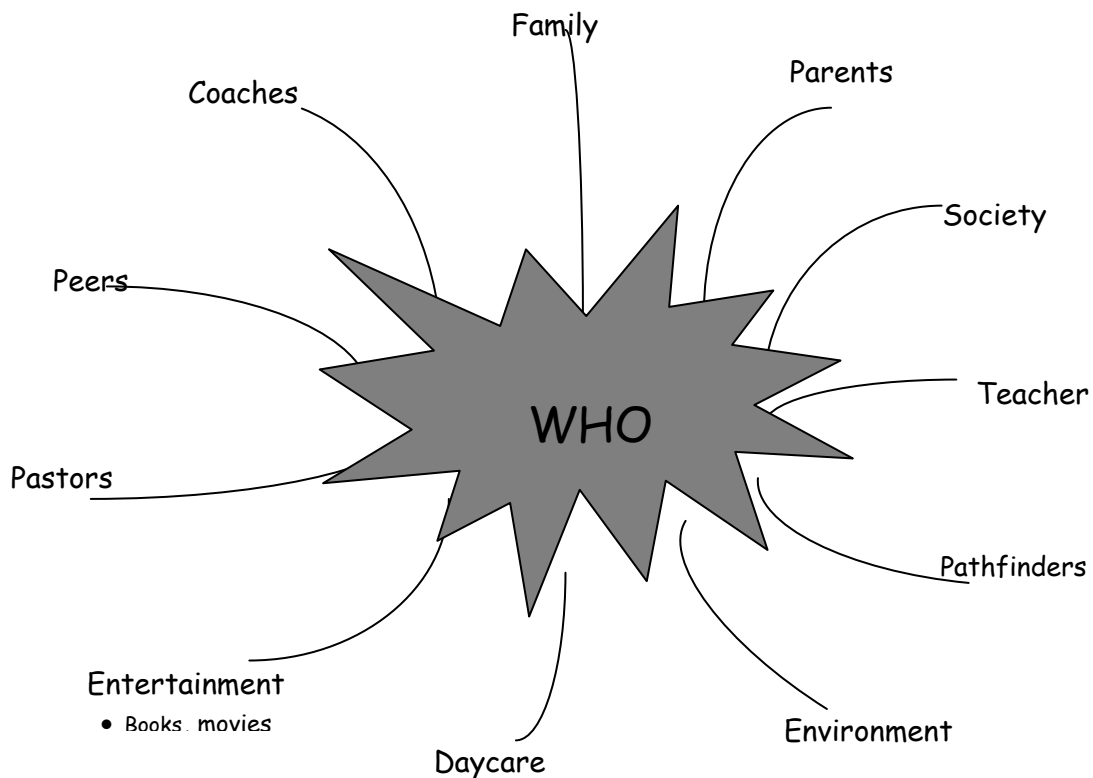
- Peers
- Media
- Parents
- Teachers
- Role models
- Pastors
- Provide kids with training to witness
- Activities for outreach

D. Church

- Provide volunteers and ideas (AND vice-versa)
- Key positions on each board so they can be aligned
- Church members to coordinate activities
- Strong Home & School
- Parental involvement
- Prayer by pastors and churches
- Combined pastoral/teacher soul-winning view
- On-going communication
- Prayer partner family? Visit, etc.

SESSION 1: Analysis on Growing Spiritual Children—Groups combined results

- a) What makes children turn into solid spiritual adults?
- b) Prioritize five things that influence the spiritual value of children.
- Having a spiritual upbringing/spiritual environmental
 - Mission and church involvement—learn by doing
 - Teaching children to make choices
 - Modeling spiritual activities
 - Personal relationships with the Lord
-
- Bible-based moral values
 - Spiritually based discipline
 - Meaningful relationships and role models with teachers, other adults and peers
 - Practice what you preach
 - Creating a God-loving environment
- c) Who contributes to their growth spiritually? How can you enhance that?



How can you enhance that?

- a) Control ratio b) prayer c) teach children to be active in making choices.

d) How can a church and school collaborate to facilitate that?

- Teachers and pastors form relationship; socializing with each other
- School involvement in church (visibility) and vice-versa
- Children are essential part of church family
- Pastor knows students at the school
- Pastor is present often at school to interact with staff and students

SESSION 2: Planning for Growing Spiritual Children

- a) How does my church evangelize children? How is it working?
 - b) Analyze your church in terms of its success in educating children for eternity. Discuss strengths, weaknesses, and challenges.
 - c) How does homeschooling fit into your church and/or school plan?
 - d) Discuss the relationship between pastor and teacher in evangelizing children.
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a) Family Decision

- Youth Program/Sabbath School
- Church school
- Baptismal Class

b) SWOT

Strengths

- School spirituality
- Music at school
- Strong Sabbath School

Weaknesses

- Facility
- Nothing pre-/post elementary
- Remoteness

Challenges

- Maintain focus
- Finding adequate programs

- c) Invite to school activities
Strong (Alaska support)
Unfortunate competition

- d) Cooperation
Have a plan

SESSION 3: Commitment to Growing Spiritual Children

- a) What would a vibrant team approach to church and/or school ministry look like?
 - b) How can you build that in your situation?
 - c) Teachers: *"Here's what I need from you, Pastor."*
 - d) Pastors: *"Here's what I need from you, Teacher."*
-

Response A

- a) Plan, plan, plan
- b) Through:
 - Social and spiritual events for children and community action
 - Encourage children discipleship
 - More communication
 - Master calendar, newsletter, better website
 - Increase visibility (sign, etc.), newspaper, Gleaner
 - Training church officers
- c) Through:
 - Involvement in class, recess, P.E.
 - Learn names
 - Promotion of school in church
- d) Through:
 - Involvement in church activities
 - Promotion of church

Response B

- a) Regular Meetings
 - Staff meetings (regular and planning)
 - Quarterly meetings between pastors and teachers
 - Students observes participation in leadership process
 - Pastor's involvement/presence at/in school
 - Students presence/involvement in church
- b) Socializing to develop relationships, unity
 - Inclusive of church elders and board members
 - Synchronizing calendars
 - Synchronizing mission/outreaches
 - Intentionality
- c) Good Communication
 - Supportive
 - Present/participatory in school/relational/personnel
 - Spiritual leadership
 - Availability of pastor in parent-teacher conferences
 - Willingness to allow more participation in church service
 - Emphasis from pulpit

- d) Teacher involvement in church
- Reciprocal relationships
 - Make church part of school
 - Unified worship
 - Teachers going with pastors on new member visitations

HOW CAN WE BRANCH OUT TO MORE OF THE CHILDREN IN THE ARCTIC?

- a) Summer Camp—include kids from other areas
- VBS (volunteers)
 - Resident worker (teams) to run children ministries
 - Bethel: Friday night vespers, Saturday night movie, popcorn
 - Selawik: open door
 - Dillingham: School, Pathfinders, summer camp (children's church)
- b) We lose them in 9th grade
- c) Church members involved in planning Com service
- Soul winning plan. School—Pastor—Conference
 - Baptismal/Bible Class
 - Get pastors involved in public schools too
 - Joint pastors' breakfast before school starts
- d) Programs in church. Potluck Sabbaths

Meeting Notes from Pastor's Meeting
Monday, February 15, 2010

Thoughts and ideas for a conference-wide emphasis on Prayer:

Involve Youth Leadership

Annual Week of Prayer emphasis

Prayer Retreat for leaders

Revive or grow a dynamic Prayer Meeting

Praise Sabbaths – Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come. Record of God's Leading
Conference Day of Fasting and Prayer

Emphasis for Schools:

Be more Mission driven

A conference Long-term plan for a 12 grade school.

Policy changes

Thoughts and ideas on Pastoral Support for our schools and children's divisions

Chain of command: – How can we as Pastor's be more involved in shepherding the spiritual growth of our schools and the spirituality of children

Clarify expectations from teachers: Have a conversation on how we can better support the schools and children's departments.

School functions- We as Pastors should be attending all school and church functions.

Priority of budget-

Interactions at teachers