



Alyeskan

News & Views
for Alaska's Seventh-day Adventists
Issue 1, 2010

Prayer and the Cross



Mike Maxwell, member of the Hillside O'Malley Church, is a retired dentist and recently had his first opportunity to present his story to the Hillside-O'Malley church family. An excerpt from his message is our featured story.

Did you ever get the feeling that you were going to give up and walk away from God? Well, let me ask you, if you walked away, where would you go? Jesus said to His disciples once, "Are you going to walk away also?" And the disciples answered, "Master, you have the words of life. Where would we go?" Maybe you stayed in a relationship with God, even though you felt hopelessly lost, yet hoping for something better to happen. That's the way I was, so let me share my story:

I was born to third and fourth generation Adventists who were active in the ministry, missionary work and the medical field. I grew up as a good Seventh-day Adventist, but my parents lived a "double life." There was a dark side that counteracted the bright side to my growing up years and even into my adulthood. This continued for many years. Then about 12-15 years ago, I attended a Holy Spirit Seminar at the Northside Church. At that seminar I learned that salvation is not an event, it's a lifetime experience. I accepted the challenge to seek the Lord's presence through prayer every day in a strong, determined way and I was never the same after that. I have learned that when we seek God diligently with a persevering desire to be in His presence, we will be rewarded.

Listen to what Mrs. White had to say about Jacob when everything was on the line:

"All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he (Jacob) did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God--how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God." Great Controversy p.621, Wrestling with God

I can tell you from experience, there was a love, joy and peace that comes over you like never before, when we take the time to spend on our knees before God. There's a real blessing there.

Even after this, though, there was still something missing. I was still living the cycle of sin and forgiveness that Paul Coneff, a recent speaker on prayer, talked about to us. I never felt challenged in the pew. I felt that we had the truth, but the power of the gospel was diluted. I am convinced that it is not enough to have the form of godliness, we must have the power. And so like Paul, my cry was always, "O wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death?" Enter the power of the cross.

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Alyeskan
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Be Careful What You Pray For

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 NIV

Colleen and I were having worship one morning when in our conversation, I expressed my longing for more Bible studies. You see, in administration it is often easy to get tunnel vision. I seem to spend so much of my time in dealing with conflict and crises within the church that I soon lose the ability to reach out.

In our prayer time, Colleen asked God for something strange. “Dear Lord,” Colleen prayed, “Please send us someone who is totally outside the church who is really searching. Someone we can lead to find what we have found.” “Oh yes, and send them soon.”



Ken & Colleen Crawford with “Dwayne & Marsha”

Later that same day at work I received a strange phone call. It went something like this.

Voice: Is this the seven days church?

Me: “Yes, the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”

Voice: “So Marsha and I want to study the Bible and I told her that you’re the only ones that got it right.”

Me: “Really! Now that’s refreshing. Have you had some contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church?”

Voice: “Yeah! This is Dwayne. I was raised on a homestead up in Hatcher Pass

and when I was a kid, my mom took us to church. My dad belonged to your church too. That was 50 years ago and Marsha and I decided it’s time to find God again. Marsha knows nothing about God and I know very little.”

Me: ‘Well Great, Dwayne. Let’s get together and start studying. We’ll see where the Lord leads.’”

Dwayne: “Okay! We are free tonight!!! Come by at 7:30 pm. Here’s the address.”

When we arrived at Dwayne and Marsha’s house, we found a delightful couple full of questions. The first thing they wanted to know was what kind of Bible should they get.

The next week they were equipped with two expensive study Bibles and ready to dig in.

After a few studies, Dwayne said, “Okay we are ready to go to church, aren’t we Marsha?” Marsha looked a little skeptical yet willing to go along.

The next Sabbath we picked them up and took them to the church closest to their home. As we stopped by to pick them up, Dwayne said, “We’re going to take our own rig. I have some business to do after we are done.”

They were delighted with the service and the friendly atmosphere. The pastor preached an inspiring sermon on keeping the Sabbath holy. After the service Dwayne said, “Well, after that sermon I can’t very well go and do my business now, can I? We might as well stay for potluck.”

Last week Dwayne said, “This is kind of like waiting to get on a rollercoaster: terrifying yet so exciting.”

Marsha said, “I have never known such peace since I have been studying with you.”

Yes, God does answer our prayers! And by the way, He sent another person to me, with similar encounters, that same day. But more on that another day...

Pastor Ken Crawford

Northside Spiritual Emphasis Week

During the week of February 28th-March 6th, the Anchorage Northside Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted a Week of Spiritual Emphasis. Pastor Kevin Miller challenged the congregation to put aside routine activities for a week and meet together for an hour of prayer, praise and inspiration. The main theme for the week was designated to be prayer.

This week became the culmination of a preaching class that was conducted during the month of February where seven students learned the basics of expository preaching, then gave a message on a passage that had to do with prayer. Each participant presented messages that were excellent and spirit-filled.

Every evening, the people who took advantage of this time learned a little more about prayer. Five minutes were set aside before the message for prayer, but not just any prayer. These five minutes were specific and very targeted and included meditating on the person of Christ, praise,

repentance/confession, daily needs, intercession, unity and soul winning. Once the week was over each person was given a template for use in personal devotions that would provide an easy half hour of prayer. Some members have just started by concentrating on doing the five minutes and building from there.



Northside Church

Overall, the Lord blessed through each element of the evening and members left wanting more. May prayer continue to draw us closer to Christ so we can truly find freedom in Him and carry His work forward with grace and power.

Pastor Kevin Miller
Anchorage Northside

Alaska Conference Camp Meeting

The Safest Place on Earth

July 13-17, 2010
 Palmer Campgrounds
 16970 E. Maud Road, Palmer, AK
www.alaskaconference.org

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Light Bearers
Co-Director/Speaker

LOWELL COOPER
General Conference
General Vice President

VICKI GRIFFIN
Michigan Conference
Lifestyle/Health Director

G. EDWARD REID
North American Division
Stewardship Director

HEATHER-DAWN SMALL
General Conference
Women's Ministries Director

PADDY MCCOY
Walla Walla University
Chaplain

Hillside O'Malley Hosts Week Of Prayer

Hillside O'Malley Church recently hosted a Week of Prayer with guest speaker, Paul Coneff, from Straight 2 the Heart Ministries. Many members were blessed with his approach to prayer and his challenge to members to be empowered with prayer and the cross.



Paul Coneff

Here is an excerpt from Paul's website: Straight 2 the Heart ministry team has one burning, passionate desire. We have dedicated our lives to lifting high the "personal side" of the cross of Christ, allowing the Holy Spirit to go straight "to the heart." (Acts 2:37) As we pray, with new understanding of the "personal side" of the cross, we can experience healing, wholeness, freedom from addictions,

destructive thought patterns and emotional problems. We emphasize the "application" of God's Word, not just the "proclamation" of God's Words. As we share how He identified Himself with us, we pray that He will draw all those painful parts of your heart into His heart. Experiencing the "personal side" of the cross moves you beyond the sin and forgiveness cycle, empowering you to finally gain victory in your life because you are more closely connected to Christ.

Hillside plans to ask Paul back for another lesson in praying and how it affects our lives and they will keep you posted as to the dates so you can plan to attend. You can visit his website at www.straight2theheart.com

JoAnn Stevens
Hillside O'Malley Church

Alaska Marriage Retreat A Sabbath Celebration of Oneness June 4-5, 2010 with Willie & Elaine Oliver, *Journey Toward Intimacy*



Experience a spiritual journey to enrich and strengthen marriages! This weekend retreat will take couples on a journey to discover or rediscover God's plan for oneness in marriage—the intimacy you desired and hoped for when you first married. As couples, we must fight against the natural drift toward growing apart which leads to loneliness and isolation in marriage. Husbands and wives can be intimate friends, lovers, and allies for a lifetime. Come and join us on this *Journey Towards Intimacy*.

Program Schedule: June 4, 2010 Friday starts at 7pm (First Session)
June 5, 2010 Saturday 9am- 5pm (Full day Session)

Location: Palmer SDA Church, 2238 S. Inner Springer Loop, Palmer, AK 99645
www.palmer.adventistnw.org



Registration Info: \$20 per couple (includes Sabbath lunch)
To register, email Jasmine Teeling at jvalentine_17@hotmail.com or call 907-346-1004 Toll Free: 1-888-828-0051



Willie and Elaine Oliver are founders and directors of Journey Toward Intimacy marriage retreats, From This Day Forward marriage conferences, and authors of From This Day Forward column in Message magazine. Their "keeping it real" presentation style keeps them in high demand nationally and internationally. They have conducted marriage conferences, retreats, and relationship workshops across the United States, Canada, and Bermuda, as well as in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Europe and South America.

An ordained minister, Willie serves as Director of Family Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. He holds a Ph.D. in Family Sociology, and masters' degrees in Pastoral Counseling and Family Sociology. An experienced university administrator, Elaine holds a masters degree in Higher Education with concentrations in student development and counseling. She serves with Willie in ministry conducting marriage conferences, retreats, and relationship seminars. The Olivers have been married for 25 years and are the parents of two young adults.



Sponsored by the
Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Adventist Community Services and Family Ministries Departments



Executive Committee Updates

The Alaska Conference Growth Challenge: With the expanding work in Alaska, the need for training has become a paramount concern. As administration wrestled with how to meet these needs, it was felt that priority must be given to training in five areas:

1. Ministerial Interns
2. Bi-vocational Pastors (tent making pastor who has a theology degree.)
3. Lay Pastors (tent making pastor who is working towards a theology degree.)
4. Bible Workers
5. Arctic Mission Adventure Missionaries (this would include cross-cultural and suicide prevention training)

In an innovative pilot project approach to ministry, the executive committee voted to amalgamate departmental work in the office with a church based training program.

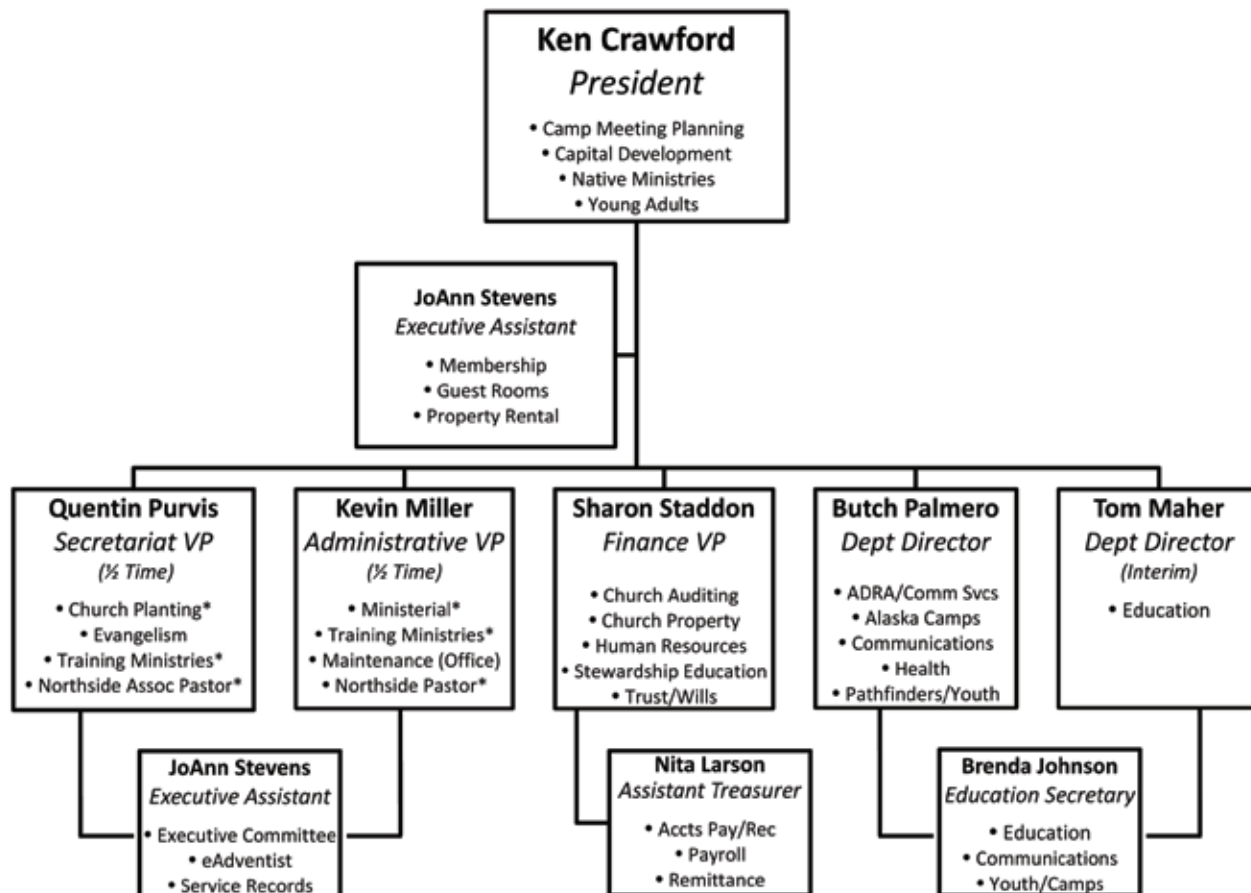
Rather than replacing the Executive Secretary position vacated by Pastor Ed Dunn, the committee split the position of Vice President (formerly executive secretary) into two half-time administrative positions. The committee then added a pastoral and training component to the other half of the position.

Pastor Kevin Miller was invited to fill one position and Pastor Quentin Purvis from Lansing, Michigan, to fill the other.

Pastor Miller will continue as Senior Pastor of Northside and Pastor Purvis will be an associate pastor there. The two pastors will work together to develop a church-based evangelism training ministry that will operate out of the Northside Church.

This will expand the ministry yet not add any additional salaries at the office.

Pastor Ken Crawford



* Shared Responsibility



Ed & Cheryl Dunn

Farewell to Ed and Cheryl Dunn

Ed Dunn, Executive Secretary for our Conference will be leaving us at the end of May. He has accepted the position of Native Ministries Director for the Canadian Union Conference. We have deeply appreciated Ed's leadership including oversight of the Arctic Region, as well as Cheryl's support, especially with health fairs. We will truly miss them and pray God's richest blessings on their continued ministry for Him.

Sharon Staddon

Treasurer's Report

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! Through faithfulness in returning tithe and generosity in giving, the ministry of the Alaska Conference during 2009 included:

- 1) Salaries and related travel expenses for sixteen pastors who oversee the thirty-six churches and groups throughout Alaska.
- 2) Providing stipends and/or housing and utilities for seven Bible Workers and Arctic Mission Adventure volunteers.
- 3) Salaries and related travel and training expenses for twelve teachers in six schools.
- 4) Administrative support for the whole church program.
- 5) 101 new members added through baptism and profession of faith.
- 6) Providing a Christian education to approximately 150 students.
- 7) Encouraging a multitude of outreach opportunities.

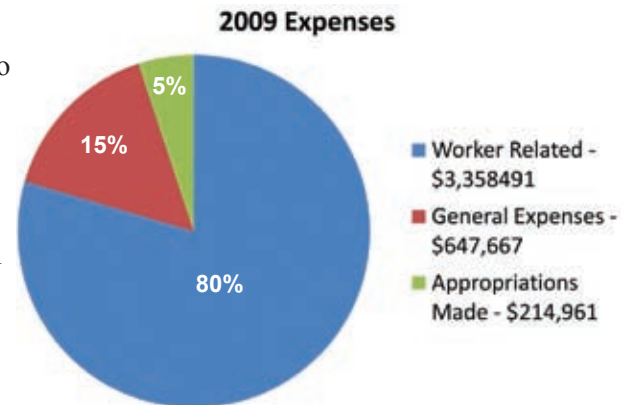
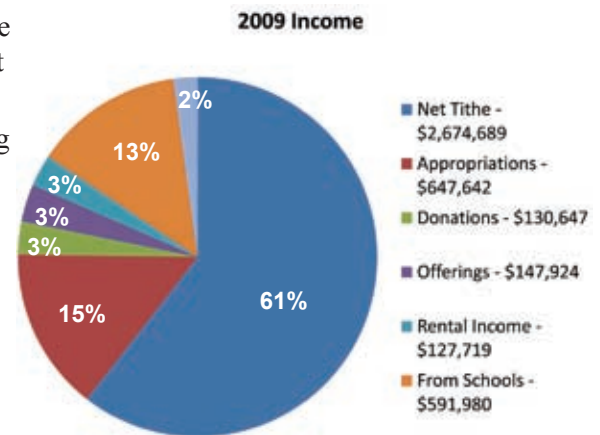
We are happy to report that with the Lord's blessings we ended the 2009 fiscal

calendar year with a net gain of approximately \$150,000. In an era of economic instability, all we can say is "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow"!

Sharon Staddon
Treasurer



Sharon Staddon

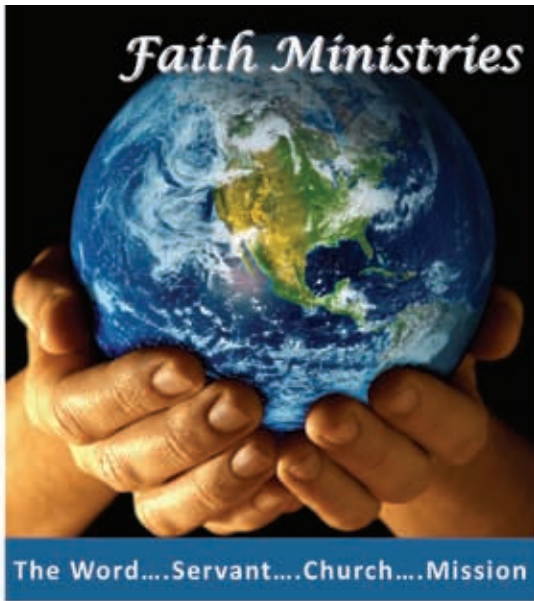


Prayer and the Cross cont.

First thing I've learned is that we serve an awesome God. I've only just begun to understand who God is, the quality and depth of his love. The second thing I've learned is that salvation is a continuous process.

Brothers and sisters, this world is on final approach to eternity. Christians and non-Christians alike have a sense that this is true. When pilots approach an airport in stormy weather, they look down at their instruments to stay on course. We must do the opposite, we must look up and behold the Lamb.

Mike Maxwell
Hillside O'Malley Church



The Word....Servant....Church....Mission

Leadership Colloquium

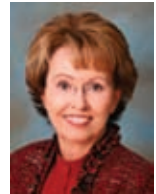
May 31- June 5, 2010, Anchorage, Alaska

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

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

Leadership Registration: \$50.00 (lunch provided)
Email: alaskainfo@ac.nguc.org Phone: 907.346.1004

*Full-day Marriage Retreat at the Palmer SDA Church June 5, 2010
Marriage Retreat Registration: \$20.00



Carla Baker



James Black



Martin Feldbush



Song Kwon



Marilyn Renk



Phyllis Washington



Joe Watts

TIME	MONDAY MAY 31	TUESDAY JUNE 1	WEDNESDAY JUNE 2	THURSDAY JUNE 3	FRIDAY JUNE 4	SABBATH JUNE 5
	LOCATION Anchorage Junior Academy					LOCATION Palmer SDA Church
8:30 - 11 a.m.	LEADERSHIP SERIES Holistic Ministry & Servanthood Christian Leadership <i>Sung Kwon</i> <i>ACS National Director</i>		Women's Ministry Forum <i>Carla Baker</i> <i>NAD Director</i> <i>Women's Ministries</i>	Crisis Care Ministry Individual Crisis Intervention 1 <i>Martin Feldbush</i> <i>Coordinator</i> <i>Crisis Care</i> <i>ACS Crisis Care</i> <i>ICISF/UMBC</i> <i>Course</i> <i>University of Maryland (CEU)</i>	Children's Ministry Kids Equipped for Service <i>Phyllis Washington</i> <i>NAD Director</i> <i>Children's Ministries</i>	A Journey Towards Intimacy Marriage Retreat <i>Willie Oliver</i> <i>NAD Director</i> <i>Family Ministries</i>
11 am - 12 pm	DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY Disaster Ministries Disaster Response Leadership <i>Joe Watts</i> <i>Director: NAD ACS Disaster Response</i>					
12 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1 pm - 5 pm	ELDER CARE MINISTRY Reaching Out to Seniors Starting a Senior Ministry <i>Marilyn Renk</i> <i>Coordinator</i> <i>ACS Elder Care Ministry</i>		Youth Ministry Leadership and Evangelism <i>James Black</i> <i>NAD Director</i> <i>Youth Ministry</i>	Crisis Care Ministry Individual Crisis Intervention 2 <i>ICISF/UMBC</i> <i>Course</i>	Crisis Care Ministry Individual Crisis Intervention 3 <i>ICISF/UMBC</i> <i>Course</i>	Healthy Families & Churches for Eternity; From this Day Forward <i>Willie Oliver</i> <i>NAD Director</i> <i>Family Ministries</i>
	Adjourn				Break	
7 pm					Friday Evening Marriage Devotional (Palmer SDA Church) <i>Willie Oliver, PhD</i> <i>NAD Director</i> <i>Family Ministries</i>	Adjourn

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Arctic Mission News

Bread for Bethel!

Doug and Lowana Blair, Arctic Mission Adventure Volunteers in the village of Bethel, realized there was a problem in the community with some people not getting enough to eat at the combined potluck and soup kitchen held every Sabbath after church. They noticed that several of their "guests" could not eat very much and by their physical appearance they needed to eat more.

Bethel is a very expensive place to live. Most people new to the village are shocked the first time they visit one of the two local stores here to pick up a few food items. A small can of soup costs almost \$5.00, a 10 pound bag of potatoes is \$16.00, grapes are \$10.00 per pound, and a gallon of milk is over \$9.00. Not only is food expensive, but heating oil is almost \$5.00 per gallon.

Doug and Lowana have been impressed to help with the hunger issue in Bethel. They are planning to make loaves of nutritious whole grain bread and distribute them to the needy of Bethel. But they are not limiting their efforts to physical bread, but addressing spiritual bread as well! Inside each bag containing the bread will be an invitation to attend Sabbath services along with the address, phone number, the time of the services, and a contact name.

What is required to make this dream a reality and provide the quantity of bread needed to make an impact is a 33-quart commercial mixer. The estimated cost to purchase the mixer and have it shipped to Bethel will be approximately \$6,500.00. Approximately \$1,800 has been received to date. If you feel impressed to help financially with the Bread for Bethel mission, donations can be made to the Alaska Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists. Please note that the name for the donation is for "Bread for Bethel."

