

**InterAct Ministries Board Report**  
**Alaska New Initiatives Steve & Jill Horsman**  
**July 2014**

We are thrilled to be a part of what God is doing here in Alaska! Despite years and years of ministry here in the state, there is still work to be done and we are thankful to be a part of God's work.

***EnGage! Alaska***

We were excited about the opportunity to facilitate the *EnGage!* program this year in Alaska. Our goals were multiple here in our state. First, to attract potential missionaries that God would draw into a full-time commitment to InterAct. Second, as a vehicle by which we could allow "new" full-time staff to experience Native culture in a village setting. Third, to utilize the opportunities as movement toward our vision of discipleship and facilitation with Native believers. Finally, this first year we looked to this as a learning experience for us as we seek to make program adaptations, contextualized to the environment and ministry vision for Alaska.

Despite having numerous applicants interested in *EnGage!* Alaska, as the time drew near we saw each of these individuals withdraw. This left us with only the Tramm family, one of our "new" full-time staff. While we were disappointed that we had no other interns, we realized that this would provide us a summer experience with InterAct staff and allow us to work with them to make program adjustments for *EnGage!* 2015.

We just returned from our mid-program coaching visit with the Tramm family. They are so thankful for the opportunity to live in Ruby and learn from the community. Our weekly coaching visits are conducted by phone and we are honored to hear their heart for the people. They are recognizing cultural differences that were difficult to identify while in the urban ministry of Fairbanks. They have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to experience village life and believe it will be an invaluable experience regardless of the next ministry location in Alaska.

We will be debriefing with the Tramm family on July 29, and together will work to sharpen the program for *EnGage!* Alaska 2015!

**LEaD Alaska**

One year ago this month we began formal meetings to explore the needs and existing programs here in Alaska. Our goal was to complete the research and present a proposal for program development that could be facilitated on the Lazy Mountain campus.

We presented Dale with our proposal in November 2013, and in December we began development work in earnest!

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**LEaD Alaska Mission Statement**

LEaD Alaska is a culturally-relevant, comprehensive residential program designed to equip believers for life and ministry through mentoring and discipleship relationships, internships and training in Bible, leadership, and life and vocational skills.

**LEaD Alaska Vision Statement**

LEaD Alaska equips believers to succeed in Alaskan ministry and transform communities throughout our state.

**LEaD Alaska Distinctives**

**Discipleship and Mentoring-** the foundational component, based on a relational approach.

**Leadership Development-** equipping believers to lead with competency.

**Bible-** seeing the “big picture” through a chronological approach, learning how to study and utilize the “small picture” through inductive study skills.

**Worldview-** grasping the concept of worldview, learning what it means in ministry and how to understand our own worldview and make appropriate changes.

**Emotionally Healthy Faith-** dealing with wounds from the past, bring healing and emotional health and equipping participants to minister to others in this key area.

**Life skills & Vocational training-** an individualized approach to helping equip participants with the tools they are lacking, skills they want to gain, and areas necessary for ministry success.

**Internships-** participants will have opportunities to explore ministry through a variety of partnerships while still receiving coaching and mentoring.

**LEaD Alaska- 2014-2015 program to open October 4!**

LEaD Alaska is unique in many ways. First of all, this program is shared by multiple organizations. It is an “InterAct Ministries” program, and it is an “Alaska Freedom Journey” program, and “Alaska Bible College” program, “Alaska Mission Connection,” and “Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska” program- LEaD Alaska is shared by each of the Partnership Organizations, which makes it unique here in Alaska. We continue meeting monthly with our Development Team, consisting of representatives from each Partnership Organization. We have developed a governance model and continue working toward all the necessary components related to this aspect.

LEaD Alaska partners have sensed an urgent and compelling desire for the program to begin as soon as possible. We meet monthly, but utilize technology as we are making frequent decisions related to the opening of the program. The

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website is up and running, and we are prepared to begin accepting applications. We have a tentative budget set. We are continuing the work on curriculum and related resources and also have scheduled the majority of our modules. We are working to find ways to staff the program this year and are grateful for our newest InterAct family, Bryan and Brandy Watts, as they will be working with us to mentor the participants here on a daily basis.

We still have a number of things to complete before our opening orientation on October 4. As you can imagine, a program of this magnitude involves multiple levels of expertise and experience and we are thankful that God has brought together so many people that can work collectively for this program. We covet your prayers as we make final decisions about curriculum, teachers, modules, housing, meals, budgets, and wade through the application process to select the first family and several single adults, or our 6 single adults that God has prepared to attend LEaD Alaska 2014-2015!

More information is available at [LEaDALaska.org](http://LEaDALaska.org).

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement with InterAct Ministries. We value your insights, prayers, and expertise as you support all the various ministries that God has opened through our organization.

Steve & Jill Horsman