

Alaska Field Report
July 2019
Steve Horsman

Thank you for your input and investment with InterAct Ministries. My hope is that this update is informative and helpful.

Infrastructure and Administration

Staff Meetings and Individual Ministry Maps

Our schedule has been quite challenging since January, with multiple changes due to the ministries of those on our field. I have continued weekly meetings with the new staff and with John Tramm. While we had anticipated an on-site visit with each of our staff during the month of March, we were unable to accomplish this due to our LEaD Alaska responsibilities. Our goal is to restart this process this fall.

Triple A Communication

I continue to send our updates to our field, as is possible with other responsibilities.

AK Monthly Prayer Calendar

Lisa Derr has assumed the responsibility for our monthly prayer calendar. Jill continues to send out a monthly prayer calendar, with specific requests when they are known. Jill still sends out “e cards” to all those having birthdays or anniversaries during the month; another attempt to fill some of the missing pieces of member care on our field.

Material Development

Jill completed the EnGage! Alaska material for training and the intern material, as well as the EnGage! portion of the Mentoring Handbook. She has also completed the first draft of a Conference/Winter Retreat Handbook. One of our overarching goals is to utilize these materials to enlist other staff to assume some of the related tasks and share the responsibilities for our field. A secondary goal is to ensure the field is fully informed about Alaska programs, strategies and ministry training.

Field Consultation Team

Our team met one additional time prior to Conference, particularly to provide input to the situation we face in Fairbanks. This team currently consists of George & Judy Richardson and Ted & Kate Mole. I have one additional year for this team, as per their two-year commitment.

Urban Ministry Team

The Team has met infrequently but their collective input was the fuel to a new initiative during the Annual Native Musicale. This year InterAct pulled together a team with like-minded ministries to run two nights of a Musicale Youth Event, led by Tim & Larissa Zook. Every member of the Urban Ministry Team shared responsibility and it was an exceptional first start to what we plan to use as an annual event during Musicale. It was well-received by the Musicale leadership.

Mobilization

Frontier School of the Bible

We continue dialogue with staff at Frontier, and will be meeting with them via technology later this month.

Urgent Ministry Needs and Openings for Staff

- Rural Missionary Pastor- new housing provided for a couple in Copper Center, serving in the Copper Center Church. This church is actively seeking new staff to begin immediately.
- Lazy Mountain Campus Ministry Director/Developer- I am looking for a couple (preferably with cross-cultural ministry experience) who could oversee the ministries on campus, but also work with me to continue the development of our campus to more fully increase our discipling opportunities and support the staff and ministries on our field.
- Rural Missionary- Alan and Linda Ross have indicated their desire to have another couple working in Kenai, and that there is ample opportunity to disciple Alaska Native people in this region.
- Interim Couple- I am looking for a couple that would be able to immediately step into a village (off-road system) and serve as missionary pastor while staff take a sabbatical.
- Tech Staff to work with Anchorage Native New Life- This position would be working in partnership as Phil Cobb retires from his position. This position would start in January.

Field Programming and Partnerships

LEaD Alaska

We have rarely had a student so eager for the Word. It was encouraging and very different as we focused primarily on Bible study this year. We did a three-day Area Bible School in Kenai, with approximately 20 people in attendance. This was so successful that we anticipate increasing these (as our time allows) over the next year.

One of our biggest challenges was with staffing. Matt Derr began working with us as LEaD began, and we had discussed, and planned, for Matt to teach an increasing number of classes. Unfortunately, Matt felt that this ministry was not where God was leading him. So, we continued the rest of the year doing all of the discipling and instructing. While we enjoyed this and were so glad to see God at work in our student, it provided challenging to our schedule and other responsibilities. Our Governance Council met in May and has approved an alternate year program, with our classes only running in October, January and March. This will more realistically fit our schedule, allow for building up the scholarship fund, and allow for greater numbers of individuals to commit to a shorter amount of time and “try it out.”

We are working with an individual that is interested in serving with the ministry the following year.

Intercultural Ministry Stream Internship- Alaska Bible College

Our second semester of this internship concluded earlier than planned, which was a joint decision between Alaska Bible College and me. Our intern has moved back to his home state.

Our second intern has continued meeting weekly with Jill, and we have adjusted the timeline for her internship to better fit her needs. Eleanor is currently in Winnipeg and is fulfilling her internship requirements through the Canada EnGage! ministry.

Jill and I will complete the final follow-up with her when she returns to Alaska in August.

EnGage! Alaska and Market Place Ministry

We had three students from Frontier School of the Bible that participated in EnGage! this summer. They all arrived the last two days of our conference, and so were able to meet staff from our field. After training on campus with us and participating in two days of Northern Ministry Training in Kenai, we loaded up supplies and drove to Copper Center. We learned a lot about the complexities of this region, and our interns were stretched as they participated in a wide variety of activities. After a short debrief back in Palmer, we concluded the internship and one of our students flew back to her home in Idaho.

Two of our interns have chosen to stay and work, participating also in Market Place Ministry. Both Isaiah and Haley are working full-time with Lake Clark Air until the middle of August. Isaiah is staying with his grandparents, while Haley resides on our campus. We will be meeting regularly with them and also encouraging their participation in a number of cross-cultural opportunities.

All in all, we believe their internship positions in the Copper Valley Region served as a catalyst for ongoing and future ministry in that region.

Lazy Mountain Campus Future Plans

We are in the process of developing small teams to serve on steering committees for some new ministries. We would like to host a Family Weekend Event, Monthly Praise and Potlucks, Men's Retreat, Women's Retreat, and Youth Retreat. All of these events will be designed to help support and launch ministries in the urban areas. In addition to these events, we are in the beginning stages of researching several other opportunities in the future.

Annual Conference

This year Dale & Carol and Jill & I organized the conference details. We are very thankful for the part they play each year. Our speaker was Cam Arensen, and his messages were appreciated by the staff. In addition to this, we were fortunate to have both Mike Matthews and George Walker attend conference. George spoke on several occasions. Conference evaluation results indicated that the staff were pleased with the conference, felt spiritually encouraged, and were eager to get better acquainted with George and see how we could improve our ministry strategies in Alaska.

Finally, we celebrated the retirement of Shirley Morgan, who is finalizing her time in Alaska and will be moving out of state within the month.

Campus

Beth Roderick has done a good job of organizing occasional activities for individuals residing on campus. She hosted a baby shower for the Petersons and the Watts. Beth has also assumed reservation responsibilities, with ongoing assistance from Jill. We are doing some house swapping this summer and will have every house leased by the end of August. New to the duplex are a couple of Alaska Bible College students. We have also a new missionary family with Kingdom Air Corp residing on campus as well as a family formerly connected with Lazy Mountain Bible Church who are returning to Alaska for employment.

We hosted our first “Area Potluck and Praise” in April. After expressions of interest but low attendance, we have suspended additional potlucks.

We are running two retreats this fall. In September there will be a Women’s Retreat, and in November a Men’s Retreat. Depending upon the results from these two events, we will potentially plan more and a Family Retreat for the spring. We see these are positive ways to increase usage of the campus and lead to greater discipling opportunities. Jill is in the process of forming several committees to plan each Retreat.

Anchorage Native New Life and Denali Native New Life

Both ministries have approached me to see how InterAct could assist. Anchorage Native New Life is looking for another staff to replace Phil Cobb when he retires the end of this year. I have had multiple meetings with individuals about Denali Native New Life and Jill and I may be starting a home group Bible study this fall to see if it develops in support of the existing fellowship or as something more.

Other

Hammond Property

The Hammond family have had until the end of August to secure items from the house. To date they have only had one working weekend, so this is a matter for prayer. I am working with several of them to encourage greater activity so that the task is completed within the designated time. After that point, I will be working with Lazy Mountain Bible Church to complete the necessary cleaning and determine our next steps of action.

Fairbanks Situation

The situation with David Joseph has continued to impact the Fairbanks region, and beyond. While the initial steps taken in response to David’s actions were solid and strategic, I continue working with Dale to move things forward to a full reconciliation. The situation has negatively impacted a number of individuals, and Dale and I continue working together to bring the situation to a godly closure. The challenges have been numerous, but I see small steps being taken toward the next required step of action. This is an area requiring prayer.

Miscellaneous

Jill and I attended the ACBC training in Indiana this February. There were a significant number of people from Alaska attending the training.

Jill and I spoke at the Alaska Bible Conference this March, as we usually do. We were able to put up the display and talk with students about InterAct opportunities on all three fields.

We presented one class at Northern Ministry Training in Soldotna this June. While this is largely a SEND North ministry, they have opened this up to anyone in ministry. Their instructors come from a number of different ministries. We were able to have some solid conversations with several couples and see this as a good networking opportunity.

To date we have had three ministry work teams to the campus. One team came to assist with our annual conference, which was so very helpful. The second team was from a supporting church and they spent ten days working on upgrades. Their primary task was the red house and putting in all 27 windows and working on flooring. They did a number of other tasks while here. Finally, we have a couple and

their grandson on campus for 10 days of volunteering. They helped us serve the evening meal at Wrangell Mountain Bible Conference in Copper Center and have expressed interest in ministry opportunities. We will be in ongoing dialogue with them. As we near the end of July we host another ministry team from Colorado. On a personal note, our granddaughter from Colorado continues living with us. She met another student at Alaska Bible College that has been leading them to serious discussion of marriage. We will see and wait for a formal engagement. My Mom and stepdad have moved into a very nice senior's apartment in Phoenix and I am working with their realtor to sell the home in Tucson. It appears that we do have an offer that will begin processing.

Finally, Jill and I made the big step and have purchased a home. It has been a long journey, but we feel the timing is right and that it will enhance our ministry. We are learning to commute!

Staff Update

| Staff | Type of Service | Location | Ministry |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Tim & Larissa Zook (Merrik, Elliot, Reuben) | Long-term Volunteer | Fairbanks | Youth and young adult ministry with Fairbanks Native Bible Church, discipling. |
| David & Marci Joseph | Full-time | Fairbanks | Currently serving as temporary, interim pastor. Next assignment pending. |
| John & Jen Tramm (Maria, Gloria, Hans) | Full-time- Sabbatical | Ruby | Ruby Church- discipling ministry as pastor |
| Steve & Jill Horsman | Full-time | Palmer | Field Director, LEaD Alaska staff, Equipping Ministries |
| Jamie & Beth Roderick (Davis, Faith) | Short-term (two-year term) | Palmer | Property Manager, Hospitality, SonRise Church on Sundays |
| Bryan & Brandy Watts (Allyssa, Avery, Hunter, Alyanna, Emily, Grace, and new baby Evelyn) | Volunteer (long term) | Palmer | Working toward full-time urban ministry in the Mat-Su Valley. |
| Matt & Lisa Derr (Emma) | Full-time | Eagle River- Urban | Working to finalize Anchorage Urban Ministry Assignment. |
| Dennis & Celesta Richardson | Full-time | Anchorage | SonRise Church- discipling ministry as pastor |
| Alan & Linda Ross | Full-time | Kenai | Discipling, Hearts Going Toward Wellness, Alaska Freedom Journey board. |
| Ted & Kate Mole | Full-time (Seconded) | Soldotna | Ted is seconded to New Hope Counseling Center. Kate is employed full-time as a nurse. |
| Win & Gracia Stiefel | Semi- retired | Copper Center | Win is currently employed driving bus in the region. Gracia continues writing study materials. Helpful with evaluating future ministry opportunities. |
| George & Judy Richardson | Retired | Wasilla | Retired, yes, but still involved in ministry, counseling, and support. |

Appointees:

Snells-Montana

Greg and Linda are still planning on urban ministry in Anchorage. Linda has had ongoing health issues and we are waiting for a meeting with them to assess the situation.

Petersons-Washington (Matthew, Zoey, new baby David)

Chad and Andrea moved back onto the Campus for about 6 weeks. Chad completed his year at Alaska Bible College. During this time, Andrea also gave birth to their third, David. He had quite a few medical challenges so there were some concerns, hospitalizations, and lots of additional stress but he is now doing well.

They moved back to Washington the middle of June. Chad is employed and they are plugging back into their church to receive further preparation for ministry in Copper Center, including their plans to start building a ministry support team.

Applicants:

DeVries-Anchorage

Jonathan and Amy (baby Benaniah) live in Anchorage and attend SonRise Church (Dennis & Celesta Richardson's church.) Jonathan is employed as a pilot and also does training with Kingdom Air Corp. They have submitted their application and are looking forward to serving in the Aaron Ministries in Alaska. (Aaron Ministries-support ministry.) Jonathan plans to do some flying, and they will be providing support to missionaries throughout the state, particularly those in bush villages- which we prayerfully hope will increase.

Daltons-Port Alsworth

Aaron and Tisha have served with Tanalian for several years and have been seeking God's direction for future ministry. They are both pilots and have access to the use of a Kingdom Air Corp plane, at the current time. They plan to be involved in village ministry, and plans have already begun to have future placement in Grayling.

Thank you for your service as Board Members for InterAct Ministries.

Steve Horsman

Alaska Field Director