

**Alaska Field Report – September 2024**  
**Steve Horsman, Alaska Field Director**

**Encouragements:**

**Staffing news**

- I continue following up with interested staff (one couple from Kingdom Air Corp, three in Pipefy, possibly a couple more from Send International transfers, and one from another mission organization).
- The Peterson children receive the necessary educational and specialized services at a school. In Palmer, Chad and Andrea have moved into the primary campus positions of Campus Coordinator, maintenance, and Hospitality.
- Multiple villages/urban areas have requested InterAct to support their communities with missionaries; all have had InterAct missionaries in the past and are currently without spiritual leadership or in need of another couple to create a missionary team. (see below)
- Toby Curtis has accepted the role of Assistant Field Director.

**Staff Training**

- ETANA is under development to address our need for more well-trained missionary staff

**Annual Conference**

- The Alaska Summer Conference was held at Victory Bible Camp Aug 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.
- Our keynote speaker was Leland Hotchkiss.
- Our theme: Relational Peace: The Need in Ministry
- All Alaska staff attended the conference, but Alan & Linda Ross. We were blessed to have a few of our retirees, several office staff, volunteers from an Alaska church, a Wisconsin church, an Indiana church, and several of our adult Mks. We also had one ACE Network member, three inquiring couples, and one inquiring single attend, although not all simultaneously.
- The staff we have talked with were encouraged and appreciative of the Conference.

**Succession**

- As previously stated, Toby is serving as the Assistant Field Director.
- Mark Overbeek has been appointed as Alaska Field Director Nominee with a staged approach to mentoring him this year, ratifications next summer, and their move from Kodiak no later than July 2026.

## **Challenges:**

### **Villages/Urban Centers requesting missionaries**

- Chignik Bay
- Chignik Lagoon
- Chignik Lake
- Shageluk (1 couple to partner with Dalton's in Grayling)
- Anvik
- Pedro Bay
- Nulato (1 couple to partner with Casey's)
- Anchorage (Son Rise church)
- Fairbanks (1 couple to assist Zooks with youth ministries through the Fairbanks Native Church)
- Chistochina
- Copper Center (Copper Center Community Church, partnered with the Paull's)

### **Potential Villages to be developed**

- Holy Cross
- Hughes
- Galena
- Perryville

### **Property-related exploration or needs**

- Radon problems in Grayling have been resolved.
- Perryville property/building
- Tanana property/building

### **Recruiting more mature staff**

- The critical need to address the invitations from the villages that have requested missionary presence is to find more mature staff trained and supported to do the difficult work of cultural acquisition and target the core values and assumptions that drive the community's worldview.

### **Forward Movement**

- Jill completed her MABC and is applying for certification and researching the final infrastructure aspects to launch/announce a counseling center on Campus for use in our mission to aid in the development of biblically maturing churches
- The Alaska Christian Educators Network restarts on September 9, and we are moving ahead with several phases of this Network. Monthly Zoom meetings usually have about twenty attendees, and there is a Steering Committee of four individuals, with the former Alaska Education

Commissioner (currently Assistant Dean of Education at Columbia International University) as an Honorary Member.

### **Field Direction**

- The Alaska Field continues moving in a healthy direction. The two-fold process of ministering at the worldview level and using scripture to deal with the differences between the host community's worldview and the biblical worldview is gaining more interest.
- I will continue as Field Director and work with the Alaska Field Advisory Team monthly. I will continue working on previously implemented strategies to continue development and stabilization, moving forward with the field in collaboration with the Alaska Field Director Nominee (Mark) and the Assistant Field Director (Toby). As previously stated, the focus is on planting and developing biblically maturing churches on the Alaska field to the next level.

### **Blessings:**

- We just concluded a great annual Conference.
- InterAct benefitted from four of our personal supporting churches serving on the Campus, completing numerous key maintenance projects, and contributing toward InterAct's property costs.
- We have a few more teams arriving this summer for campus projects.
- I have a "clean" bill of health from my cardiologist and GP.

### **Prayer:**

- That the Lord will continue to make the succession process clear as we work to equip the field for future growth
- The field staff understand and are motivated to continue to work towards our goal of biblically maturing churches.
- The Lord helps me focus on the most pressing tasks necessary to move the field forward.
- That the Lord raise up more committed and competent missionaries to address the village requests
- The Lord will guide me through the mentoring process as I work with Toby and Mark to fulfill the succession plan.