

Alaska Field Report  
January 2019  
Steve Horsman

Thank you for taking time to provide leadership and direction for InterAct Ministries. We appreciate your commitment to the vision God has given to us as an organization. We hope you enjoy reading about what God has been doing through InterAct Ministries in Alaska.

### **Infrastructure and Administration**

#### *Staff Meetings and Individual Ministry Maps*

We have met with most staff this fall, working on updating and completing their individual ministry maps. Some are completed, some are not yet finished, but the plan is to complete these in March. I attempt to call and talk with staff members regularly. Those in the area sometimes join us Tuesday mornings for a half hour of praying for our field, as well as Canada and Russia. Some of the staff have been in difficult circumstances and so I have spent more time with these individuals over the last six months.

#### *Triple A Communication*

I am still attempting to regularly communicate to all staff by email through this format, although the extra time commitment when LEaD is running has forced me to be less frequent than I would like to be.

#### *AK Monthly Prayer Calendar*

Jill continues to send out a monthly prayer calendar, with specific requests when they are known. In addition, she 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 has continued work on the development of handbooks and workshops for all programming. The Mentoring Handbook is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  completed. She plans to finish that in January. She is working to complete the rest of the Onboarding workshops and handbook, and is also hoping to complete a Conference/Winter Retreat Handbook yet this month. The overarching goal for these materials is to educate all staff so that everyone is fully aware of the field programs and status, to equip new missionaries, and to streamline our programs. The Mentoring Handbook, for example, has an estimate of the time requirement staff can expect should they choose to mentor for *EnGage!* Alaska or to mentor new staff during their first year of service. Our next step will be asking existing staff to volunteer their help in serving on some field-related ministry tasks.

#### *Field Consultation Team*

I have facilitated two meetings now with this new team. The members are George & Judy Richardson, Ted & Kate Mole, Jill and myself. Both couples have committed to two years of service in this advisory capacity to me. Our meetings have been very helpful to me as I seek wisdom in my new leadership role.

### *Urban Ministry Team*

We have held two meetings and look forward to regular meetings as we develop a strategic plan to improve the effectiveness of the good works that are being done in the urban regions of Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley and Fairbanks. We are also working to develop partnerships with like-minded churches and organizations as we begin to develop new ways to reach the least-reached in these critical urban centers.

### **Mobilization**

#### *Frontier School of the Bible*

George and Judy Richardson visited Frontier School of the Bible and attended their mission conference. They did a fabulous job of representing InterAct and the Alaska field. They returned with a total of 22 names expressing interest in ministry with InterAct, 20 for Alaska and 1 each for Canada and Russia. At the school's request, Jill and I will visit for two days in February and attend several of the classes and speak at one of their chapel services.

#### *Follow-up of any interest*

As we have names expressing interest, we work with Jerry to ensure that any for Alaska have several points of contact. We have contacted all of those expressing interest in *EnGage!* Alaska. We have also contacted several others from the La Grange area that have called about future full-time ministry in Alaska and will be meeting with them while at the collage.

We have met several times with Aaron & Tisha Dalton (currently serving at Tanalian Leadership Center) related to ministry possibilities in bush Alaska. They attended portions of our summer conference, and also came to our Winter Retreat.

We have also met several times with Jonathan & Amy De Vries, a young couple attending SonRise Community Church in Anchorage. They also attended our Winter Retreat and we were able to introduce them as a couple interested in Aaron Ministry (Support Ministry in Alaska.)

I met with a young man from Kenai who is currently attending Hillsong College in Australia. Our grandson pointed him in our direction as he expressed a calling to missions in Alaska as a starting point for ministry with a desire to eventually work in Russia. We look forward to additional conversations with Cole Gross.

In addition to these conversations, we look forward to presenting at the Alaska Bible College missions conference in March.

### **Field Programming and Partnerships**

#### *LEaD Alaska*

LEaD Alaska started in October with a bit of a rocky beginning, but we are up and running with a very spiritually eager gentleman from Cantwell. Sam is enthusiastic about classes and is learning much.

God has provided scholarship donors on a regular basis, and so we currently had adequate surplus to help with funding for Sam's tuition. We know this is an ongoing issue for the students interested in attending. Another challenge we face is that of effective recruitment. In January we will begin facilitating "LEaD Alaska Area Bible Schools" on the road system and attempt to do some instructing, but to also raise the profile of LEaD Alaska through these 2-3 day workshops. We have also begun

working on the infrastructure for radio and TV advertising in Alaska, and look forward to increasing that form of promoting for ministry opportunities. There is much more work to do as we have just started developing this opportunity.

*Intercultural Ministry Stream Internship- Alaska Bible College*

We have one semester completed with this new partnership and have worked out some of the challenges in scheduling and organizing. It is a six-credit course for the students and so we have had to provide work on the syllabus and scoring assignments, as well as provide discipling and mentoring. Noah began his term at Tanalian and then returned to the Valley and completed the first semester at LEaD Alaska. We anticipate him completing the second semester and portion of the program again working with LEaD Alaska and residing on the campus.

*Staff Winter Retreat*

After not having held a Winter Retreat last year, we felt it was critical for the staff to meet and review a number of things. Our objectives were two-fold: connecting and renewing our relationships and worshipping together, and informing the staff of new programs and where we will be moving forward with our AK Professional Reading Group. The Retreat was held on the campus and all but a couple of our fulltime staff were able to attend. We felt it was a productive time and the evaluations indicated that the staff also felt it was worth the time spent. We were thankful for those providing assistance so we could have our time together.

*Alaska Professional Reading Group (AK PRG)*

We had anticipated starting up this reading and discussion forum for staff, but have had to postpone to February. We look forward to starting again and use this format to discuss the various handbooks and manuals completed for our field.

*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.

**Other**

*Hammond Property*

This process has been long and arduous as we navigated the legal world having had to change the Personal Representative to the estate. I have just received word that the courts have appointed me to this position. Now will begin the task of having family members receive their inheritance so that we can work with Lazy Mountain Bible Church to sort, clean, and make decisions about the house and property.

### Staff Update

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
Tim & Larissa Zook (Merrick, 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	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 Community Church on Sundays
Bryan & Brandy Watts (Allyssa, Avery, Hunter, Alyanna, Emily, Grace)	Volunteer (long-term)	Palmer	Working toward full-time urban ministry in the Mat-Su Valley.
Matt & Lisa Derr (Emma)	Full-time	Eagle River-Urban	Currently assisting full time with LEaD Alaska, reviewing eventual full ministry in an urban setting.
Dennis & Celesta Richardson	Full-time	Anchorage	SonRise Community Church; discipling ministry as pastor
Shirley Morgan	Full-time	Anchorage	Discipling
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.
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**Resignations:**

James & Shannon Miller, effective September 30, 2018.

**Application Begun:**

Aaron & Tisha Dalton (tracking for village ministry- Grayling)

**Appointees:**

Snells-Montana

Greg and Linda are still planning on urban ministry in Anchorage. We are praying for their arrival this spring, pending her health issues and full recovery

Petersons-Washington (Matthew, Zoey, new baby arriving in May)

Chad and Andrea are living in Palmer, and Chad is attending Alaska Bible College. They will finish this year of Bible college and then plan to return to Washington after the baby is born, where they will take additional Bible courses through their church and raise their ministry support team for full-time ministry in Copper Center.

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

Steve Horsman  
Alaska Field Director