

Alaska Field Report
January 2021

Infrastructure and Administration

Onboarding New Staff

We continue onboarding our new staff, however it has been affected by staff travel which has been affected by Covid. Since August we have had Appointees working on the field, gone for building support teams, house-sitting for the Paulls, and getting their village experience. This has made it challenging to continue onboarding so we look forward to more sessions in February.

Mentoring in Alaska

Dennis Richardson is doing a fabulous job mentoring the DeVries, Daltons, and Rodericks. George and Judy are providing excellent mentoring to the Paulls, while Jill and I meet regularly with Marcus, Carrie, and the Curtis.'

Field Strategies

A Novel Approach- A Foundational Way to Shape Discipleship

A number of staff and appointees participated in a book reading group for A Novel Approach this fall. After completing this process, the next step of field implementation was scheduled for January 4-8. We initially planned for all staff attendance, along with the Smiths. However, Covid health orders impacted these plans. Our Covid protocol (reviewed by a physician and others knowing our Chief Medical Examiner) and we downsized the attendees to only those that had participated weekly and were part of a potential ANA team. Covid prevented one of the families from attending, however we will repeat this workshop with other staff. The meetings were excellent. As we look to one strategy/approach that will help us better communicate the gospel message and disciple people with greater intentionality and clarity, this is the approach that excites our field. We look forward to seeing how God will use our teams to increase our communication with those to whom God has called us.

We are working on dates for the repeat of this workshop for other staff, and the full training and equipping to launch the approach on the Alaska Field.

Biblical Counseling- One Discipleship Tool

Jill continues in her MABC classes, and will have 5 classes completed by March 1. We are hosting a group viewing of the Biblical Counseling Training online in cooperation with Mark and Rose Mowery, Desert Streams Ministries. (Track one) We have several staff that will be attending this conference the end of February. We believe the basic information and resources are helpful for all of our missionaries as we counsel people within our various spheres. A Novel Approach will help us counsel and disciple more effectively as we adjust resources and approaches to fit within each individual ministry

Field Advancement Ministries

Lazy Mountain Counseling Center

We have completed, and submitted for approval, a project plan for the Counseling Center and are ready to begin seeking counselors that might be called to staff the Center.

We believe the basic information and resources are helpful for all of our missionaries as we counsel people within our various spheres. A Novel Approach will help us counsel and disciple more effectively as we adjust resources and approaches to fit within each individual ministry. While we do not expect formal counseling to characterize our ministries, we look to a Counseling Center as one way we can connect with individuals on the road system and provide greater support to our village ministries. We look forward to working with Twelve Stones' Counseling for eventual training courses on our Lazy Mountain Campus.

Educators as Members/Partners

Jill has continued work on the idea of a partnership with educators, and has a project plan completed. She has also dialogued with several Christian Alaska State Board of Education members, more educators, and the Education Commissioner about this strategy. Over the next several months we plan to have information up on the InterAct website, hold the first networking meeting, and work toward an educator's conference. Jill completed teaching the first Elementary Education course at Alaska Bible College, and continues her involvement in their new BA program.

Mobilization

Working with both Carrie Curtis (appointee) and Andy Chinn we have continued to dialogue with numerous people interested in serving here in Alaska. We have several strong candidates, one that has indicated they will be submitting the application this week. In addition to this we have three applications for EnGage! Alaska.

Applicants, Appointees, New Staff Update:

While we don't believe every situation is "exceptional," we have found ourselves with the majority of our new staff in situations that do not represent the traditional paradigm. We have fewer missionary appointees who reside outside of Alaska and are building their support teams (such as Petersons or Snells,) and more missionary appointees that have already been residing in Alaska and have already been, or have begun, ministry while continuing to build their support team (DeVries, Daltons, Paulls, Curtis' and Curtis.) We have long-term volunteers, some that minister at full-time capacity, who fund their own ministry through outside employment. We have the majority of our previous staff with one, or both, members in outside employment.

New Applicants:

Crystal Pio-Templeton- EnGage! Alaska, Alaska Bible College internship
Levi Smith- EnGage! Alaska, Toccoa Falls University

Appointees:

Greg & Linda Snell-Montana (urban ministry Anchorage)

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Petersons-Washington (Copper Center Youth/Young Adult Ministry)
Carrie Curtis (Support Ministry, EnGage!, Mobilization, Networking)

Short-Term to Long-Term Ministry:

Jamie & Beth Roderick, assigned to SonRise Church- Children's Ministry development

Assigned to Ministry:

Aaron & Tisha Dalton- Grayling

Ron & Jean Paull- Copper Center

Marcus Gerber- Campus Maintenance and LEaD Alaska

Toby & Cherie Curtis, Lazy Mountain Campus Development/Coordination, Support Ministry

DeVries-Anchorage (Support Ministry, Flight Support)

Partnerships

LEaD Alaska

LEaD Alaska has held several Governance Council meetings. Covid concerns prevented four of the five applicants from attending. Daniel Jones (Inupiiq) has been attending since mid-October. Daniel's experience has included teaching and discipleship from a team that includes: Jill and me, Toby, James Barefoot, and members of the Wildwood Bible Church in Eagle River. James is working with Daniel to construct a sled that will be delivered to Aaron and Tisha Dalton in Grayling.

Alaska Bible College Intercultural Ministry Stream Internship

We currently have one student registered to complete their internship requirements through the Alaska EnGage! Internship this summer. The Annual Mission Conference in April, 2021 and we are scheduled to participate. Besides Frontier School of the Bible, this may be the only "live" mission conference available to InterAct.

Anchorage Native New Life (ANNL) and Denali Native New Life (DNNL)

Both ministries have remained cancelled. I was a part of a small team meeting to discuss ways to utilize technology and restart Native New Life. Since January 4 ANNL has been broadcasting online each Monday evening, from the Lazy Mountain Campus. Native Musicales 2021 has already been cancelled. I am working with ANNL and DNNL.

Village Ministries

Grayling

Jonathan has been very instrumental in flights to/from Grayling. Although he was not allowed to leave the plane, he was able to fly Daltons to the village to begin their ministry. After negative Covid tests results and 14 days of quarantine, the Daltons have begun their ministry with gusto. They are also involved in extensive work on the house and church, unaided by support staff or work teams due to ongoing Covid restrictions.

Ruby

This village, like most others, have been closed to all outsiders. I have continued to contact leaders in the church regularly by phone, as have George and Judy, to maintain the relationship between the village and InterAct. We have a strong possibility of a new missionary family tracking for village ministry in Ruby.

Other Ministries

Annual Conference

The 2021 dates have been set for June 2-7.

EnGage! Alaska Winter 2020:

The first ever (we think) winter internship for EnGage! Happened this winter. Two students from outside of Alaska, Amber and Hayden, joined Appointee Carrie Curtis for an unusual internship experience in Copper Center from December 2 – December 30. While Covid certainly made things difficult and altered the way we did things, all three of the women gave positive reviews as they described all that they learned and what God had shown them. Both of the women from outside of Alaska expressed their desire, and possibility, of returning to Alaska for ministry in the future.

Other

Hammond Property

The final documentation submitted to the court and all funds have been distributed and the bank closed. Since that time I was able to close the sale of the house and the funds have been distributed equally between Lazy Mountain Bible Church and InterAct Ministries. Each ministry received just under \$102,300.00. This closed the estate and my role as Personal Representative has been concluded.

Six- Month Ministry Goals

Event related

Co-host with Mowery's the BCT event in February.

Finalize dates and complete the next ANA training.

With others, speak and represent InterAct at the ABC missions conference in March.

Prepare, and execute, our Annual Conference.

Prepare and launch EnGage! Summer, with DeVries, Curtis', and Carrie co-leading and supporting.

Program related

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Improve our Alaska mentoring process, as well as contribute to the organizational-wide mentoring possibility.

Move the Educational partnership project forward so that some meetings take place yet this school year.

Besides Jill's MA classes, move the Counseling Center ahead by scheduling a 12 Stones visit and completing start-up documentation and organization.

Staff related

Work with the field to define components of a mature Alaska Native Church so we have specific goals to work towards.

Resume work with staff members to complete their ministry maps, helping everything work toward the same goal of a thriving native church in Alaska.

Develop, and execute, a field visitation schedule in post-pandemic world.

Work with our appointees so they can be released fully to the field, fully funded.

Fully release all Campus related operation to Toby and Cherie.

Personal leadership development

Take spiritual refreshment week

Steve Horsman

Alaska Field Director