

Alaska Field Report

January 2022

Staff Highlights

- Peterson deployed to Copper Center (completing the CC team)
- Martins deployed to Ruby
- Two new babies born to staff families

Advances to Field Vision

- A Novel Approach implemented and seeing a slow start (but a start)
 - Team 1 Paulls, Petersons (Copper Center)
 - Team 2 Daltons, Martins (Grayling and Ruby)
 - “Team 3” DeVries (Anchorage)
- Biblical Counseling development
 - Jill has two remaining classes for the MABC, and then a counseling internship, counseling supervision and her thesis. She anticipates having it completed no later than 2023. She is also actively counseling several women, and others with LEaD.
 - Jill has made application for ACBC (Association of Biblical Counselors) certification.
 - Toby and Cherie Curtis are ready to make their application to begin the ACBC certification process.
 - Jill has been ordering books for the library and has made two large orders for both a lending library and “giveaways”
 - Jill has a request in to a couple of para-church counseling centers to assist with the infrastructure and launch of the center
- EnGage 2022
 - One participant has been accepted and we have several other inquiries
- Christian Educator Network
 - This has not moved ahead as rapidly as planned, but Jill is working toward a first “network call” in February. She has been working with people, one-to-one, to try and set up a steering committee
 - Jill has been providing support to a missionary and educator in a village
 - Jill continues assisting Alaska Bible College with the Elementary Education degree program

- Mentoring program
 - With some modifications, Jill and I are mentoring the new staff
 - Jill has also worked with Dan Mayerle's team to discuss and propose organizational wide mentoring
- Support Team
 - We have seen growth with our "A" team (support staff) and they are working well together
- Lazy Mountain Campus Ministries
 - Toby and Cherie (and Carrie and Marcus) are making progress as a team
 - We anticipate more ministries organized and facilitated by InterAct
- LEaD Alaska
 - 6 participants were accepted and 4 arrived. One is a second-year student
 - Toby and Cherie are much more involved this year and evaluating the possibility of assuming this ministry next year, which was a future plan at the last report
- Misc.
 - Alaska hosted a pilot project to onboard and equip new-to-InterAct staff. We completed 2 of 4 weeks scheduled with George Walker leading the training with teachers from our Oregon office, Canadian Field and Alaskan Field.

Future planning

- Beginning with the end in mind.....
- We continue to refine how we define a biblically maturing church. Our process began at conference, will continue through the Pilot Project training and summer conference
- We are in the planning stages for Toby & Cherie Curtis to gain village ministry experience this summer
- We are exploring a plan for Carrie to gain Siberian experience as a part of the mobilization ministry
- We plan to have the Discipleship/Counseling Center fully operational in 2022.
 - Counseling requests from Copper Center Community Chapel and AK Native people wanting services in the Valley
 - Getting additional staff ACBC certified

- Potential partnership with Anchorage Grace Church and their ACBC staff
- Villages requesting missionary services
 - Chignik, Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake (need a young couple to follow Dave Hill as he is phasing out of ministry)
 - Sand Point (could team up with Chignik)

Setbacks

We were thankful God had provided funding for the Grayling house repairs but we faced several issues that delayed the project. First, the timing prevented us from getting it on the barge in enough time to complete the project before snowfall. Our second issue was no surprise and was related to the village Covid-19 mandates and protocol. We are, however, glad to have the additional time to plan and stage the project, which we anticipate to take place this summer.

We have also found it challenging to have new staff but not yet able to fully release some of the ministries we have led. We find ourselves on this stretch to supervise, lead, guide, and launch staff with our own ongoing direct ministry responsibilities. Not sure what we do except continue working through the muddy waters until we have more seasoned staff to assist and assume ministries without as much direction as is required by new staff.