

**Alaska Field Board  
February 2023**

**State of the Field & Forward movement:**

**Staffing news**

- Since August we have one additional family that has transferred from SEND, serving in the village of Nulato. Our total new staff transferring from SEND in 2022 includes Overbeeks and Amy Miller, in Kodiak and Caseys in Nulato, along with Canada receiving Colwells in Ross River, YT.
- There are several additional SEND staff expressing the possibility of transferring to InterAct.
- One small family seriously considering village ministry with InterAct Alaska. (Currently completing their final semester at Frontier).
- I continue following up on other potential future staff.
- Petersons are on “interim” assignment due to special needs of their children. They are staying on campus and so will be involved in maintenance, hospitality, and discipleship as time allows, while continuing with the Copper Center ministry on a monthly basis.

**Staff Training**

- Completed Onboarding training for our new-to-InterAct (SEND transferees) in January. Onboarding included: Historical Context- InterAct Inc. & InterAct Alaska & Current Status (rapid review, values, ministry map, etc.), Member Care for Alaska, MER and website updates, adaptation and implementation of Biblical counseling principles for utilization in ministry, Support Team context and ministries, child safety & protection policies, life-long learning culture of InterAct.
- George and Mike provided a rapid overview of A Novel Approach and implementation.

**Annual Conference**

- May 30 –June 3, Daryl Kroeker is keynote speaker.
- We have outgrown our campus and this year the conference will be held at Victory Bible Camp. I still have many details to work out with Victory, but we continue to need to find volunteers for meals, worship, and all age groups at the MK program.
- A small conference team is working on the logistics.

**Staff supervision and mentoring**

**My weekly meetings:**

- Toby, to review his supervision, maintenance, hospitality, development
- Copper Center Team, to which I provide leadership

**Weekly meeting teams:**

- Campus Staff, led by Toby (I join 1-2 times a month)
- Campus Maintenance Team, led by Toby (Toby reports to me)

**Monthly meeting teams-**

- Alaska Field Advisory Team
- A Team, led by Jonathan (I join occasionally)

#### Staff:

- Scheduling face-to-face spring meetings
- Regularly try to connect by phone
- Daltons continue with ANA consultations

#### **Campus Services**

- I have released the Campus supervision to Toby (advising as needed)
- Continuing to work with Toby and Cherie to improve Hospitality services
- Continuing to work with Toby and Marcus to improve Maintenance for Campus
- Working to mentor Toby into the larger position, including ministry development

#### **Member Care**

- Mark and Rose Mowery (Desert Streams) serve as member care staff
- Continuing to work with Mowerys to develop/implement a plan for mentoring the DeVries into more of this type ministry

#### **Villages requesting missionaries**

- Chignik Bay
- Shageluk
- Anvik
- Pedro Bay

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

- Chignik Lagoon
- Chignik Lake

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

- Tanana property
- Continued repair of Grayling house (to be completed this summer) \*new stove required
- Chignik property repairs

#### **LEaD Alaska**

- Pilot project with 2 women involved. Goals have been for their employment, obtain a drivers' license, and continued discipleship (through a variety of means) and counseling.
- Carrie drives one day, Cherie another day, and Stiefels typically drive Sunday to/from church. Jill drives the remainder of the days and usually drives for anything extra (doctor, etc.). Jill is doing the counseling and all extra-curricular activities. Cherie and Gracia lead Bible study several times a month.

#### **EnGage! Alaska**

- Confirmed 1 intern, with Ruby as the tentative placement for him.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Continuing to work on the 5-year field strategic plan and implementing as appropriate
- Jill and I are mentoring the Petersons in a temporarily move to Palmer to address educational needs for their children, which will aid I continuing to minister in Copper Center
- Jill is still instructing at Alaska Bible College (Introduction to Education, Early Child Development and Psychology of Education) this year in hopes to develop and

implement a program to have school teachers as self supported missionaries with InterAct to become team members with local missionaries

### **Partial Forward Movement or Postponement**

#### **Professional Learning**

- Restart these monthly sessions, potentially in March
- Planning March, April, and May to cover the topic of suicide (prevention, intervention, response)

#### **Counseling Center**

- Jill currently in supervised counseling with Dr. Amy Baker. Remaining will be the exams and her thesis.
- Toby and Cherie continue with ACBC certification process, having completed the required reading in Phase 1.
- Counseling office operational (being used a several days a week)
- Representing the counseling center, Jill weekly provides counsel to 3 women in the counseling office, and two children and the mother through the Copper Center Community Church.
- Counseling library initial phase assembled and in utilization
- New (to InterAct from Send North) staff had several modules on the application of gospel-centered conversations (Biblical Counseling) in their ministry context during our Onboarding Training. All staff have now had some training and exposure to the principles of BC.

#### **Professional Educator's Network**

- Jill still hopes to launch something this school year- potential to announce at the ABC mission conference in April
- Challenges have been her schedule
- Infrastructure is close to "publication" and announcement phase
- Components will include: regular network meeting addressing relevant educational topic and missionary-skill to better impact the community, building networking among educators, summer educator's conference, potential to become InterAct members with fee and greater participation in our mission or as team members

#### **Field Direction**

- The Alaska Field is moving in a healthy direction. The two-fold process of ministering at the worldview level and using scripture as the means to deal with the differences between the host community's worldview and the biblical worldview is gaining more interest. Our hope is to dive deep into relationship and address life issues at the worldview level using scripture as our standard of measure.

#### **Encouragement through God's Work in Alaska**

- The number of staff that are developing healthy, vibrant, and growing youth programs has encouraged me. When the children are a priority of the church you gain access to the whole family.

### **Setbacks, Challenges and Discouragement**

- Although we have moved our location for Conference to Victory, we still need to find the same number of volunteers in services for MK programming, worship, and meals
- Getting regular visitations scheduled and completed because of other pressing needs
- Getting 6 month goals written for all missionaries, and updated job descriptions. I have attempted to have them prewrite the goals but goal-writing and setting is not a high priority or skill for many of our staff
- LEaD.... the search for where to go from here is a concern