

Alaska Field Report– Spring 2024
Steve Horsman, Alaska Field Director

Encouragements:

Staffing news

- Delivery news: Elijah Darrel DeVries joined the DeVries family on Nov. 20th, 2023. Welcome to the InterAct family as well.
- I continue following up with interested/potential future staff: (2 couples from Send North, 2 couples from Kingdom Air Corp)
- The Peterson children are all receiving the necessary educational and specialized services with a local school. We are unsure, at present, when they may be able to move back to Copper Center.
- Marcus (our long-term volunteer in maintenance) has completed his exploration time in Ruby intending to experience village ministry, and team cohesion, to determine the viability of Ruby for his future ministry.
- Jon and Maryanna Casey have approval from a lending source to build a house in the main part of Nulato. The Village leadership and the community are very pleased to offer a lot for them to build on. The Casey's have been offered a lot so they can build in the main part of town, which is a significant accomplishment in this particular village.
- There are 8 villages/urban areas that have requested InterAct to support their communities with missionaries; all have had InterAct missionaries in the past and are currently without leadership in the local churches. (see below)
- Progress is being made in identifying my successor
- Progress is being made to identify a person to fill the position of Alaska Assistant Field Director, as per the 5 Year Strategic Plan that I shared at our 2022 conference.

Staff Training

- We continue the development of our Alaska Field training process called "Equip Alaska." This rigorous and strategic training time, with mentoring and village internship, should move us closer to meeting village requests with teams trained and prepared to accomplish the task of planting and growing biblically authentic churches in Alaska .

Annual Conference

- The Alaska Conference will be held at Victory Bible Camp Aug 5th-10th.
- Our keynote speaker is Leland Hotchkiss.
- Theme: Relational Peace: The need in ministry

Succession

- Progress is being made to identify my successor for a Field Director, and also to fill the position of Alaska Assistant Field Director, as per the 5 Year Strategic Plan that I shared at our 2022 conference.

Alaska Christian Educator's Network

- A Steering Committee consisting of Jill, Dr. Matthew Lindquist (Mat-Su Borough School District Core Specialist and Alaska Bible College future Director of the Teacher Education Program), Principal Patti Farren (Principal of American Charter Academy, and former rural village educator), and Chase Cantrell (Dean of Institutional Advancement at Alaska Bible College, educator).
- A Facebook private page has been created and is active.
- A small group of individuals are added to the MailChimp email list.
- Brochures have been digitally distributed.
- The launch date for the first Network Zoom session is March 4.
- Former Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson, Dean of Education at Columbia International University, and the Network Steering Committee will share the agenda at the first meeting.
- The ACE Network will be scheduled to meet in April and May of this academic school year, and then begin again in September for the next academic school year.

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)

Potential Villages to be developed

- Holy Cross
- Hughes
- Galena

Property-related exploration or needs

- Continued repair of Grayling house (to be completed summer 2024).

- Radon problem has been identified and we are researching possible solutions
- Perryville 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 that are specifically 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

- Counseling Center
- Jill's MABC (starting on thesis- final task in the program)
- Jill met with Wasilla Bible Church about their intentions for biblical counseling, but they are at least 5 years from launch
- Alaska Christian Educators Network (ACE Network)

Field Direction

- The Alaska Field continues 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.
- I desire to have a well-thought-out, well-developed, and implemented strategy set and developing before my successor is installed so he can develop the strategy and move the plan of developing biblically authentic churches, on the Alaska field, to the next level.

Blessings:

- My new health issue is a blessing (in disguise)
 - One blessing is that a very sharp PA heard something unusual during my annual checkup and sent me to a cardiologist who was surprised to find 11 blockages ranging from 50%-70% blocked. Everyone was quite surprised since I have had no symptoms at all.
 - Another blessing is that my closest staff has stepped in to cover for me and have done a great job.

Prayer:

- That the Lord will continue to make the succession process clear as we work to equip the field for future growth
- That the field staff understand and are motivated to continue to work towards our goal of a biblically authentic church in each village we serve
- That the Lord would bring into clear focus the most pressing tasks necessary to move the field forward