



June, 2010, Update from the Joseph's in Alaska

Greetings from the Land of the Midnight Sun, well not quite yet, but coming soon! The buds have just started on the trees and spring is about to burst forth. Thank goodness the snow is long gone and its tire change over time, from studded tires to regular tires. Young moose are running around chomping on the fresh new buds after a winter of dry willow branches.

Thanks for praying, and keep praying as the normal suicide season for young native men (spring time) has been abnormally quiet. Our native church has been focusing our prayers for them and God is blessing us with very few tragedies. Recently I did conduct a funeral for James Grant of our church that was a well know artist in the native community. He went to be with the Lord at age 62 after several years of battling cancer. People came from everywhere to pay their respects and it was the biggest funeral I have ever taken part in.

I preached on James' journey to our church in search of real spirituality, as he and I discussed so many times the difference between **“religion”** (cold and without life) and **“relationship”** (meaningful and full of life). James found a relationship with God through accepting Christ, and we baptized him last summer in the frigid

waters of the Chena River. I will never forget the look on his face when he came out of the icy waters. Religion is a real stronghold of Satan in these parts, and it was good to expose its deception and hold on the people through mainline religious organizations.

We recently held a certified **Genesis Process Counselor Training** for 58 people at our Resource Center in Palmer, Alaska. It was a daunting task to plan food, lodging, travel, and administrate the event. Sixteen people from our own native church attended the week-long event. As we have spoken so highly of Genesis before, we see this as the long-term answer to helping native people have the tools, guided by the Spirit, to come out of their woundedness and live for Christ. After the training, a group of native people met with us to discuss the vision and dream of turning our InterAct Resource Center in Palmer into a Whole Life Discipleship campus featuring a one-year residential treatment center using the Genesis Process. This facility is sitting on one of the most beautiful spots in the world and is a perfect setting for struggling people to get out of the city and out of the village into a safe, beautiful, and culturally sensitive environment. It is a huge dream that will require funds, leaders, and much planning. We certainly do not want to get ahead of God. Please pray that we will be sensitive and wait on the Lord to guide us for His Vision for Alaska's Native People.

Now that David is the new Alaska Field Director and we have a new executive Director for InterAct Inc., we believe that with a grassroots strategy we can begin to gather the harvest and see a penetration of the gospel into dark places. It will not be without a fight from our enemy as we have already seen the attacks come from so many directions. **This is why we need the support of your prayers, this is an urgent request for we are in real spiritual warfare! God is about to do a great work in the hearts of a people group who have long been held in darkness.**

God is doing a great work in the hearts of the **teens** at our church. Our youth pastor, Tim, took a group of 13 to Edmonton, Canada to a native teen camp. They were able to cross the border without difficulty, and experience God's protection and safety in the long two-day drive, and two of the girls from our church recommitted their lives to Christ (Jenna & Sheri), while two who only come to youth group, but not church ACCEPTED CHRIST (Anastasia & Adelle)! PTL! Pray for these 4 girls, and also for Burton & Amy who are 2 teens who are struggling these days.

A building group of 17 dear friends from **Community Church of Greenwood** is coming to help with some building projects in July. They will complete the building of a log cabin and many other ongoing projects. They will also help build VBS props and help organize materials for Marci's SS Class who are working at the World Eskimo Indian Olympics the next week. They will also take in some tourist attractions like a tour of Denali National Park, pan for gold at one of the mines and go to the Chena village down river by way of the Riverboat Discovery boat.

Also pray for us as we have the new responsibility of planning and organizing the **Alaska InterAct Conference scheduled in Palmer, AK for August 2 - 5**. David has scheduled this year's conference with Native leaders as the speakers, as we are praying for God to bring like minded Native leaders into InterAct who will take on the responsibility of reaching the unreached native villages and cities across Alaska, as our missionaries now take the role of support and encouragement. Please pray -- We particularly need a cook for this week!

Thank you so much for your patience in waiting for news from the Alaskan Gap. With Marci's role in helping with her parents and their health needs, and David's new responsibilities as Alaska Field Director, as well as the ministries we have in the Native church in Fairbanks, especially the leading the men's group of Genesis Process in the Change group, we get busy and forget how important it is to thank you for your vital role of praying and giving so that this ministry can reach native people in the Golden Heart of Alaska. We do, however, continually thank the Lord for your faithfulness in loving and supporting us through the years and across the many miles. Please email or call us if you have specific prayer requests that we can lift up for you.

We love you!

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