

Spring 2010

ALASKA



Standing in the Gap Ministries

A Ministry of the Black family, missionary appointees to the remote native villages of Alaska.

"And I sought for a man..."



Derek, Laura, and Elias Black

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"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." - Ezekiel 22:30

MINISTRY UPDATE

Greetings in the name of our Savior! God truly blessed our two ministry partner building trips throughout the past two months! Words can't really express the awesome provision and connections that God gave us in Hawaii. Have you ever experienced God's orchestrating hand a little more visually? That is the way our time in Hawaii went. We are now trusting God to lead the right people/churches to partner with us for the furtherance of the Gospel in Alaska!

April took us to Oregon, Washington, and Montana with a total of 6 meetings. We were impressed with the beauty of the Pacific Northwest! We are grateful for Laura's aunt and uncle, who allowed us to base our travels from their house! It was also great to re-connect with our friends in Polson, Montana. Our car saw many miles during April and we thank God for

safety. Most churches set their budgets once a year, so we are awaiting God's timing for the right ministry partners.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Maybe you recently read our need for wisdom and prayer posted on Facebook and our website. I would like to elaborate on some critical decisions that we are facing.

We are grateful for all that Laura's parents have done for us; allowing us to live with them rent-free! Laura and I knew that they had plans to relocate to South Carolina. They listed their home back a few months ago, and we began packing our belongings accordingly. We had the option of moving with them, but we decided to stay locally based for now. Well, their house sold during April and we now have a week to move to an undetermined location (sorta). For now, we are moving into my old bedroom at my parent's

house. Obviously, things will be tight but we are grateful for their help!

As all other options for housing seem closed, we became aware of an extremely discounted house for sale in Bethel, Alaska. The property is in need of many repairs, but it seems to have good potential for our future ministry plans. We need much wisdom in making this decision (evaluating the structure, repair needs, our finances, timing, etc.).

Additionally, we are also looking at some options for short-term work in the Bethel, AK area. Reasons for this: possible housing situation, beginning of culture/language classes, building up ministry savings for more deputation.

Please pray for wisdom! The last thing we want is to get ahead of God! We feel like God is shoving us off a cliff, and we are not sure where we are landing! God is building our faith!

JUST A THOUGHT

A MANIFESTATION OF THE GOSPEL

Today it seems there is no shortage of books on the negative aspects of the church. It should break our hearts to see the sometimes desperate condition of Christ's church today! One related passage God has directed me to lately is Ephesians 3.

Paul writes the believers in Ephesus regarding the awesome Gospel, of which he now boldly declares to the Gentiles. He goes on glorying in the church as the "manifold wisdom of God." This Paul says is the awesome Gospel that he so longed for the Ephesian



believers to comprehend with such awe, that it would propel their worship and lifestyle.

The church is to be a visual representation of the Gospel. Angelic authorities even stand in wonder at the church's representation of God's redemptive wisdom in this world. How many of us can truly say that our church is a visual expression of the Gospel; the manifold wisdom of God's redemption?

Before you proceed in criticizing your church as a whole, take a look inside. How are you contributing to the church's Gospel manifestation? When people get to know you, do they stand in awe at the manifold wisdom of God's redemptive work? ([Full article @ our blog.](#))

Prayer Corner

- Wisdom in Upcoming Decisions
- Additional Ministry Partnerships
- Additional meetings
- Perseverance in deputation
- Finances

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