

Summer 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

Thank you very much for all of your continued prayers and support that make what we do possible! You are partnering together with us in the Gospel as we continue this journey to Alaska. In our last newsletter, we shared some important prayer requests and ways God is building our faith. It often feels like our patience is being stretched. We are confident though that our sovereign God is working His master plan through these waiting periods.

Our move into my parent's house is now complete and we are grateful for their help! As for the house we mentioned in Bethel, AK, we are still not sure of it's status. Please continue to pray for wisdom regarding housing decisions we will be making sometime in the future.

We are excited for the other request that was previously mentioned regarding Laura's short-term nursing work in Alaska. As I write this

update, Laura's Alaska nursing license should be arriving in our mailbox. Please pray for us as we seek God's leading in a possible 3 month trip to Alaska this fall (hopefully in Bethel). These temporary assignments come up quickly, so the timing and details are critical (our deputation schedule, job location, and job availability). Laura received two offers already, but our schedule closed both opportunities. We anticipate God's leading in this important matter!

Please also continue praying for our deputation meetings schedule. Many churches are still slow to consider new missionary church partnerships. We currently have a few meetings scheduled for the summer, one in the fall, and a few being scheduled for January and February. Please pray, as I continue the seemingly endless task of calling churches, that God leads me to the right areas and contacts. We are planning on booking meetings through late summer 2011 with

the intent of moving to Alaska in the fall of 2011. God is continually blessing us with a current support level of 40% and we are hopeful that He will lead more churches and individuals to partner with us, both from our past contacts and our future schedule!

So, we again want to emphasize our thanks for your critical partnership through prayer! If you don't already, would you prayerfully consider also financially partnering with us?

The path of life's journey is often interesting. I'm sure you can recall your own chaotic times when you're left standing without a map and not sure what God's up to. It is through these times that we sense so clearly that we are all on the road of redemption! Let us all cling to our great Redeemer and His masterful plan for each us!

JUST A THOUGHT

AN UNQUENCHABLE DESIRE TO LEARN

We often take knowledge, specifically Biblical knowledge for granted. The lack of a passion to learn Biblical truth is an all too often common trait among Christendom. God's people must get back to a thirst for learning Biblical truth. I'm talking about a deeper level of seeking truth than just your "15 minutes" of Bible reading or even the weekly church sermon.

This desire for learning is a relatively new work that God is doing in my heart throughout the past few years. It is far too easy for us to sit through church and



do our daily Bible reading as a form of legalism without actually growing in our passion for learning Biblical truth. As Paul addressed Timothy, are we truly studying to show ourselves diligent students of God's Word?

In response to all of these important truths, I am excited to introduce to you an ongoing project started many months ago...

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Prayer Corner

- Fall Alaska Opportunity
- Additional Ministry Partnerships
- Right Contacts for Meetings
- Perseverance in deputation
- Finances

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