

Summer

2020

MEMOS



Are you a Gapper for Christ's cause?

STANDING IN THE GAP MINISTRIES



CREATION: RESOUNDING THE GLORY OF GOD

All of creation screams the glory of our great Creator God! This summer, let us all take time to worship our great God as Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer!

Summer 2010

ALASKA



Standing in the Gap Ministries

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

www.thegapstander.com
standinginthegap@mac.com



*Derek, Laura, and Elias Black
Your partner gap standers for
the Gap Stander in Alaska.*



“And I sought for a man...”

GAP STANDERS FOR GOD’S KINGDOM

“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!

The Believer's Bookshelf
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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. I know we've probably all heard this plea before, but I am bringing this up again because it is so very critical. 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.

Far too many Christians, myself included, treat their Christian life as if salvation's granting of eternal life is the only work of the Gospel. Salvation involves far more than just a ticket to heaven! We get to live an abundant life in Jesus now! The Gospel has tangible implications for our lives in the here and now. We are all on a process of redemption, whereby God orchestrates all things for His redemptive purposes. So often I find myself living life as if the Gospel has no tangible implications for today. I mean, if we really grasped this meaningful truth, we would have an unquenchable thirst for growing in our understanding of Biblical truth. We would passionately approach our reading, our study, and our church attendance.

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 in 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?

So what does this look like? Am I saying that we all need to quit our jobs and retreat to a monk-like lifestyle where all we do is read and study? Of course not. What I am saying is that there are likely some of us that could develop a deeper desire to learn Biblical truth that may manifest itself in an increased level of reading or some other means of growing in truth. I'm sure some people reading this already have a good discipline or hobby of reading. But how many of us need to develop a passion for this kind of

learning? Do you fully appreciate the glorious doctrines of Scripture? Do you even know the various doctrines of the Bible? You may be able to share your salvation testimony with another, but are you able to answer the skeptic's intellectual questions regarding truth? Do you really know what you believe and why you believe it? Or, do you just believe what you believe based on tradition and the preacher's word?

Please understand me. I am not advocating these things as a legalistic aspect of the believer's life. I am admonishing these things because I feel that there are so many Christians who live with a very shallow understanding of Biblical truth and how it actually relates to them. Beyond the actual level of truth caught, there are scores of people today in our churches that approach learning (whether devotional, personal reading, or church) in a way that is often void of any passion.

In response to all of these important truths, I am excited to introduce to you an ongoing project started many months ago. As God continues growing my passion for truth, I decided to share my study and various thoughts with others. From one regular redeemed child of the King to another, I pray that these resources and recommendations can be of some mutual edification to you! Follow the link provided below to view our new site designed to promote a passion for growing in Biblical truth. At the new Believer's Bookshelf website, we endeavor to share our learnings along the way as we continue our ongoing life of redemption together. It is still just a small sampling of all of the Biblical resources available today, but be sure to check back often as we continue adding resources and reviews. Please also understand that we attempt to bring a wide and often random selection of materials available today and that we must (as always) exercise Biblical discernment in our reading/study.



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