

Late Summer 2010

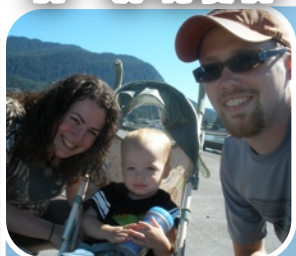
ALASKA



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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- Ezekiel 22:30

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MINISTRY UPDATE

Greetings once again, this time from Alaska! We are grateful for your prayers and financial support! We trust that everyone enjoyed the bulk of the summer that is now basically past.

God answered several key requests since our last newsletter and I now write this update from Alaska. You may recall our plea for wisdom and God's leading in a potential fall AK trip. Well, summarizing a long story, a travel nursing agency offered Laura a job during the week of our Denver missions conference. Although it is not in the area that we originally anticipated, it is very clear to us that God's Spirit directed us to this location. Laura received several other opportunities in addition to the current Wrangell one. Every other opportunity closed for us except this position in Wrangell. I've been telling people that we identify with the apostle Paul when he said he desired to go "here" and for some reason the Spirit of God would not allow it.

So here we are in Wrangell, Alaska for 8 weeks. We launched out by faith and within a week's time period of the initial call, we landed in Southeast Alaska. As for the nursing position, Laura is loving being back in her nursing element and gaining Alaska nursing experience. Elias is adjusting well and loves playing in the abundant rocks and going on walks with his daddy. As for me, I am enjoying being back in Alaska, spending more time with my little buddy, calling for more deputation meetings, helping in one of the churches in town, and doing some various studying/writing projects. We are thrilled to find and connect with the Baptist church here in town and we look forward to serving with them while we are in town.

Our current plan is to be in Wrangell for Laura's 8 week assignment and then spend a brief week-and-a-half along Alaska's road system for a couple of deputation church meetings. In addition to the gained nursing experience,

continued exposure in Alaska, and time to build our 2011 traveling calendar, we are also grateful for God's provision financially. Since we've been operating at 40% support for a while, Laura's income will greatly help replenish our savings for more deputation traveling and our future full-time move up to Alaska.

One specific area that God continues burdening my heart about is the influence of Biblical counseling throughout remote Alaska. As a general request, please pray for direction as we seek the logistics of doing some sort of Biblical counseling ministry as a means for church planting. There is much more to this, but further details will come together once we move up full-time.

Our God is so very good! It is such a privilege to follow, trust, and serve Him as we proclaim the awesome ministry of reconciliation!

JUST A THOUGHT

FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT

These past couple weeks have truly plunged us into quite the adventure! It's interesting how God often leads us to related Scriptures as if He knows what lies ahead. Funny how that works, huh! One of my interests in the Scriptures lately revolves around the Spirit's work of leading in the believer's life. I am currently reading through a related book on this subject. The title and premise of this book curiously grasped my attention. Apparently according to the author's research, Celtic



Christianity previously referred to the Holy Spirit as the "Wild Goose." While I am not exactly sure of the validity of this tale, it's undergirding principle I believe is somewhat valid and often overlooked in Christendom today. We often neglect the role and logistical capacity of the Spirit's work today in fear of slipping into some extreme unbiblical teaching on the Spirit. While the afore mentioned subject could encapsulate much writing on a myriad of subtopics, the one of my particular interest currently is the guiding role of the Spirit in the everyday lives of...

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Prayer Corner

- Be used of God in Wrangell
- Additional Ministry Partnerships
- Right Contacts for Additional Meetings
- Important Unspoken Request
- Direction for future (timing of moving, location of move, role of Biblical counseling)

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