

Late Summer

2021

MEMBERS

STANDING IN THE GAP MINISTRIES



Are you a Gapper for Christ's cause?

OUR REDEEMER GOD

What a privilege to serve our great Creator God! Creation itself in all it's glory longs for the day of full redemption. May we the redeemed likewise long for God's continual refining work in our lives for His glory!

Late 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

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 all 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 know 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 Christians 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 believers. As a hunter or hunting dog may encounter quite the adventure following after a wild goose, I believe Scriptures' teaching on the Spirit's guiding in life often bears an uncanny resemblance. It's not that God is on a mission to plunge us into life of "Indiana Jones" adventure to which maybe we can't currently relate, but that our submission to His leading may often seem like an adventure. I think this truth is often not just neglected, but completely forgotten and misunderstood. I'm not saying that we all need to go out looking for the most adventurous choice and go for it assuming that God is in it just because it seems adventurous. No, what I am saying is that we don't often treat the Spirit's leading seriously and if we truly did, many of us would experience or maybe even realize His often unexpected ways of guidance throughout life. Biblically, we often neglect a submissive and discerning attitude toward the Spirit's guidance throughout our everyday lives. When Christ walked this earth, He continually directed, taught, encouraged, and rebuked His followers. As He left back to the Father, He promised God's Spirit would come to continue His function in

His physical absence. Do you see it? We live in this Spirit fulfilled age where every believer personally has the indwelling of the Spirit. Just as Christ ministered to His followers in the Gospels, so the Spirit today ministers to modern day followers of Jesus. Jesus taught His followers to ask in faith their concerns and requests regarding guidance in life and really for anything. We have the awesome privilege of asking the Father in faith for His guidance predicated on our relationship to Jesus and answered and enacted through the earthly ministry of the Holy Spirit. Oh, how I know I am so often naive or oblivious to the Spirit's work in my life! May God truly drive us back to a Biblically-centered understanding of His work in our everyday lives through His Spirit.

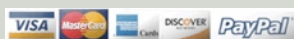
Allow me to share our most recent experience with the Spirit's leading. I pray it will serve as a personal example that may help as some form of encouragement to you. It all started as I continued calling churches for support-raising meetings. Our fall schedule was filling up very slowly. At this same time, we also began looking seriously into "Travel Nursing" positions. In the need to fill the demand of nurses at various hospitals throughout our country, there are several contract nursing agencies that hire nurses to temporarily fill in these nursing gaps. Well, particularly interesting to us was the availability of these positions throughout Alaska. So after praying and seeking counsel, Laura applied to one of these companies. She began receiving Alaska job openings generally lasting around 13 weeks. The only problem initially revolved around a little thing called a state nursing license! It was quite the fiasco, but after several weeks Laura finally secured her Alaska state nursing license. During this license acquiring process, a few jobs had come and gone. So, we continued to wait on God's leading in the matter. As I continued calling, our fall schedule remained mostly open. As a scheduled missions...



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- 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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