

Spring 2011

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



Words cannot express our amazement at our God's sovereign leading, orchestration, and provision of moving us into ministry in Soldotna, Alaska! Thank you to all who prayed and for those who contributed financially as we embarked on our official move to the state! The 9-day journey brought us through the cold and ice-incrusted roads of south central Canada, the remote mountain wilderness of the Yukon, the frost heave deteriorating road near Alaska's state line, eastern Alaska's snowy roads, the big city of Anchorage, and finally to the thawing Kenai Peninsula.

Upon arriving in Soldotna, God provided a beautiful home for us to temporarily live in for the next few months! Our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ here at Soldotna Bible Chapel have been extremely gracious and well receiving of us as we get settled. We are very thankful for the leadership and church-wide passion for the gospel and the glory of God that we clearly see in this ministry! The church is very missions minded, and we are especially excited about the potential to closely work together throughout the villages of southwestern Alaska!

Regarding our time serving at the Bible Chapel this summer, we are actively involved in 2 main aspects: (1) Starting a young adult sunday school class / fellowship group and (2) Redesigning the church's website. Additionally, being on staff affords me the privilege of learning and participating in the background logistics of co-shepherding God's people. Furthermore, the experience of

rubbing shoulders with the fellow pastors at the church and countless others involved in Alaska ministry, in and outside of the church, is giving us a better-rounded background in Alaska ministry.

Please pray that our time here is very profitable! We earnestly desire God to use us and mold us through these several months on staff at Soldotna Bible Chapel. We long for so much more than "ministry experience." We long for the gospel to take deeper root in our own lives through our full-time service here in Soldotna! We long for the gospel to then take a deeper root in the lives of those whom God graciously allows us to serve.

Please pray for us as we earnestly desire to transition to the village hub of Bethel this fall. We still need an increase in our support to make this possible. We would like to ask your church or you as an individual to prayerfully consider partnering with us, as we seek to enter the village this fall!

JUST A THOUGHT

KOINONIA: CALLED INTO COMMUNITY

The young adult ministry that we are starting at Soldotna Bible Chapel is themed around the concept of a community. Koinonia actually is the Greek word for "community." The word literally carries the idea of fellowship, sharing within community, willing contribution, association, partnership, or communion. God's Word implores the word "koinonia" 19 times, always in reference

to fellowship or community within the context of a life lived for the gospel. In fact, all of us believers are called out by our gracious God into His community, the church.

In 1 Corinthians 1:9 we see the glorious restored community fellowship with our Creator God, made possible in our redemption. We stand with the redeemed throughout the ages as our Father God's adopted sons and daughters (Romans 8:15-17)! Our great God, according to His incredible mercy and grace, has engrafted us...

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Prayer Corner

- Praise for safe move
- God's Spirit to mold and use us through the Soldotna ministry
- Partners/Support needed to transition to the village this fall

Home Church: Soldotna Bible Chapel
www.soldotnabiblechapel.org

Agency: Central Missionary Clearinghouse
<http://cmc.missions.net>

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