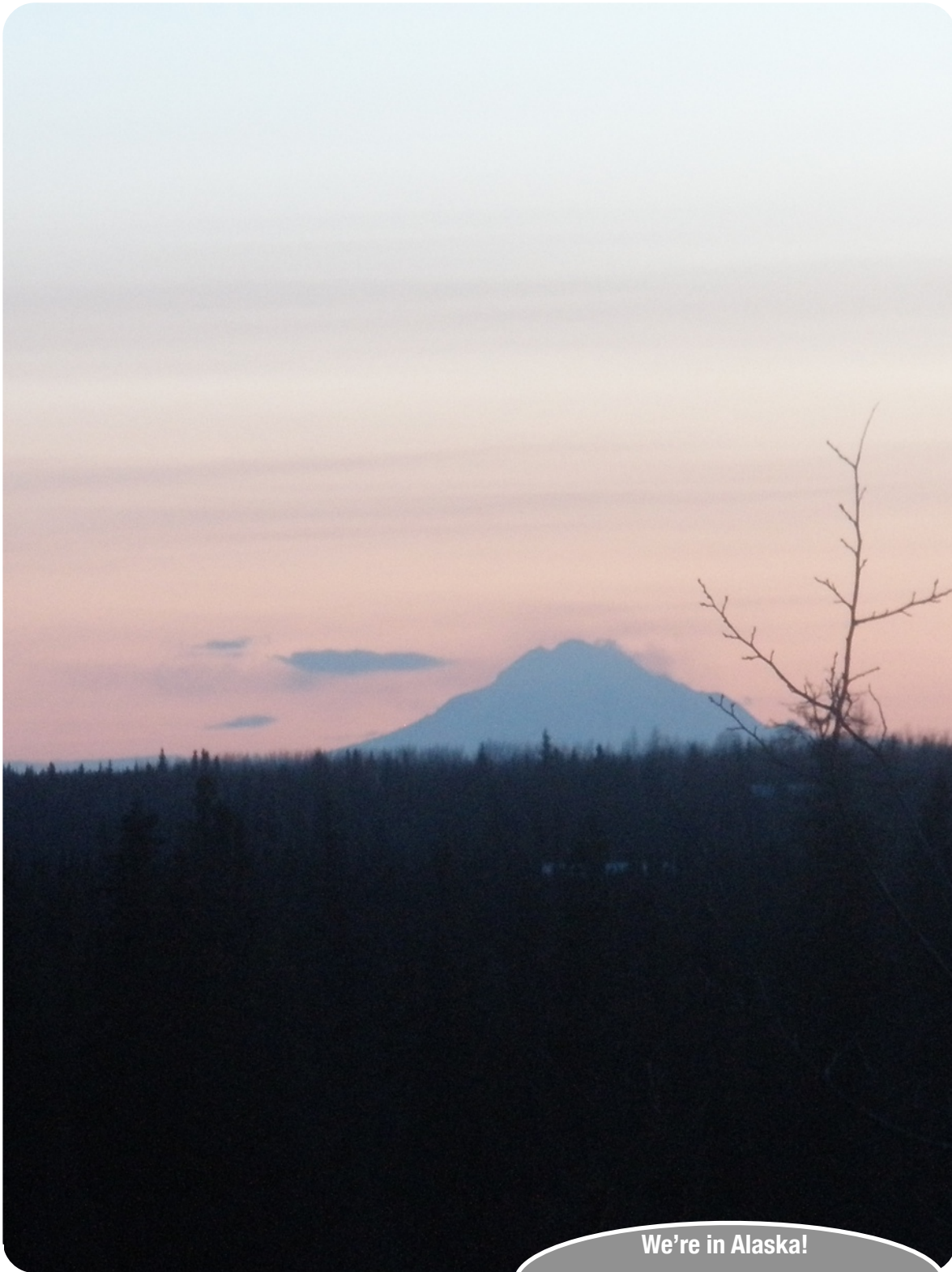
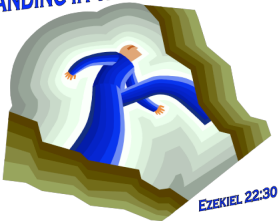


Spring

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STANDING IN THE GAP MINISTRIES



We're in Alaska!

Picture Above: Mount Redoubt across from Soldotna & the Kenai Peninsula

OUR GOD...GREATER THAN ALL THE MOUNTAINS!

Who has...enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? - Isaiah 40:12

Spring 2011

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

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 into koinonia, gospel community, cross-centered, grace-infused fellowship! Awesome, right! We are a part of the redeemed community of God (1 Corinthians 12:27). And it is within this community that we are called to live out the gospel for the spread of Jesus' fame throughout all the ethnic peoples of the world until He returns (Matthew 16:13-19, 24:14).

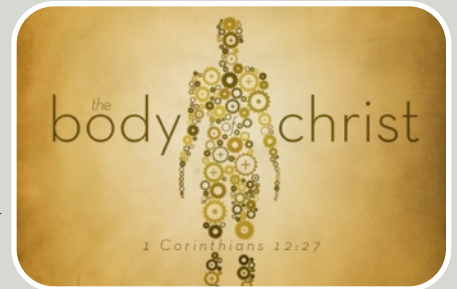
So, God's community... His is a community of love, a community of forgiveness, a community of hope. Christianity was never intended to be lived by the self-study method; it was designed to be lived in koinonia--life changing relationships with others (John 13:34-35, Acts 2:42, Galatians 6:10, 1 John 1:3, the early church example in general). As we grow in community, we experience God's grace and edification in a fellow redeemed corporate context. We collectively stand as unique people in process of redemption, each increasingly shadowing different aspects of God's image. We collectively stand as

a diversified, and yet a unified group with one supreme passion; the gospel.

Scripture clearly pictures the community aspect of our redeemed life in Jesus and with one another in His body of fellowship. But, what exactly are we to be in community around? The following verses continue to be formative verses in my own life right now regarding this one supreme passion on the gospel: Psalm 27:4 (one thing...), Psalm 84:10 (a day in your courts is far better...), Galatians 6:14 (boast only in the cross...), and Philippians 3:7-11 (count all as loss...for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ...). The focus God calls all of us as individual believers and as the Divinely-gathered community of the redeemed is a passion for the gospel.

God is sovereignly gathering us into restored koinonia fellowship with Him as well as with His corporate, diversified, and yet unified body. As we, the called out and adopted children of the King of kings, relish in our koinonia fellowship, may the gospel truly grip us as our one united supreme passion!

So amidst a time when the church seems to many as less and less essential, may we catch the glorious Biblical picture of God's plan for koinonia, gospel-gripped fellowship!



OTHER RECENT POSTS:

[SHEPHERDING THOUGHTS](#)

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(SHOULD UPLOADED UNDER PHOTOS SOON)



**IF VIEWING ON YOUR COMPUTER,
CLICK HERE TO PARTNER/DONATE
TO OUR MINISTRY!**



Prayer
Requests

- 🎯 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)

300 W. Marydale Ave
Soldotna, AK 99669

**Missions Agency (Financial support written & sent here):
Central Missionary Clearinghouse** (<http://cmc.missions.net>)

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Houston, TX 77218

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