

Summer 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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### SOLDOTNA MINISTRY UPDATE

We thoroughly enjoyed my parents' recent visit to Alaska for the first time, and hope that you too are having a great summer with family and friends! God's gracious leading and working through us these past few months has been awesome. It is incredible that we are already halfway through the summer months! You may notice our update this time is a two-page spread, as we have some very important items we are sharing with you.

#### Church Website Completion

Regarding ministry, we'd like to share with you how our involvement in Soldotna is progressing. The church website is finally up and running after a complete overhaul. It really is incredible how technology can enhance ministry these days, and we trust that the site will continue to enhance the ministry of Soldotna Bible Chapel.

#### Koinonia Young Adult Ministry

Also, the Koinonia young adult ministry is going great! It continues to be our joy and privilege to build relationships with many individuals, couples, and young families of our generation. This young adult generation is a critical aspect to the vitality and progression of the church. We are grateful for the friendships God is forging, and we look forward to seeing how God uses us and them for the furtherance of His fame! Please continue praying for this new ministry! Currently, we are studying through the books

of Malachi (small group) and 1 Corinthians (Sunday school).

#### Village Ministry Transition

As the time for our upcoming village transition draws near, our focus is narrowing in on the logistics of moving to the village. We continue casting our vision for Alaska village church planting before our church here, and we are collectively seeking God's mind in our upcoming longterm outreach strategy. This area on the Kenai Peninsula has historically been very involved in all sorts of village ministries. As a byproduct, Soldotna Bible Chapel has had much exposure and involvement in various village support ministries. It is awesome to see God's preparation and leading in organizing a longterm focus on Alaska-based church planting efforts! Please continue to pray as we solidify our ministry vision and plan.

#### SUPPORT UPDATE

Lastly, we wanted to mention our financial support situation. We thank our current prayer and financial supporters; you are literally partners in God's work here in Alaska! We are grateful for our current supporters, and confident that God will lead more to commit in partnership with us.

For the bulk of our full-time support raising process, we focused primarily on church support. Throughout our travels, we watched as God led several individuals both from our family and from churches to

personally commit to support our ministry through prayer and finances.

Throughout the New Testament we clearly see the importance of believers financially giving to God sacrificially from a cheerful heart of priority and worship (e.g., 2 Cor. 9:6-15). We also see the church's financial response in ministry through generosity, compassion, and sacrificial involvement (e.g., Acts 2:43-47, Phil. 4:10-20).

While we don't want to draw anyone's financial support away from your own local church financial responsibilities, we would like to request your consideration in this matter. If you already give to God through your church and find God placing a burden on your heart to do more, would you prayerfully consider partnering with the spread of Jesus' fame across remote Alaska?

We are still seeking church partnerships, but we are now placing an emphasis on individual partnerships as well. We know that finances and budgets are difficult these days. We also know that there is much to be accomplished for the outworking of the Gospel in our world.

God is on a mission today; a mission to redeem His fallen creatures from all corners of the earth. The church is on this mission. How are you involved in the mission of your church? How are you serving?

*continued on the next page...*

Home Church: Soldotna Bible Chapel  
[www.soldotnabiblechapel.org](http://www.soldotnabiblechapel.org)

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

[www.thegapstander.com](http://www.thegapstander.com)  
[standinginthegap@mac.com](mailto:standinginthegap@mac.com)



How are you praying? How are you giving? Is your motive behind your service and your giving out of a 1 John 4:19 heart of love and worship? That really hits home personally for me! It's all too easy to do the right things, but out of a heart of apathy. May God break us over the awesome reality and purpose of our service and sacrifice for Him!

**SO WHAT'S THE POINT?**

In Romans 15:14-33 Paul culminates his entire doctrinal treatise of the book of Romans to these believers gathered in this influential city. For the bulk of his letter Paul lays forth his passion for the gospel. He lays forth the universal innate depravity of mankind. He clearly establishes mankind's inability to rescue themselves in God's presence. He emphatically declares with piercing clarity God's staggering act of grace in providing a way of redemption. It is this sovereign-enacted plan of redemption that God continues in the lives of the redeemed, who now find themselves set free to live for God's renewed image of God purpose. It is this Divine worldwide plan of redemption that is worthy of Paul's life service. It is this relentless, sovereign fruition of Jesus' promise to build His church (Matthew 16:13-19) that Paul worshipfully proclaims in his epistle to

the Roman believers. He finally reaches the end of the book, where he lays forth his continual plan in serving His God to Rome and beyond. Paul's vision is to reach Spain for the spread of Jesus' fame. Paul's vision is to proclaim the indelible grace of God (as he has just gloriously explained) to the regions beyond Rome. As part in this mission, vision, and strategy, Paul desires the spiritual partnership of the believers in Rome. He desires their encouragement, their prayers, and their finances as necessary tools to collectively (as the body of Christ) reach unreached areas with the Gospel.

**What Are We Asking?**

Like Paul, God continues building a passion within us for the spread of the Gospel in our own area of influence. We have watched as our God led us through our full-time support raising phase. We then watched as our God led us to make our official move to Alaska's road-system, deepening our partnership with Soldotna Bible Chapel. We now find ourselves on the very edge of the people God continues drawing us toward; the native population of remote Alaska. From this standpoint God continues to stir our passion for His calling on our lives.

We are simply asking you to consider partnering with our ministry vision to remote

Alaska. 1. If you are a pastor, will you consider forwarding this on to your church or missions committee; maybe even to the congregation? 2. If you personally do not currently support our ministry in prayers, will you consider making a commitment to pray for us? 3. If you personally do not currently support our ministry in finances, will you consider making a commitment to financially partner with us? 4. Will you consider forwarding a copy of this newsletter and attached commitment card to any friends, family members, or even churches that you believe may take an interest?

We are very excited to get to the village potentially this fall, but we do estimate a needed several hundred dollar increase in our financial support to make this possible. No matter the amount, will you prayerfully consider committing to partner with us?



**Continual work in Soldotna**  
**Direction in village ministry**  
**vision and plan/timing to**  
**transition to the village**  
**Partners/Support needed to**  
**transition to the village this fall**

## YOUR PART IN... THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

**MISSION: REMOTE ALASKA THE GOAL: CHURCH PLANTING THE MISSIONARIES: DEREK & LAURA BLACK**  
**SERVING UNDER: Soldotna Bible Chapel of Soldotna, AK**  
**FINANCES HANDLED BY: Central Missionary Clearinghouse**

In response to my prayerful consideration I commit to: One time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please write & mail checks to: Monthly support of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Central Missionary Clearinghouse

PO Box 219228 Houston, TX 77218  
 (e.g. "gift or support for Derek and Laura Black" on the memo line)  
 (Questions? - Soldotna Bible Chapel - 907-262-4865 or [office@soldotnabiblechapel.org](mailto:office@soldotnabiblechapel.org))

We want to thank you for your consideration! What an incredibly profound truth it is to be collectively on mission for the advancement of the church! (Matthew 16:13-19, Philippians 4:10-20)