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The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska [ECCAK] is non-conference "field" of the Covenant Church of America. We are dependent on the gifts from churches and people to carry out our mission for Christ's sake in Alaska.

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# CHILLING NEWS

that *Warms* the heart

from The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska!

November 2005

Reaching People for Christ's Sake from near the North Pole

## Greenland Mission Eye-Opening

By Nathan Toots

The Ilulisatt church elders' eyes were opened wide by God during our Alaska team visit to Greenland. I wish you could have seen the hope in people's eyes as our group led the youth of their church in a contemporary worship song sung in English. The elders began to see that the future of their church needed the youth to become a vital part of all worship services in the church.

The youth ministry and the local church in Ilulisatt had become segregated into two completely separate bodies. The youth leaders played no part in the operation of the

church body. As I briefed the elders, I could not stress enough the importance of direct youth involvement in all facets of the church. The youth are the key to reaching a new generation and providing for the future of the church. One of the first things I tried to do was get the elders to develop a mission statement that would embrace this concept. Here is the statement they developed:

**"We are God's caring people manifested by God's Word, love, and power reaching out to a new generation, strengthening families, and providing a safe place for hurting people."**

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The Greenland Team: (left to right) Tom Mute, Blassie Shoogukruk Larissa Shimanek, Nathan Toots, Marta Thrasher, Amy Kulp

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## Swanson's Retirement – 28 years in AK

Chip Swanson is as close to an Alaska Native as one can become without having the blood flowing through his veins. His love for the Native people in Alaska has been as natural as for his own biological family. He is at home around the Native language, and the Native culture is second nature to him.

Chip was born in the suburbs of



Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1940. He was raised by Godly parents and was converted

through his father's care from day-one as part of a Christian family. He pursued his college degree in electrical engineering, attaining his BSEE in 1963. This degree prepared him to serve as an engineer at the KICY radio where he was hired in 1977.

His call to ministry came through his interest in communication with Eskimos and through the desire of Eskimo pastors to have him work in the field with them. He began his service as pastor of the nearby villages of Golovin and White Mountain. and as Camp Director in Unalakleet in 1977. After 3 years, he felt God calling him to

serve at Hooper Bay for three years, assisting in pastoral roles in nearby Scammon Bay and Chevak. He was then called to Mountain Village for 6 years of service. While at Mountain Village, he decided to seek more in-depth pastoral training at North Park Theological Seminary and continued on the ordination track. He was ordained in his home church, First Covenant – Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1985. That same year, he was baptized at the Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet.

Upon completion of his service at Mountain Village, God called him to Bethel, where he served for 5 1/2 years. From Bethel, he was called to Koyuk where he served for 8 years and retired on May 1, 2005. Even though retired from the pastorate, Chip remains faithful to service as Camp Director at the Unalakleet Bible Camp where he was baptized years earlier. He and his wife Joanne have built their retirement home close-by so he can continue in this ministry.

Probably the most noteworthy accomplishment of Chip's service is the number of souls won to Christ at church, camp, or wherever he had the opportunity to witness about the love of Jesus Christ. It was always evident this was the most important thing to him. Also of note is his book: "A Time to Remember, Alaskan Covenant History", copyright 1987.

The role of pastor's wife must not remain unnoticed. The countless hours that Joanne spent alone while Chip ministered to others is greatly appreciated.

## In Loving Memory

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery. That's why today is a present."

This is a theme echoed in the celebration of Lloyd Hermansen's life, held September 29, 2005 at First Covenant Church – Anchorage. He was born May 10, 1925 in Hay Springs Nebraska, joined the Lord on September 24, 2005 after surgery for an aortic aneurysm.

He was a farm boy and a football star at Hay Springs High School, graduating in 1943. He joined the Marine Corps, serving in the South Pacific and China during World War II. Before going overseas, he proposed to his high school sweetheart, Lois Richmond, and they were married within three months of his honorable discharge in 1946.

In 1973, Lloyd, his wife and daughter, Kris set out on an adventure by moving to Alaska, serving as Director of the Kakanak Hospital Service Unit in Dillingham. During this time Lloyd discovered a love for Alaska's beauty and the Native people. In 1980, he and his family moved to Anchorage, where he was an administrator at the Alaska Native Medical Center until retiring in 1989.

Lloyd found comfort in Isaiah 40:30-31 which says: "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." He recently celebrated his 80th birthday with a large group of family and friends. Always outgoing and friendly, he loved this time of gathering.

He is survived by his loving family, wife Lois, of Anchorage, their children and their spouses, Heidi Hermansen of Anchorage; Rick and Kathy Hermansen of Edmond, OK; Barbara Hermansen and Bob Wilcox of Winnetka, IL; and Kris and Mac Minard of Clancy, MT; seven grandchildren, one sister, two brothers, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

His cheerful greetings and warm bear hugs will be greatly missed.

Memorials may be sent to the First Covenant Church Building Fund, 1145 C St, Anchorage, AK 99501 or to St Peters Lutheran Church, 4448 State Highway 87, Hay Springs NE 69347

## A Rude Awakening

The story is told of a Pastor who was frustrated because of one man who always seemed to fall asleep during the sermon. So the Pastor devised a trick, a way he thought he could embarrass the man so as to get him to break this habit. Near the end of a sermon concerning "hell", the Pastor, in a normal voice, said to the congregation, "Any one here today who wants to go to hell" - - then he raised his voice to a much louder volume - - "PLEASE STAND UP!"

Of course this woke up the sleeping parishioner who quickly jumped to his feet. After collecting himself for a moment, the man then looked at the Pastor and said, "Preacher, I don't know why I'm standing, but it appears that you and I are both in this boat together."

### Elim Pastor in Transit



Terry and Teresa Allen in the home of Betty Segok while candidating in Elim. They have since been called and have accepted. They are due to arrive in Elim on Oct. 18th.

## Tid-Bits: Did you know...id you know...

- The Bethel parsonage was finally hooked up to water?
- Pastor Randy Furushima, Native Hawaiian pastor, has agreed to be our keynote speaker at the ECCAK Annual Meeting in Unalakleet in 2006?
- Mark Hill is finishing his work at North Park Seminary in May?
- Aune Carlson has moved from Grand Rapids, MI to Wasilla to work with CYAK?
- Phil and Kate Canon have moved to Anchorage and are serving at Anchorage First?
- The Cardwells hit Scammon Bay Oct. 10, 2005? [new pastor at Scammon]
- The Allens hit Eagle River Oct. 11, 2005? [new pastor at Elim]
- The Mute's hit Koyuk the first of September? [was in Scammon]
- Carl Elwood, pastor of Mtn. Village, won the annual men's turkey shoot at this year's Pastor/Leader retreat?

**Snapshot of Terry's Theological Perspective: "Each of us is equal in the Kingdom. Can the eye say, 'I am more valuable than the ear?' etc. What is of ultimate importance is that each individual be a true believer and view Christ as the head of the body."**

## Why Belong to a Church?

Article 3 of 3:

### #6. It will help you from backsliding.

None of us are immune to temptation. Given the right situation we are all capable of committing any sin. God knows this so has assigned us the responsibility of keeping each other on track. The Bible says, "Encourage one another daily... so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." *Hebrews 3:13*

"Mind your own business" is not a Christian phrase. We are commanded by God to be involved in one another's lives. If you know someone who is wavering spiritually it is your responsibility to go after them and bring them back into the fellowship. James tells us, "If you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back." *James 5:19 (Msg)*

A related benefit of a local church is that it provides the spiritual protection of godly leaders. God gives shepherd leaders the responsibility to guard the flock. We are told, "Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God." *Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)*

Satan loves believers who are iso-

lated, unplugged from the Body of Christ, and unaccountable to spiritual leaders, because he knows they are defenseless and powerless against his tactics.

The Christian life is more than a commitment to Christ. It requires a commitment to other Christians. The Christians in Macedonia understood this. Paul said, "First they gave themselves to the Lord, and then, by God's will, they gave themselves to us as well." *2 Cor 8:5 (TEV)*

Joining the membership of a local church is the next natural step you take once you become a child of God. You become a Christian by committing yourself to Christ, and you become a church member by committing to a specific group of believers. The first decision brings you salvation. The second brings you fellowship.

The content of these articles has been taken from an article by Rick Warren, Founding pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forrest, California.

(Continued from page 1)

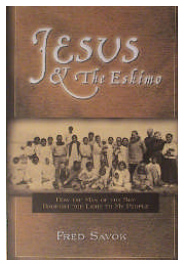
I then let my team of youth show the elders what kinds of things could be done to include the youth as leaders. Tom Mute led the team to quickly begin integrating with youth in the community. This involved visiting local youth hang-out spots such as the dance hall, basketball courts, soccer fields, local schools, homes, and youth nights at the church. They also put together a weekend retreat for twenty-one junior high students for the purpose of sharing the gospel and teaching the local youth workers on holding a retreat, discipleship, and mentoring. The group traveled five miles to a cabin owned by the local church where more connecting and bonding with students and local staff took place. We saw

direct evidence that God had begun His Work before our team ever arrived. There were numerous adults and young people who responded to the gospel message. All we did was share His love, care, concern, and message of Christ. He did the rest! His supernatural work was phenomenal. We even saw a week old born-again believer lead a friend to Christ. It was very evident that God had been faithful in preparing the hearts, minds, and attitudes of individuals, causing their responsiveness and to give more energy and motivation to the team members. Thank you for your prayers and financial support which made this dream a reality for our Alaska team. Thank you also for being a catalyst in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in this Greenland village.

## Copies Still Available

This book is about “How the Man in the Sky Brought the Light to My People.” Retired pastor Fred Savok’s book, “Jesus & the Eskimo” can be ordered online:

[www.greatalaskastuff.com](http://www.greatalaskastuff.com).



## Vision 2005

*Youth Leader Camp worship at Vision Camp on the North River –Unalakleet, July 2005*

Our churches: Anchorage First, Bethel, Eagle River, Elim, Fairbanks, Golovin, Hooper Bay, Kalskag, Korean Hope, Koyuk, Mat-Su, Mekoryuk, Mountain Village, New Song, Nome, Scammon Bay, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, White Mountain

## God’s Marvelous Creation! Part 1

**E**volution is promoted as a fact when in fact it takes a great deal of faith! Genesis 1 gives a general account of the Creation Story and chapter two provides us with more details of the historical account. We have not evolved from slim by chance, as the biology books promote, but an all-powerful God created us along with all the animals, plants and universe...by His word! Look at some of the marvelous things among God’s creation and give him praise and honor.

- ◆ The human brain has about 100 billion nerve cells. That is 20 times as many cells as there are people in the world!
- ◆ The English spittlebug can jump 27.5 inches straight into the air. That is 117 times its body length. This would be the same as a man jumping over a 70-story building!
- ◆ Spider silk, by weight, is stronger than steel! One ounce of the silk that forms a spider’s web could stretch 2000 miles!
- ◆ Caterpillars have over four thousand muscles, while humans have only 639!
- ◆ The mother Mexican Free-Tailed Bat can find her own baby in a nursery full of 20 million pups—in as little as 12 seconds!
- ◆ Some dragonflies have up to 20,000 lenses in each eye!
- ◆ A horse’s heart is able to pump about 50 gallons of blood per minute. That’s enough to fill the gas tank of a pickup truck three times faster than a gas pump!
- ◆ The feet of the gecko are so sticky they can hold onto a ceiling upside down—from a single toe!

All this by accident? Not a chance!

Job 12:9 says, “Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?”

## WANTED: AIR MILES

We live in an age of travel. Many people accumulate free air miles. If you have more than you can use, consider “donating” some to ECCAK to help us with the ever increasing costs of providing travel to those who give of their lives here in Alaska. Just call the ECCAK office and ask for Ava.



Our Para-church: Campus Christian Fellowship in Fairbanks, KICY in Nome, CYAK statewide, Alaska Christian College in Soldotna, Chickaloon Retreat Center in Chickaloon, Covenant Bible Camp near Unalakleet, and Chaplains in armed forces.