

CHILLING NEWS

that *Warms* the heart

from The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska!

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

Oyoomicks Celebrate Milestone Ordination

Joel Oyoomick was joined by close family members to celebrate his ordination into the Covenant Ministry at the Evangelical Covenant Church Annual Meeting, Keystone, Colorado. His mom, Clara, sister Rachael, brother Merlin and his wife, Millie, son and daughter-in-law, Sara and Joey, daughter Eva,

and son Gunnar traveled the 3000+ miles from Alaska to honor Joel at this momentous occasion. His mom, 89 years old, had to muster every ounce of strength to attend, but it wasn't something she would dare miss. Joel's road to ordination was not a straightforward trip. Joel was born in Feb 17, 1950 to Axel & Clara Oyoomick. They were both

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

<i>Warm People Do-</i>	2
<i>Greenland – We Made It!</i>	4
<i>Why Belong to a Church?</i>	5
<i>My Week at Camp</i>	6
<i>Who's Moving About?</i>	6
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	7
<i>Koyuk & Scammon Bay get new Staff</i>	8
<i>Caldwell Update</i>	9
<i>Preparing For Battle</i>	10
<i>Memorials</i>	11



Top row, L to R: Rachael, Millie, Merlin, Joel, Olga, Sara, Joey
Bottom row, L to R: Eva, Clara, Gunnar

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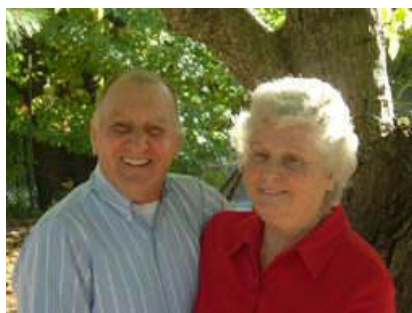
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Kalskag – Warm People Doing Large Things

By Venita Meyers

How quickly nine months have gone by! We have experienced 50 below zero weather, seen a real live moose and eaten akutuk - some made from Crisco, some from mashed potatoes! We have met Kalskag's cream-of-the-crop women who happen



to be members of our little Bible Chapel. We have appreciated Macarlo's sense-of-humor, sincerity and love for the Lord. Darlene's availability and unique position in the village is inspiring and effective. We hope we have been of help to them. Our church attendance has been very small, but we have seen

our few people doing very large things in the community! Active in the schools, in the village civil offices and tribal positions, they are lights and salt. Jerry has interacted with the other church leaders in the village. It has been a pleasure to have them all asked to pray at school and community events. Prayer is part of the procedure here, and answers are coming!

With no transportation when we first arrived, and living two miles from the church, we told the Lord He would have to send whomever we were to meet to our door. He did. Some adults, but within the past two months over thirty-five kids have been in-and-out. Seventh grade girls have been our most regular. Next Sunday night we hope to start a Youth Group at the church.

We enjoyed conference at Mountain Village. The warmth of the people made up for the chill factor, but we were happy to return to Kalskag's warmer climate! Thank you all for prayers.

Jerry and Venita Meyers

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 Team: 19 churches, CYAK, CCF, CBC, KICY, CRC, & ACC

In Loving Memory

Bethel resident, **May Nelson**, age 73, passed on May 7, 2005 due to complications and renal failure. Bishop Jacob Nelson of the Moravian Church was praying for his family when the Lord called his wife, May, home into His presence around 6:30pm. May was a caretaker at a pre-maternal home in Bethel. Their eldest daughter, Jean Mute, is the wife of Pastor Wass Mute of Koyuk Covenant Church. Prior to Bishop Nelson's prayer, the family had sung three hymns. What a way to be ushered into the presence of her Savior!!



Ruth Lindgren, retired Covenant Missionary to Alaska, went to be with her Lord late Friday afternoon, May 6, 2005. She was 86 years old. Memorial service was held at St Miguel Covenant Village on May 14, 2005. Ruth had suffered a stroke, after which she was hospitalized at Grossmont Hospital in LaMesa, CA. In her last days, she was transferred to Grossmont's hospice unit.

Ruth and her husband, Emory, served Covenant churches in a number of Alaska villages during the 1940s and 1950s. Rev. Verle Peterson, former pastor of Fairbanks Covenant Church and currently senior chaplain at Mount Miguel Covenant Village, along with two of the Lindgren's adult children, were at Ruth's bedside when she passed away.



(Continued from page 10)

place at the right time. It is often hard to relate to what a soldier experiences daily. Some are already struggling with loss of sleep, because they are afraid to die, afraid of change, afraid of what living conditions will be like, and afraid of all the uncertainty associated with a deployment. I have a peace that God has a plan and purpose for my going. I try to instill that in the troops. I tell them, "All God asks of you is to do your best wherever you are at any place in time in your life." That may be here with your family or on foreign soil protecting your family from harm.

Psalm 121:7-8 says, "The Lord will keep from all harm, he will watch over your life. The Lord will watch over your coming and going, both now and forevermore."

Contact our office with any corrections that need to be mentioned in subsequent newsletters
907-694-6348 or eccak@gci.net

Preparing For Battle

By Covenant Pastor/Chaplain John Grauer as he prepares to leave for assignment in Iraq. See photo on Prayer Calendar.

What do you do when told you are deploying to a combat zone? First you want to make sure you are prepared to go, then make sure you have the armor required to be victorious. Are we talking spiritual battle or real-world hand-to-hand combat? From a chaplain's perspective, there are many parallels and they are one and the same.

Once I was told I would be deploying to northern Iraq in late summer/early fall, what did I do to prepare? One of the first things on my list was to prepare spiritually by praying that I would totally rely on God and His plan for sending me. I pray that I will fulfill His will for me there. That will include mastering the internal battles such as fear and loneliness as well as mortar attacks from the enemy. There are many great warriors in the Bible who faced those same battles.

The next thing I did was to spend time with my wife, Tyra, and my two daughters, Maleah (13), and Morriah(8). We took a little vacation time and began discussing the importance of scrap-booking to capture important memories. We are determined as a family to stick to our normal family schedule as much as possible prior to my de-

parture. We discussed how we would change our celebration of significant days like birthdays, anniversaries, and such. We began thinking of how and where we will spend my Rest and Relaxation (6 month point) time. We also realize the latitude we will need to give each other as adults and children as our roles change from face-to-face provider/decision maker to absentee provider.

Aside from my responsibilities back home to my family, I will be expected to provide on-site encouragement and spiritual guidance to the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Striker Force in Iraq. This includes about 800 people with attachments. I will be leading worship services, giving briefings about the Islamic culture, counseling individuals, handling civil affairs, working with the first sergeants concerning behavioral problems, and even conducting memorial services when the need arises. Along with these duties, I will be in the field with my battalion, taking pictures and writing stories for a newsletter to send to families back home. This requires that I ride in the armored vehicles along with our infantry soldiers when prudent.

"What will be my greatest challenge," you ask. Being at the right

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 1)

active in the church. His father died in 1963, age 53, due to cancer. This left his mother as a single parent to raise four children (teens and younger). At age 13, his father figures came from coaches and teachers at Covenant High School. He received Christ in high school, but it was a shallow commitment out of fear of going to hell. There was no relational experience with Christ at this time. He graduated Covenant High School in 1968. He attended Northrup Institute of Technology in Los Angeles for two years and spent 4 years in the Navy, living in worldly ways. He married Olga A. Alexie on Nov 22, 1975. Some tough life situations caused Joel to draw closer to God. First, the pastor that married him,

passed away, then his family left him due to drinking and mistreatment. These things left him all alone, considering turning his life over to God. God began to become real to him as he studied the Bible on his own and became active in Sunday School and the Church Board. God used people to prepare him for pastoral work. Joel had a Gideon's fleece story about serving God as pastor. He quit his job and applied to North Park Theological Seminary (NPTS), wondering how God would provide for school, and if he could survive school at age 50. He finished NPTS in 2002, performed his internship at Unalakleet Covenant Church, was hired as full-time pastor there, and ordained on Jun 23, 2005.



Confirmation Class Graduates led by Joel
L to R: Joel Oyoumick, Jenny Dill, Merlin Johnson, Jr, Christian Johnson, Austen Erickson, Hazel Freytag
Confirmed May 22, 2005 after two years of confirmation training

Greenland – We Made It!

By Nathan Toots

By the time you are reading this, our Greenland Team will be unpacking their bags and trying to recover from jet lag. The flight itself took over 2 days. The trip became a reality thanks to those individuals and churches for supporting the dream with your prayers and finances. The team was a representative in a far away country helping other believers become more and more of what God desires for them to become reaching out to their community and youth.

The long-range dream and desire is to build on to what is already working within their leadership and ministry to the youth. The major purpose of **THIS TEAM** is to establish and set



(Larissa not pictured)

in place some basic foundations in each of three strategic goals: team leadership, youth outreach, and evangelism outreach. The major part to the strategy is

to introduce and begin to engage them into a long-term ministry partnership. Future visits will then build on these three basics. This is **NOT** a one-time trip. There will be more trips in the future with emphasis on pastoral and church leadership, youth and evangelism outreach ministries. The team solicits your prayers for spiritual wisdom and sensitivity to the leading of His Spirit.

Part of the dream is to solicit a couple of young people from Greenland to come to Alaska and attend Alaska Christian College in Soldotna, with special emphasis on youth ministries. This will not happen overnight, but I believe God desires His people to “dream big”, because He is a Big God and delights when His people dream beyond the walls of their reason and possibility. Remember the story of “old” Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18? When God told Abraham that Sarah would bear a son, she laughed. Sarah laughed because what she heard was beyond her reason and possibility. It was then that God asked the question, “Is anything too hard for the LORD?”

Watch the next issue of the Chilling News for pictures and a full report of the trip. **Thanks for sending us:** Nathan Toots, Blassie Shoogukruk, Tom Mute, Amy Kulp, Marta Thrasher, and Larissa Shimanek.

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

Dear Faithful Friends & Family:

Ray and Va Caldwell, on "loan from the Evangelical Free Church to the Covenant, served as interim pastor in Unalakleet and Mat-Su. Now we have "loaned" them to the Moravians to serve as Directors over the seminary in Bethel. ECCAK will be partnering with the Moravians to bring teachers and students to the seminary there. Recently, Ray has had heart problems and we copy this letter from them in part:

Thank you for your continued love and concern for us...even while we've been silent. Since our last update we took another medical evacuation flight from Bethel to Anchorage (the first one was practice:-) This time the cardiologist placed two more stents ... now a total of four...into Ray's arteries and, after a few days in the hospital and an acceptable stress test, we made our regularly scheduled flights back to Minneapolis for doctor appointments and to Nashville for Brittany's graduation.

The question our friends and family most ask is "are you really going back to Bethel?" Well, Lord willing, the plan is for us to return to Bethel in mid July. We have recommended that the seminary begin searching for a replacement dean/director and it is our plan to assist in that process. The seminary board does not wish to lose its present dean/director so we've been asked to stay on in that capacity during the search proc-

ess....delegating the heavy, physical work to others. This seems to be agreeable with the physicians so, following some vacation time and a short leave of absence, we will return in time for our work teams to join us from Illinois and Wisconsin. Meanwhile, we need to have a balance of rest and building up endurance and strength again, which we plan to do around the "homestead" at Rice Lake, with some short trips to visit friends, family and our prayer teams. Also, Ray needs to take a short trip to Arizona to train on the use some theological curriculum designed especially for the native American.

We continue to covet your partnership in this ministry through prayer and we never take your part for granted. May God continue to richly bless you as you so faithfully bless us!

Remember, God is so good...and you are loved! **Ray & Val Caldwell**

Tax –deductible contributions should be made payable to ECCAK

Wass Mute Called to Koyuk Pastorate



Wass and Jean Mute Leading

Wass is no stranger to Koyuk; he served as pastor there from 1982 to 1988. In fact, Wass has served the Covenant Church of Alaska in many roles. He served as pasotr at Mekoryuk from 1988 to 1993, pastor in Scammon Bay from 1995 to 2005, ECCAK board member for three years, and as Associate Field Director for the Yukon-Kuskokwim area from 1999-2002 under Field Director, Paul Wilson. Now Wass and Jean will serve as pastor in Koyuk again. Wass assumes this position on the heels of Chip Swanson's retirement this past May.

Vayahiy!

Pronounced Va-Yah-HEE, is the Hebrew word used in the Bible most often translated, "And it was..." as written at the end of Genesis 1:7, "And it was so" (Vayahiy Ken); but most often it is translated in the KJV Bible as, "And it came to pass..."

Pastor Jon and his wife, Lisa, are no strangers to Alaska. They served in King Cove, AK for 2 years. Jon was born in San Diego, CA in 1960 and grew up in a military family. This meant a lot of travel all over the country. In 1979, he joined the Navy with hope of being a "frogman". Jon surrendered his life to Jesus Christ in



L to R: Leah, Lisa, Jon, Rachel Cardwell
Pastor Cardwell will serve at Scammon Bay this fall.

1985 while working as a deep-sea diver in the U.S. Navy. Since then, he has served the Lord in nearly every ministry imaginable, including missionary work to the Philippines and as pastor of two congregations. Now he joins us at Scammon Bay.

Why Belong to a Church? Part 2

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

#3. *Being a member of a Church Family helps you develop spiritual muscle.*

No one ever grows to spiritual maturity just by attending worship services and being a passive spectator. Only by participating in the full life of the church builds spiritual muscle. The Bible says, "As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." *Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)*

Over fifty times in the New Testament the phrases "one another" or "each other" are used. We are commanded to love one another, encourage one another, admonish one another, greet one another, serve one another, teach one another, accept one another, honor one another, bear one another's burdens, forgive one another, submit to one another, be devoted to one another, and many other mutual tasks. **This is biblical church membership.** These are family responsibilities that God expects of every believer through a local church. We need to ask ourselves, "Who are you doing these with?"

#4. *As a true believer, God wants you in the Body of Christ.*

The body of Christ needs you because

God has called you to a ministry in His Family. God has given each of us a gift, and the local church is the place God designed for his children to discover, develop, and use their gifts. "A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church." *1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)*

Even those with a wider ministry need to understand that their first responsibility is to the local body. Jesus never promised to build anyone's ministry. He promised to build his church!

#5. *It lets you share in Christ's mission to the world*

When Jesus walked the earth, God worked through Jesus' physical body. Today the church is the body of Christ, God's instrument on earth. We are to model Christ's love by loving each other and we are to take His love to the rest of the world. Together we are Christ's hands and feet, and eyes and heart. "God creates each of us by Jesus Christ Jesus for good works to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing..." *Eph 2:10 (Msg)*

Look for reason #6 in the next issue of Chilling News.

My Week at Bible Camp

By Crystal Johnson

I asked campers these three questions:

- 1) What did you learn at Bible Camp?
- 2) Will you and how will you apply what you have learned to your own life?
- 3) How has Bible Camp encouraged your relationship with Jesus?

Here is what they had to say:

Sr High Camper – Scott (the guest speaker) hit the nail on the head for me. I've always had trouble getting into reading my Bible. He shared how we could get into the Bible more. Read it in a way that seemed more real. I could think about what wasn't written, set the stage. Reading the Bible was hard and seems not as interesting, but it comes alive now. He also talked about starting a sin list and to start working on the things I need to work on one at a time. When I get home I am going to tell somebody, fellow Christians, about what I'm trying to change in my life, so they could hold me accountable. While I was a Jr. Counselor, I learned that when I get home everything else will be the same even though I may have changed. It's not abnormal for Christians to struggle. Just

find friends, pray, read the Bible, and ask Christ to come help lift you up!

Jr High Camper – I learned how to be closer to the Lord. I made new friends and even learned about the different plants in nature. Hearing the counselor testimonies, I was able to relate to them. Changes I need to make will probably be to throw away bad CD's, posters, and pictures. I need to purify my life. I also need to find better friends (Christian friends) that will be a good influence. Bible Camp encouraged my walk with Jesus just by learning more about him. I don't want to do drugs and alcohol and would like to influence my father also. Camp's just a great place to be uplifted.

Trailblazer Camper – I learned more about the way Jesus brought us here. What he did with people and the plants he made useful. I learned about creation. I will start following Jesus more and reading the Bible more. At camp I really looked up to Wayne, a puppeteer. I also liked chapel and the activities.

Who's Moving About?



Macarlo & Darlene Christensen are moving to Fairbanks to allow Darlene to finish her degree. They expect to be in Fairbanks for two years.



Larson King has stepped down as the pastor of Mekoryuk Church in order to secure a construction job in Hooper Bay for two years. This job requires him to be on-site for 6 weeks and then 2 weeks off.

KICY web page: www.kicy.org

Uzbekistan

By John Park

Long term Goal: Evangelize central Asia

Short term Goal: Manage a hospital/nursing home in Uzbekistan. Relations have to be established with the authorities before evangelism can occur. This is done through the hospital/nursing home.



Pastor Park administering foot care in Nursing home

Progress toward these goals:

1. A young 26 year-old student, Szasza Alexander, has graduated from a 3 year Bible School in Moscow. He has returned to the mission area of Uzbekistan and is teaching about 30 students in a "computer school". This is a door opener to teach them the Bible.
2. There are four or five underground churches established in the area.
3. There are about 30 prospec-

tive leaders identified.

Prayer requests:

1. My safe return from Uzbekistan in Aug. The embassy is telling all Americans to leave the country. There have been over 750 foreigners killed in the country.
2. We have a used, 10 year-old vehicle in the country that needs replaced. We have raised \$1500.00 and need about \$2000.00 more.



Pastor Tom Luchsinger's confirmation class:

L to R: Tom Luchsinger, Stacy Swindells, Alyssa Koehrer, Leah Hawk, Dylan Gurney

Mat-Su Covenant Church

ACC web page: www.akcc.org