

CHILLING NEWS

that *Warms* the heart
from The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska!

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

A Double Intensive-Care Scare

Jon Cardwell was scooped up by MARC from Scammon Bay and took directly to ICU at the Providence Hospital in Anchorage. God's timing had MARC in the right place at the right time to accomplish that! In the ICU, Jon's blood pressure was going off the map! Eric Mayer happened to be along because of Arctic Barnabas Ministry's building team repairing the parsonage in Scammon Bay.



Jon Cardwell and Eric Mayer sit in Nancy's kitchen after a long night of intensive scare in intensive care.

Eric's medical background was just another way of God's care for Jon. Jon's wife, Lisa, and daughter, Rachel, came back from CA early to be with Jon. Bottom line to the story: Jon is

on medication to control his high blood pressure and doing much better.

The second intensive scare happened at the ECC Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. Nancy Sawyer asked her husband, Rodney, to take her to her room during the opening session of the Annual Meeting because she was not "feeling well." When she almost collapsed in his arms, the paramedics were summoned. In the ICU, they found Nancy's blood pressure on the opposite end of the scale from Jon's, 60 over 20 with a heart rate of 140! A friend of the Sawyer's, Jodi Finley, lives in Grand Rapids and helped Rodney get through a couple of scary days. Bottom line to Nancy's story: Nancy's vitals returned to normal, her heart is strong and no diagnosis by the doctors [thanks to the internet, we think it was anaphylactic shock].

In the double intensive-care scare, many people in the fam-

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
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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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Rodney J. Sawyer
Associate Field Director:
Nathan Toots
Office Manager:
Sara Scotes

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ily of God were praying and He alone deserves all the credit and praise for the good results!



Jadi Finley cares for Nancy during and after her scary episode.

Seven Years of Faithful Service

Ava Manolas has served faithfully as Office Manager for ECCAK for the last seven years. She has been most faithful in carrying out her duties and to this we are thankful. She felt that God was leading her in new directions and is excited about those prospects. Join us in asking the Lord's blessings on Ava's post-ECCAK life!

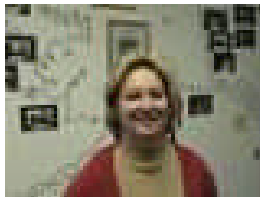
Two Alaskans were sitting in a kayak and they got chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft and it sank; thus proving once and for all that you cannot have your kayak and heat it, too.

Authentic Alaskan Artist



Gary Be-koalook of Shaktoolik displays some of the photographs he has taken from the tundra around Alaska, but more specifically, around Shaktoolik. His wife, Linda, says that "he will sometimes sit for hours looking for just the right shot." Gary is registered with the Alaska State Council on the Arts, which authenticates Native art and he holds a Silver-Hand Artist permit. If you are interested in his work, his email is eragak14@hotmail.com.

New ECCAK Office Manager



With the help of the Office Manager Task Force Team, ECCAK has a new Office Manager! Sara Scoles who has filled in for Ava for the last three years, has accepted the position. Please join me in thanking the Lord for His provision and His hand in the process. Sara lives in Eagle River, is married with 2 children and tends Birchwood Community Church in Chugiak.

How Can I Help?

- **Pray:** Our bi-monthly newsletter called, "The Chilling News," is full of stories about the people and the ministry of ECCAK throughout the state. It also has a daily prayer calendar. Please let us know and we will add you to our mailing list.
- **Encouragement:** Writing and/or calling those who serve in the bush is a great ministry! Want to adopt a church or a pastor? Ask for a prayer card of a pastor.
- **Mission teams:** There are often times when we have need for teams of people to come and join with a local church, camp, college, youth group, etc. for a specific construction project or outreach event.
- **Volunteers:** The ECCAK office needs volunteers to assist in administration, grant writing, special projects etc.
- **Financial:** God often calls people to give to ECCAK beyond the normal local church tithe or churches to place ECCAK in their mission budget. Some are lead to leave a gift through estate planning to carry on the work in Alaska into the future.
- **Teachers or nurses:** Christian teachers or nurses often come to Bush Alaska as "missionaries" and serve in the local Covenant church during off hours.
- **Pastors and Youth Workers:** Often we have empty pulpits and are in need of pastors, short and long-term. Many villages have no one reaching out to the youth.
- **Donate Air Miles:** Many people accumulate free air miles. Please consider donating some to ECCAK to help a bush pastor and family get away for R & R.

Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence: Part II

When protection and provision is not available in the home children should be able to find it in the people and the house of God, where hospitality is in abundance. Another characteristic that the church is noted for and children should have access to is justice. Marie Fortune wrote, "when harm is done by one person to another the church ought to be about justice making". Children have rights too. The church is called to provide support for the safety and welfare of children. We are called because one, our mission is to continue the liberating ministry of Jesus; two, Jesus calls us to invite, and receive children into a community of love and safety; and three, we are called to stand and work for justice.

[AVA is an organization under the ECC Covenant Women's Ministry and stands for Advocacy for Victims of Abuse].

Dreams and Goals

Covenant Estate Planning Services [brochure enclosed] can help you fulfill your personal financial goals and your charitable dreams.

Glenn Palmberg, President of the Evangelical Covenant Church, challenges us with some reflective words about Covenant Estate Planning Services.

“Our personal financial goals are the foundation of our estate and financial planning. They include both current and future objectives, and are the means by which we can provide for the future of persons and ministries we care about. Many of us have a charitable dream—that is, we have a vision of what we would like to accomplish if we had the financial resources to make the dream come true. Some Covenanters want to support their local church or conference in specific ministries or programs. For some it may be educational or camping scholarships; for others, funding to assist new church planting; still others may be interested in helping mission activities or evangelism efforts, providing resources for the poor and homeless, or other Christian ministries.”

If you would like to learn more about these ministries, please read the enclosed brochure and use the contact information provide there to find out more.

A few of Alaska's Crazy Laws

Taken from www.dumblaws.com

ANCHORAGE

- ◆ No one may tie his or her pet dog to the roof of a car.
- ◆ For all you would-be pranksters out there, it is illegal to string a wire across any road.
- ◆ Persons may not live in a trailer as it is being hauled across the city.

FAIRBANKS

- ◆ It is considered an offense to feed alcoholic beverages to a moose.

HAINES

- ◆ A person may only carry a concealed slingshot if that person has received the appropriate license.
- ◆ It is against the law to attempt to break any law in title 9 of the code

Shaktoolik Herb Stromquist

As I approached Shaktoolik on my short flight from Unalakleet, preceded by a longer flight from Anchorage and a still longer one from Minneapolis, I saw this interesting Inupiat Village of some 220 residents located on a narrow strip of land between the Duromonik River and the Bering Sea. The village is approximately one mile long with houses and other buildings on each side of its wide single street.

Ernie Sagoonik, the Shaktoolik Covenant Church Chairman, welcomed me at the comfortable parsonage, and after showing me around, stayed for supper and a getting-acquainted visit.

I had an opportunity to attend a wedding reception that filled the church basement. About half of those present seemed to be young children – the bride was a village kindergarten teacher.

On the Fourth of July, I witnessed a number of races from toddlers on up. After the running races, bike and gunny sack races were also held before a cheering crowd of relatives and friends.

It was my privilege to hold morning and evening services four Sundays in June and July and, although attendance was small, participation was good as we worshipped our Lord together.

The Shaktoolik Covenant Church has been without a regular pastor for some time, but after I left, a candidate came who is being considered. Pray that the Lord's will shall guide the Church Board and Congregation.

Herb Stromquist
Member First Covenant Church
Worthington, Minnesota

Double Take



Jack and Velma Brown from White Mountain are brother and sister. They hold up an old World Book Encyclopedia dated back in the fifties, which has their picture of when they were children. Look up the word “Eskimo” and there they are! Lon Swanson, who finished two years as a volunteer at KICY at the end of this summer, provided both of them with a copy. Lon must shop on E-Bay!

Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence: Part II

[Taken from AVA web site]

Too many children do not have access to or can't make their way into the healing that is available in Christ through the Church. The Church can take the lead in developing cooperative community responses to children exposed to domestic violence in our congregations and in our broader community.

Jesus knew and understood the social and cultural oppression children are often born into. I understand Jesus' words to the disciples in Matthew 18:3-4 to mean when you take a good look at a child you can see what it's like to be a part of God's Kingdom. This part of human life called children is special to God, so special that Jesus said "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Just in case something was lost in His statement, Jesus made His love for children plain when He continued His statement with, "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:5-6

In saying "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" Jesus speaks of hospitality. To

welcome is to allow even invite one to receive hospitality. Within the Jewish custom hospitality would have broad strokes of caring beyond mere shelter. Hospitality would include provisions for the body and soul and protection from those who would cause harm as Lot provided for the messengers in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Children depend on their parents and guardians to provide and protect them.

Continued on page 11

Serving the Lord at Bible Camp 2006

By the time you receive this newsletter, our camping season will have pretty much ended. It takes many many people to pull off all the variety of camps that take place at the Covenant Bible Camp, ten miles outside of Unalakleet, AK. And we are so thankful to all. One group stands out, however, in their service to the Bible Camp. That group is the church and the people of Unalakleet! Year after year they have given above and beyond to make Bible camp a place where God works in the hearts of so many. THANK YOU UNALAKLEET!!!!



Harrison Davies
safe in Cyprus

Lebanon to Cyprus to Mom & Dad

When your son leaves home for college and decides to study Arabic, one would not be too concerned. Such was the case of Harrison Davies of Bethel, Alaska. His studies first took him to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Next, he found himself in Lebanon studying. You saw the rest of his story nightly on the major news networks.

ECCA received an email from his father, who gave us permission to share it:

Harrison Is Home!!
Josephine & I arrived at the Newark Airport about 6:15 PM last night and waited for what seemed like forever. Harrison came thru the international doors about 7:30 PM. I didn't even recognize him and Josephine had to point him out to me. He had virtually no sleep in days and had a beard. My son with a beard. Apparently, he left his shaver's charger back in Lebanon.

We haven't seen him since December '05 and of course we embarrassed him by crossing the line and hugging him in front of a full terminal. It was wonderful! I gave him a hug for each person and family member who said to and he was good about not resisting them. I car-

ried Harrison's luggage and was so fixated on him that I ran over about 3 or 4 men's shoes with his suitcase. I apologized and moved on.

He said that all he wanted to do was sleep and he's sleeping now. However, during the 2-hour drive home he showed us some of the many many pictures on his computer and he was very talkative.

His grandmother made a special meal, which he was too tired to eat, so I ate it. Hmmmmm!

Josephine and I feel like we are a whole family again. Our daughter will be joining us in a week or so. We will cherish the rest of our summertime together knowing that they are few and far between.

Our modern technology, computers, cell phones, software and the likes, helped to ease some of our worry. But, it was our good and gracious Lord who protected, comforted and sustained us in our time of trouble.

Praise be to God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

LOVE,
NELSON & JOSEPHINE

WORDS UNIQUE TO ALASKA

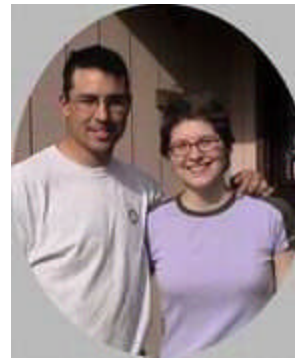
In an article from the July 2nd, 2006 Anchorage Daily News called “Words That Define the New Frontier”, come words that are only heard in Alaska, but never understood by the common tourist. Try these out for size:

1. Parks Highwait – Wasilla stop lights
2. Bearnacles – Little clumps of snow in a grizzly’s fur
3. Flattopple – When you fall off Anchorage’s most popular mountain
4. Oceanwhiner – Someone who complains too much on an Alaskan cruise
5. Moosecrunchophobia – the persistent fear that a moose will run out in front of your car
6. Misslap – when you hurt yourself trying to kill a very pesky mosquito
7. Moose jam – cars backed up because a moose will not get off the road
8. Doggonegrizbait – the mistaken belief your dog will save you during a bear charge
9. Bear-B-Que – what happens when a griz stops to lick the grease off your outside grill
10. Matsunami – a boat wake on Big Lake
11. Ptarmaagain – when you see the same ptarmigan two times in the same day
12. Salmonioia – the fear that the person fishing next to you in the river is trying to steal the salmon you have not caught yet
13. Mooseaholics – folks who are addicted to watching a moose eat the day lights from the neighbor’s prize bush
14. Sleazerburn – the fine art of pawning last year’s edible salmon to unsuspecting friends
15. Wanna-sockeyes – in-laws who show up at your door when the reds are running
16. Fishtration – the feeling one has when coming home from a hard day of fishing without a catch
17. Mooseneckers – tourists who slow down to 10 mph because they see a moose
18. Splizzard – a spring storm that causes you to retrieve your breakup boots
19. Eavalanches – those towering piles of snow hanging off your roof that wait until you are under them before they fall [also known as eavesdropping]
20. Dape – the fast way to say “duck tape”
21. Yardenvy – what Alaskans feel when they go by a yard full of old broken down snow-machines, four-wheelers, boats, boat motors and motor homes
22. Dumbstruction – the feeling you get when road repairs keep you from your fishing hole

Nathan Gets Nod on Sled Deal; Nora Gets God on Leukemia Deal



Nathan Nagaruk builds dog sleds for mushing. His quality workmanship and entrepreneurial spirit landed him a contract with the Norton Sound Health Corporation. He will be making 16 sleds specially designed for evacuating emergency patients from isolated places in Alaska. Nathan is also making his first aluminum welded boat in his garage, a 21-footer that he has already sold.



But his wife Nora gets an even sweeter deal; doctors say she is cancer free! Since the discovery of Nora’s cancer, it has been a long ordeal for the Nagaraks. One thing they have known with certainty; our God is a prayer answering God who heard all the prayers of the saints as they interceded for Nora. What a deal!

Nathan and Nora are quick to “praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

Covenant Pastor and Chaplin in Iraq



Chaplin John Grauer poses in a picture with his family in 2004. He was due to return home after serving a tour of duty, but was given an extension and assigned to Bagdad. Enclosed in this edition of the Chilling News is a prayer card. Please place it in a prominent place to help remind you to pray for John and his family during this time.

BeeJay Gray is a musician and composer.

Following is a song she sang for the first time publicly at the Gray Bible Fish Camp in July:

"HUH MOM, YOU ALMOST
DIED?" MY LITTLE BOY
SAID TO ME.
MY HEAD HUNG LOW, TEARS
IN MY EYES,
WITH HIM, I DID AGREE
I HAD NO WHERE THAT I
COULD TURN, HOPE DID I SEE
IN SIGHT,
BUT TO GOD, WHO HAD SO
MUCH LOVE FOR ME THAT
ON THAT CROSS HE DIED

CHORUS:

MY BABIES NEED THEIR
MOMMA, WITH CLEAR, OPEN
EYES.
FOOD ON THEIR TABLE, MY
HUSBAND A SOBER WIFE.
LORD, KEEP THIS HEART
FROM WONDERING, TO ALL
THAT IS NOT GOOD.
HELP ME, PRAY AND READ
THE BIBLE, AND LIVE
THE WAY I SHOULD.

SHAME WAS ALL THAT I
COULD FEEL. COULDN'T LOOK
INTO
OTHERS EYES.
FOR THEY DIDN'T KNOW
THAT, MY SMILE WAS A DIS-
GUISE.

FOR I HAD A PROBLEM, I DID-
N'T WANT THEM TO SEE
THE THIRST THAT MADE ME
WHAT. I DIDN'T WANT TO BE!
THANK YOU, JESUS. FOR THE
ANGELS
THAT KEPT MY KIDS FROM
HARM. THE BOAT RIDES, THE
TIME I SLEPT.
THE HOUSE THAT KEPT THEM
WARM. THERE ARE SO
MANY TIMES THAT I CAN'T
PLACE. WHERE I HAD BEEN.
FORGIVENESS IS WHAT I ASK
FOR ALL MY MANY SINS

ENDING CHORUS:

MY BABIES HAVE THEIR
MOMMA, WITH CLEAR, OPEN
EYES.
FOOD ON THEIR TABLE, MY
HUSBAND A SOBER WIFE.
THE LORD KEPT THIS HEART
FROM WONDERING TO ALL
THAT WAS NOT
GOOD.
HE HELPED ME, PRAY & READ
THE BIBLE, AND LIVE THE
WAY I SHOULD..

BeeJayGray/June 2006

Relief Assistance Sought for Hooper Bay, Alaska



HOOPER BAY, AK (August 4, 2006) - Hooper Bay Covenant Church has escaped damage from a sweeping fire that has devastated this small remote Alaskan village, destroying the elementary and high schools, one of the village's two businesses, and more than a dozen homes, Covenant News Service has learned.

No injuries have been reported among the population of some 1,100, according to news reports from the region. The accompanying photo of the fire is courtesy of Hooper Bay Police Chief James Hoelscher.

The village store destroyed by the blaze was operated by a member of the Hooper Bay church, according to Rodney Sawyer, field director for the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska (ECCA). Hooper Bay Pastor Grant Funk and his family are reported to be safe, but could not be immediately reached for comment.

Jon Cardwell, pastor of the Scammon Bay Covenant Church, said as many as 250 people were evacuated. Scammon Bay is located approximately 45 minutes north of Hooper Bay, which is some 500 miles east of Anchorage and not accessible by road. The fire, which is believed to have started in the elementary school

around 6 a.m., came within 300 feet of an adjacent bulk fuel tank farm that serves the school, according to a report in the *Anchorage Daily News*. Firefighters from Hooper Bay and the neighboring villages of Chevak and Scammon Bay battled the blaze with hoses and pumps set up in ponds and the help of firefighting equipment, flown in from other parts of the state.



Relief efforts have been started to help the displaced. "Our village and surrounding villages are collecting food and clothing for those affected by this tragedy," says Cardwell. The Red Cross also was planning to send assistance. Hugh Forbes, chair of the ECCAK General Council and operations manager of Unicom in Bethel, Alaska, took two generators to Hooper yesterday in case they lost power.

Covenant World Relief (CWR) is accepting donations to help rebuild the village, says Jim Sundholm, CWR director. Checks, made payable to Covenant World Relief and designated for Alaskan relief, should be mailed to Covenant World Relief, 5101 N. Francisco, Chicago, IL, 60625.

ECCA is also accepting monetary contributions for helping the folks at Hooper Bay. All monies collected will go to the Hooper Bay Covenant Church for distribution.