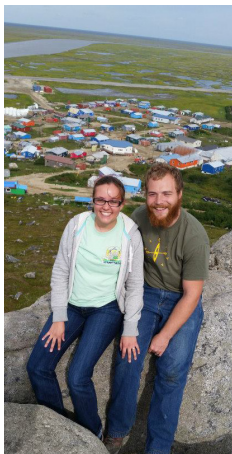


Covenant Youth of Alaska

Impacting Lives, One Life at a Time

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Ministry in the Eyes of: Drew Williams

My name is Drew Williams and since August I have been the youth pastor in Scammon Bay and the regional programs facilitator for the Yukon Kuskokwim river delta. My wife Holly is a teacher at the local school.

Tell us some about Scammon Bay

Scammon Bay is a Yup'ik Native village in Southwest Alaska. Roughly half of the 600 people who live in Scammon Bay are under the age of 18. It is a coastal village where fishing and hunting make up a majority of people's food stores for the year.

What does a typical week of youth ministry look like?

No one week is ever the same as the last, but there is some consistency in that every week we run youth programs on Sunday nights for girls and guys. The girls Bible Study has been going for a few years now through the leadership of some of our incredible female youth leaders who are teachers at the school. The guys meet with me and the group has been steadily growing since getting off the ground last fall. We have an amazing core group of students involved in our events and activities and I am delighted to work with them.

Another thing I always try and do is to make it to the school to share lunchtime with students a couple times a week. The school is the hub of our community, so in addition to connecting with students I also get the chance to connect with community leaders. Being present at the school has also given me opportunities to become involved in extracurricular activities and school celebrations such as the school's haunted house at Halloween and the opportunity to play Santa for the community Christmas program.

What is one of the greatest challenges of doing youth ministry in Scammon Bay?

One of the greatest challenges to doing youth ministry in Scammon Bay is that as someone who grew up and has largely done ministry in a suburban context there is just a lot to learn from a cultural standpoint. It is a bit like taking everything you have ever known about how to live life day to day and re-working it into something different. Not different in huge world-shifting ways but just different enough to have to give it dedicated thought. It is a bit like being a kid again; so much to learn, but not unenjoyable.

What has been the biggest encouragement this year?

The biggest encouragement of this year has been the people here in Scammon Bay. Never have I been in a place with more welcoming people. As someone who is new I have never felt like an outsider. The people here love to teach and it is not just adults or elders teaching me new things and skills but young people as well. They are all very patient with Holly and I as we figure out more and more of new incredible life here in Scammon Bay.

How can we be praying?

You can be praying for Holly and I as we continue to figure more things out for

Partnership Highlight: Veritas Forum

For the last two years, CYAK's Arigaa Anchorage young adult ministry has partnered with other campus ministries to host a Veritas forum at the university in late February. Hunter Dill, a UAA student and Arigaa-er from Unalakleet, served with the team that put on the forum. He shares, *'I've had the privilege to serve with the Veritas Forum at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The Veritas Forum is an organization that fosters conversation of Christian faith and its relevance at universities across the nation. The second annual forum at UAA this year hosted a dialogue between two professors, both of differing worldviews. Not only was it a hit, with over 200 in attendance, but I believe it has moved our community towards respectful consideration of differing perspectives, and has also stirred believers and non-believers to relationship with Christ. Praises be!'*



what it means to have a life here in Scammon Bay. You can pray for our students that they continue to make connections with Christ and that they more and more see the world through His eyes. Mostly you can offer prayers of praise. Praise that God has sent us to this amazing place, filled with His amazing people, to do an incredible work.

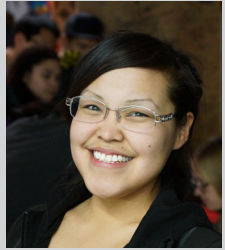


Top to bottom: singing together at youth group, crazy games and popcorn, a view of Scammon Bay in the winter.

Awesome times at the CYAK Young Adult Retreat!



CYAK's bi-annual young adult retreat was held during the last weekend of February in Big Lake, Alaska. Students and young adults from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska Christian College, Amundsen Educational Center, Alaska Bible College, and other areas of the state joined together for a time of refreshment, community, laughter, worship and learning together. We're already looking forward to September!



Prayer Praises & Requests

We are incredibly grateful for all of those who faithfully lift up CYAK's ministry in prayer. If you would like to receive monthly prayer updates, please visit our website at www.cyak.org and click the 'Pray' button. Quynana, thank you!

- We **praise** God for a wonderful **young adult retreat** in late February. Over 75 young adults and staff gathered together to worship, have fun, and spend time in community.
- We **praise** God for the **ECCA Annual Meeting that was held in Elim** in late March. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner together with the local church.
- We **praise** God for the **work he is doing** in the lives of young people across Alaska.
- We **praise** God for the **coming spring and new life**.
- We ask for **prayer** for **Leadership Camp**, as we are beginning to plan and recruit young adults.
- We ask for **prayer** that God will continue to **develop leaders within Alaska** to do his work and reach out to youth and young adults with the love of Christ.
- We ask for **prayer** for **students of all ages** as they finish up the school year.

Discipleship Seminar

John Hege, CYAK's Associate Director, led a discipleship seminar for young adults in Anchorage in mid March at First Covenant Church. It was a time where young adults were encouraged to disciple their peers, meeting with them weekly and studying the Word together. One young adult said after the seminar, 'I am so excited to know that I can do this!' Those who attended were reminded that discipleship is about relationship, and we're all called to share God's love and the good news with others around us. The group is going to continue to meet together to encourage one another. We're excited to see where this leads!



Current Ministry Needs:

- **Chris Lockwood Memorial Scholarships:** Leadership Camp is just around the corner - consider helping a student get there by contributing to the Chris Lockwood Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- **CYAK Mission Monthly Giving!** As CYAK's ministry is expanding, there is a need to boost CYAK Mission giving.

Ways to Give:

- **Online Giving:** Visit www.cyak.org to set up monthly, yearly, one-time, or planned gifts.
- **Check:** Made payable to: Covenant Youth of Alaska
PO Box 203356
Anchorage, AK 99520

March 24-28 was the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska's Annual Meeting in Elim. Here, CYAK leads a discussion on discipleship. It was a wonderful time!



Check CYAK out online!

- Visit **www.cyak.org** to learn more about CYAK's mission, vision and values, the ministry, and see pictures!
- Like us on **Facebook** to see updates on what is new in the world of CYAK. Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska.
- Visit CYAK's **Youtube page** and view testimonies and promotional videos. Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska.

