



Covenant Youth of Alaska

*A relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry
for Alaska youth and young adults*

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The Continuum of Discipleship Care - Working Together!

As a ministry, we are grateful to work with a team of people and ministries across the state who are committed to a unified goal of seeing young people come to KNOW Christ, GROW in Christ, and GO in Christ.

One way we work toward this unified effort is through what we call the Continuum of Discipleship Care. The Continuum of Discipleship Care provides opportunities for Alaskan youth and young adults to experience Christ in different ways as they grow and mature in their faith. We work to track with students as they move throughout the state, walking alongside them through various stages of their lives - through trials, joys and celebrations. By providing and connecting young people to opportunities to learn, be discipled, and serve, they are able to experience what it means to be a part of the church. Our prayer is that they will continue to grow and serve with their lives and lead the local church for years to come.

To learn more about the Continuum of Discipleship Care, please visit www.cyak.org!



CYAK intern Charis serving Communion at Leadership Camp.

“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:5



Ministry in the Eyes of: Eric Johnson

Director of Ministry and Development
Amundsen Educational Center
(partner ministry of CYAK)

Please introduce yourself:

I previously served in Alaska as Director of Operations at Alaska Christian College and here at Amundsen Educational Center (AEC). I have a B.A. in Elementary Education and a Master's of Arts in Christian Ministry from North Park Theological Seminary. I have served as a youth pastor and Associate Pastor within the Covenant church. Together with my wife, Meghan, we sensed a call to return long-term to Alaska in July 2014. Meghan serves in the development department at Alaska Christian College and is very involved with the ministry at AEC. We are blessed with four children that bring us a great deal of joy.

Meghan and I love this land and the people of this great land. Together, we have a passion to see young people grow in relationship with Jesus, heal from hurts and pains, gain in opportunity through educational pursuits following high school, and become those that will disciple the next generation.

Tell us a little about AEC:

Amundsen Educational Center (www.aecak.org) is located on the Kenai Peninsula in Soldotna. We are a faith-based, non-profit, educational and vocational training school. AEC serves students from native villages across Western Alaska as well as local students from the central Kenai Peninsula. We are authorized by Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. We currently offer vocational training in the areas of Residential Construction, Office Skills, and Professional Medical Coding. This fall, we will begin our first Aviation Ground School Course.

We also offer Christian community in our Residential Life program. Students that come to our program from various villages live in a student cabin next to staff on campus. Our staff are part of a smaller home away from home environment where each student is loved and cared for in many tangible ways. We provide multiple weekly devotional times/Bible study, mentoring opportunities, weekly church attendance, weekly Home Groups, Covenant Youth of Alaska retreats, service opportunities, and many recreational activities (hiking, basketball, swimming, bowling, and much more).

How is AEC connected to CYAK?

CYAK was instrumental in the beginnings of AEC. Such a school had long been the dream of Rev. Roald Amundsen, a long-term missionary and pilot who was the founder and director of Missionary Aviation Repair Center (MARC) in Soldotna. When a parcel of land was donated to Amundsen for charitable purposes in the mid-90s, he asked the help of Rev. Maynard Lomborg and Rev. Donald Bruckner in establishing plans for a vocational school. Lomborg and Bruckner added veteran Alaskan physician Dr. Robert Fortune to the group and the three met regularly to develop plans for the venture, which was finally incorporated in 1996. The founders named the school in honor of Rev. Amundsen in recognition of his dream and his lifetime of service in Alaska.

Much essential developmental work was then carried out over the next few years under the leadership of the first director, Del Corrick. After a pilot project in Fairbanks coordinated through Covenant Youth of Alaska and Byron Bruckner, the school formally opened in Soldotna in the fall of 2001.

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What do you appreciate about being a part of the CYAK Team?

While I was serving as a pastor in CA (2010-14), a former student we worked with at Alaska Christian College and AEC during the years of 2006-2010 would occasionally call. One time this student called and shared some heavy news. It was readily apparent that this young person needed community and someone that would reach out to them. So, I called CYAK. They reached out because that is their calling and passion.

In March 2015, one of our AEC students notified me that his mother had just died. I was in Unalakleet on a recruiting trip. He was in Anchorage just beginning his spring break. I called CYAK and they reached out and invited our student to lunch. The student later posted about this lunch on Facebook. It was so meaningful that someone cared, could offer their time and presence, particularly at a moment of deep grief for this young man.

Traveling to recruit students from remote villages can be quite costly. But with CYAK's help, I've been able to make connections with CYAK workers in the field who know young people that might be a fit for one of our programs.

In my experience, the ministry of CYAK is incredibly vital as it relates to reaching out to the young people in the villages. CYAK also encourages and equips the churches and volunteer leaders to grow in efforts to reach out and disciple young people. CYAK helps young people all over Alaska experience God's love. From junior high (and younger), young people are known and cared for through the ministries of CYAK. When these young people grow older and leave their villages to go to school on the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, or Fairbanks, CYAK staff are present to provide relational ministry, Christian community, and to train...many as emerging leaders for the generations to come. I'm deeply thankful for this relational outreach ministry and pray that it continues to expand and grow so as to make more eternal differences in the lives of each that they reach.

Is an Arigaa Soldotna group starting this fall?

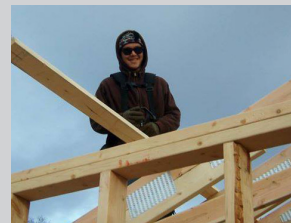
Yes! Meghan and I are excited to be a part of a great team of people that are going to launch an Arigaa ministry this fall. This ministry will serve post-secondary students, primarily rural Alaskans and their friends from the area. Whether a student is going to Alaska Christian College, Amundsen Educational Center, Kenai Peninsula College, or just living in the area, they will be welcome. There will be food, friends, growing in faith, and fun!

How can partners be praying for your family & AEC?

We definitely appreciate your prayers. Pray that Meghan and I, in the midst of raising a family and doing ministry, would find rest and play...would carve out time to abide in Christ and that God would bear fruit through this ministry. We'd appreciate your prayers for our children, too, as they transition into another school year (kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, and 6th grade!).



Left: AEC's campus in Soldotna



Right: Axel working on a home last fall



Over 35 young adults from across Alaska came to Leadership Camp!



CHIC was awesome! Left: Western AK crew



Right: CHIC 5K Runners!

Prayer Praises & Requests

We are incredibly grateful for all of those who faithfully lift up CYAK's ministry in prayer.

- **We praise God** for a **wonderful summer of ministry** - for all those who went to Leadership Camp, Bible Camp, and CHIC!
- **We praise God** that our newest Staff member, **Lindsey Clise, has arrived in Alaska**. She will be serving with the Anchorage Arigaa young adult group this fall.
- **We praise God** and celebrate the vote for **The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska to become a Conference** of the Covenant Church - now called the Alaska Conference.
- **We praise God** for a wonderful **Staff Building** time in late July.
- **We pray** for **young adults moving to the road system** this month for school or work, we ask that they will find positive community and be encouraged throughout their transition.
- **We pray** for our **partner ministries**, that together we can work together to share the love of Christ with all those we work with.
- **We pray** for **teachers and volunteers** who have a heart for youth across Alaska, and ask for your provision for them.

Get involved!

pray

{ We know the importance and power of prayer, and are grateful for those who serve in this way. Consider joining our monthly prayer team. Visit www.cyak.org and click the 'pray' button.

give

{ CYAK would not be able to work toward its mission without the generous donations people make toward the ministry. Learn how to give at www.cyak.org/give.html. To learn about specific ministry needs, contact David Rurik: david@cyak.org

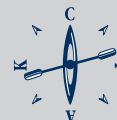
highlight

{ Consider highlighting CYAK's ministry at church! To receive resources to share with your congregation, small group, or community, we would love to help! Contact lauren@cyak.org.

serve

{ There is a definite and continuous need for youth workers in the villages across western Alaska who have hearts to see youth grow in Christ. To learn more about various opportunities, contact info@cyak.org.

Find us online



Learn what CYAK is all about, our history, mission vision and values by visiting www.cyak.org!



See photos, hear about events and learn what's new with CYAK on our facebook page.



Check out some of our videos on You Tube! Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska