

# Covenant Youth of Alaska

## Impacting Lives, One Life at a Time

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### Continuum of Discipleship Care

We use the term 'Continuum of Care' to illustrate the opportunities students have to find hope, healing and freedom in Christ, experience the support of God's people, and serve others, whether at home in the village or on the road system throughout the year. Three short phrases we use to help explain this concept are the desire we have for youth and young adults to 'KNOW Christ, GROW in Christ, and GO in Christ'. It is our desire to see youth and young adults grow in their faith throughout their formative years. CYAK partners closely with several ministries across the state in this effort. Together, we work to provide a continuum of discipleship care for youth and young adults.

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5: 16b*



Melanie is a young adult in Mekoryuk who oversees the Sunday School Program for the church. Melanie graduated high school in 2007, and went on to Alaska Christian College where she graduated in 2009 with a certificate in Biblical Studies.

When asked why she had the desire to serve as a leader in the role of Sunday School Superintendent she said, "The biggest reason on my heart was to serve as a leader and to set an example to the children as a way of encouragement." We are so grateful for Melanie's heart and service for the children in Mekoryuk. We look forward to seeing the fruit of her labor in the lives of young people in Mekoryuk, and across Alaska now and in years to come.



### Ministry in the Eyes of: Mary Charlie-Smith, Mekoryuk

Mary works alongside Elizabeth Betz to reach out to the youth in the village of Mekoryuk. We are grateful for both of their service in this way!

#### Please introduce yourself:

My name is Mary Charlie-Smith, originally from Toksook Bay, married to Dale Smith, Jr. of Mekoryuk. We have 2 kids, Clowie and Cody. I was raised Catholic and am now a part of the Covenant denomination. I have lived in Mekoryuk for 6 years (total from moving in and out.) This is my first year being involved with the youth group. I was asked to assist Elizabeth Betz since no one came forward to assist her.

#### How many youth are in Mekoryuk?

We have about 18 youth (grades 6 to 12) and we usually have at least 10 youth who show up for youth group nights.

#### What motivates you to serve the youth in Mekoryuk?

Making a difference in some of our youth's lives will allow them to see that they too can make difference in other people's lives even if we may have come from broken families, troubled families, abused lives, drug addictions, etc.

#### What are some activities that you do at youth group?

So far we've played games like trivia, questionnaire games, and showed some Christian true event movies for discussion (movies like Soul Surfer and others that are similar.) We are hoping to have more supporters for our youth group, more adult involvement and more youth to come to understand what youth group is all about.

#### What have the youth been learning about God?

To know what is right and wrong, showing the movies has been a great example to allow the students to have a discussion about the incident and the outcome. For them to see the good end result that God does exist even if we can't see Him.

How have you seen youth and young adults continue in their faith after leaving Mekoryuk for school or work?

So far the youth that have been involved in the youth group in the past have gone on to further their education at ACC. It's good to know the past youth group leader has had a great influence on them to further their education through Alaska Christian College. To see them blossom at ACC, like Alyssa Williams who was involved with youth group, shows that the youth group here has impacted a young lady to continue her faith outside of the village.

#### What encourages you most about the youth group?

It is encouraging to teach the youth God's Word, and that they see the importance of applying what they've learned in their daily lives. It's important to start introducing kids to God at a young age and to be able to teach them about Him as they grow. Having a youth group gives that privilege to the youth. As the Bible tells us, we need encouragement from other Christians to continue our faith.

How can supporters be praying for you, the kids, and the community as a whole?

We need more supporters for our youth group, more adult involvement and more youth to come to understand what youth group is all about.



Mekoryuk Covenant Church



Root Beer Floats!



## Prayer Praises & Requests

**Praise & Prayer:** We are excited to welcome **Drew and Holly Williams** to the CYAK Staff Team! Drew will be a youth leader, and Holly will teach English in Scammon Bay. Please pray as they raise support and prepare!

**Praise:** We praise God for **funding** to assist with local ministry this summer/fall - float trips, mentoring retreats, and more!

**Prayer:** Please be praying for **Leadership Camp** June 3-9 and the rest of the camping season at Bible Camp in Unalakleet!

**Prayer:** Please pray for **summer ministry**, and all it entails!

**Praise:** We are excited to continue discerning next steps for **Arigaa Young Adult Housing Ministry** growth in Anchorage.

**Prayer:** Please pray for **safety in travel** as summer is a time filled with travel in Alaska.

**Praise:** We praise the Lord for a safe delivery of **Jack Bruckner**, Nick and Nikki's Bruckner's son!

**Praise & Prayer:** We are excited to have **Charis Erhardt** as a CYAK Intern for the coming year with Arigaa Anchorage!



### BIBLE CAMP UPDATE

Covenant Bible Camp is upon us again! While CBC and CYAK are different organizations, we partner closely together. CYAK Staff are responsible for running Vision/Leadership Camp, and we are excited as the week draws near! Please be in prayer for the entire Bible Camp season - for campers, staff, and all involved. Quyaná.

**Vision/Leadership (ages 16-25): June 3-9**

**High School (9-12th grade complete): June 9-16**

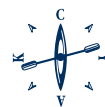
**Junior High (7-8th grade complete): June 16-23**

**Trailblazers (5-6th grade complete): June 23-28**

**Pathfinders (3-4th grade complete): June 28 - July 3**



### Connect with us online!



Stay up to date with the latest CYAK happenings by liking us on Facebook, and visiting our website at [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org)!



Thank you for your prayers!! Sign up for monthly prayer updates by visiting [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) and clicking the picture above. We are grateful for your support & prayers!

### Leadership Pics from 2013!!



### Missions Awareness Trip July 31-August 6



Learn about ministry in Alaska!

Visit Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Elim

[July 31-August 6]

We'd love to have you join!

Contact [lauren@cyak.org](mailto:lauren@cyak.org) for more information.