

# Covenant Youth of Alaska

*Impacting Lives, One Life at a Time*



Volume 8, Issue 6

December 2012

## 2012 snapshots of ministry



QUIARGI (Men's House) GATHERING  
A GATHERING FOR MEN OF ALL AGES

THIS SUNDAY!  
JANUARY 22  
5 - 7 PM

AT THE COVENANT  
HIGH AUDITORIUM  
AND GYM IN UNK

COME SHARE SOUP, SALMON, AND STORIES!  
AND ENTER A LASER RIFLE SHOOTING CONTEST!

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT BYRON BRUCKNER OR HENRY DOWNS

CYAK MEN'S MINISTRY INITIATIVE



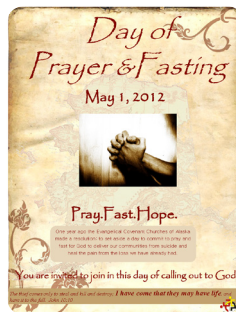
Jan : Quargi Men's  
House Gathering



Feb : Mentoring Retreat -  
White Mountain



March : ECCAK Annual  
Meeting in Unalakleet



April : Preparation for day  
of prayer over suicide



May : CYAK Summer  
Internships begin



June : Covenant Bible  
Camp in Unalakleet



July: Sports Camps run by  
CYAK Interns



August : CYAK Prayer  
and Planning Retreat



Sept : CYAK Young Adult  
Retreat in Big Lake



Oct : Sr. and Jr. High Fall  
Blast - Koyuk and Elim



Nov : Launch of Young  
Adult Advisory Council



Dec : Program funding  
from NSEDC celebrated!

### Ministry in the Eyes of: James Ventress, Regional Coordinator – Norton Sound Region

James serves as the CYAK Regional Coordinator for the Norton Sound Region of Alaska. He helps plan, coordinate, and put on regional youth events, as well as works with local youth in Nome, where he lives with his wife, Rachel.

#### Tell us about the exciting new funding from the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation:

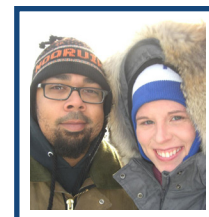
NSEDC recently gave \$100,000 to the City of Nome to be used for youth projects. I presented a grant proposal to the city council asking for a portion of the funding needed for a discipleship/mentoring program based on traditional substance activities and improved relationships with elders and adults. The city granted \$15,000 of the \$40,000 needed for the program. A shop space for the project is already available behind our house where kids will be able to participate in exciting and significant activities like sled and kayak building, net making and wood or ivory carving, all taught by Native elders. Participating students will then go on outings to use the items they made, gather food in a fun way and enjoy God's beautiful country.

#### What are some recent events you have led with youth in Nome?

We have kids in our house many nights each week; they come for Bible Club on Monday nights, and for food, fellowship and a safe, warm place to be throughout the week. Recently we went to Elim for Jr. High Fall Blast, and 9 of the 11 students that went with us are kids whose families don't attend church. Some have been coming to youth group at the church and two or three now eagerly attend Sunday services with us. This gives us great reason to rejoice, because one of our main goals is to integrate youth into the full body of Christ.

A few weeks ago, several of our Jr. High students came over to our house for the very first project in the shop. We all made jigging sticks for ice fishing, and after lunch we went to the small boat harbor and caught a whole bunch of tasty tomcod. None of the kids had any experience with tools and so it was an exciting (if complicated) process teaching them the necessary woodworking skill to finish the job. The kids had a lot of fun, are eager to go again and have invited their friends to join us next time.

It is exciting to see the way God is working in Nome through the Ventress' service! To learn more about James and Rachel's ministry with youth in Nome, visit [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) and click the 'ministry highlight' button.



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### Prayer Praises & Requests

- Praise for a great turnout at Jr. High Fall Blast in Elim! We had 54 youth and 10 staff.
- Praise for the launch of the YAAC! >>>
- Pray for all those affected by suicide in AK, as this time of year can be especially difficult.
- Pray for the upcoming CYAK board meeting, that it will be a time to continue to discuss how to best work toward our mission.
- Pray for the youth in Nome, as they often face neglect and abuse. Pray for the Ventress' ministry as they work with these youth.
- Pray for additional funding to come through for the shop project so that larger projects can become a reality for the youth!

### Young Adult Advisory Council

- Early last month, CYAK launched the YAAC - Young Adult Advisory Council.
- This council will serve as a format to bring out the voice of young adults regarding issues of concern for the wider church. We are excited to see what will come from this council, and are encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by those already involved.

- Donald Erickson shares, "Very simply, I want to be part of the Young Adult Advisory Council because it allows me to give back to CYAK, an organization that has made one of the biggest impacts in my spiritual life. Without CYAK the direction that I would have led my life would have been entirely different, the experiences from years of Bible Camp and other such events have been paramount in building and promoting my faith. By becoming part of this council, I can give back and aim to improve the very group of people that helped become who I am today. Not only this, but it will allow me to help improve my home, my region, and my people. I feel that God is leading me to go back to Alaska and do something there, what that is I am not sure, but this is a step in the right direction."
- Donald is a freshman at North Park University, and has been involved in CYAK's ministry throughout his youth. We are excited to have him as part of the council!



### Current Ministry Needs

- **Student Scholarships for Retreats:** The funds we receive for scholarships will help youth attend who couldn't otherwise! (Project Name: *scholarships*).



- **Mentoring Initiative:** Give to help make outings such as taking kids fishing as James did in Nome continue to happen! (Project Name: *ANMP*).

### Ways to Give: Visit our new giving page!

- **Online Giving:** Visit [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) to set up monthly, yearly, or one-time gifts using your **credit/debit card** or **checking account**.
- **Checks:** Made payable to: **Covenant Youth of Alaska**  
**PO Box 372**  
**Unalakleet, AK 99684**

Questions? Please contact our Unalakleet office:

Phone: 907.625.1525 Cell: 907.625.1120 Email: [info@cyak.org](mailto:info@cyak.org)

**YES!** I/we would like to partner with CYAK ministries to reach Alaskan Youth with the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Enclosed is a gift of: ( ) \$25 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) \$250 ( ) other \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] CYAK Mission

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**All financial gifts are tax-deductible.**

**Please return the slip above with your gift. Quyanna!**