

Covenant Youth of Alaska

Impacting Lives, One Life at a Time

Volume 9, Issue 1

February 2013

Western Alaska Ministry Training: Youth Ministry in the Village

Because our youth workers are spread out from village to village, gathering together for times of encouragement and training are critically important. The rates of suicide and incarceration among youth in rural Alaska are sobering. The needs can feel overwhelming at times, even for veteran youth workers. There are two key reasons why people in the church quit working with at-risk youth: 1. They feel under equipped and 2. They get discouraged. Because of this, John Hege and I recently provided a youth leader training seminar in Nome through ECCAK's Western Alaska Ministry Training initiative. The gathering was geared toward youth volunteers and CYAK staff in the Norton Sound region. This was a time where volunteers could ask questions, share their struggles, and collaborate on ideas with each other. We are equipping people to reach out, to disciple, and to build leaders in a very tough environment. Through the CYAK team network, these volunteers and CYAK staffers will stay connected, share resources and work together with youth in this region of Alaska. Our next training will be hosted in Bethel for the Yukon Kuskokwim region of Alaska in the spring, and we are looking forward to it! It is encouraging to see the way the Lord is using these people to reach Alaskan youth and young adults with the hope of Christ. – Byron



Ministry in the Eyes of:

**Brent Amundsen,
Arigaa – Fairbanks Director**

Brent is the Director of CYAK's Arigaa Young Adult Ministry in Fairbanks, and serves with his wife, Leah.

Who comes to Arigaa Fairbanks?

We have a group of about 10-15 students many of whom are from the Bethel or YK Delta Region, but last semester from as far away as Washington state and Tennessee!

What are some of your weekly activities?

During a regular week we have guys Bible study Monday night, girls Bible study/crafts Tuesday night, an outreach gathering Friday night, and a Vespers service Sunday night. Our guys Bible study group has been looking at the book of James, and how our faith manifests itself in the way we live. The ladies have been reading through Genesis and learning about the story of the Bible and how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Knitting, crocheting and other crafts have also become a crucial part of the evening. Friday nights we gather to eat, worship, hear a message and hang out until the early hours of the morning. Our Vespers service is an informal time where students pray, share from the word, and worship together.

Throughout the week we get together with students in other ways and go hunting, to the DMV, to get coffee, and go to the grocery store. The life that God designed for us is one that is lived together, so we strive to build community outside of programmed events.



What is an encouraging story from this year?

As a young adult living on your own at a state school it isn't hard to find trouble, especially on a Friday night. One of our students has had an ongoing battle with giving up alcohol as she sees it starting to destroy her relationships. She told me how thankful she was to have Arigaa on Fridays and wanted to know why we couldn't have it on Saturday as well. She has discovered her party alternative and is finding life through not only what she is leaving behind, but what she is putting in its place. The Christian life is not about getting rid of the sin in your life, it is about pursuing Godliness! We are excited to see her grow in her faith as she pursues the life God has for her.

How can supporters be praying for this ministry?

- Please pray that God would raise up student leaders, and strengthen the relationships that have been forming in our group.
- Please ask God to send His Holy Spirit to come upon the hearers of His word and to add to our numbers those who are being saved.

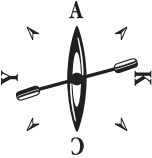




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Prayer Praises & Requests

Praises:

- Praise for a successful Western Alaska Ministry Training!
- Praise for the kick-start of the Arigaa ministries in Fairbanks and Anchorage as the 2nd semester is underway.
- Praise for a new donor database software!

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer for all those traveling to Midwinter in San Diego.
- Prayer for the Young Adult Retreat in Big Lake 2/22-24.

Memorial Gift: Ron Johnson

Several gifts were given in loving memory of Ron Johnson of Overland Park, KS after his passing in 2012. We are so grateful for the way that he extended God's love to others throughout his life!

Encouraging Words

"Through Covenant Youth of Alaska, I've gained insight and understanding of where part of my life is! I've gotten a new desire and passion in the area of anger, learning how to express it healthily. Where the Spirit of The Lord is there is freedom. And the Spirit is the driving source of CYAK."

Josh Mute is a young adult living in Nome, AK who recently attended CYAK's youth worker training.

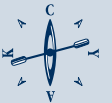


Connect with us online!

Like us on Facebook! See what is going on in the daily life of CYAK - read devotionals, see pictures from events, and join the conversation!



Visit our website: Visit www.cyak.org to learn more about CYAK's ministry, see pictures, and better understand our work with youth across the state.



Current Ministry Needs

YK Delta Regional Youth Event:

We are excited to be in the early process of putting on a regional mentoring and leadership retreat this spring in the YK Delta. Please consider giving to support this event! (Memo: YK Mentoring & Leadership Retreat)

Ways to Give:

• **Online Giving:** Visit 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

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!