



Covenant Youth of Alaska

Impacting Lives, One Life at a Time

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Ministry Highlight: Alaska Native Mentoring Program - Kiiyar Camp

CYAK's Alaska Native Mentoring Program (ANMP) works to reach young Alaska Native males to disciple and strengthen them in their walk with Christ. The ANMP fosters spiritual formation, cultural knowledge, and life skills development through partnership with local church mentoring sites throughout the state. In August, the ANMP held its first Kiiyar (men's house in Cup'ig) camp in partnership with the Mekoryuk Covenant Church on Nunivak Island. Mentors and young men spent the weekend together hearing from leaders about the three areas above, and participating in activities including skinning and butchering a reindeer, which was then given to elders in the village. It was an encouraging first year for the camp, and it was exciting to see the ANMP program embraced within the community of Mekoryuk. We are looking forward to seeing this program flourish in other communities throughout the year as well!



A Message from the Director:

This month I spoke at a memorial service for an 11 year old boy Jamison. Jamison was hit by a vehicle in Fairbanks on August 30th, and was killed. Jamison's mom asked if I would speak at the service since they didn't have any connection to a church. It was a community wide service in Nome, and many of his classmates and their families attended. Pray for their family - his mom Kelly, his dad Shannon, his little brother Kayden, and his little sister Karlee. They don't know the Lord, so pray that my follow-up with them will bear fruit, hope and life.

Jamison was a boy who was on the verge of the transition into adolescence and manhood, which are very difficult waters to navigate for many. Many boys don't have male role models to help them understand how to transition into being a man, and as a result they don't mature and they get stuck in their lives. In Alaska, the highest suicide rates come from young

Alaska Native men. In response to these challenges, we have been developing the Alaska Native Mentoring Program (ANMP). We are starting to identify men in churches who are willing to help boys, especially boys who don't have a father figure in their lives, transition well from boyhood to manhood.

The CYAK plan is to work with our church partners and others that are concerned with Native youth to help them set up a mentoring ministry in their settings. CYAK will provide ongoing training, support, and resources for the mentors. As many of these young boys become men, they will look back and remember how these relationships with older Christian men impacted their lives. I know this personally, because there were men in the church who invested time and attention to my life which deeply impacted me, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Thank you for your continued support of CYAK!

Byron Bruckner



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Prayer Praises & Requests

- Praise for the success of the first Kiiyar camp on Nunivak Island!
- Praise for the fall and all of the retreats that come along with it.
- Prayer for the family and friends of Jamison, who was killed in Fairbanks last month.
- Prayer that Fall Blast will be a wonderful experience for the youth, and an encouragement to the entire community of Elim.

What's Coming Up! Find us on the Web!

- CYAK's High School Fall Blast is going on the first weekend of October in Elim!
- Friend us on facebook! Search for "Covenant Youth of Alaska"
- Visit our website: www.cyak.org

- *CYAK Emerging Leadership Council*
- In the next couple of months, we will be launching a CYAK Emerging Leadership Council.
- Youth workers and pastors across the state have been submitting names of students ages 17-25.
- The CYAK staff will be selecting the young adult candidates to serve. This emerging leader council will discuss issues and we will bring their voice to church leaders, our CYAK board, and to the wider Alaskan church. We will have elders and CYAK staff serving on the council as well to facilitate, listen, and help bring the voice of the emerging generation to the table. Stay tuned to our website and facebook page to hear updates on this exciting new venture!

Current Ministry Needs:

- **Student Scholarships for Retreats:** Scholarships for students to attend our fall retreats.
- **Video Curriculum Resources:** Funding to support our new video curriculum project.
- **Donate Berries!** Live in Alaska? Consider donating a quart of berries to our Arigaa young adult ministry! Email: info@cyak.org for more info. Quyanna!

Other ways to Give:

- **Automatic Giving** from your checking account.*
- **Online:** Gifts can be made via PayPal on our website. Visit www.cyak.org, and click the "give" button.
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Phone: 907.624.5050 **Cell:** 907.625.1120 **Email:** info@cyak.org

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