

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



COVENANT YOUTH OF ALASKA

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BETTER TOGETHER

After serving as a short-term missionary with CYAK, Mary, one of our staff alumni, began dog mushing. Several years later, after much training, she ran the Iditirod – a 1000 mile race through the Alaskan wilderness all by dog team. This was and is an amazing accomplishment. For her to run this race required serious partnership. It required business and volunteer partnership, it required a deep commitment by Mary to work with her dogs, and it required partnership of the dogs with one another.

Like dog mushing, CYAK recognizes the essential role of partnership in accomplishing significant goals. **Partnership is at the center of CYAK. This is not by chance. This was placed at the heart of our mission statement as our board and staff set our course direction together.**

We partner with churches, with communities, with other ministries, and with you. We

are like one big happy dog team family! In this report you will see the wonderful work of CYAK in partnership.

We can accomplish more for the Kingdom of God when we combine resources together with others.

You have been a key partner in the work of the Gospel with us. Not everyone can go to the ends of the earth but as Romans 10:14 says ***“And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?”***

Thank you for your generous heart, your commitment to Christ, and your desire to help us reach the next generation here in Alaska with the Good News of Christ.



Byron Bruckner
Executive Director

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Mission:

CYAK serves Alaska youth and young adults through Christ-centered ministry, partnership and discipleship, to raise mature believers who will lead the church for generations to come.

Vision:

Vibrant and healthy communities reflecting the gospel of Christ and led by people God has transformed.

Values:

Native Leadership Development
Cross Cultural Ministry
Local Church Collaboration/Synergy
Healthy Relationships in Community
Discipleship & Evangelism
Fun!





DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Walking with students along the day to day journey of life through relationship and discipleship.

We were encouraged TO SEE:

- 147 youth and young adults involved in weekly discipleship.
- 22 young adults from 6 countries across the world participate in a 3 month discipleship school in Alaska – Acts 29.
- Nearly 100 people partnered with the Aarigaa House discipleship ministry this year in support of the capital campaign.
- 56 youth and young adults across the state serve in leadership roles in their faith community.
- Young adults from the Road System, the Norton Sound and the YK Delta serving in staff roles at Covenant Bible Camp.
- Fish caught, berries picked, tools made, meals eaten, mountains hiked, life lived together in community - life on life discipleship.



Winter camping with some of the Unalakleet Youth Group. The group snowmachined to Bible Camp and stayed in the Welcome Cabin while enjoying time with God and each other. This is where discipleship happens!

REGIONAL EVENTS

Gathering youth regionally, focusing on outreach and furthering growth in Christ.

We were encouraged TO SEE:

- Over 100 people present at each of the bi-annual CYAK Young Adult Retreats in the fall and spring.
- Two Fall Blast retreats in Koyuk with over 80 Jr. Highers, Sr. Highers and volunteers from the communities of Elim, Golovin, Koyuk, Nome, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet.
- 329 campers from 21 villages and communities, and 48 first time commitments to Jesus at Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet.
- Over 50 Nations represented by students from across the country at the WJEF? (Would Jesus Eat Frybread?) Conference in Alaska.
- Continued annual gathering of high school students from the road system at the November Road System Retreat in Big Lake.



Group photo from the 2017 High School Road System Retreat. Youth groups from churches on the road system gathered together for a weekend of learning about Christ and what it means to be united with him and one another.

LOCAL YOUTH SUPPORT

Supporting youth through a network of committed volunteers of every skillset.

We were encouraged TO SEE:

- 7 young adults complete CYAK internships at Bible Camp and in the local communities of Mountain Village, Scammon Bay, Eagle River and Anchorage.
- 25 volunteers from 10 communities attend CYAK's annual Youth Worker Retreat and Training in Bethel. Theme: Discipleship and Evangelism in Rural Alaska.
- Participants in Acts 29 travel to seven local churches and serve for a week to encourage and support the local community.
- Work teams from across the country travel to Alaska to help develop our facilities - making us able to reach more youth effectively.



Most communities do not have a full-time youth worker or pastor. We work to resource teachers and others in the villages who have a heart for youth and God!

Pictured above: Scammon Bay - where CYAK staffer Drew Williams serves.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: ACTS29 – ALASKA

Acts 29 is a three-month Covenant international discipleship school. Each year, young adults from across the world join together in a new location to grow together in their discipleship journey with Jesus, and to serve the community where they reside. In recent years, Alaska has sent three young adults to participate in this school in Thailand and Sweden. These young adults came home changed, with a vision to see Acts 29 take place in Alaska.

In the winter and spring of 2018, that vision came to life. Through the Alaska Conference, CYAK, and Acts 29 international staff, the program was planned and set into place. Students and staff representing Alaska, Georgia, Canada, Thailand, Sweden, Chile, and Ecuador, came together for Alaska's first Acts 29 Discipleship school. The result was better than anyone could have hoped. As Superintendent Curtis Ivanoff shared, *"I want to express my deep joy and gratitude for the way God moved among our people and our churches as we stepped out in faith to host this school. I am convinced that we will see fruit from this for years to come."* Praise be to God!

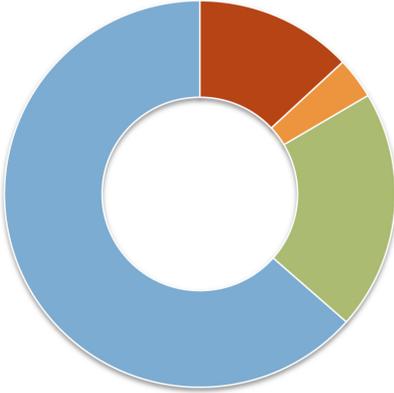


Over the course of three months, groups traveled to a number of different communities across the state for their practice weeks. Above, a group poses in front of Mekoryuk Covenant Church. They were a blessing to the community!

FINANCIALS

INCOME

\$1,167,817.63



- Payments/Registration \$152,446.96
- Scholarships \$40,173.30
- Churches \$233,797.70
- Individual Partners \$741,399.67

Additional Incomes

Aarigaa House Capital Campaign:

Goal: \$1,040,000 **Raised to date:** 92%

Remaining: \$85,000 (8%)

Chickaloon Retreat Center:

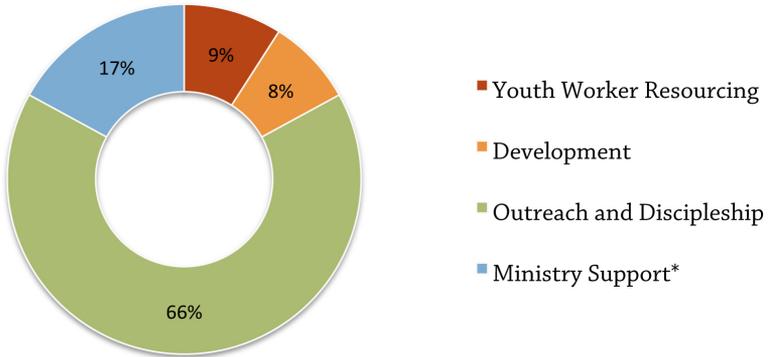
Raised to date: \$63,791.85 for the construction of a bathhouse and a multipurpose yurt facility.



The theme for the 2017 Covennat Bible Camp season was, 'Love God Love Others' from Mark 12:30-31. It was a wonderful season where we saw over 320 campers from over 20 villages and communities come to camp!

EXPENSES

\$1,213,147.06



*Ministry Support includes communications, administration and organizational development/strategic planning.

Complete financials available upon request.



We are excited about the development of Chickaloon Retreat Center. This year, work teams helped build a yurt and a bathhouse to accommodate groups. Youth, young adult, and staff gatherings continue to take place here - a blessing!

QUYANA, THANK YOU!



*CYAK is a ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical
Covenant Church of America. Learn more at www.cyak.org*