

# Covenant Youth of Alaska

*A relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry  
for Alaska youth and young adults*

Volume 12, Issue 2  
April 2016

## Trusting God and Having Faith

### Mountain Village Young Adults Start Church Group and Raise Funds to Attend the CYAK Young Adult Retreat.

Mountain Village is a community of approximately 900 people located on the Yukon River. Four young adults (shown above): Eugene, Shannon, Mickey and Darrin, began a young adult group at the Covenant church in November and have continued to faithfully meet together.

In February, they raised the needed funds to fly to Anchorage (no small task!) so they could attend the CYAK Young Adult Retreat. We were so encouraged by their presence, and we look forward to continuing to support and resource them in their gatherings! Read below:

#### Why did you start meeting?

**Eugene:** When I would go to church, I would always hear prayer requests for our youth and young adults to start getting into church more. And when I kept hearing prayer after prayer, I decided to talk to my pastor about starting a young adult group. We didn't know what it would look like. We didn't have anything formally planned, we just felt compelled to start one and so we did.

**Shannon:** God put it on my heart that we had to start meeting together. I felt like I

*lacked encouragement, or even fellowship with people our age who are going through what we are going through; who understand us differently than others in our congregation. So, I was all for it.*

***“God put it on my heart  
that we have to start  
meeting together.”***

**What are some of the things you do at your gatherings?**

**Shannon:** We meet twice a week. We meet on Fridays to figure out what we are going to do for church on Sunday, and the next day to practice. We have specials where we sing or share testimonies or a passage of scripture. Darrin plays the guitar, Eugene plays his djembe and Mickey and I sing.

**How often does your group sing a special for church?**

**Shannon:** It is rare that we don't do a special for the church. It is really encouraging for everyone. The congregation really likes us. Pastor Don said that we bring some 'umph' to the church! We often sing modern music – so we bring in a new fresh sound. It was kind of intimidating at first but now we look forward to it.

Continued on back page...

## Ministry Highlights



**Covenant Bible Camp**  
Bible Camp in Unalakleet is coming up, and our staff are making plans for serving!



### CRC Retreats

Chickaloon Retreat Center is getting lots of use these days: First Covenant Youth Group, CYAK Strategic Planning Meetings, and Spring Camp!



### Spring Break!

Lots of fun outdoor activities have been happening during Spring Break across the state.

...from the front page

**How would you encourage others to meet together in their communities?**

**Darrin:** *Even if it feels scary or weird to start a group, it is best to just keep at it and have faith. If you trust in God you will get somewhere.*

**Shannon:** *Just show up. Pastor Don was a huge mentor in that and a big encourager when he said to just show up and be led by the Spirit even when you don't know where it is taking you. And we didn't have any real direction or an agenda. We just started to show up and be faithful.*

**How can supporters be praying?**

**Eugene:** *There is a sense among young people that at church, people look down on them. And I just hope they don't have that feeling anymore so that when they see church they no longer feel like it is only for old people but that it is also for them and for the other generations to come.*

**Shannon:** *We are kind of out on our own right now without a pastor or someone to really minister to us, and we kind of just do things ourselves. It would be great to have a mentor or pastor to support us.*

**Visit [cyak.org](http://cyak.org) and click 'Ministry Highlight' to read more!**

## Current Ministry Needs

**Scholarships:** Give the opportunity for a young person to attend one of our retreats by giving to the Scholarship Fund.

**Nome Ministry Housing:** Our Nome ministry site is in need of expanded housing to allow for youth workers to serve in Nome!

**Crisis Care:** In times of crisis, we want to be prepared to respond. Giving toward this cause will help make it possible for us to send care teams to communities in times of emergency.

## PRAYER PRAISES & REQUESTS

**Sign up to receive monthly prayer updates, visit [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) and click the 'Pray' button.**

- We praise God for a wonderful young adult retreat - with over 100 in attendance representing 30 communities, it was our biggest in CYAK history. It was a sweet time of fellowship for all!
- We praise God for the returning sun, and all the opportunities to get out into God's creation.
- We praise God for the continued development and use of the Chickaloon Retreat Center.
- We ask for prayer for all those finishing up classes - for energy to end the year well, and for summer plans to be set.
- We ask for prayer for all those meeting together like the young adults in Mountain Village. Pray for encouragement!

**Thank you for your faithful support of CYAK's ministry through prayer.**

## CONNECT AND PARTNER!



Visit the CYAK website to learn more about CYAK's state-wide ministry, to sign up for prayer updates and to give. **[www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org)**



Follow us on Instagram to see pictures of ministry across the state!

**Search: @covenantyouthofalaska**



Like and follow us on Facebook to learn about the latest happenings within the ministry.

**Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska**



Learn more about CYAK's ministry through videos and see testimonies on YouTube.

**Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska**

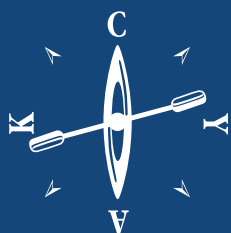
## Young Adult Retreat Success!

**CYAK Young Adult Retreat is biggest in CYAK history!**

In late February, CYAK hosted it's biggest young adult retreat in CYAK's history with over 100 young adults, leaders and families in attendance. Over 30 communities were represented. Young Adults heard from CYAK Staffers Lindsey Clise and Byron Bruckner, as well as Alaska Conference Superintendant Curtis Ivanoff about the importance of putting on the armor of God. It was a retreat that will not soon be forgotten - we are already looking forward to the next retreat in September!



Tricia Ivanoff sharing her testimony.



## Covenant Youth of Alaska

*A relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults*

A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

**Website:** [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org)

**Email:** [info@cyak.org](mailto:info@cyak.org)

**Phone:** 907-625-1525

**Address:** PO Box 203356  
Anchorage, AK 99520