

Covenant Youth of Alaska

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

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Gathering the Gatherers

A Weekend Refueling the CYAK Team in Western Alaska.

Could you imagine being the only teacher for the fifth through the eighth grade at a school, while serving as a coach of every sport offered to the students and at the same time running a youth ministry? If it is easy to imagine that, then let's take it a bit further. Imagine you have no formal youth ministry training and limited personal relationships with other people doing youth ministry in a similar context. Let's place you in a village so remote you have to take two flights to arrive in an area of Alaska where trees grew. Such is the reality of one of the members of CYAK's volunteer team who attended a recent gathering in Nome.

One of CYAK's five strategic priorities is to enhance the youth ministry of local churches in Alaska. In many villages, through resources we receive from partners, we provide tangible support to people like this young man so they can impact youth for Christ's Kingdom. CYAK is uniquely positioned to provide youth workers who are vocational and bi-vocational with specific discipleship tools and

a community of co-laborers who share this high calling. We designed an event to do just that.

CYAK gathered twenty youth workers doing ministry across rural Alaska in Nome March 10-12 with two goals in mind: to equip and to encourage. We created space to build relationships and so those pouring into youth month after month could eat good food and have fun with like-minded people. We invited the best

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encourager we could think of to come and share with the team- the leader of youth ministry for the Evangelical Covenant church in North America, Tim Ciccone. Tim asked participants to share about the calling God placed on their hearts to serve the youth and the stories we heard were powerful. He also taught on discipleship and shared a book with each member of the group called, "Four Chair Discipling" by Dann Spader.
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Ministry Highlights



Young Adult Retreat!

The Feb. Young Adult Retreat was a success! The theme was 'We Nalliq (travel side by side) as we malik (follow) Jesus', along with Acts 4:13!



CRC Development

A few Aarigaa young women spent several days over spring break at Chickaloon Retreat Center. We're excited to host work teams this summer to continue CRC's development!



Relational Ministry

Consistent discipleship and relational ministry continues to happen across the state!

...from front page

Tim shared best-practices on preventing burnout and described the reality of vicarious traumatization: when walking through traumatic events with others, we do not emerge unscathed. The event was designed to build up, support, and equip those serving youth. One youth worker summed up the impact of the event:

"This gathering helped me to avoid burnout, maybe even pulled me out of it. The isolation has been a large barrier in my ministry and growth the past few months but feeling more connected to the network has reduced that along with being built up to be back in my community."

Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd in John 10:11-17. Pastors and youth workers also shepherd as we follow the Good Shepherd. We work to gather, protect and care for young people with God's sacrificial love. One cannot share what one does not have - youth workers and pastors need special care and love so they can continue pour that into others. Our partners who give financially help make it possible for this to happen. We will continue to gather the gatherers, to care for the care givers and share the Good News with the bearers of the Gospel to the glory of God.



Unalakleet Youth Group Ice Fishing!

The Unalakleet Youth Group enjoyed an afternoon of ice fishing. It was an afternoon of fun and good fellowship together!

PRAYER PRAISES & REQUESTS

Sign up to receive monthly prayer updates, visit www.cyak.org.

Praise: For an encouraging youth worker gathering in Nome.

Praise: For the returning light - and the hope of spring not far away.

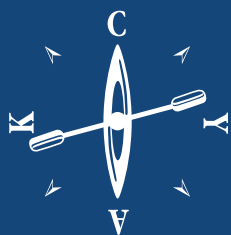
Praise: For a committed team of staff - discipling youth with their lives.

Prayer Request: For recruitment efforts for Bible Camp - excited for June!

Prayer Request: For plans to solidify for CRC work teams this summer.

Prayer Request: For youth making summer plans & finishing the semester.

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



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A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

CONNECT AND PARTNER!



Website/Contact:

Visit cyak.org to learn more about CYAK's ministry. Contact us at info@cyak.org to learn how to get more involved!



Instagram:

See photos and updates on Instagram!
Search: @covenantyouthofalaska



Facebook:

See photos and updates on Facebook.
Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska



YouTube:

Watch videos about CYAK's ministry.
Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska

Covenant Bible Camp Update!

Bible Camp is just around the corner!

Plans are coming together for this summer's camp season at Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet. The theme comes from Mark 12:30-31, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."* Early Bird Registration Deadline is April 17! Sign up today!



CURRENT MINISTRY NEEDS

Scholarships for Camp: Covenant Bible Camp is just around the corner. Visit www.covenantbiblecamp.org and make a gift to scholarship a student!

Build with Us! To make Chickaloon Retreat Center a useable space for groups, we need a bath house! Volunteer or donate to help make it happen!

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