



Covenant Youth of Alaska

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

Volume 11, Issue 3

June 2015

CYAK Strategic Planning

In early May, the CYAK Board and Staff gathered together for a time of visioning and strategic planning. It was an encouraging weekend spent discerning together the direction God is leading CYAK. We were affirmed in acknowledging the ways that God has been at work, and were reminded of how to continue moving forward to reach youth and young adults with the love of Christ. Together, we are grateful for the broader team of churches, partners and supporters who are faithfully praying for and supporting CYAK as we continue to grow as a ministry. Quyana, thank you!



CYAK Board and Staff together at First Covenant Church in Anchorage.

“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 25:4-5



Ministry in the Eyes of:

Mike and Cory Alvorts
Chickaloon Retreat Center (CRC)

Mike: I have been full time staff with CYAK for three years, drawing upon 20 years of full time ministry. I help shape our leadership development, discipleship experiences, and partnerships with the hope of transformed communities, people and families. My role

with CRC is to include these elements in the CYAK programming and development of the Chickaloon Retreat Center. **Cory:** Mike and I have been married for 18 years and have three kids. My role with CYAK is prayer support and development, helping Mike, and helping with the development and detail management of the Chickaloon Retreat Center.

What is the Chickaloon Retreat Center (CRC)?

CRC is on an 80 acre piece of land in Chickaloon Alaska. It is a unique and peaceful setting intended to help pastors, youth, young adults, families, individuals, and groups encounter God. (Mike)

What is the history of the CRC property?

The CRC property was donated to the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska (ECCAK) by Don and Effie Graham in December 1994. The Grahams donated the property in memory of their parents with the intention that it be used as a place for pastors, church staff and lay volunteers to receive spiritual, physical, and emotional renewal. Today, the vision has expanded to also be a place to serve youth and young adults from the road system. (Cory)

How did CYAK come to manage CRC?

When Mike and I moved to Alaska three years ago to work with CYAK we stayed with our family at CRC for a few nights. We had such a great time and wondered how often this wonderful place was used. Both Mike and I have camping ministry experience and I have a degree in outdoor education. When we found out that CRC wasn't used often, we talked

with Byron about the potential for ministry. Of course Byron was right on board, and we pursued a proposal to ECCAK about CYAK leasing the property. (Cory)

How does CYAK envision CRC's use?

We envision anybody using CRC, from individuals to larger groups, from personal use to group retreats. We envision it being used for rest and renewal, spiritual growth and formation to outdoor education. The heart behind CRC has always been for people to grow in health and encounter God, so we see it typically being used for some type of renewal. (Mike)

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Spring Camp! Hiking up Castle Mountain at CRC in May.

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Tell us a little about 'Spring Camp' in May:

Sometimes there is a bit of lag time between when university students finish classes and head home or start summer jobs. This year CYAK helped fill the gap by offering a "Spring Camp" for those students. In early May, 20 students stayed at CRC, relaxed, renewed, worked together to prepare meals, received some discipleship input and enjoyed being outside. They said they loved it! We look forward to doing it again next year. (Cory)

How is CRC's development moving forward?

The development of CRC is definitely moving forward. We are very excited. CYAK has secured a lease of the property from ECCAK for 25 years. We have established a list of priorities. One of the top is developing sanitation facilities. We are currently doing the background and leg work for this undertaking. We are also working through establishing policies and governance procedures. (Cory)

How can partners be praying for CRC and your role(s)?

Pray for the CRC development, done with foresight and wisdom. Pray that we create the right balance of clear policy with inviting culture. Pray for my role which is program and design elements of discipleship and leadership, that we continue to field test and put these things into practice, and that CRC will serve well in these areas. (Mike)



Chickaloon Retreat Center is a beautiful place! Alaska Christian College and Arigaa Anchorage young adults had an awesome time together at Spring Camp!

CHIC 2015!

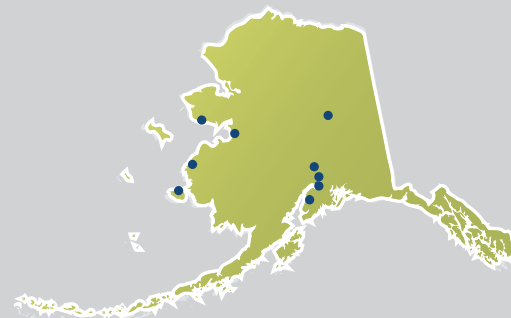


Students from
Mekoryuk at
CHIC 2012!
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CHIC is a triennial youth ministry gathering involving thousands of youth from across the country. This year CHIC will take place July 12-17 at the University of Tennessee. Over 100 youth and leaders will be traveling from AK to be there! Please keep them in your prayers.

Youth are traveling from:

Nome
Unalakleet
Fairbanks
Wasilla
Eagle River
Anchorage
Kenai
Scammon Bay
Mekoryuk



Prayer Praises & Requests

We are incredibly grateful for all of those who faithfully lift up CYAK's ministry in prayer.

- We **praise** God for **Chickaloon Retreat Center**, and for the success of the first annual **Spring Camp**! We pray that it will continue to be a place of blessing for those who use it.
- We **praise** God for all of the **leaders** he is raising in Alaska, and for the opportunity to share in learning and community together at **Leadership Camp** in early June.
- We **praise** God for his **provision** in our lives and in ministry.
- We ask for **prayer** for **safety this summer** as people travel.
- We ask for **prayer** for continued guidance with **new CYAK endeavors**, that we will continue to seek God's will.
- We ask for **prayer** for those mourning the **loss of loved ones**.
- We ask for **prayer** for **students of all ages** as they are home or working this summer - that they will stay strong in their faith, continue to follow the Lord, and encourage one another.
- We ask for **prayer** for our staff, that this summer will be a time of **refreshment** for them in many ways.

Get involved!

pray

- { We know the importance and power of prayer, and are grateful for those who serve in this way. Consider joining our monthly prayer team. Visit www.cyak.org and click the 'pray' button.

give

- { CYAK would not be able to work toward its mission without the generous donations people make toward the ministry. Learn how to give at www.cyak.org/give.html. To learn about specific ministry needs, contact David Rurik: david@cyak.org

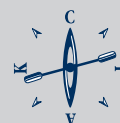
highlight

- { Consider highlighting CYAK's ministry at church! To receive resources to share with your congregation, small group, or community, we would love to help! Contact lauren@cyak.org.

serve

- { There is a definite and continuous need for youth workers in the villages across western Alaska who have hearts to see youth grow in Christ. To learn more about various opportunities, contact info@cyak.org.

Find us online



Learn what CYAK is all about, our history, mission vision and values by visiting www.cyak.org!



See photos, hear about events and learn what's new with CYAK on our facebook page.



Check out some of our videos on You Tube! Search: Covenant Youth of Alaska