

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again

# CYAK impact UPDATE

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK JANUARY 2017



## Building the Bridges of Ministry

CYAK plays a unique role in creating leadership avenues across Alaska

BY DAVID RURIK

As Covenant Youth of Alaska’s ministry develops across the state, its role of acting as a bridge between ministry sites is becoming more clearly needed. A past *Impact Update* highlighted Charis Erhart who developed as a leader while serving as an intern with Aarigaa in Anchorage. She then followed a call to move across the state as the full-time youth pastor at Unalakleet Covenant Church.

This edition will highlight your role in building the bridge to give opportunities to young leaders.

CYAK staffer Tom Mute started leading worship with grace, charisma and style all his own years ago at Covenant Bible Camp. For ten years he lived and worked in Nome as a teacher while volunteering with the local youth and young adult groups.

In the fall of 2016, Tom came on staff full-time with CYAK working in partnership with Mat-Su Covenant Church and the broader Mat-Su Valley region. Leading worship remains close to Tom’s heart and his new role as a regional staff member for CYAK means that he gets to build intentional bridges and discipleship opportunities for young leaders.

This is where your support comes in. Tom used partner dollars to fly

Kadyn, 17, in from Western Alaska to help lead worship at CYAK’s ‘Road System’ retreat for high school students in Anchorage, Eagle River, Palmer and Wasilla. This important ‘bridging’ function that CYAK plays in connecting remote communities with other areas of the state often costs anywhere from \$200-800 per round trip ticket.

Previously Tom and Kadyn have worked and played music together at Covenant Bible Camp, but Tom saw this retreat as a great discipling opportunity. Tom also invited a local youth, George, to assist in leading worship at the retreat.

“Both Kadyn and George have been helping to lead worship for their youth groups in their hometowns and inviting them to lead with me cements verbal instructions on how to lead,” Mute said. The in-person connection times with young leaders are vital for their growth.

Your support of CYAK gives Tom the opportunity to create accessible bridges for students like Kadyn to travel across the state for events to develop leadership skills, engage in one on one discipleship, and provide hands on leadership experiences.

While the primary purpose for the retreat was road system high school

student’s spiritual growth, Tom’s heart for developing leaders allows this secondary goal to be present as well. As Kadyn continues to develop his leadership skills Tom looks forward to continuing to disciple him.

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Though impact is often hard to define, your partnership gives means to practical and spiritual needs for the ministry. Creating the necessary bridges that enable leadership growth around the state is key for CYAK to build the body of Christ in Alaska. Thank you for your support.

### CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

You are a part of the team that God has called together to impact youth and young adults in Alaska. When you give, you impact one student who will be part of the mission of Christ in Alaska. Thank You.

**Will you continue your impact?**

**Visit [cyak.org/YourImpact](http://cyak.org/YourImpact)**



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Covenant Youth of Alaska is a relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults. A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, we work in partnership with 19 churches across Alaska for the cause of ministry to young people. To join our efforts or to learn more, go to [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org).