



Covenant Youth of Alaska

2016 Staff Update: Adam and Shirleen London

Ministry Location: Unalakleet

Ministry Role: Associate Director - Adam

Operations and Bible Camp Administration

Qana tai! Qanuġitpich? (It's been a long time! How are you?) This year has easily been the most intense year our family has had in ministry. We have had intense joys, but also intense struggles. Our biggest news is that we are transitioning to Anchorage to work out of the CYAK office. With the recent merger of CYAK and Covenant Bible Camp, Adam has shifted into the role of Associate Director with responsibility for Operations and Bible Camp Administration. Our move to Anchorage has come with many prayers, many conversations with loved ones, and many tears for the people we will leave behind. Adam is especially excited about working in a team environment with several other CYAK staff, rather than in an office all by himself. We are trusting God that this transition is best for both the ministry and our family, but it still has been difficult. Honestly, we could not and cannot persevere through the struggles without your prayers and partnership. We are eternally grateful for your support. Quyanaqpak! (Big thank you!)



Highlights from 2016

- Adam took a research and writing Sabbatical in the Spring while the London's also took the opportunity to visit 8 states and fundraise at about a dozen church gatherings. God provided!
- Adam spoke at CYIA camp in Soldotna with a group of 10 from Western Alaska. We are more convinced every year that this discipleship ministry is a key component to raising up Native leaders to fill the gaps in village church leadership.
- The CYIA youth led our largest ever VBS in Unalakleet with over 80 children attending!
- Shirleen continued to lead the Women's Bible Study. They raised funds to take 8 (a record number!) to a Women's Retreat in Willow.
- Several new Native staff have stepped into leadership statewide! One leader, Charis, a wonderful Native young woman, took over Adam's previous position of Youth Pastor in Unalakleet. We are confident that we are leaving the Youth Ministry in great hands.

Challenges from 2016

- Packing up and preparing to leave Unalakleet December 15th has been an emotional roller coaster. We have been blessed by a fruitful ministry these past 6 years, and it is hard to say, "See you later."
- Finding adults in the church to take over leadership of the Women's Bible Study and CYIA children's ministries has been difficult. Many are willing to volunteer short-term, but we have continued to pray for an adult leader to direct the ministry. These are such vital ministries and we want to see them flourish when we leave.
- As with any transition, there have been some tensions within church leadership as Unalakleet searches for a new Senior Pastor. Adam has gotten caught in the middle a few times and there have been hurt feelings that God continues to seek to heal.
- The merger of Bible Camp and CYAK is definitely a very positive shift that will greatly increase the capacity of Bible Camp, but transitions are always difficult. With the added London moving transition, we have often felt overwhelmed, but we know this is just for a season and we are beginning to see the light on the other side of the tunnel!

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the many transitions: the London's to Anchorage, the Bible Camp merger, and the Pastoral search in Unalakleet. Please pray the we would all live out God's grace as we seek to serve.
- Please pray specifically for the London children, Tommy, Talia, Toby, and Thad as we transition, that they would form good healthy friendships and feel God's abiding love.
- Please pray that God would raise up adult leaders in the church to serve not only on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week with the youth and other various service opportunities. Please pray that the villages would have a culture of serving God and serving others.
- Please pray for our 6 village churches that are looking for Pastors and the 7 village churches looking for Youth Pastors. Please pray that those God is prompting would answer the call and they would receive the support they need quickly.

A Message from the Director

CYAK is able to make a difference because of your investment in our wonderful staff team who serve faithfully. Thank you so much for your support of our CYAK staff. They are key in all aspects of this ministry as we reach to the next generation. They are investing and sacrificing here in Alaska for the sake of Christ. We believe the body of Christ is better pulling together and that is why you are a vital part and gift to our team ministry. We could not do this without you.

Adam and Shirleen are a blessing to our staff team. They both bring unique gifts, talents and perspectives to the CYAK table. Because Shirleen grew up here she has a huge heart to see other young people in Alaska grow in Christ. She is a great role model and gives young people a vision for who they could be. Adam is the gifted puzzle guy – give him a 1000 piece ministry puzzle to figure out and he will bring a sense of order out of chaos. We are so thankful for your significant support of Adam and Shirleen as a part of CYAK team. You are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Byron Bruckner - CYAK Director

Financial Support Update:

Our family of 6 lives off of a modest salary of \$30,000 annually, with an additional \$20,000 to cover housing, travel, insurance, pension, and ministry expenses (\$50,000 total). We currently have about 75% of our needed monthly support, however, through one-time gifts in 2016 and the continued giving of our committed supporters, we have enough pledged to be fully-funded through 2017. We are praying for 10 more regular monthly supporters to help us continue to be fully funded well into the future.



Clockwise from top left: Bri's baptism, Tommy and our big catch, CYIA group picture, Vacation Bible School in Unalakleet with over 80 children!



**Quyana, thank you for your generous support of CYAK's ministry.
We are grateful for your partnership!**



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 of America

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