

# Alaska Meeting Offers Spiritual Feast

**P**RECEDED by a week of Bible study and discussion for pastors, the annual meeting of the Alaska Covenant Conference took place in the village of White Mountain March 31-April 3. Of the 178 visitors who attended, 119 came in seven chartered aircraft, 44 by snow vehicles, and 15 by dog team. The 125 local citizens welcomed all, filling their homes with guests. Mrs. Ralph (Gertrude) Fondell of radio station KICY, Nome, sends this report about the event.

Conference means much in Alaska. First it is a time of fellowship. One does not travel here as in the "lower 48." The villages are not connected by roads, and air travel is expensive. Hence, conference time is when one sees his friends and loved ones.

A much deeper meaning is the conference's time of spiritual feasting. Services were held three times daily and were approximately two hours in length. Mr. David Saccheus, conference chairman, led the services, all of which opened with singing the theme song, "I Know Whom I Have Believed," based on the theme verse, 2 Timothy 1:12. The people love to sing, and choirs from the various villages practiced many hours on the special numbers presented. A gospel team from Covenant High School, Unalakleet, was also there.

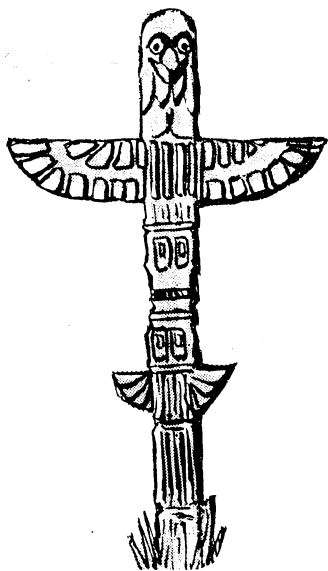
Each morning and afternoon the various pastors spoke, some in English and some in their native tongues. Along with their messages they told how God is working in their villages, such as in the Lower Yukon where an entire family recently came to know Christ and has joined the church. The Rev. C. Reuben Anderson of First Covenant church, Minneapolis, brought challenging and

timely messages each evening. The Lord blessed in that a number of people dedicated themselves more fully to the cause of Christ.

This year for the first time the women met together during the conference. A panel discussion was held on "The Christian Home," and they also talked about women's work in the various churches.

The business meeting was held Saturday. The treasurer, Pastor Dana Kopanuk, reported that most of the churches had met their financial goals for the preceding year. A new budget of \$19,121 was approved, \$11,000 of which is to be raised in Alaska. Officers chosen were: Pastor Thomas Thungwenuk, chairman; Mr. Saccheus, vice-chairman; Mr. Stanton Katchatag, secretary; and Mrs. Martin Olson, treasurer.

Perhaps the outstanding service was Sunday evening. It was long, lasting nearly four hours, but it was filled with blessing from beginning to end. The new officers were installed. Following the message, testimonies were given, showing clearly that God has been working. One man told how he had fought God for 35 years, but one morning this winter, as he was alone in his cabin after having been drinking, the Holy Spirit awakened him and reasoned with him. After several hours he surrendered his life to God. This man works for the government and has since witnessed in many villages and is taking an active part in the church in his home village. An alumnus of Covenant High who is now a teacher with the Bureau of Indian Affairs told how this winter he came face to face with the claims of Christ on his life. Such participation by laymen was a sign of healthy growth in the conference.



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Seventeen songs by Lina Sandell, including *Låtom oss sjunga; Tryggare kan ingen vara; Blott en dag; Om Han komme idag; Bevara mitt hjärta, O Herre; Om dagen vid mitt arbete; and O, vad är väl all fröjd på jorden.*

The music is performed by Ingegerd Tyrenius, soprano, Bo Ohlgren, baritone, Göteborgs Kammarkör, and Bethlehems kyrkans Barnkör, Göteborg.

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