

the kitchen and
room and laundry
group homes for
disabled adults.

Counseling Cen-
ontana, is estab-
pplement fees for
not otherwise be
nseling.

Muskegon, Mich-
orted by Muske-
ches, purchased
s for distribution
antries.

Church of Port-
ablishing a latch-
children in grades
work.

enant Church in
will use its C2C
building to ren-
porary housing
ring job training.
n Community in
ding its medical
munity.

ical Covenant
field, Massachu-
Action Centered
Inc. (ACTS), a
utoring to chil-
e families.

on Alcoholism
ovenant Church
ping a program
unseling for al-
Alaska.

y people are be-
r contributions,
nues to be over-
eeds evidenced
ions submitted.
ise stewards of
l to us.

nterested in ap-
ough the Neigh-
mittee, please
o Paul V. Peter-
s in Need Com-
elical Covenant
Francisco, Chi-
application and
nt to you. To be
mmittee's next
as must be re-
r 1, 1987. □

person of the C2C
nittee. He is presi-
nent Communities
h Park Covenant

uant Companion

Life in the Covenant

Alaska Celebrates 100 Years of Ministry

Arlene Strand, former missionary to Alaska, reports on ECCAK's centennial conference.



You came! *Qui-yanna!* (Thank you). Isn't this wonderful? Praise God!

These words of greeting were heard over and over again as Covenant people from all over Alaska—and several from the lower forty-eight—converged on the little town of Unalakleet March 5-8, for the centennial conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska (ECCAK). They were there to celebrate one hundred years of Covenant ministry of sharing Christ in Alaska.

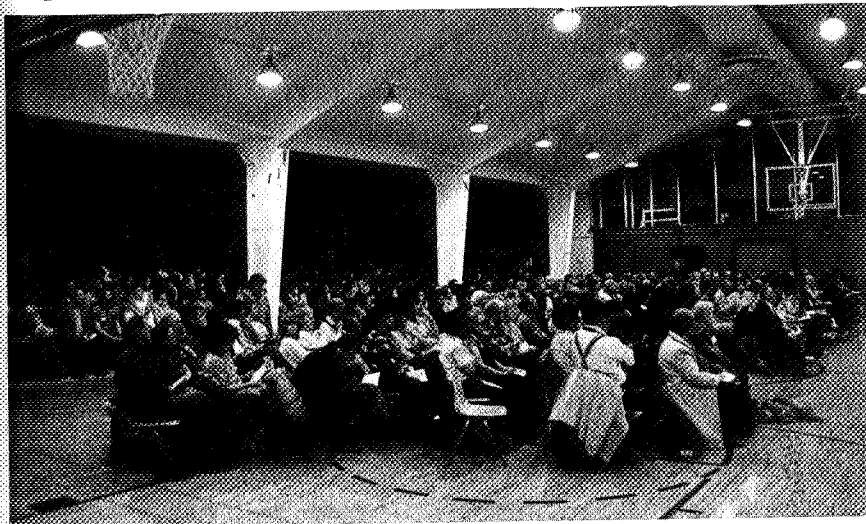
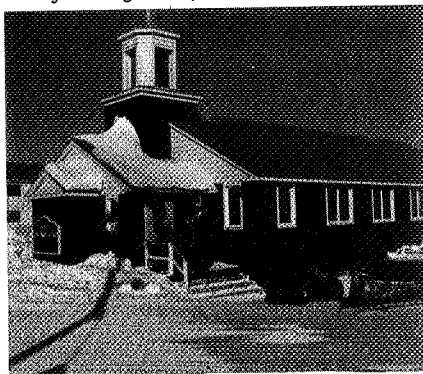
There was a good deal of hugging and tears of joy, as folks renewed acquaintances from years gone by and shared their memories. The temperature was below zero when we arrived, but there was nothing cold about the way the people of Unalakleet welcomed us into their hearts and homes. The visitors were thrilled to be there and the Unalakleet folks were genuinely happy to have us. Twenty-two of us were crowded into the modest parsonage, and many other homes in the village were filled to capacity. Everyone had a place to sleep and plenty of good things to eat.

But we were not there just to drink coffee and reminisce. A busy and varied schedule of services was planned from Thursday night

through Sunday. At each service, we remembered the struggles and accomplishments of pastors who had labored faithfully in years past. Representatives from each church told how the work of the Gospel was begun in their village and a little about the missionaries who had served there. This was sometimes done with a drama and we enjoyed the humorous anecdotes that were shared.

Each delegation had planned special music, singing both in English and in the Eskimo dialect of that village. The music was just great and put the joy of the Lord in our hearts—sometimes even in our feet!

Top: Pastor Palmer R. Sagoonick and son at centennial conference. Below: The Evangelical Covenant Church in Unalakleet. Bottom: The Unalakleet school gym was used for evening services and the Sunday morning worship.



The evening services were not of the one-hour variety we are used to in the lower forty-eight, but I didn't hear many complaints, and very few people left early.

Dr. Paul E. Larsen, president of the Covenant, was the featured speaker, and his messages were timely and down to earth. He reminded us of the marvelous heritage we have in the lives and struggles of the early pioneer missionaries to Alaska; but more than that, of a future which needs our faith and commitment. In his final message on the conference theme from Hebrews 13, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever," President Larsen said, "Only when you have something that doesn't change (the Lord Jesus) can you handle the things that will change down the road." How true that is in our personal lives.

As former missionaries, we sometimes get overly concerned with the changes that take place on "our" field, and I, for one, needed that reminder. God has big things planned for the Alaska Covenant Church. I pray that we will all be faithful to his calling and committed to whatever part we might have in sharing Christ in the great state of Alaska as well as throughout the world.

The late Donald Erickson, chairperson of ECCAK and pastor of the Unalakleet church at the time of his death, began planning this centennial conference a year ago. Then last summer God suddenly called him home to glory. It was difficult for those left behind to pick up the reins, in the midst of their sorrow, and put this celebrative conference all together; but Don's wife, Kathy and Pastor Fred Savok did just that with the help of the Rev. Henry Pearson, the newly appointed ECCAK director and Peter Three Stars, interim pastor of the Unalakleet church. I want to say a big thank you to them and all the other wonderful Christians carrying on the Lord's work through the Covenant in Alaska, especially for inviting former missionaries like me to return and share in this great and unforgettable celebration. *Qui-yanna-puk!*

Arlene Strand is a member of First Covenant Church in Rockford, Illinois.