

# Covenant Youth of Alaska

## *Impacting Lives, One Life at a Time*

Volume 10, Issue 4

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### *Strong Foundations and a Hopeful Future*

Throughout the past 125+ years, the Covenant Church has served richly in Alaska, starting in Unalakleet in 1887 when a Swedish missionary landed on the coast bringing the good news of Christ. Since that time, strong foundations have been built by those who have selflessly given their lives to serve the Lord in Alaska. Churches have been planted, ministries have begun and thrived, and people have experienced the love and hope of Christ our Lord. Praise be to God!

Covenant Youth of Alaska is fortunate to share in the firm foundation built by those within the Covenant Church of Alaska who came in years past. Prior to CYAK's existence, the Covenant Church recognized the need for ministry to young people across the state. Through the local church, KICY radio, Covenant High School, and other local ministries young people were experiencing the love of Christ.

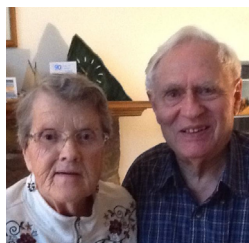
These various ministries helped deepen the desire to have a ministry fully focused on young people in Alaska. In 1992, ECCAK launched a youth and children's ministry initiative to help Alaska Covenant churches have a coordinated effort for children and youth. In 1995 the ECCAK department focused specifically on youth and young adult ministry and took on the name Covenant Youth of Alaska. ECCAK then initiated the incorporation of Covenant Youth of Alaska in 2008.

In the early 90's, CYAK focused on working with Director Chip Swanson to develop Covenant Bible Camp; then in the mid 90's, CYAK started to develop young adult ministry and spawned the idea of a discipleship school for young adults. From that, CYAK leaders helped initiate the launch of Alaska Christian College in conjunction with ECCAK by sending CYAK staff to become some of the first ACC staff members. At the same time CYAK also assisted with the launch of Amundsen Educational Center.

Today, we are encouraged by the partnership and fellow ministry of the local church, KICY Radio, Alaska Christian College, Amundsen Educational Center and others in reaching young people in Alaska. We see and appreciate the fruit of the labor from those who have gone before us, and we thank the Lord for the footsteps they left, the firm foundation they built, and their legacy that we continually strive to uphold.

*"They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock.*

*When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built." - Luke 6:48*



#### *Ministry in the Eyes of: Ralph and Gert Fondell*

*Ralph and Gert have played a significant role in building a strong foundation of ministry in Alaska through their 50+ years of service. Their many years at KICY Radio Station in Nome has left a legacy that we all aspire to!*

##### *When and how did you first come to Alaska?*

*We came up in 1958 for the summer. I helped build the station; Bill Hartman and I put the first tower up and I put the last 50 ft alone on the tower. At the time, the Covenant didn't have anything in radio. When I was at North Park, I wrote a paper titled, 'Why not Radio in Alaska?' That was several years before heading to Nome. We served in Nome until 1984, when we came down to start a radio station in Anchorage, which is not on the air now. It's been a long time. (Ralph)*

##### *Was there much youth ministry happening when you came?*

*When we came, there was not much for kids. The churches, if they were fortunate enough, would have youth group, like churches do. That was one of the reasons for KICY. Alaska is a big state. We had churches down on the lower yukon and so on. And one of the purposes of KICY was to bind them together. (Gert)*

##### *Ralph, you were on the ECCAK general council when CYAK began?*

*Yes. Hank Pearson was the field director and I was working with Hank.*

*Byron Bruckner came in and said he felt the need of something for young people and he would start something if it would be ok with them. He'd raise his own funds....and that's how CYAK was started. (Ralph)*

##### *How have you seen growth in youth ministry over the years?*

*My goodness. First of all CYAK, of course. And I think it's going stronger now than it ever did, naturally. Goodness, now there's Covenant Bible Camp, which started years ago with Chip Swanson. The kids would go to camp, and that was good, but that is one week out of the year. CYAK helps give opportunities for kids throughout the year. And now you have kids going to Alaska Christian College! (Gert)*

*We are so grateful for the role Ralph and Gert played and continue to play in building a strong foundation for ministry in Alaska!*

#### *In Loving Memory: Al and Gladys White*



Initially making a two-year commitment to teach at Covenant High School in Unalakleet, Al and Gladys White ended up serving for 30 years, from 1956 to 1986. Al taught industrial arts and English, and became the school's principal in 1963. Their service and heart for the young people of Alaska is still

felt and known, and they left a rich legacy behind. In late July, Unalakleet hosted a reunion for Covenant High School, where a celebration service was held in memory of Al and Gladys. We will continue to be grateful for the impact Al and Gladys made through their lives of service in Alaska!

## Prayer Praises & Requests

**Praise:** Praise for a wonderful camping season at **Covenant Bible Camp** in Unalakleet! Hundreds of lives were touched with the love of Christ!

**Prayer:** Please pray for the **CYAK Team Prayer and Planning Retreat** taking place August 9-14 in Unalakleet as we gather together.

**Praise:** Praise for the **life** that comes with this time of year - for the berries, fish, and for the joyful reminder of the Lord's provision in our lives.

**Praise:** Praise for the **joyful marriages** of three of our CYAK Staff people this summer - Kara and Eric Gustafson were married on June 28, and Lauren and David Rurik were married on July 19th!

**Prayer:** Please pray for **students** this month as they head back to school - especially those who are transitioning to new communities.

**Praise & Prayer:** Please continue to pray for **Drew and Holly Williams** as they raise support and settle into their new life in Scammon Bay.

**Join with us in  
praying for the youth  
of Alaska!**

Sign up to receive  
monthly prayer updates  
by visiting our website at  
[www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org).



### Current Ministry Needs:

- **CYAK Alaska Internships:** We are excited to have the opportunity for Alaskan young adults to do ministry internships with CYAK. Please consider giving toward this ministry! Quiana.

- **Mission Monthly Giving!** As CYAK's ministry is expanding, so is the need to boost monthly giving!

### Ways to Give:

- **Online Giving:** Visit [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) to set up monthly, yearly, or one-time gifts using your credit/debit card or checking account.
- **Check:** Made payable to: Covenant Youth of Alaska  
PO Box 372  
Unalakleet, AK 99684

Questions? Please contact our Unalakleet office:  
907.625.1525 | [info@cyak.org](mailto:info@cyak.org)

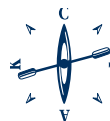


### September 10: Day of Prayer & Fasting

*ECCA (the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska resolved in 2011 to have an annual day of prayer and fasting to pray for deliverance and healing from suicide. September 10, 2014 will be the day set aside for prayer and fasting this year. May we each continue to pray for God's salvation to those who are in need of the living hope that comes from Jesus Christ.*

### Host a CYAK Salmon Dinner at your Church!

*Every year, CYAK Staff visit supporting churches all across the lower 48 States. We love to share with others what the Lord is doing in the lives of youth and young adults in Alaska! If you are interested in having a CYAK Staff person visit your church to host a salmon dinner, please contact us! Write [info@cyak.org](mailto:info@cyak.org).*



### Connect with us Online!

*Learn more about CYAK's ministry online! Visit our website at [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) to see pictures, read about our mission, vision, and values, and learn more about why we exist. Like us on Facebook to see what is going on in the day-to-day life of Covenant Youth of Alaska as we strive to reach young people with the hope of Christ. Quiana, thank you for your interest!*



### Photos from Vision/ Leadership Camp!

We had an incredible week together in community, worshipping, serving, laughing, and being together!

