

Covenant Youth of Alaska

2015 Staff Update: Adam and Shirleen London

Ministry Location: Unalakleet

Ministry Role: Operations Development Director – Adam

Dear Friends and Family,

Quyanakpaq (big thank you!) for all of your prayers and support this past year!! 2015 has been a big year for the Londons both in family and ministry. We have successfully adjusted to being a family of 6 and everyone loves baby Thaddeus (Thaddeus is a mysterious disciple in the Bible: check it out in Matthew 10:3). Our church took our first international mission trip and Adam handed over the reins of the Unalakleet Youth Group to a young woman (and her husband) who was once a youth in his ministry. Shirleen continues to lead the women's ministry, while Adam adjusts to a new statewide role within CYAK. All this is possible through YOUR prayers and support. Quyanakpaq!



Highlights from 2015

I would love to share some highlights from the past year with you:

1. Three youth were baptized this summer! Praise God for healing transformation!
2. Our church sent an intergenerational group to Oaxaca, Mexico to serve at a children's home for a week. God used the trip to call one youth into full-time future missionary work!
3. Adam got Ordained in Kansas City in June! This was a LONG journey over the past several years.
4. The youth asked for MORE Bible study meetings! We expanded from once a week to twice a week. A High School girl has since started a student led Bible Study to increase to THRICE a week!
5. Our Youth Internship program was extremely fruitful this year as two Alaska Christian College graduates completed the program and have moved on to new ministry positions.

Challenges from 2015

As you pray for us, here are also some challenges from the past year that we are still dealing with:

1. Our Senior Pastor Joel retired after 13 faithful years of service in our church. He is missed.
2. With our Pastoral search under way, there are 7 Covenant villages that are now looking for a Pastor. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
3. Despite the dozens of villages that don't have any church at all, a new couple moved into town to start a "true" church. They don't believe we are real Christians.
4. Many youth have been intentionally asking for older Christian mentors, but there are not enough mature Christian adults stepping up to fill the need.
5. As Adam has transitioned out of the Unalakleet Youth Group, the feelings are bittersweet. He misses the ministry, but takes delight in how the Lord continues to grow the youth.

Prayer Requests

We covet your continued prayers:

- Please pray for both the local church and the London family during this time of transitions.
- Please pray that Adam will secure a grant to fund his writing Sabbatical this Spring.
- Please pray for unity in the church and that the Body of Christ would stand up against false teaching.
- Please pray that God would raise up more local adult leaders to work with the youth.



Singing "Who is the King of the Jungle" during one of several VBS Mission Trips last school year.



After snowing before church, Adam baptizes EJ in the frigid Bering Sea.

A Message from the Director

We are very thankful for you and your partnership. CYAK is able to make a difference for the sake of young people because of your support and our wonderful staff team who serve faithfully. Our staff and team network are located in various locations in Alaska. We partner with local churches to reach out to youth and young adults. As a result, we have a Continuum of Care that focuses on discipleship with students from age 12-25. We believe the body of Christ is better pulling together rather than individual parts doing their own thing. The challenges for young people are big, yet we believe that David took on Goliath. By faith and through your support we are engaged and will seek to help young people know Christ, grow in Christ and go out in the name of Christ! 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 for Christ here in Alaska. They are investing and sacrificing here for the sake of Christ.

We are so thankful Adam London being on our staff. He has many wonderful gifts and is currently serving with the development of mission operations for CYAK. Adam is helping to build a strong foundation for mission growth here in Alaska. Currently Adam is improving our work and partnership with multiple village churches. He is working with church leaders to determine best how we can work through partnership so that more youth can be reached and be disciplined. Adam is also helping us expand the mission also through recruitment of additional CYAK youth leaders who will serve in many ministry sites through out Alaska. This specifically translates to more young people who will Know Christ and Grow in Christ. Thank you for supporting Adam as he serves with Covenant Youth of Alaska.

Sincerely, Byron Bruckner - CYAK Director

Financial Support Update:

We are trusting God to help us raise an additional \$17,000 for 2016. Through the faithfulness of our supporters we were fully supported the past 2 years. However, as Adam has transitioned to a statewide leadership role, he now needs to fundraise 100% of his salary (previously the local church contributed 1/3 of his salary, housing, and pension). The Londons live off a modest salary of \$36,000 annually for a family of 6 and enjoy living a subsistence lifestyle to help make ends meet. God is faithful and we trust Him to provide for us. We would love to come and share more about this new chapter in ministry with either a blueberry pancake brunch or a salmon dinner to give an update and fundraising presentation. Just contact Adam@cyak.org to set it up!



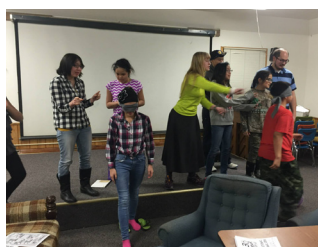
On our way to go ice fishing we had to pull over for an Iditarod dog team to pass by.



Traveling in style on a homemade sled from the airport to the school on a VBS Mission Trip.



Bri and Judy dress as royalty to tell the story of Esther.

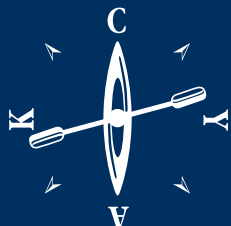


Playing a game during 30 Hour Famine – our Youth Group raised over \$4,000 to feed starving children!



Part of the 27 youth we brought to Tennessee for a national youth gathering.

Quyana, thank you for your generous support of CYAK's ministry. You play an important role in reaching youth and young adults in Alaska with the love of Christ.



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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