

Do Our Best to Say "Yes"

Kevin Miller, President

My favorite promise in the Scriptures comes from 2 Corinthians 1:19-20. It says, *For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us . . . was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.* (NKJV)

I really don't know all of the promises of God in the Bible by verse and chapter, but I do know this one that I call the umbrella promise. If I don't know the promise, God does and in Christ... it is yes.

Growing up I didn't hear "yes" a lot. I would ask for something and I was told "no," which seemed to be the baseline and the starting point. With this starting point, we would nag, negotiate, and harangue whoever was the authority with the negative response. If it was my dad, the negotiations were fairly short and over quickly. If it was a teacher, we just did our own thing and took the consequences as they came. If it was some other adult, we did our best not to get caught.

Funny thing is, when I grew up and started raising my own kids, the first response to their requests was no. It seemed the baseline hadn't changed and I really had to wrestle through this. So when my son asked me if he could drive to college with a friend from Alaska, he was a little surprised when I said yes since he was just 18 yrs. old. He continued to ask me several more times if I had really said yes. I think

he was almost disappointed we didn't go through the negotiation process.

I fear that this thinking has spilled over into our spiritual world. If more people knew that God in Christ was about saying yes to life, we might see some very different results. We even say that sometimes God says yes, sometimes no, and sometimes wait. But the text says that His promises are yes! And we need to do our best to say yes. It seems to me that God only says no when all the options for yes are untenable.

Therefore, as we head into the next four years, the conference wants to do its best to say yes. We have three major priorities:

- Discipleship
- Artic Mission Adventure (AMA)
- Youth/Young Adult Ministries

These three priorities are captured in the title and acronym A New DAY. When we receive requests that fit these priorities, we will do our best to say yes.

Requests could be for training in various areas related to these priorities. Churches can ask for help with resources they may not have or are not capable of getting on their own. They can ask for help with clarifying their own mission and vision while working in concert with the entire conference's vision. Getting spiritual counsel, guidance, and influence are more instances where help would be available. The conference will assist you with issues of accountability,

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Kevin Miller

ALYESKAN

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A New Day

Quentin Purvis, Vice President-Secretariat

Arnold Bennett was one of the most remarkable literary figures of his time. He is credited by coining this statement: “The chief beauty about time is that you cannot waste it in advance. The next year, the next day, the next hour are lying ready for you, as perfect, as unspoiled, as if you had never wasted or misapplied a single moment in all your life. You can turn over a new leaf every hour if you choose.”

We in the Alaska Conference are turning over a new leaf and it’s called “A New DAY” with the acronym focusing on DAY.

DISCIPLESHIP

With the increase in membership in the Alaska Conference through evangelism, we are stressing the importance of discipleship. We are committed to providing the tools the local church needs to implement discipleship programs. We also want to include increasing spirituality among pastors, teachers and lay leaders. The way this can be implemented is through pastors' and elders' meetings, as well as continuing education for the teachers, with two scheduled In-Service days for teachers and two pastors' meetings to be scheduled in January and July each year. We will also provide elders' training annually and are looking at the possibility of having a deacons' training seminar.

ARCTIC MISSION ADVENTURE

Currently we have mission workers in seven locations:

1. Carl & Liz Butler at Kodiak
2. John & Lynette Goude at Togiak
3. Viola Kaiser at Gambell
4. Tony & Airen Sherman at Shungnak
5. Dennis & Judy Skandunas at Selawik
6. Vecous & Loretta Waite at Bethel
7. Elouise Hawkes at Savoonga

Instead of one person overseeing the Arctic mission work, an experienced

board has been created to work together in making AMA successful. It is our hope to focus on three other areas of outreach: Dutch Harbor, Birch Creek and Ambler. Another goal of the Alaska Conference is to create an endowment of \$5 million as AMA is not a budgeted item and functions solely from donations. Our former president, Ken Crawford, was instrumental in getting people to donate to this project. Having an endowment of \$5 million would assure the work to continue in the conference.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT/EDUCATION

I remember looking at the membership list a few days ago. My eyes had gazed upon the number of members the Alaska Conference has enrolled in its records, and I began breaking it down into age groups. I was stunned with the results! This couldn't be true! How was it possible? Out of 3,846 members, only 222 were between the ages of 10 and 20. I was equally stunned when I realized that there were only 434 members between the ages of 20 and 30. How did this happen? In a young state where the median age is 32, we had failed to reach out to the greatest asset that we have.

We are determined in the upcoming years to make a focus on youth events such as summer camps, Pathfinders and youth prayer conferences. Thirty percent of the director's salary goes to education and 70% goes to youth and young adults.

Remembering the membership list on my desk, an overwhelming conviction came over me. We need to keep our millennials in the church and have them become active in preparing people for the soon coming of Jesus.

Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul therefore I hope in him!

Lamentations 3:23 – 24



Quentin Purvis



Alaska Conference Executive Committee Minutes

October 2, 2016



A new feature of the Alyeskan will be to share the minutes of the Alaska Conference Executive Committee so the constituency is aware of decisions affecting Adventist ministry in Alaska. Leadership would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Simply contact the conference at 907-346-1004. Blessings!

Present	Kevin Miller, Quentin Purvis, Jim Jensen, Steve Evenson, Todd Ervin, Edmore Mangena, Don West, Matthew Sandvik, David King, Alice Moncher, Joe Chythlook, Ryan Woehler, Elsa Coronado, Tau Siaki, Steve Lewis, Warren Libby
Absent	NONE
NPUC Representative	John Loor, NPUC Vice President of Administration
Welcome/Prayer	Kevin Miller
Agenda (10-01)	Voted to accept agenda for October 2, 2016 meeting
Minutes (10-02)	Voted to accept May 22, 2016 ACEC and email Minutes

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Camp Meeting: Administration worked hard to bring a level of quality to the Alaska Conference Camp Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> High turnout of young people between ages 4-18 Adventist Book Center from Upper Columbia Conference had a wonderful experience and looking forward to next year There is a wait list for cabins The goal is to winterize cabins to be used year round Constitutency had a good representation: out of 186 delegates, 161 signed in. Administration goals for the next four years will be focusing on three areas of ministry. The campaign will be "A New DAY"—DAY being the acronym: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discipleship will be broken down into three areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Personal experience Personal ministry for people Personal ministers for Jesus Arctic: Elder Miller recognizes that he cannot do this on his own. The goal of beginning this ministry will be four-fold: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Native spiritual weekend (Oct. 7-9) Create Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) Board: (Jim and Linda Kincaid, Rod and Brenda Rau, Joe Chythlook, Tobin Dodge) Focus on establishing three new groups: Ambler, Dutch Harbor and Birch Creek Create a plan to raise a \$5,000,000 endowment Youth/Young Adult <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Prayer Summits (annually) Pathfinder Summits (Camporees) Sabbath School Training Elder Miller's philosophy is to support churches and the fields they work in. We will approve all reasonable requests in regards to training and fulfilling their vision of evangelism, unless there is no way to do that.
President's Four Year Goal (10-04)	Voted to accept the direction that Elder Miller has for the Alaska Conference as outlined in the president's report.
Transfer of Membership (10-05)	Voted to Transfer: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hanna March from Homer Company to Midnight Son SDA in Kenai Gerald and Michelle New from Homer Company to Midnight Son SDA Church in Kenai
Financial Report (10-06)	Voted to accept the spending parameters for Directors and Administrators: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Director limit up to \$1,000 Administrative Officer limit up to \$3,000 Administrative Team limit up to \$10,000 Expenditures over \$10,000 must be approved by ACEC
(10-07)	Voted to accept the Alaska Conference October 2, 2016 financial report, subject to audit review.

The Alaska Conference is pleased to announce that Pastor Steven Evenson, pastor of the Fairbanks, Barrow & Galena areas, has taken on the task of serving as the ministerial director for the Alaska Conference.



Steve and his wife Judy, joined the Alaska Conference in 2009. Beginning pastoral ministry in 1997, he served as youth pastor and pastor in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. Prior to entering the ministry, he served as singing evangelist in the Southern California and Southeastern California conferences. Steve and Judy produced the children's series *Plant a Seed* that complimented the NAD Kindergarten and Primary Sabbath School lessons.

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CONFERENCE

Camp Tuk Update Report (10-03)	Voted to accept the report for Camp Tuk and recognize that churches are ahead of the goals set by the constituency.
Executive Session (10-08 - 10-17)	Moved into Executive Session
Polaris Update (10-18)	Voted to accept the report and to send letter of thanks to all volunteers who helped make this project successful.
Corporate Resolution (10-19)	Voted to accept the changes made to the Alaska Corporation Resolution of Seventh-day Adventist (see Appendix 1; <i>available upon request</i>)

CORPORATION

Palmer Church Department of Transportation (10-20)	Voted to sell a small portion of the Palmer Church's property to the Department of Transportation for \$50,110, subject to attorney review, and request to move driveway entrance (see Appendix 2).
Radio (10-21)	Voted to pay \$11,700 for six Federal Communication Commission engineering surveys for radio stations in Alaska (See Appendix 2). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrow, Bethel, Fairbanks, Kodiak, Kotzebue and Valdez

APPENDIX 2



Appendix 2



ALASKA PRAYER TEAM CALL TO PRAYER Friday Evenings, 7-8 p.m.

Teleconference Prayer Meeting Open to all!
Join fellow believers every Friday evening for prayer and praise

Call 1-800-977-8002 | Access Code 77861556 | Enter "#" | Say your name | Enter "#

Money Follows Mission

Jim Jensen, Vice President-Finance

One of the things that I appreciate most about Alaska and Alaskans is that a lot of things get done. People see something that needs doing and it gets taken care of. In many other locations people wait for instructions from a pastor or leader.

As an accountant I like to track numbers and use them for accountability. However, choosing what to measure to see whether progress is being made toward the right goal is sometimes a challenge. Obviously, you can drive yourself nuts analyzing every little aspect of everything you do.

Toddler Torture

In the late 60's and early 70's, researcher Walter Mischel began methodically tormenting four-year-olds at Stanford University's Bing Nursery School. More than 500 children were volunteered for the diabolical program by their own parents, many of whom would later, like millions of others, laugh mercilessly at videos of the squirming, miserable kids. The devilish experiment was called "The Marshmallow Test." It was an interesting way to look at willpower.

Kids were offered one of three treats—a pretzel, a cookie, or the now infamous marshmallow. The child was told that the researcher had to step away, and if he could wait 15 minutes until the researcher returned, he'd be awarded a second treat. One treat now or two later.

On average, kids held out less than three minutes. And only three out of ten managed to delay their gratification until the researcher returned. Starting in 1981, Mischel began systematically tracking down the original subjects. He requested transcripts, compiled records, and mailed questionnaires in an attempt to measure their relative academic and social progress. His hunch was correct—willpower or the ability to delay gratification was a huge indicator of future success. SAT test scores that were on average 210 points higher.

Success is about doing the right thing, not doing everything right. The trick is to choose the right habit and bring just enough discipline to establish it. That's all the discipline you need.

Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps is a case study of selected discipline. When he was diagnosed with ADHD as a child, his kindergarten teacher told his mother, "Your son will never be able to focus on anything."

Bob Bowman, his coach since age 11, reports that Michael spent a lot of time on the side of the pool by the lifeguard stand for disruptive behavior. That same misbehavior has cropped up from time to time in his adult life as well. Yet he has set dozens of world records.

Today, his mom reports, "Michael's ability to focus amazes me." Bowman calls it "his strongest attribute." How did this happen? How did the boy who would "never be able to focus on anything" achieve so much?

Phelps became a person of selected discipline. He channeled all of his energy into one discipline. The payoff from developing the right habit is pretty obvious. It gets you the success you're searching for. What sometimes gets overlooked, however, is an amazing windfall: it simplifies your life. Your life gets clearer and less complicated because you know what you have to do well.

The One Thing by Gary Keller & Jay Papasan

Your administrative team and Executive Committee is using the acronym DAY to describe the focus of this conference: Discipleship, Arctic Mission Adventure, and Youth/Young Adults.

Military leaders for thousands of years have learned that soldiers will fight more for comrades than for country, flag or ideals. Family ties in battle enable the mission to be accomplished as long as soldiers realize they are on a mission and not attending a family reunion.

Even today in Alaska we often have a far more romantic understanding of what shepherds do than who shepherds were in biblical times. Good shepherds led their sheep in order to obtain three things. They sheared the sheep, ate the sheep, or mated them for reproduction. In other words, sheep were expected to produce a profit.

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Jim Jensen

Success is
about doing
the right thing



Education Update

Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Communications | Education

The 2016-2017 school year for our six Adventist schools started with record enrollment! Realizing the highest number of students in the last decade, 221 Pre-K through 12 graders entered our school doors. Praise God!

Amazing Grace Academy	112
Anchorage Junior Academy	59
Dillingham Adventist School	23
Golden Heart Christian School	7
Juneau Adventist Christian School	13
Sitka Adventist School	7

Several transitions have occurred in our schools this year:

Anchorage Junior Academy: AJA welcomes teacher Ricci Avella to grades 5-8. She is doing a tremendous job working with students and is a wonderful addition to the AJA teaching team.

Amazing Grace Academy: In 2014, AGA expanded its program to accommodate 11-12 grade students and has seen an increase in the number of secondary students each year. This year they have a record enrollment of 112 students, 29 of which

are freshman-seniors. As always, with more students come more challenges as AGA now needs an additional secondary teacher to meet education requirements.

Dillingham Adventist School: With the retirement of Rod Rau, Sueal Cunningham has assumed the role of head teacher. She is joined by local aide Jenea Poysti.

Golden Heart Christian School: Head teacher Rosie McDaniel and aide Cindy Dasher are leading the students at GHCS.

Juneau Adventist Christian School: Nickie Romine has a record number 13 students which is exciting, but challenging as they range from grades K-7.

Sitka Adventist School: New head teacher Ryan McCutcheon is at the helm at our school in Sitka. If the name sounds familiar, his wife Kallie has served as the Sitka teacher for the past four years. Congratulations to Ryan and Kallie who are expecting their first child this fall.

As always, we ask that you please keep our schools, teachers and students lifted in prayer.

The Alaska Conference would like to thank Laurie and Boyde Hosey for their service to the Alaska Conference.

Laurie has served as the director of the Education department, Alaska Camps and Youth while Boyde has served as principal at Anchorage Junior Academy and recently led the radio evangelism effort as well as the Camp Polaris rebuild.

We wish them the best and with God's blessing as they leave conference service.

Do Our Best to Say "Yes"

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because we want to do our best to say yes to the ministry that is happening on the frontlines. Our goal is to ensure every church is maximizing its ministry potential as we near the return of Christ Jesus.

God loves to say yes. He wants to say yes to life and life more abundantly. He wants to say yes to life and life eternal. He wants to say yes to life and freedom in Him. He wants to say yes to who He has called you to be and what He has called you to do. He wants to say yes and backs that up with the assurance that all His promises in Christ are yes! Let's all do our best to say yes to Jesus and we will find it much easier to say yes to one another. That yes signifies the value God has placed on you. Let's do our best to say yes.

Money Follows Mission

(continued from Page 4)

Sheep are most fulfilled when they are risking life for the chief shepherd rather than being pampered by appointed shepherds.

I know that I am not the most disciplined or talented person. However I choose to let God use and focus what I give to him. I want to do that together with you.

Camp Polaris Update

Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Communications | Education



One of our youth camps, Camp Polaris, was chosen to receive 1/3 of the 13th Sabbath offering in the first quarter of 2015. In operation for over 60 years, Camp Polaris is located on Lake Aleknagik, near Dillingham, Alaska. Started as a youth mission project, it has blessed many lives, but was in need of numerous improvements to continue to be operational. With 13th Sabbath Project funds of \$287,905.29 and \$65,271.86 in direct donations, two fantastic bathhouses including a new septic system and eight cabins have been built. \$265,634.85 in funds have been expended to date, with \$87,542.30 remaining for allocation. Thank you to those who supported this ministry with your donations and prayers.



Group Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School Funshop

MARCH 5, 2017 from 3:00-6:30 pm

Watch for bulletin announcements or visit www.anchoragenorthside.net for registration details

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2017 Alaska Conference Calendar

JANUARY

- 1 Office Closed (New Years)
- 16 Office Closed (MLK Jr)
- 23-26 Pastors Meetings
- 26 Alaska K-12 Board of Education
- 27-28 Elders Training
- 29 AKC Executive Committee (ACEC)

FEBRUARY

- 2-3 Teachers Meetings
- 20 Office Closed (Presidents Day)
- 24-26 Nome Camp Meeting
- tbd Princess Tea (Girls ages 12 and under)

MARCH

- 10-12 Bristol Bay Camp Meeting (Dillingham)
- 24-26 Bethel Camp Meeting

APRIL

- tbd School Visits (Fairbanks & Southeast)
- 21-22 Alaska Youth Prayer Conference
- 28-30 Alaska Womens Retreat

MAY

- tbd School Visits (Dill/Anch/Palmer)
- 18 Alaska K-12 Board of Education
- 21 ACEC
- 27-29 Alaska Pathfinder Camporee (Pioneer Camp Ground)

- 29 Office Closed (Memorial Day)

JUNE

- 16-18 Interior Camp Mtg (Harding Lake)
- 18-25 Alaska Camps—Tuk: Juniors
- 25-7/2 Alaska Camps—Tuk: Teens

JULY

- 4 Office Closed (Independence Day)
- 9-16 Alaska Camps—Polaris
- 14-16 Men's Retreat with John Bradshaw
- 18-22 Southcentral Camp Meeting
- 24 Office Closed
- 28-30 Southeast Camp Meeting
- 30-8/6 Alaska Camps—Lorraine

AUGUST

- 3-6 ASI Convention, Phoenix, AZ
- tbd Chistochina Womens Retreat
- 10-11 Teachers Meetings
- 24-9/4 Alaska State Fair Health Expo

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Office Closed (Labor Day)
- 21 Alaska K-12 Board of Education
- 24 ACEC

OCTOBER

- 20-21 Alaska Youth Prayer Conference

NOVEMBER

- 23-24 Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

DECEMBER

- 3 Alaska Conference Executive Committee (to be confirmed)
- 25-1/1 Office Closed (Christmas Break)

PLAN AHEAD

January 2018

- 16-18 Pastors Meetings
- 19-20 Elders Training
- 25 Alaska K-12 Board of Education
- 28 ACEC

February 2018

- 1-2 Teachers Meetings
- 23-25 Nome Camp Meeting

March 2018

- 9-11 Bristol Bay Camp Meeting
- 23-25 Bethel Camp Meeting

June 2018

- 15-17 Interior Camp Meeting

July

- 13-15 Men's Retreat
- 17-21 Southcentral Camp Meeting