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# Upper Tanana Valley Mission News

Alaska Mission for Christ

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## Openness = Opportunity = Outreach

Being open about yourself is often a difficult thing to do. It may seem strange, or even counterintuitive but openness for a pastor isn't necessarily natural. In fact, like other pastors I have spoken with I have at times been a bit hesitant to be open with the career path I am on. This has been especially true while on vacation or traveling. When someone would ask, "What do you do?" I always answered, but usually with a bit of dread. Generally I was looking forward to some 'rest' from pastoral demands or theological discussion. That doesn't happen when someone finds out you are a pastor. Almost without fail they go into a discussion about their own struggles or those of someone else's. I imagine it's much the same for doctors.

On the other hand, already in the short time we have been traveling, I have been amazed at the opportunity that openness has brought. One such incident came about as I was sitting at a Chevrolet dealership speaking with the woman who was helping us rent a vehicle. Talking to her about our situation I had the opportunity to share about the work we will be doing in Alaska and why we will be doing it. After several minutes of conversation it became evident a young lady at another counter had been listening in on the conversation. This gave rise to sharing the Gospel of Christ with someone I would have never met if it had not been for the transmission going out and more importantly for my openness about who I am.

So many people are looking for hope and peace in this world. And Satan readily takes advantage of our doubts about ourselves or our own selfish desires (even those for 'rest') to hide the Gospel from people around us. I don't like to think about how many people missed an opportunity to hear about the love of Jesus simply because I didn't feel like talking about it from time to time.

Lately, I have certainly had many more opportunities to share His message with people I never knew. But, admittedly those opportunities abound with each of us every day. Each hour we have an opportunity to meet new people or expand relationships with those we already know. Being open about ourselves as forgiven sinners gives rise to outreach: reaching out to others that they may know the amazing grace of God. I don't know what God will do with that young lady I met, but I know a seed was sown. Praise be to God!

### Schedule of Events:

- Oct. 22 @ Immanuel Lutheran School in Okawville, IL.
- Oct. 26 @ St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Peter, IL
- Nov. 2 @ Zion Lutheran in Litchfield, IL
- Nov. 9 @ Salem Lutheran in Salem, IL.
- Nov. 13-15 @ Beautiful Feet Conference in Austin TX
- Nov. 24 @ TX Dist. Workers Conf. (Tentative)
- Dec. 7 @ Gethsemane Lutheran in Houston, TX



Alaska Traffic Problem  
 VS  
 City Traffic Problem



## How much does it cost to send a missionary to AK?

The question of how much money we need to raise and how it is spent has been asked several times, and I am sure many of you would like to know. So here is a breakdown:

Family Living Expenses (Housing, Utilities, Gas, Food, etc.)	\$60,000
[living expenses are 30-40% higher in AK]	
Concordia Plans (Medical Ins, Retirement, Disability, etc.)	\$25,000
Ministry (Travel, Conferences, Materials, Postage, Paper, etc.)	\$10,000
Contingency (To cover an emergency or unexpected need)	\$5,000
<u>Moving Costs (First year expense only)</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>

**\$125,000 TOTAL GOAL**

We are **currently HALF WAY** to our goal for the first year. We will move to AK once the first year goal is reached.

Unfortunately we continue to pay self employment taxes which comes out of our living expenses.



**THANK YOU**  
 to all those who support  
 Alaska Mission for Christ!

Officially homeless, the reality has set in that when we are done traveling in Illinois we have no place to truly call, 'home'. This can be especially difficult when the kids ask, "when are we going home?" Right now it simply feels like a bit of a working vacation as we are blessed to visit in homes of family, friends, and supporters.

**FAMILY UPDATE!** Challenges have continued beyond that as Trey recovers well from an emergency appendectomy, though he decided to try and ride his ripstick down a skateboard ramp—another visit to the ER ended thankfully with only a severely sprained foot; Anna faces a dental procedure on her teeth due to a very severe case of hypoplasia on her permanent molars; The transmission on our Chevy Trailblazer went out and wasn't worth repairing. We are looking for something that can be used in Alaska to replace it so if you know of anyone selling a good reliable 4x4 4dr pickup or suburban let us know.

Stacey continues to try and keep our family on a 'regular' schedule amidst the many daily challenges of moving and living out of suitcases. Along with that she diligently maintains the rigors of homeschooling. Anna leads everyone in this regards already working through half a year of her curriculum. Trey and Kaleb are right where they should be and while Micah is a bit slower, Stacey and I are getting better at figuring out his best learning techniques.

Keith continues to maintain a steady course of confidence in spite of the rocky ride that our adventure has begun with. The biggest challenges come with balancing all the different things that come with starting a new ministry and having a family on the move.

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Mission—Rev. Keith Aschenbeck

Upper Tanana River Valley



# PRAY PARTICIPATE PROVIDE

Donate online at:

[www.alaskamissionforchrist.org](http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org)

Mail donations to:

Alaska Mission for Christ  
8100 Arctic Blvd.  
Anchorage AK 99518

Note "Keith Aschenbeck" in the memo section to support us directly.

## How Can you Support the Proclamation of the Gospel? **GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES...**

### PRAY -

For the Proclamation of the Gospel in AK and your community!

For people to have open ears to hear the Word of God's Grace!

For workers in the fields of harvest that they may be Bold in their witness!

For our family that we may be courageous, caring, compassionate, content

### PARTICIPATE -

As a Volunteer to go to AK on a short term mission trip!

Address & Stuff envelopes for mailing.

Tell others about the Mission of AMC.

### PROVIDE -

By sharing the resources God has gifted you with to help fund and supply the needs of missionaries, groups, and of AK residents that the Gospel may be proclaimed!