

CHILLING NEWS

that *Warms* the heart

from The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska!

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The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska [ECCAK] is non-conference "field" of the Covenant Church of America. We are dependent on the gifts from churches and people to carry out our mission for Christ's sake in Alaska.

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Reaching People for Christ's Sake from near the North Pole

Christian Author Visits Hooper Bay

Doris Van Stone, a Christian author, has an incredibly horrible story of abuse in her life! God is using this grand little woman all over the world to share about the saving and healing Person of Jesus Christ. She has written three books: *Dorie, the Girl Nobody Loved*; *Dorie, the Girl Nobody Wanted*; and *No Place to Cry -- The Hurt and Healing of Sexual Abuse*. These

books are all available through Precept Ministries International [a ministry of Kay Arthur]. Their web sight is www.precept.org.

Pastor Grant Funk coordinated with Dorie and convinced her to visit Hooper Bay for a week. Many people, young and old, filled the church throughout the week as she shared her story of Christ's healing love to her. How we thank God for those who are no longer silent!



You can meet anyone at the Bethel Airport. Pastor Grant Funk from Hooper Bay poses with author/speaker Dorie Van Stone.

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Why Belong to a Church?

Article 1 of 3:

The Bible offers many compelling reasons why every Christian ought to be a member of a local Church.

#1. A church family identifies you as a genuine believer... You can't claim to be following Christ if you're not committed to a group of people who are growing in Christ. *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* John 13:35 (NLT)

When we come together in love as a church family from different backgrounds, race and social status, it is a witness to the world. No believer can be the Body of Christ on his own. We need others to fully express who we are in Christ.

#2. A Church family moves you out of self-centered isolation... The local church is the classroom for learning how to get along in God's family. It's where you practice unselfish, sympathetic love. As a participating member you learn to care about others and share the experiences of others: *"If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. Or if one part of our body is honored all the other parts share its honor."* 1 Cor 12:26 (NCV) Only in

regular contact with ordinary, imperfect believers can we learn real fellowship and experience the New Testament truth of being connected and dependant on each other.

Biblical fellowship is being as committed to each other as we are to Jesus. God expects us to give our lives for each other. Many Christians who know John 3:16 are unaware of *1 John 3:16 (NIV): "Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."* This is the kind of sacrificial love God expects you to show other believers – a willingness to love them in the same way Jesus loves you.

Look for more reasons in the next issue of Chilling News. (Why Belong to the Church?)

The content of this article has been taken from an article by Rick Warren, Founding pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forrest, California.

(Continued from page 6)

care for each person's neighbor. He would then turn the floor over to Bob for his message.

To hear and see Bob speak, you might think he was recently a teen himself by his way of relating to his audience. However, his message keeps the kids silent and in their seats. It is filled with personal, true stories that emphasize hope. He convinces each listener of their **VALUE**, no matter what has or will happen to them, that **COURAGE** is not the absence of fear, but the abil-

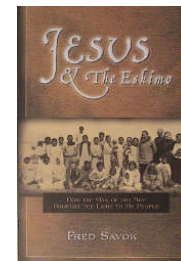
ity to face their fears. Finally, each person, regardless of what they are like, deserves **RESPECT**. This is all brought together with a pneumatic device every teen can remember: "VCR".

"Kids still remember Bob's message of Value, Courage, and Respect." –Rose King, Mekoryuk Suicide Prevention Counselor

(ECCA is very grateful for our partnership with Arctic Barnabas Ministry who brought this much-needed presentation to our villages.)

Error Correction!!

In our last issue of the Chilling News, we listed the ordering location web site incorrectly. To order your copy of Pastor Savok's book, "Jesus & the Eskimo" go to: www.greatalaskastuff.com.



Little is Much

Someone recently sent \$10 dollars "to help cover the costs of postage." This dear person apologized for not being able to send more, probably because she is single, elderly, and lives on a fixed income. There is never a donation that is too little. Every gift counts! In fact, if everyone receiving this newsletter gave a little, how great would be

the result! God honors every gift and giver and we are thankful for those who give "as they are able." We are blessed by the cards of encouragement telling us of your prayers on our behalf. And when they include a gift unto the Lord, we are doubly blessed.

VCR, not just for movies!

(Excerpts reprinted with permission from Arctic Barnabas)

VCR (VALUE, COURAGE, RESPECT) was the message delivered to high schools in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta this spring. Bob Lenz of *Life! Promotions*, Appleton, WI cut through culture and age barriers in five different villages with a message of hope and courage. Bob Lenz coupled with Ardan James (AJ), an Animated Illusionist, visited in Hooper Bay, Mekoryuk, Scammon Bay, Mountain Village, and Kalskag to bring a

message of hope as an alternative to suicide. They conducted assemblies in each school, starting with AJ's performance of magic, mime, and audience participation. This helped the group disengage from their own pressing issues and opened their minds for the message of hope from Bob Lenz.

School administrators and students were not sure what to expect from

Bob and AJ, but were soon enlightened when their apathy soon gave way to hesitant chuckles, then quickly changed into uninhibited, side-holding laugh-

I've never seen anything like that program and how it touched not just the kids, but families."

—Roger Franklin,
Mountain Village
School Counselor



ter. Lost in the diversion of magic, comedy, and mime, all soon forgot their lives for twenty minutes.

Part of AJ's magic is the transformation of a shy teen into a stage performance as he incorporates different students into his act. When they see one of their friends become part of the act, the performance becomes personal and lends to the respite from reality.

All this is done without a spoken word. A large percentage of our communication is non-verbal; AJ carefully communicated in volumes by the tie he establishes through mime to share a brief message of encouragement and a challenge to

(Continued on page 7)

ACC web page: www.akcc.org

WANTED: AIR MILES

We live in an age of travel. Many people accumulate free air miles. If you have more than you can use, consider "donating" some to ECCAK to help us with the ever increasing costs of providing travel to those who give of their lives here in Alaska. Just call the ECCAK office and ask for Ava. and she will take down the necessary informa-



Did You Know?

- According to the 2003 USDA Household Food Security Study:
 - 11.5 % of Alaskans worry about where their next meal is coming from. (an increase of 2.8% since 1996).
 - 4.1% of Alaskans go without food at some point each year.
- The 2001 WIC Healthy Mom Survey – Institute for Circumpolar Health revealed:
 - As many as 37% of rural Alaskan women are concerned about not having enough food.
 - About 15% of rural Alaskan women reported they did not have enough food.
- According to the 2002 Food Bank of Alaska survey:
 - 14,000 families in Anchorage visit food pantries each month – which means that 11% of Anchorage's population of 265,000 people receive food assistance.
- In Fairbanks, the Fairbanks Community Food Bank serves nearly 33% of the Fairbanks population.

Check out the Covenant Newswire service:
Visit www.covchurch.org and click on the Newswire button.

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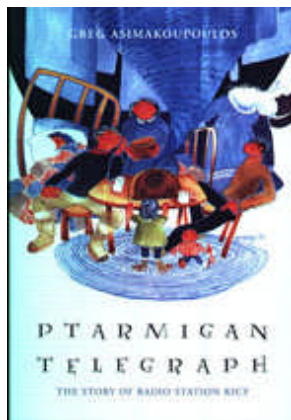
of Art Zylstra, speaking of

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note cards



FREE Covenant Hymnals

Harbor Covenant Church in Gig Harbor, WA has 77 copies of "The Covenant Hymnal" published by Covenant Press in Chicago [copyright date is 1973] that are in good condition. They are sometimes referred to as "the red hymnal." If any of our churches are in need of more hymnals, please contact Doug or Linda Olsen at 253-851-6913. They will ship them all to you or any amount you need [first come first serve]. Act fast, before the Olsens head to Unalakleet for camp.



Mark your calendars now!

ECCAK 2006 Annual Meeting will be held in
Unalakleet, Alaska Mar 15-19, 2006

Our churches: Anchorage First, Bethel, Eagle River, Elim, Fairbanks, Golovin, Hooper Bay, Kalskag, Korean Hope, Koyuk, Mat-Su, Mekoryuk, Mountain Village, New Song, Nome, Scammon Bay, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, White Mountain

Domestic Violence and Marriage

{Reprinted with permission from AVA web site}

Domestic violence is a clear manifestation of human sin at work in the most intimate of human relationships. It is a gross distortion of the covenant of love between married or unmarried partners, or the violation of a relationship of love, trust, and care between parents and children.

God created us male and female, saying, "let us make humankind in our own image, according to our likeness . . ." Gen.1:26. It is worth noting that God speaks in the plural, evoking an understanding of God's identity as being in relationship with God's total self. If both male and female are created in the image of God, then both are sacred manifestations of God's being. Human beings are created to be in partnership with God and with each other, and our concept of partnership is illustrated in the covenantal relationships that God established with many biblical couples, including Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Joseph and Mary. Human partnership is most fully developed in the context of covenant when both parties bind themselves to each other through

self-giving love and mutual forbearance.

In addressing the community of Corinth in the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul defines the role that self-giving love is to play in human relationships. As such, this passage applies not only to relationships within communities of faith, it also communicates a very tangible ethic for the intimacy of family relationships. "Love is patient, love is kind, it is never envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." This passage identifies the high level of commitment and devotion involved in covenantal love. When used as a guide for one's own actions within family relationships, this passage sets a standard of behavior and accountability reflective of the love of Jesus Christ.

[AVA is an organization under the ECC Covenant Women's Ministry and stands for Advocacy for Victims of Abuse]