

October 2012



Dan and Geraldine wish to thank you, our monthly partners, that enable us to teach leaders and reach kids throughout the state. Six churches, three businesses, and twenty individuals and families regularly contribute financial support. This year as most Alaskans receive and contemplate the benefit of the Permanent Fund Dividend, we have some exciting news. We wish to make it common knowledge that **Alaska Awana is now one of the Pick Click Give charitable considerations** beginning with the next application period as soon as January 1, 2013. A growing number of applicants every year are choosing to share some of their PFD with organizations when they apply online. So we will be conducting an awareness campaign just before and during the PFD application window period January through March. The Lord has sustained us and we now have begun our 22nd year called to “the greatest work a man or woman can do”!



Alaskawana



Zoom Out was the theme of this year’s **Awana Ministry Conference**. It was a great day of rally, encouragement, how to’s, networking, resources, and spiritual challenges. Local Pastors Brad Rud and Josh Tiner, from The Crossing at Birchwood, employed drama and scripture while challenging all present to “see the bigger picture”. All enjoyed a visit by Moses with the tablets that God Himself inscribed. Deuteronomy 6: 4-7, were applied with much vigor by Pastor Rud and absorbed with much interest by all 200 plus leaders present. Worship, workshops, lunch, and sessions taught by Larry Fowler of Awana HQ, and Rob Reinow of Visionary Family Ministries, were well received and can be ordered off the Awana web catalog site. Door prizes and a final send off by Dan concluded an “awesome” (cited most common in evaluations) day. Next year, Lord willing, we plan to have renowned author, Children’s Ministry consultant, *K! Magazine* publisher, and KidzMatter CEO, Ryan Frank here for both conferences in the Interior and Anchorage. Those dates are September 14th in Fairbanks, and September 21st in Anchorage. Numerous leaders drove long distances this year; we had leaders as far away as Glennallen, Kenai, Talkeetna, Big Lake, Wasilla, and Palmer. Others flew in from Juneau and Lake Clark. Geraldine and I feel we cannot help more people in any way on a large scale than having them attend the annual AMC.



The National **Youth Ministries** Director, Jeremy Pettitt, visited Alaska in August. It was a very active three days highlighted by training over twenty-one leaders anxious for tips and updated methods, curriculum, and procedures using Trek and Journey. Jeremy mixed his experience and ‘best practices’ recommendations into a 2 hour session on Friday evening. On Saturday, 5 coaches absorbed six hours of ‘coaches training’ to help evaluate, observe, and start Trek or Journey around Alaska. Jeremy was treated to a silver salmon excursion by a local Commander up Twenty Mile River, toward the end of Turnagain Arm on Thursday, resulting in a salmonfest at his home in Illinois the following weekend.

Basic Training was conducted August 25th. A heavy dose of orientation, club specific instruction, demos of Games, Large Group, and Small Group was received at Kings Way Ministry Center in Eagle River. Douglas Island Bible Church also joined the Awana team in Alaska this season. We pray excited, enthusiastic, and equipped leaders are evangelizing and discipling kids in greater quantities and areas throughout Alaska. Geraldine and I are passionate about our role in “the greatest work a man can do”! Our goal and prayer is, “that all youth and children throughout Alaska will come to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus Christ”. We long to talk with, learn about, and encourage all leaders in their service.

Thank you for being a partner with us in prayer first and financially! www.alaskaawana.org