



## E-Newsletter for Alaska Pastors and Supporters

Spring 2024

### **New Beginnings**

Spring brings the promise of change and newness of life. For us in Alaska, Spring doesn't really show its face until May. But when it does arrive, it comes in full force!

For many of our churches, change has come in the form of new church names or renovations. For others, change means a cancellation of indebtedness. For us personally, change means an addition of a grandson. For all of the wonderful changes we all experience, God is to be praised!

As you go through this newsletter, please know that ministry happens here because of you! We are all so thankful for your support!

"JB"



Jeff and Barb with grandson William Grant Hughes

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## VISITS IN THE STATE

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### *Beacon of Light Church of God*

The Beacon of Light Church of God celebrated their 2nd Anniversary on March 10th. What a celebration! A powerful message on **Arise** was brought by guest speaker Bishop Raymond Briones, lead pastor of the Word for the World Church of God in Southgate, CA.





The Beacon of Light Church of God always inspires us with their fellowship and love for one another and for God!

Pastor Lister Tapulgo was also presented with his Ordained Bishop credentials. He and his wife Flory, are key leaders in the church and choice servants of God.



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## Events in the State

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### *Arctic Fest*



Arctic Fest took place Feb. 2-4 and it was true to the name this year! Temps were well below zero; however, this didn't stop some from sledding down the hill! We had 47 campers and 17 volunteers who braved the frigid temps to come out and spend a

week-end in God's presence and with God's people. For that, we are so thankful!



Pastor Shannon Panthin of the Oceans Church of God in Kodiak was the main speaker. He brought a series of messages centered around the idea of "Built Different." We were reminded that we have a place in God's house and a work to do on this earth. Our lives are a journey- aptly illustrated by an Oreo cookie! The calling and purpose God has for us can be difficult at times, but the journey is sweet. We are so thankful to Pastor Shannon for instilling in our youth that God has a plan and a purpose for their lives!





The youth of Alaska were encouraged by one another throughout the week-end. They so much enjoy spending time together with friends they have made over the years at events such as Arctic Fest. It was a bit too cold for usual outdoor activities, so we had lots of games and arts/crafts for everyone. There was also endless coffee and hot chocolate!

We also want to thank Pastor Brandon and Tonya Scott of the Kenai Church of God for setting a tone of praise and worship at each service. Their giftings have been such a blessing to our state!



## *Southeast Winter Conference*



The Southeast Winter Conference was held at the Lighthouse Church of God in Ketchikan from Feb. 7-11th. The morning speaker was Pastor J.D. Quinn of Homerville, GA. He is the student/music pastor at New Vision Church of God. The night speaker was Pastor Kevin Hendrix. He and his wife Haley serve as State Youth and Discipleship Directors in Louisiana. They also pastor the North Shore Worship Center in Covington, Louisiana. What a tremendous job these two did in bringing us timely messages from God's Word. The altar services were truly anointed with many being touched by the presence of God.





The 'Victory Banquet' was a great time of fellowship for the entire church community. We had great food and warm fellowship! A big thanks to Pastor Jeff and Marie White and the Lighthouse Church of God for hosting this amazing event!



We also held a minister's luncheon for credentialed ministers and pastors in the area. It's such a blessing to see most of the Southeast pastors in attendance.



Pastor Jeremy Crews of the Craig



Church of God was also presented with his Ordained Minister's credentials. He and his wife Kerin are devoted stewards of God's kingdom and have lead the Craig Church of God for 4 years.

We are grateful for the faithful members of the Lighthouse Church of God, the Craig Church of God, and the Metlakatla Church of God. Many of them came to each service and supported the event with their offerings. What a generous and loving community the Southeast Alaska region is!

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## PROJECTS IN THE STATE

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### *Soldotna Church of God*

The Soldotna Church of God is under construction!! Last year the Pastor's council voted to install two additional restrooms upstairs outside the sanctuary. Since the church was opened, there has only been one upstairs restroom shared amongst all church attendees. They are 100% complete with the install and are 100% ADA approved. In addition, at the end of July they will be installing a large drive through awning on the front of the church, covering and enclosing the handicap ramp and building a new porch/entry way into the church from the South side. They have also removed the previous coffee bar and transitioned the former Welcome Center into a café opening up a tremendous amount of foyer space. The Soldotna Church of God is grateful for the support of their members and God's continued faithfulness in making these renovations a reality!







*Barrow- North Gate Church of God*



Pastors David and Tina Matthews have recently changed their church name from New Beginnings to North Gate Church of God. Their intention is to reach out to the most remote villages- some of the most isolated places in the world- to reach the unsaved indigenous people. They have adorned their church with a flag from every nation where the Church of God has a presence to remind them of the need to continue to pursue the Great Commission.

## *Ketchikan- Lighthouse Church of God*



Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Bill White and bank representative making the final payment on the Lighthouse Church of God

The Lighthouse Church of God in Ketchikan made their final payment on their mortgage on Friday, February 2, 2024.

Due to several phases of building the local church, the Coal Bay Camp and Retreat on Prince of Wales Island, and the recent catastrophic collapse of a major culvert system on the property, loan payments have been a way of life for the Lighthouse Church of God over the past 64 years. The Lighthouse Church of God will use their new "debt-free status" to save up funding for repair and remodel of their current facility to accommodate the increase in attendance and expanding ministry opportunities. Pastor Jeff White said he is grateful and honors the local congregation for their faithful giving and support that made this possible.

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### **Out of State Visits**

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#### *Pastoring on Purpose Podcast*

Bishop McGirt was invited by Dr. Tim Maness, the director of the Church of God Center for Ministerial Care, to take part in a Pastoring on Purpose Podcast mid-January. Bishop McGirt spoke to the ministry challenges faced by pastors in Alaska.





The podcast can be found at [akcog.com](http://akcog.com). Click the Pastoring on Purpose link for the full podcast. In fact, each episode is archived on our website. Be sure and check this out for important pastoral resources.

### *World Missions Pastors Coalition Inspire Conference*



Bishop McGirt and Barb attended the Pastors Coalition in Fountain Valley, CA mid-February. Former Alaska AB, Pat and Jan Wright, were also in attendance.



This conference was hosted by Pastor Deena Querry and Living Waters Christian Fellowship.



Assistant Director of World Missions John Childers, interviewed Rob Taylor, AB of Hawaii and our own AB Jeff McGirt to share how Missions has impacted the two farthest states in the Church of God.



A host of missionaries were present to share their stories, their needs, and their heart for the people they serve. Some faces are hidden to protect those serving in hostile nations.



Dr. Propes, Director of Church of God World Missions, interviewed seasoned pastors who shared stories of the impact Missions has on the local church.

Join us in prayer for those who are on the mission field far and wide sharing the gospel and risking their lives for the kingdom!

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**AK MISSIONS**

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## ***Thank You!***

To all of our supporters, churches, and friends: thank you! We could not do what we do without your continued support. We are thankful for all you do for AK! Together, we can do more!

***AK World Missions Project  
Number: 102-7088***

## ***World Missions***

Let's endeavor to complete our faith promise toward the 365 World Missions Challenge.

*"Uniting Locally... Reaching Globally"*

## ***Remember:***

We are VITAL  
We are VISIONARY  
We are VALUED

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