



KATKUS ALASKAN MISSIONS

The Harvest of 2017

A LIFE CHANGING YEAR WORKING WITH THE CHURCHES IN ALASKA

FOLLOWING CHRIST'S DESIGN

Our most fruitful year so far

by Mike Katkus



Early in 2017 I had the opportunity to go to Thailand to work with an outstanding missionary couple, Loren & Penny Hollingsworth. This dynamic duo has served in Thailand well over 45 years and now resides in Alaska for half the year while serving the other half in Thailand. Our dear friend and brother in Christ, Steve Cannon wanted to learn firsthand how mission work was done in Thailand and if we could possibly implement what we learned here in Alaska. Steve invited me to come with him to travel with him to Thailand within the next two weeks! Annie and I thought and prayed about the trip. We realized here is a brother who wishes to gain a more mission minded attitude and implement that mindset in Alaska. How could I say "no"? The trip was just what we both needed and we learned a

great deal. God designed His church to be unified, He designed it to be equipped with leadership and for good works. Being over in Thailand was such an eye opener as we were reminded of the deep and sincere connections Christians are to have with one another. Our fellowship must extend far further than meeting in the Sunday assembly.



This last year has been a huge blessing. We have seen the congregations of the Churches of Christ grow in unity and love. It is a new chapter of the story of God working through His people. While 6 of the 16 congregations are struggling as they do not have fulltime preachers or leadership, the congregations throughout Alaska are growing. We are actively seeking to assist these congregations by working with them in various ways. We are encouraging their strengths and challenging their comfort zones.



"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:11-12

One of the major themes of this year's work is following the blueprint Jesus laid out for His Church. He designed and built the Church intentionally. Our pursuit of His design has led us to encourage and challenge Christians in Alaska to take a hard look in the area of local leadership and evangelism.



Recruiting preachers/missionaries

Here are some of the milestone ministries of 2017 that we intend to develop and equip the saints for good works for the years to come.



We are really excited about a new avenue of evangelism in Alaska. Typically what brought a person to Christ is the main influence in keeping them there. As the churches in Alaska are full of loving families and friendly personalities, we are seeking to connect others not just to a unique loving group of people but to the Word of God- to Jesus. The image above is a flyer I designed which we will be distributing in the thousands. We will also be passing out free hot chocolate with one of these flyers along the most trafficked areas in the Mat-Su Valley. We intend to connect through these flyers coupled with acts of service that we may spread the news and equip the saints with effective means of outreach. Please pray for us to plant seeds!

Adventures In Missions (AIM Program)

AIM is a missionary apprentice program based out of Lubbock, Texas and is part of the Sunset International Bible Institute. We have been blessed to have two missionary apprentices assigned to learn from us. Their mission here is to grow closer to God, assist in the work we are involved in, and discover/utilize the gifts God has invested in them. They have been with us since June, 2017 and have thrived so far. The genuine relationships they have made as well as their servant minded hearts have been contagious in their interaction with others. Pray for their continued growth in this very impacting chapter of their lives. We are expecting to receive five additional AIM students in the summer of 2018!



JORDAN BERTAM & DAVID AGULIAR

These two young men mean a lot to Annie and I. They have gone through 8 months of training & have committed almost two years to live and learn in Alaska as they are mentored by us to know Christ more and make Him known in Alaska.

JORDAN IS FROM WASHINGTON
DAVID IS FROM MEXICO

Groups, Studies, & Camps



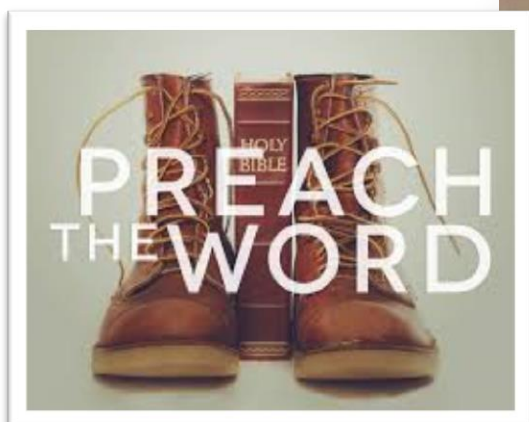
Top left: Christians gather for New Year's Eve to begin 2018 with love & prayer.

Top Right: Growing small groups connecting to others and the Word

Bottom Left: Young Adult group develops more and more!

Bottom Right: Teaching/Discipling youth



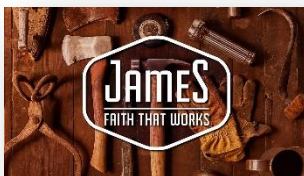


In addition to various ministries we are involved in, a large amount of my time is dedicated to preaching and teaching throughout Alaska. We are not bringing to the world a new teaching. I have learned more than I could have imagined getting to participate in the service of proclaiming the gospel. In doing so I see I have so much more to learn and I find that exciting beyond description! We serve a great God, the only God. I preach multiple times a month and teach several times throughout each week. When I speak at the Valley Church of Christ (about twice a month) they are recorded and you can watch/listen here anytime if you'd like on YouTube by searching for;

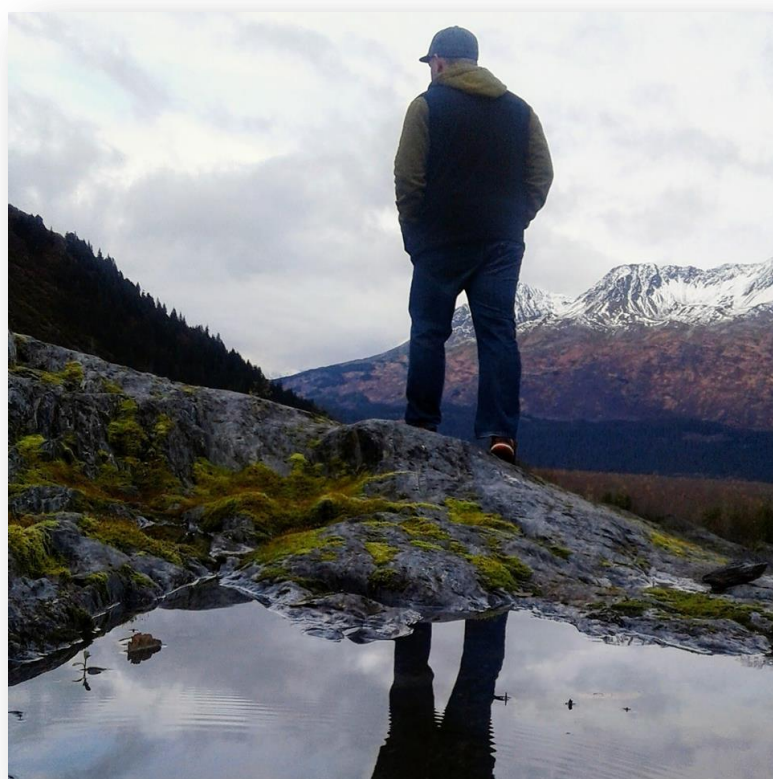
Valley Church of Christ Wasilla Mike

Here are some of the topics/passages of recent sermons

- James: *Instruction Manual to Christianity*
- Blue Prints to Unity: Ephesians 4
- Psalm 23: Knowing your Shepherd
- Doctrine & Rot
- God's Investment in you: Matthew 25
- Cost of Discipleship: Luke 14



YouTube



As we go into 2018 we are excited and hopeful for what the Lord is doing in Alaska. Please keep us in your prayers as we are going to be transitioning into some big powerful changes. AIM students, directing Bible camps, and preaching/teaching throughout Alaska will continue to be a great and fruitful adventure. We ask that you specifically pray that the churches of Christ will be unified with God and each other. That we may learn effective ways to teach the gospel in this developing culture. As well as the boldness and faith to represent Christ to all we come in contact with. We thank God for your partnership in this ministry of planting and watering seeds in the last frontier. The blessing of this work is also the fruit of your involvement of prayer, connection, and financial support. Please continue to connect with us through Facebook, email, or phone.

God bless as we all strive to serve.

Michael Katkus
mikekatkus@gmail.com
 907-521-1326

