

Our 14th Year!

LIGHTSHINE MINISTRIES IN ALASKA

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Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

August 2009

Recently I have been thinking a lot about where we have come from and the direction we are charting for the future. Our ministry is growing and more and more people are expressing interest in volunteering their time and talents in Alaska. I have been asking many of our **prayer** supporters if they would ask God that He would give me and our staff the wisdom that He gave Solomon. **Would you please pray for us right now?** Thank you so much!

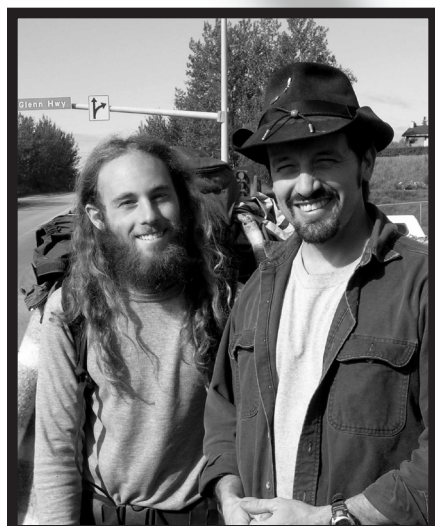
As a youth I remember listening to missionaries who work in Alaska talk about the great needs they are faced with and the challenges that keep people from seeing Who their Creator is and yielding their lives to Him. The problem continues today – it is not just the rejection of the message of God's Word but it results in eternal separation from Him. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **We can see the wages of sin all around us.** People are living in bondage to sin. Alcohol is one of the primary killers of people in Alaska and it is an accomplice to many other crimes. It is astonishing to me how many people I have met who hate alcohol because of what it has done to their families but cannot stop drinking it themselves. This is a problem that we need wisdom to solve.



Isn't it amazing how some people can hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and yet somehow they just can't seem to be able to embrace it?

There are many theories that Bible scholars have come up with to answer why the Gospel is rejected. Some say it's because God has not drawn them to Himself (John 6:44) and granted them repentance (2 Timothy 2:25). Others point to 2 Corinthians 4:4 which says the god of the world (Satan) has blinded their eyes so that they cannot comprehend the glorious message of the cross. It would be easy to say rebellion is to blame and walk away with an attitude of disgust. But for us, that is not an option. **God has shown us much grace and has taught us that we are to do the same to others.**

The reasons for people not yielding their lives to Jesus Christ are complex and culturally challenging. But one thing is sure - God didn't give us an option for what we should focus on. He commanded us to make disciples of Him in all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). But He also gave us a love for people which is evidence of the Holy Spirit living in us (John 13:35; Galatians 5: 22-23) Our ministry is focused on the people of Alaska. The first step in making disciples is building true and lasting relationships with people. That is one of the primary goals of LightShine Ministries. **There is nothing that speaks louder than giving to people without conditions.** This is the heart of what we do in Alaska. In the process, critics are silenced. When people finally realize that we love them and are committed to them long term, they will begin to see our lives as examples of followers of Jesus Christ (John 13:14-17). This process dismantles the walls of doubt that Satan uses to blind them opening their hearts even more to the conviction of the Holy Spirit. This is what motivates us as a ministry!



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Tom Denlinger - Director of LightShine Ministries

AUGUST 2009 - FATHER & SON WORK TEAM



(L-R) Ryan, Tom and Alex Denlinger; Scott and Brian Shenk; Kevin and Nickolaus Heistand

Thank you so much for supporting these team members financially. They are ready to work! Please take time to **pray** for them as they work in Alaska **from August 8-24**. They will be working at **Globe Creek Camp** clearing brush, sanding logs and performing various tasks for the camp director. Tom, Ryan and Alex Denlinger will also be working a second week at **Mountain Home Fellowship** in Palmer. The team would appreciate your **prayer** for safety in travel, while they are working, and for their families at home. **Globe Creek Camp** has just completed several successful weeks of children's camp; our goal is to help them finish some chores and prepare the camp for winter. Please visit our website and click on the "**AUGUST TEAM**" button at the top of the page to see a more specific list of prayer requests.

SEPTEMBER TEAM

Our **EAGLE FLOOD RELIEF TEAM** will be working in Alaska from September 5-14. The response for putting this team together has been phenomenal. 9 men have answered the call to go. **Please consider supporting this team financially. Mark your envelope "Eagle Flood Relief Team". Team members must raise \$1310 by the end of August.** This is a disaster relief team answering an immediate need for re-building the damaged homes and buildings in Eagle, Alaska. Next month's newsletter will feature this team. Please visit our website for more details!

OCTOBER TEAM

Our brothers and sisters at **Word of Life Ministries** (an evangelical Russian church in Wasilla, Alaska) have been planning a new building for quite some time. They told us about their vision when our **April Team** visited them on Easter Sunday. The Lord led them to serve a small church in South America before building a new building for themselves. They organized a team and sent them to a poor district in Peru where they helped build a church. Seeing their need, God has put it on our hearts to help them finish their church in Alaska. **We need skilled and semi-skilled electricians, plumbers, drywall hangers and finishers, painters, etc. to work from October 23-31.** Please consider being part of this team. This is not an outdoor trip and would be perfect for those who have not volunteered in the past because of rugged, outdoor requirements. You will be staying in people's homes and fed very well. **The cost of this trip will be \$1310.** Please visit our website and click on "**OCTOBER TEAM**" for more details!

We need to purchase two 15 passenger vans for transporting our teams. If you can help us in any way it would save a lot of donated money in rentals!



2009 LightShine Alaska Staff - Come Join Us!

Tom Denlinger - DIRECTOR Jeff Zimmerman - TREASURER Scott Shenk - ADMINISTRATOR
Teri Newell - BOOKKEEPER Kris Polizzi - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mel Miller Rob Paire TEAM LEADERS Jerry Polizzi Dennis Schlossman

Ruth Denlinger GENERAL VOLUNTEERS Larry Newell Brian Shaffer

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