

Our 15th Year!

LIGHTSHINE MINISTRIES IN ALASKA

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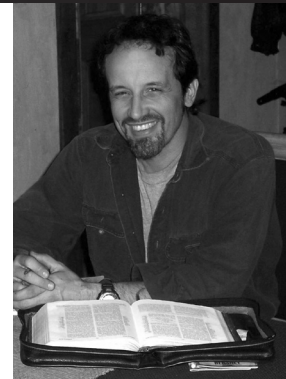
Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

January/February 2010

We want to start our 15th year praising God and asking you to consider this question and how it applies to your life: **Who wins in missions?** In other words, who benefits from the whole process? Some of this may be very basic to some of you but please read along and ask God to speak to you as you read.

Who wins? who wins in missions?

1. The Leadership of the Local Church in Alaska - We believe the focus of our ministry should be in building up and equipping local church fellowships in Alaska. Our goal is to provide them with tools to reach the people that they come in contact with. Pastors need encouragement because they face a lot of challenges as they try to serve people. One of the ministries of the Body of Christ (*all living followers of Jesus Christ*) is equipping itself for the work of being Jesus to the world.



by Tom Denlinger

“so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Romans 12:5-8 NKJV

Our ministry in Pennsylvania cannot serve the people of Alaska that pastors are called to serve on a day to day basis. But if we can help church leaders by giving them tools for their ministry they are greatly encouraged. This kind of help encourages pastors and their wives to press on.



2. The People of the Local Church in Alaska - Each individual member of the Body of Christ is in the process of learning how to become like Jesus (Philippians 1:6). This process is difficult and all the competing messages of our culture keep many people from their calling. When the local church is edified, people are built up. When children spend time with youth leaders at Bible camps away from the distractions of the world, they get a glimpse of Jesus and have the ability to consider their Creator's plan for their lives. When strong parts of the Body of Christ serve and build up other parts of the Body that are in need, the whole Body becomes stronger and Jesus Christ is glorified.

3. Our Team Members - Our team leaders know that each team member is carefully led by God to be part of their team. We believe in God's direct work in the lives of people. Over the years we have heard testimony after testimony of how God ministered to our team members. In the summer of 2007, **Angela Bentzel** was part of one our teams. Read how God worked in her life:

I was a very burned out, bitter individual when I left for Alaska. In the past six months, I had more issues to deal with than I thought were possible: disgruntled coworkers, ill grandparents and coordinating their health care, my dad being diagnosed with acoustic neuroma (a non-cancerous brain tumor which caused him to lose all hearing in his right ear), a coworker committing suicide, work, school, etc. I've always been the person to go to great lengths to make sure everyone else was ok. I was extremely exhausted and stretched too thin and I couldn't enjoy anything. I looked at my upcoming trip as an escape from my life. I started the week as normal, listening to others and helping them walk through their problems, until I realized I'm getting to know everyone and they're not getting to know me. One morning, I



opened up to Teri N. and Teri S. They both told me I'm taking on too much, which I knew but I needed to hear it from someone else. Then they prayed for me and I cried. It felt as though a huge burden had lifted from my shoulders! The rest of the week I was a lot lighter and able to open up more to others. I also re-prioritized my life and when I came home a lot of things changed. I delegated to others to assist in many responsibilities both at home and work and I turned the rest over to God. I am now a lot more centered and at peace with myself and those I interact with. No longer a caged butterfly, I feel I can spread my wings and fly without inhibitions. Just don't dangle too many appealing opportunities in front of me or I could just fly away! Ha ha! (I'm bored with my life but that would fall under the unanswered prayers section!) I laughed more this week than I have in the past six months - and I want to thank the whole team for that! It was a rejuvenating trip, and I needed that.

Thank you for leading our team. I know you probably got annoyed with the eight of us sometimes and I can't blame you there, but the challenges you presented at the Bible studies were real and made me think. Too often we get caught up in the clutter of our lives; we don't take the time out to think deeply and reflect on our lives and ask ourselves "Where are we going and is it right?" We need to be open and listen to what God is trying to tell us which is difficult in a product driven society. That will be my challenge in the upcoming weeks! Thank you for opening that door for me!

Thank you Angela! Your words are very encouraging. We love to see God working in the lives of our team members.

4. Those who send our teams - Investing in the lives of people and seeing them drawn closer to Jesus Christ is probably the most rewarding thing in this life.

The principle of giving as directed by the Lord means those in the local church who are giving are blessed. Jesus said give and it will be given to you, full and running over (Luke 6:38). Returning workers will often give to the local body in Pennsylvania stirring up more vision and zeal for His Kingdom. They can develop as stronger leaders for the future. **God is calling His people to give.** If we hold on to what He has given us, failing to obey, we can lose what we have (see The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30). Local pastors in Pennsylvania should be encouraging mission teams not holding back members for jobs only in their local church. A missions minded church will be much stronger and full of life.

So no matter if you are sending people to the mission field or you are going yourself, in the end, you win! You win because you take the call of spreading the Gospel and making disciples of Jesus seriously.

5. God is glorified! Ultimately, our service for His Kingdom gives glory to God (1 Peter 4:10-11). And that is what we are called to do! Even when times get tough, obedience to the call of God will reap eternal rewards. Never forget the lessons of Matthew 25:31-46. When we help people, we are really helping our Lord Jesus!

Now is the time to register and start raising support for your team assignment.

Tom Denlinger - Ministry Director

LightShine Alaska Staff

Tom Denlinger - Director
 Jeff Zimmerman - Treasurer
 Scott Shenk - Administrator
 Teri Newell - Bookkeeper
 Kris Polizzi - Administrative Assistant
 Nancy Illyes - Bulk Mailing

Mel Miller - Team Leader
 Rob Paire - Team Leader
 Jerry Polizzi - Team Leader
 Jeremy Schmoel - Team Leader
 Dennis Schlossman - Team Leader

General Volunteers

Ruth Denlinger
 Jim DiLouie
 Larry Newell
 Brian Shaffer

2010 Team Assignments

Eagle Reconstruction Team

May 21-30
 Skilled Carpenters needed.
 We are building a church!

Globe Creek Camp

May 22-30
 Skilled Carpenters Needed
 optional second week at:

Seldovia Christian Retreat

May 29-June 6
 Skilled Carpenters Needed

Globe Creek Camp

August 7-15
 Father/Son
 Trailblazing Team

More teams are being considered and planned. Please PRAY for us and consider joining us.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!

www.lightshineministries.org

Transporting our teams is a major need for our ministry. Could you help us purchase a 15 passenger van? Donate a utility trailer, power tools, a generator, nail guns? Our goal is to drive a van and utility trailer to Alaska in the Spring filled with tools! Can you help us achieve this goal? All donations are tax deductible.

