

*Our 14th Year!*

# LIGHTSHINE MINISTRIES IN ALASKA

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Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

May 2009

In 2007 we started working with a new camp ministry called **Globe Creek Camp** which is located approximately 50 miles northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. One of our team leaders wrote the following article which describes the calling we have as a ministry. **Mel Miller** and his wife **Carol** live in Harrisburg, PA. Mel, along with **Rob Paire**, will be leading our **May Work Team** to **Globe Creek Camp** and **Seldovia Christian Retreat** from May 23 - June 7. Only part of the article is featured here because of space. The full article Mel wrote can be downloaded at: [www.lightshineministries.org/miller.pdf](http://www.lightshineministries.org/miller.pdf) The statistics listed in this article were found at [www.dps.state.ak.us/Cdvs/docs/AnnualReport2007.pdf](http://www.dps.state.ak.us/Cdvs/docs/AnnualReport2007.pdf) and [www.alcohol-information.com/Resources.html](http://www.alcohol-information.com/Resources.html)

## *Alaska: The Place I Fell In Love With* by Mel Miller

Alaska is a land of incredible beauty. It is the land of mountain peaks, northern lights and 24 hour light. It is a place where wild beasts roam, the eagles soar and salmon is a staple of life. It's a place where lakes, braided rivers, passages, bays, sounds and glaciers flow. It's a place of breathtaking scenery yet can be rugged and harsh. The beauty reminds us of our powerful creator and the ruggedness and harshness reminds us of the Spiritual darkness that grips the land.

The state of Alaska ranks the top in the nation (76 per 100,000) for forcible rape. That is over twice the national average (32.7 per 100,000). Alaska leads the nation in the rate of men murdering women. That also is nearly twice the national average. Seventy five percent of Alaskans have experienced or know someone who has experienced domestic violence or sexual assault. 9.2 percent of students in grades 1-12 report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to and 12.4 percent of the students said they had been hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the last 12 months.

In the 1950's, significant numbers of Alaska Natives were introduced to alcohol, which quickly became an incapacitating and fatal reality. By the early 1970's, for instance, alcoholism had become a leading cause of death among Alaska Natives. The Alaska Native suicide rate, which was not significantly different from the national averages throughout the 1950s, began to rise dramatically during the 1970s. Examples of this societal downturn include the following: avoidable accidents, murder, assault, psychological depression, and sex crimes (including sex crimes against children). Today substance abuse is the number one debilitating force among Alaska natives. More precisely, the suicide rate for Alaska Natives is four times more than the national average and almost 80% of all Alaska Native deaths are related to alcohol abuse or alcoholism. Additionally, the rate of fetal alcohol syndrome among Alaska Natives is the highest for any American population researched to date (4.2 per 1,000 live births). It is clear that drug and alcohol abuse continues to destroy the lives of many Alaskans.

This is the place God has called **LightShine Ministries** to focus its efforts. We are a ministry that comes alongside local churches, Christian organizations and fellow believers who have a vision for Alaska. We are a helping hand. One of those ministries is **Globe Creek Camp**. We believe in the concept of a

**MAY TEAM**



(left to right) **Mel Miller, Tim Rudy, Carl Ginder, Rob Paire, Vaughn and Lisa Starr.**

[www.lightshineministries.org/may09.htm](http://www.lightshineministries.org/may09.htm)

Christian camping ministry. **We believe there is no better way to fight against the spiritual darkness previously mentioned than through a Christian camp aimed at ministering to children and teens and introducing them to Jesus Christ (*The Light of the World*) through a camping environment in the midst of His awesome creation.** This is a facility that needs to be built. Even though the building has just begun, **Globe Creek Camp** is not waiting for the facility to be built to start its camping ministry. They began that even before there were any buildings. The ministry has grown to where they now offer winter and summer camps.



*Camp counsellors Tom Josephson, Katy Dean and Steve Bouldin with children at Globe Creek Camp*

**Globe Creek Camp** is offering Winter Camp for three age groups. A day camp for grades K-3, a three day camp for grades 4-6 and a three day camp for grades 6-8. What says winter fun more than snow machines? Campers will also have a fun time snowshoeing, cross country skiing, building snow shelters, tubing and sledding. A safety course on snowmobiles and how to operate them will be taught. A snowmobile course will then allow them to practice what they have learned. Great evenings of worship and Bible teaching end the full days at **Globe Creek Camp**. In the summer they offer a day camp for grades K-2 and they offer one full week of camp for grades 3-5, one full week for grades 5-7 and one full week for grades 8-12. Camp activities include challenging hikes, archery, orienteering, challenge course, team building, Bible teaching, and lots of fun. **Globe Creek Camp** also offers its facilities to churches and organizations for retreats.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MAY WORK TEAM LEAVING MAY 22

Pray for safety in travel. We will be traveling over 10,000 miles by airplane, automobile and on foot. Pray that our airline flights would remain on schedule.

Pray for safety in the natural world. We are working in true wilderness conditions where grizzly bears, wolves and moose live. Pray that our dominion over the natural world is strong and God's holy angels surround us for protection.

Pray for team unity. Pray that God would work in us and keep our focus on what he has called us to do. We want to represent LightShine Ministries with integrity and we desire that people would see Jesus in us. Pray that we would be a great blessing to the pastors and people of Alaska.

Pray for us as we work. Pray for our various work projects that materials would arrive on time and we would experience safety at all times.

Pray for the weather. Pray that God would clear the skies so we can accomplish much during our stay. Pray that God's protection would be on our families at home. Pray that our work would encourage others who are considering missionary service in the future.

Pray that God would be glorified in everything we say and do (Colossians 3:17).

*Thank you everyone who gave to our matching fund that ended in March. Together, you gave \$15,262.30 which has been doubled!  
The total raised was \$30,524.60!  
Thank you so much!*

### LightShine Alaska Staff

Tom Denlinger - *Director*  
Jeff Zimmerman - *Treasurer*  
Scott Shenk - *Administrator*  
Teri Newell - *Bookkeeper*

Bill Endslo - *Project Manager*  
Mel Miller - *Team Leader*  
Rob Paire - *Team Leader*  
Jerry Polizzi - *Project Manager*  
Dennis Schlossman - *Team Leader*

*General Volunteers*  
Ruth Denlinger  
Larry Newell  
Kris Polizzi  
Brian Shaffer

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*We need team members for our SEPTEMBER TEAM  
Please visit our website and consider serving with us!*

August Work Team August 8-17, 2009  
**Globe Creek Camp** Fairbanks, AK  
PRAISE GOD THIS TEAM IS FILLED AND ON ITS WAY!

September Work Team Sept. 19-28, 2009  
**Globe Creek Camp** Fairbanks, AK  
Natural Rock Veneer specialist, sanding and oiling cabin logs,  
and finishing any uncompleted jobs from previous teams.

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