

Can I Get Your “Amen” for ABC?

by President Dave Ley

I have been in pastoral ministry for twenty-eight years. When you do the math, twenty-eight years of preaching amounts to approximately 3,360 sermons given over that time. Hearing God’s people give a hearty “amen” to the message of God’s Word that I was proclaiming has always been a great encouragement and confirmation to me that the congregation was behind what was being preached. When I heard Pastor Fred Ledbetter, one of our adjunct professors say, “Can I get an AMEN,” at our recent open house and inaugural event, we all gave a hearty response.

“Amen” is actually a Greek word that is transliterated into the English language. It literally means, “So let it be” or “yes, I agree.” I like to say it means, “I’m down with that!” Alaska Bible College has been proclaiming the gospel and training leaders to minister the gospel for over 49 years. I am honored to join a long line of servant-leaders as the seventh president of this faithful institution. Dr. Bob Lee, the first president and now President Emeritus of ABC, shared a history of ABC at the event and I was all the more

humbled and grateful for the opportunity that the Lord has granted me to continue this good work in Him.

Can we get an “AMEN!,” from you? If you are grateful to the Lord for His faithfulness to Alaska Bible College, would you give a tangible “amen,” by enclosing just one of your dollars (or more if you’d like) into the enclosed envelope— and then actually mail it to us?

We need your “AMEN!” We need to know that you are “down with the ministry” of the only accredited four-year Bible college in Alaska. We need your prayer support, encouragement and dollars as we carry this journey on together. By returning the enclosed stamped envelope with your response, you will encourage the ABC family in a way that words alone cannot convey. We will know that you are thanking the Lord for the ministry of ABC and saying “amen” through fervent prayer and financial support.



ABC Celebrates New Beginning!

On August 23, ABC hosted an open house in celebration of our recent move to Palmer and to welcome President Dave Ley and his family to the ABC community! Over 150 people attended this event to see our newly renovated Palmer campus and to participate in the installation of ABC’s seventh president.

Pictured: Pastors Larry Kroon, Mike Roub (BA 2005), Joel Stamooolis, Andy Miller, Sven Maakestad (BA 2015), Lennie Hartman (BA 1971), Steve Shrimplin, and Fred Ledbetter prayed over the Ley family at the presidential installation.

Summer Volunteers Flood the Campus

Teams of volunteers from all over the country saturated our campus this summer, and came alongside us as we made major renovations and updates to our campus and student dorms! We deeply **thank you** for your part in fulfilling the Great Commission!

HOPE CHURCH St. Louis, MO

During the month of July, ABC hosted a work team from Hope Church in St. Louis, MO. Hope is the sending church of ABC staff family John & Katie Ferch. This team of eleven individuals paid their own way to Alaska and raised over \$4,000 for the renovation of a new classroom on ABC's campus. Thanks to Gary & Donna Ferch, Steve Arthur, Paul & Beth Ostroski, Bill Gittemeier, and the Keating Family!



FARM LOOP CHRISTIAN CENTER

Thank you to current ABC student and local youth pastor, Ben King! His team of youth from FLCC came out twice this summer to help with painting and clearing brush from the back yard of the dorm.



LAZY MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH Palmer, AK

Thank you for the LOVE! LMBC lent a helping hand on July 8th in participation of the Valley-wide REAL LOVE community service day. They brought over 30 volunteers to ABC to help with a variety of work projects. Projects included *lots* of painting, re-finishing furniture, and installing kitchen countertops into the dorm. In addition to this very special day, members of LMBC; Kathy and Charles VonGunten, and Robert Nelson worked tirelessly all summer renovating our student dorm. Thank you! Your carpentering gifts and endless hours of hard work made our renovation dreams a reality!



Top: Charles VonGunten & Robert Nelson built new countertops.
Bottom: Bathroom cabinets were hand crafted & donated by Herb Dunham.

BOB & JODY BROWNER



ABC grads and former staff members Bob (BA 2000) and Jody Browner recently retired after ten years of pastoral service in the Native village of Gulkana, and spent the summer at ABC as volunteers. Jody kept the school looking beautiful with her skills in raising flowers. Bob mounted lights, repaired so many items, built a mail

room, reorganized the maintenance room, and was a general handy man. He was so helpful in so many ways. They also purchased a riding lawn mower for the campus property. Thank you to these willing servants who gave much of themselves to upgrade the campus!

KCAM Donated to Joy Media Ministries

On September 22, Alaska Bible College received FCC permission to donate both KCAM FM and AM to Joy Media Ministries, a newly-formed non-profit ministry based in Glennallen, AK.

KCAM Radio was launched by pioneer missionary Vince Joy, who also founded Alaska Bible College. KCAM-AM went on the air in March of 1964 during the Great Alaska Earthquake and has been broadcasting from Glennallen ever since. KCAM has remained true to its Christian heritage while serving the entire region. Programming includes national and local news, local and emergency communications to off-road residents, community news, family and children's programs, and a wide variety of music.

Joy Media Ministries was the vision of Scott Yahr, ABC's Vice President for Radio Broadcasting and Station Manager of KCAM. Over the past year, Scott has worked to assemble a board of directors and set up the independent 501c3 organization. With the donation complete, Yahr as well as staff members Michelle Eastty and Roger Bovee have transferred their missionary service from ABC to Joy Media Ministries.

Alaska Bible College President David Ley said, "Donating the stations to this Glennallen team is the natural outcome of the college's move from Glennallen to Palmer in 2013. KCAM is the primary station serving the Copper River Basin. It was started by pioneer Christian missionary Vincent Joy, whose love of the Ahtna people led to the



The ABC administration celebrated the donation of KCAM with Joy Media Ministries staff and board members on Sep. 22, 2015.

starting of the radio station, the Alaska Bible College and Cross Road Medical Center here in the 1960's.

"Contributing over \$600,000 of college assets to Glennallen's Joy Media Ministries helps the community and is in full alignment with the college's historical ties to the region. We want to be a partner in keeping a strong local Christian radio station alive and prospering in Glennallen. We believe that if he was here today, Pastor Joy would be pleased with the donation of the radio stations to a team located in Glennallen."

Professor Gary Willford Retires After 25 Years of Service



On August 31, professor Gary Willford officially retired from missionary service at Alaska Bible College. Gary and his wife Jeanie have served with ABC for 25 years. During that time, Gary has served in many capacities,

including Professor of Bible and Pastoral Studies and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He also served as Interim President for one year between presidents Steve Hostetter and Nick Ringger, and as Radio Broadcaster at KCAM Radio. Jeanie has mentored many of ABC's female students over the years, and has volunteered countless hours planning and hosting special events. Upon retirement, Gary and Jeanie are seeking God's direction for future ministry and look forward to spending more time with their grandchildren.

Gary said, "We rejoice in God calling us to ABC and have many great memories of our times with the students, faculty and staff - in the classroom and around campus. We will treasure these experiences the rest of our lives. We are so encouraged to see God using our alumni in Alaska and all over our world. Isaiah 41:10 continues to be our source of comfort and encouragement in these days, and we look forward to His continued faithfulness in all our lives. Thanks again for these experiences of a lifetime!"

Thank you, Gary and Jeanie, for the indelible impact that you have made on a generation of Alaskan disciples!

Suicide Response and Prevention

A modular class meeting January 11-15
Housing & Meal Options Available
www.akbible.edu/modular

Most Alaskans have been impacted by suicide in some way, shape, or form. We invite all church leaders, village missionaries, and interested individuals to this weeklong modular class to explore the church's role in responding to this epidemic that plagues our state.

- Examine the issue of suicide from biblical, psychological, and social perspectives.
- Explore a biblical theology of depression and suicide through study of Psalm 88.
- Acquire a basic tool set to identify and appropriately respond to those who might be contemplating suicide.
- Develop strategies to assist individuals and communities that are left behind after an act of suicide.



Course Instructor: Dr. Jim Wisland serves as Director of the Arctic Resource Center for Suicide Prevention in Fairbanks.

ACCREDITED BY

