

## We Are Made New!

by President Dave Ley



I am not sure what makes it so much fun, but most of us enjoy getting something brand new, don't we? Whether it's a new outfit, a new tech device or even a new-to-you car, it just seems to put an extra spring in their steps!

As the students returned to Alaska Bible College for the Fall 2016 semester, they were greeted with an eternal reason to have an eternal spring in our steps. Our theme verse for this year is II Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come!" Our identity in Christ can be summed up in this statement: *We are made new!*

In a world that is so crippled by past regrets and so controlled by future fears, believers in Jesus Christ have freedom to live the "what is" of today rather than fearing the "what ifs" of tomorrow or the regretting the "what was" of yesterday! We have a new identity in Christ and a certain eternity with Christ. Some look with hope to experience an extreme makeover. We who are in Christ have experienced an extreme do-over, along with the promise that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

*We are  
made new!*  
**2 Cor 5:17**



## Hope Bible Church helps with campus renovations



Over the summer, Alaska Bible College was happy to welcome the Hope Helpers from Hope Bible Church in O'Fallon, Missouri. Hope is the sending church for staff members Ben and Becky Olson. This team of seven people came for ten days in July, and helped in a large variety of ways around our campus. Their main projects involved trenching and laying electrical line to renovate our exterior lamp posts, general landscaping, and leveling the large field next to the library. They also did a variety of projects at the dorm to prepare for the arrival of the students, the largest being to replace the peeling and cracking linoleum floor in the laundry room with new ceramic tile. All in all, we loved having them serve the Bible College and the students by making our campus more accommodating and visually appealing. Thank you!

# Meet the ABC Class of 2016



**Bible Certificate graduates (Left):** Carrie Ann Curtis, Miranda J. Yarbrough  
**Bachelor of Arts graduates (Center):** Cynthia G.M. Pete, Zachary Andrew Stocks (Not Pictured)  
**Associate of Arts graduates (Right):** Christopher Thomas Spitzer, Eleanor Irene Wallace



## CYNTHIA PETE *Bachelor of Arts*

Cynthia came to ABC in 2011 from the small village of Stebbins, on Alaska's western coast. She was particularly burdened for the youth in her community and sought training to become a godly influence in their lives. While

studying in Glennallen, she became involved in the AWANA ministry at Glennallen Chapel, and developed a vision to bring AWANA's Truth Seekers curriculum to her own village, as well as others in the state. After moving to Palmer with the college in 2013, she continued involvement in children's ministry, and is currently employed full-time at the Tree of Life Child Development Center. This year, she is also serving on the ABC staff as the Women's Residence Coordinator. Long-term, her vision is to return to her home town of Stebbins as an AWANA missionary to build a youth center.



## ZACH STOCKS *Bachelor of Arts*

Zach (pictured with family) began his studies at ABC in 2001. After several years of full-time study, the Lord led him away from Glennallen, but over the years he continued work on his degree through distance education. Last year, he was able to complete his

final class requirement by attending through ABC's Remote Classroom Technology. When asked about his most valuable experience at ABC, Zach responded, "Principles of Inductive Bible Study with Gary Wilford. I remember everything he taught, and have used it a ton in discipleship of others. That class was the foundation for my theological training." Today, Zach serves in ministry as Camp Director at Mount Hope Bible Camp in Forbestown, CA, where he has already begun referring his own students to study at ABC! Please pray for Zach and family as they raise support to fund this ministry.

## Garlands join faculty



We are grateful to introduce Jonathan Garland to our NorthWord readers! Jonathan and his beautiful family moved from Port Orford, Oregon to Palmer, Alaska this summer to join the faculty as our new Vice President for Student Development.

Jonathan received his B.A. degree in Bible and Theology from Shasta Bible College in Redding, California. He is also a graduate of Western Seminary, with an M.A. in Exegetical Theology. Jonathan has a shepherd's heart and has served the church for the past twelve years in both the student ministry role as well as the senior pastor role. The Garlands celebrate their 16 year wedding anniversary this year, and during those years God has blessed them with four awesome children: Seth, Katelin, Ethan, and Alivia.

We are so thankful to the Lord for His leading the Garlands to ABC. As an added blessing, his wife, Shannon Garland is serving as our Food Services Director this year! Jonathan replaces Jeff Gail, who served the Lord at ABC for three years. Jeff was recently called to serve at the "YAK," a local youth center here in Palmer, where many of our students volunteer and gain great ministry experience and training.

## A note from the new Dean

*by Jonathan Garland*

As the Vice President for Student Development, it is my privilege and task to come alongside students and somehow contribute to their spiritual development. I'm truly honored and overjoyed to accept this role on campus, and I'm excited about the students God has brought to Alaska Bible College this year.

One of my favorite things to do is sit across from students and listen to their stories. I want to know what led them to entertain the thought of Bible college. I want to know how they plan to use their education in the future. Sometimes, after hearing their stories, I just want to know how they are getting along. I've found that I'm enriched by what they have to say.

Some of our students are in the trenches of pastoral work while carrying the additional responsibilities of family life while they attend school. Some are absolutely certain God has a big plan for their life, but aren't sure what it is yet. Others have left solid incomes, sold everything, and enrolled to be trained for missions work. We have students straight out of high school, students who have traveled across oceans to get here, and students who grew up next door but who believe God is calling them to be better prepared to reach their fellow Alaskans.

I must admit, I'm challenged by what I encounter. I'm excited about the next generation of influencers. I see students who understand great sacrifice, students who want to live for the Lord, students who are hungry for the Word, and students who are ready to lead the church into the future.

May I suggest we need them. We need to invest in them. Alaska Bible College is just part of their story. Soon their training will end, and they will enter His service more passionate and more prepared. I can't wait to see how God uses them to build His Church.

## College sees enrollment increase

Our enrollment is going up! More students are hearing about Alaska Bible College and joining together to become servant leaders with Christ-like character here in Alaska. Last year (Fall 2015), we enrolled 34 students total, with 25.75 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). This year (Fall 2016), we have 51 students total, with an FTE of 32.75. **This is our highest Fall headcount since 2010, and our largest amount of full-time students since 2006!** We are thankful for the students God has been sending our way, and for you, who make it possible for them to be here!

*Pictured: Students load into a full van for a special activity to kick off the year.*



## ABC Needs You!

I am learning that September is the month of transition from summer to winter here in Palmer, Alaska. This recent post on Facebook shows the same beautiful Fairbanks landscape on September 1, 10, and 30, 2015. The transition from the beauty of fall colors to the beauty of a first snow in the three-picture collage is a reminder that winter is just around the corner. It is not winter time at ABC! God's blessing continues to shine brightly on our campus! We welcomed back the largest fall student population since 2010! Our full-time student count taking the BA in Bible and Christian ministry is at a ten-year high. At ABC **we keep our tuition charge low** so that our students can go into ministry right after graduation rather than having to wait until their college debt is retired. **Consequently, we need to receive close to \$3000 per full-time student per year** from the love gifts of God's people and other sources of income in order to minister as we do. We need you! Without the faithful love gifts of God's people, Alaska Bible College will not be able to encourage students to become servant leaders with Christ-like character. Enclosed is an envelop for you to invest in what God is doing here! **Your one time gift or monthly commitment of whatever amount is crucial to His continuing work at ABC!** Can we count on you to partner with us for His glory?

-President Ley

*Photo Credit: Photos From the Far North  
Instagram: MicaelFromTheFarNorth*



*September 1, 2015*



*September 10, 2015*



*September 25, 2015*