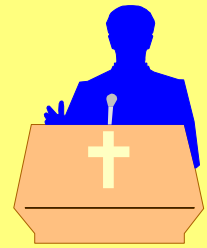


# AMEN Ministries

## Alaskan Ministries of Evangelism by Natives



P.O. Box 489 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

www.amenministries.faithweb.com

The Gospel in its Simplicity

February 6, 2002

### Mission Statement:

When men and women were aroused, moved and filled by the Spirit of the Lord they:

1. Turned the hearts of the people to God.
2. Led them to victory.
3. Inspired them to serve the Lord.

*Statement taken from Stanley M. Horton's book "What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit" published by Gospel Publishing House. Used by permission.*

### The goals and purposes of AMEN Ministries are:

To help build, strengthen and encourage each work in village, Alaska

To help raise up Native leaders from local bodies for future indigenous work.

To raise up Native pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc, called by God to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel."

To reach every village on a regular basis.



### Buckland

*During the Christmas holidays we visited our pastor friends in Buckland. Sonny and Mary Russell pastor the Friends Church here. They keep the church open daily for prayer. The following is a report from Mary. (Thank you, Mary).*

Norman and Donna Westdahl came to Buckland and spent a week with us. They are our very close friends, being in the same gospel band - The Guided Lights, being fellow-workers of ministering the Gospel, and enjoying the same activities.

Whenever the opportunity we ask them both to come and minister in our church

wherever we may pastor, because they are both gifted in teaching and in worship. This is a young village, and the greatest need in our church is teaching the Word. Norman taught at every opportunity when the young people gathered. Donna was a great help by her ministry of music and organizing. She helped our young people by preparing a skit for our Christmas program.

We heard many good reports from the young people of the ministry of Norman and Donna. There is a hunger in the young people for the Lord. We need to do our part keeping them fed! Amen!

We are seeing awesome results because of our prayers - prodigals

coming back, lukewarm turning hot for God, and

the lost beginning to see their condition and wanting to have what we have. HALLELUJAH! Romans 10:15

### Point Hope

During the new year we went to minister in the village of Point Hope before returning to Fairbanks. There is no pastor in this village. And the people are so hungry. The following is a report (letter) from Della Lane. (Thank you, Della).

*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Word of God, unto a perfect man, fullness of Christ."*  
Ephesians 4:11 - 13

We were very blessed to have had you folks. It was somewhat of an eye-opener. To see many people come to the services, hungry and wanting to be prayed for. Some of those attending

the services are members of other churches but find no denominational differences. Praise God! Still others came looking for answers, peace, help and healing. And I believe God used you folks to plant seeds and water and feed others. I don't believe that your visit with us was out of coincidence or just passing through, but that God wanted to refresh us with a word of encouragement as well as put a hunger within our hearts for His Word and edify the body of Christ. Thank you.

Point Hope is a unique place to live, and even if it may be in the middle of snow and ice in the winter and miles away from (city) civilization in the summer, God's presence can be felt in the midst of his people. Praise God! He had Point Hope in mind long before we knew anything about his saving grace provided through His Son, Jesus Christ. And because of this, He sent missionaries years ago to plant seeds of salvation and today has sent ministers, teachers, pastors and evangelists to come and water and feed us in these last days. We praise God for all the wonderful things He has done for us.

**WE CURRENTLY ARE WITHOUT A PASTOR, BUT BELIEVING GOD WILL PROVIDE ONE SOON** (Bold emphasis mine)

[NW]). Point Hope thanks you for your prayers and



*Reginald Swedberg for the Native Rally photograph).*

### **Minto**

Minto is a three hour drive outside of Fairbanks. There is an Episcopal Church and an Assemblies of God church in the village. The Episcopal church has a service in the morning on Sunday and the Assemblies has a service in the evening. This works very well for the village. The church body keeps the church running and they do the services themselves when they do not have guest speakers.

Donna and I have gone to Minto to minister several times this winter. All our villages hunger for the Word of God. The Word ministers and fulfills and meets the deepest needs of people. This is what I see that was happening in Minto.

When I leave Minto, Point Hope or any village we minister in, there is so much out of the Word I want to minister from that I know will meet the needs. Basically, I wish I could pastor each place we go to. But for now, I thank God for the opportunity that we have had that has made a difference in each village after we have been there.

Please pray for Minto that:

1. They will get a pastor (as well as Point Hope).
2. That they will get good seed for a well-grounded foundation.

support you have shown us through the years. With our love in Jesus' name, God bless you. Sincerely,  
Della Lane

### **Native Rally**

On December 1, KJNP radio had a Native Rally at the Presbyterian Church that was simulcast live over radio.

The guest speaker was Michael Curtis. Donna and I were asked to do the music for the evening. There was a potluck to start off the rally. Several churches and ministries participated. The evening was filled with group singing, special songs and testimonies. Michael Curtis spoke on the words of Jesus saying, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" Matthew 11:28.

Many responded to the alter call including several from the streets. We want to thank KJNP radio for the opportunity to reach out in ministries such as this. Thank you for your belief in Native ministries. (*Thank you to*

### **We Win**

During the week of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) in Anchorage we attended the taping of the television ministry WE WIN. It stands for World Evangelism With Indigenous Nations. This is a ministry that is run by an Alaskan Native named Jeannie Greene. WE WIN is a platform for ministry by Native Americans to minister the Gospel to the world. What an opportunity!

We have had the pleasure to minister twice so far and we pray that many, many souls come into the Kingdom of God through this ministry. You can find out more from their website which is [www.wewin.org](http://www.wewin.org).

Thank you to those who support our ministry. This is your ministry as well.

For financial support you may send your offerings to:

AMEN Ministries  
Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God  
1048 W. International Airport Rd. Suite 101  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518  
*Account # 1704084*

**Pastor's Corner**

Reverend Jim and Nancy Mercer are my Pastors in Kotzebue. I've asked him to share from his heart. Thank you, Pastor Jim.

Psalm 107:20, the Scripture is speaking of restoration, healing of one's destructions because of God's Word which he sent. We will never know how God can and use us until we give him the total domain of our lives. I am the new one here in Kotzebue, Alaska and ignorant of many things. Healing can come in many ways, just as there are many types of destructions. It is hard to see at times how we fit into the tapestry that God is weaving as we can only see the "course side" which is incomplete. To be blessed to see God heal relationships over time is indeed a marvelous thing, especially if in some way he has used you (known or unknown to us) to help others find their way to each other and to him. May God continue to send His Word to heal.

Pastor Jim

**From My Heart**

15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, *Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?* He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, *Feed my lambs.*

16 He saith to him again the second time, *Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?* He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest



that I love thee. He saith unto him, *Feed my sheep.* 17 He saith unto him the third time, *Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?* Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, *Lovest thou me?* And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, *Feed my sheep.*

John 21:15 - 17

We know that Peter denied Christ three times. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" three times. This is interesting.

Peter had basically given up. Dejected and disappointed in himself for having denied Jesus he had gone back to the only business he'd known before - fishing. Now after Jesus' death and resurrection they encounter him on the seashore after a dismal night of fishing.

Perhaps Peter had wanted to have that "little talk with Jesus." Perhaps he had wanted to explain to Jesus the pressure he was under that night when he failed Jesus. But he hadn't had the chance. And no one

would really understand him. Now they discovered Jesus was on the seashore and had built a fire for them and made breakfast. Perhaps now they would have that talk.

Jesus began the conversation. *"Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"* (New International Version) The Greek word for love was AGAPAO or AGAPE which was the highest form of love expressed by Christ. It was the heavenly kind of love that said "I love you regardless of how mean or cruel you are to me." It was an unconditional kind of love. It was exhibited on the cross when Jesus prayed for his accusers and said, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."* Luke 23:34.

Peter's answer was different. When he said, Yes, Lord. You know that I love you." he was using the Greek word PHILEO which means brotherly love. The same is used in the city name Philadelphia meaning City of Brotherly Love. What Peter was saying

was "We are good friends, Lord. We're good pals." It was a shallow comparison of love to what Jesus was asking. Could it be that Peter did not feel worthy of the love Jesus was expressing?

Jesus asked again, *"Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"* Again, Jesus asked him, "Do you (agapao) love me? Do you love me with an unconditional love?" Peter couldn't answer that. He could only answer the way he had done so before. "Yes, Lord. You know that I love (phileo) love you." I love you as a friend.

A third time Jesus asked, *"Simon son of John, do you love me?"* The Bible says Peter was grieved at this third question. He was hurt. Why? Jesus asked a different question this time. He asked, *"Do you (Phileo) love me?"* Do you love me as a friend? Are you good buddies?

Jesus had originally asked Peter if he could love unconditionally with an agape love. No matter what happened or what kind of circumstances Peter would go through, he would love Jesus with a heavenly love. Peter couldn't do that. Each time he gave an answer that was lower than what Jesus was asking.

When Peter wouldn't come up, Jesus came



down. He came down to Peter's level. Peter couldn't come up to the demands and perfections of heavenly requirements and so Jesus came to Him. The Bible says, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*" Romans 3:23. We can never get to heaven on our own.

But God provided a way. "*But God commendeth his (Agape) love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" Romans 5:8.

Jesus comes down to our level because we can't come to him on our own. He paid the price so we wouldn't have to.

And now we can be with him where he is. We can love with that perfect love that he's provided. I thank him for that love.

*Norman Westlake*  
