

Day Camps: Something new for strange times

At Tanalian Bible Camp, we've never seen a summer quite like the summer of 2020. Due to COVID restrictions and uncertainties, we saw many of our normal camps cancelled. While this could have led to disappointment, the full-time staff decided to seek the Lord and find out what God had for us in these uncertain times. After much prayer, we received an invite from the Sleetmute Tribal Council inviting us to come run a day camp. This is something we've never had the opportunity to do, so with excitement we ran to the drawing board, put a few logistics together and took a team out to Sleetmute.

In Sleetmute, we partnered with our teacher friends from Send North and ran a 3-day camp. We took as many games as we had room for, as many camp songs as we could fit in our heads, and as much love as we could bring. Fortunately, God had been preparing the way and we had a wonderful time connecting with village elders and parents throughout our time there.



As this day camp ended, we leaned heavily on our friends who have been pouring into these students for years by asking them to write a word of encouragement for each student. Our theme verse was Ephesians 2:10 and we know God wanted each student to feel cherished and so very special in the specific, unique ways God has created them.

Please pray these students would cling to the fact that they are special, made in God's image and loved dearly.

Our second Day Camp of the summer was held in Port Alsworth for the local students. On a normal summer, campers anticipate the arrival of many of their friends from all over Southwest Alaska where they get to spend a week together sharing memories and diving into their relationships with God. Many of these aspects remained for our Port Alsworth 3rd-8th graders except their friends arriving from different villages. As we prayed for our local students, our hearts broke for this missing aspect of camp.



As camp staff, we decided to bless these students over and beyond what we would normally do by offering extra special programming elements. We took these students across the lake to Pebble Beach (normally reserved for High School students), ran super fun skits, and took the students out on the Super Mable twice! (Normally, this happens just once a week).

It was a jam-packed week, but every moment was entirely worth it as we saw students grab onto the truth of Ephesians 2:10. They got to hear that they are cherished by their Savior Jesus Christ and that He created each of them as a masterpiece.

Engage! A ministry camp for young adults

Along with all the other changes to camp this summer, we got to have a group from Chi Alpha in Anchorage, AK come for a special week of serving together, fellowship, and encouragement. Each of these young men and women had planned and raised funds to go on a service project (most overseas) but those trips had been cancelled. We partnered with the leaders of Chi Alpha and hosted these young men and women in Port Alsworth, AK for a camp unlike any other.

Each morning, we started with a gospel sharing training where we presented different ways to share the gospel with others. As we finished this training, the group was split into teams and went to accomplish the tasks our Facilities Manager, Keenan Hermann, lined out for them.

As each day progressed, we had opportunities to encourage each of the students, spend time in prayer, and finish projects. As each night approached, we opened the camp building up for the young adults in our community as well as the Chi Alpha team for a time of worship, teaching, and fellowship. What a blessing it was to see how God was challenging each of these young men and women to take steps of faith, trusting in God's sovereignty and His provision.

High School Camp: Small but spectacular

High School camp this year was limited in numbers due to COVID and sleeping arrangements were completely different. Fortunately, we were still able to have a very special group of young men and women who desire to dig deep into their relationship with Christ come and join us at Tanalian Bible Camp. Inside activities were limited (praise God for good weather!) and meal times looked very different, but we were so thankful to get students from all over Southwest Alaska to join us this summer at High School camp.



While this camp was small, the impact we saw was tremendous. God worked in many student's hearts and at the end of the week we witnessed 3 students publicly proclaim Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior by being baptized! Oh what a blessing it is to witness and be part of the eternal work God is doing here on earth.

Teen Pursuit: Unexpected provision, teens impacted

Shortly before Teen Pursuit began, we had an entire team who had planned to come unable to come. We received this news on Friday with camp starting on Monday so immediately we went to prayer. Fortunately, God knows everything, so this wasn't a surprise to Him and He had a plan in place already.

As we reached out locally asking for help, we saw God do the impossible. People were able to get off of work for the week who thought there would be no way. Others had availability that wouldn't normally have availability. Over and over again, we saw God bring incredibly talented, selfless, qualified individuals to join us for this week of camp. Before we knew it, we had all the staff we needed to run an amazing week of camp and then all we needed were the students.

The students came for Teen Pursuit and we saw God work in incredible ways in student's hearts, setting them free from fear, stress, and anxiety as well as providing wisdom on their next steps. After seeing God provide in such amazing ways, we feel like the Israelites who crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land and made a memorial out of stones to remember what God did in a moment of uncertainty.



We pray as you look back on your summer, you would see it as we have been able to. Amidst the uncertainty, fear, stress and anxiety God showed us He had a plan all along, He still occupies the throne, and He still loves us as His children more than we could ever imagine.

God bless you and thank you for all of your prayers and love for the students of Southwest Alaska!!