



TANALIAN

Bible Camp

Winter 2016 Newsletter



The Power of Prayer

"God showed me the necessity and power of prayer while I was at camp," shares Emily, an all summer camp staff from Nebraska.

The power of prayer is made evident in every day life at summer camp. It is a foundational aspect of the ministry and volunteers are encouraged to remain in constant prayer throughout the day, relying on the Lord for strength.

The day before the campers arrived, Emily joined the TBC staff as they walked through each major location within the camp and prayed over the things that would be taking place there throughout the summer. Emily reflected, "This impacted me because there were all the little projects that needed to be completed before campers arrived the next day, yet the staff choose to spend an hour and a half in prayer first. I think this is something that will always stick with me as an example of the priority of prayer."

Jake, a team leader and speaker from Colorado, would take time to pray for each counselor and camper prayer request after morning counselor meetings. "I saw God answering prayers each day," he shares. "It would be so cool to pray for a student or leader and then see how God would move in awesome ways in their heart during the course of that day or provide divine appointments." Jake specifically prayed for one young man's heart to be softened and toward the end of the week he choose to follow Christ."

Not all prayer provides tangible results, but the practice of prayer and relying on the Lord for strength and wisdom grew

the faith of many volunteers. "When our team returned home, our hearts were set on fire to serve Jesus. He definitely gave us a renewed and refreshed view of the ways God moves and it made us excited to see more of it!" Jake shared.

Peyton, a counselor to 7th and 8th grade boys, reflects on his time, "Expect God to work in you and through you to His ends during camp. Commit to serve Jesus, expect Him to show up, and surrender the demand for Him to work in a way that you can experience. Ask to see Him work, but be willing to remain faithful even if He does it unbeknownst to you."

One of Peyton's campers was steadfastly resistant to the Gospel from the beginning of the week, being defiant and refusing to honor authority. "Yet, I was amazed to see him listen to the Bible stories we told not just dutifully, but attentively," said peyton. "They captured his attention in a totally unexpected way that I believe was led by the Spirit." Though this young camper remained a challenge the whole week, seeds of truth were planted and we trust the Lord will continue to pursue him.

The TBC staff is encouraged by the volunteers who continue to pray for their campers throughout the year. Dani, a summer counselor, has the photo of her cabin on her desk at work, which reminds her to pray for them throughout the week. "I know prayer has an impact on the lives of our camper beyond the week they are with us, and we are grateful for the team of believers who pray for this camp year round," says Mark McGee, TBC Executive Director.

Empowered Strategy

Every summer thousands of people from around the world flock to the wild waters of Bristol Bay with one purpose in mind, to catch as many sockeye salmon as possible. Not growing up around commercial fishing, I am continually fascinated by the whole process. With many friends who participate in this annual race to find what is locally known as “red gold,” I hear how each crew uses similar tools to maximize the catch: boats, buoys, nets, Xtra-Tuffs, and nerves of steel. The element that varies significantly is how the captain strategizes and puts these items to work. Most successful captains, who began as deckhands, employ strategic thinking based on experience, local conditions, and utilizing their crew to expertly fill their nets and deliver their catch. This process doesn’t begin at the first “opener” when hundreds of drifters and set-netters stretch their nets out for the first time. It starts weeks, if not months before, as the crews planned for and envisioned their holds overflowing with fish.

Ministry life bears some similarities to the commercial fishing process. Part of my role in captaining the ship of this ministry, is to take into consideration many elements as we look forward each season. From our humble beginnings as a small, regional gathering of Christ followers, the Lord has graciously grown the ministry into what it is today, 54 years later. It is vital that we observe and learn from our heritage, while eagerly looking forward to how God will lead in the coming years, until His return. This year, we are taking our strategy a step further as we are at a critical stage in growth. The last three years have been



focused on creating a stable and efficient foundation and now we have hit a tipping point of more growth that involves all aspects of the organization.

Thus, we have come to need a more involved strategic plan for the short and long-term vision of TBC. As a team of board of directors, staff, volunteers, and guests, we are working together to seek the Father’s direction and guidance for the program, finances, facilities, and outreach aspects of the entire ministry. We desire to wisely build on our Christ-centered foundation and develop focused, strategic initiatives that will empower our staff and volunteers to engage in the mission before us with confidence, and grow our vision for Godly, healthy families in Southwest Alaska and beyond. Together, we follow the greatest Captain of all, and anticipate our “holds” overflowing with the joyful celebration of changed lives who are passionate about following Jesus.

In His Grip,
Mark McGee
Executive Director



Ormun and CJ at Brooks Range Bible Camp



2016-2017 TLC Students:
Paulina, Emilyn, Ormun, BJay and Gabe



TLC Students participating in a trust exercise

554 Miles to TLC

Ormun Nay, from Anaktuvuk Pass, 500 miles north of Port Alsworth, is one of the students at the Tanalian Leadership Center (TLC) this winter. CJ and Autumn Miller, from Port Alsworth and former directors of the Brooks Range Bible Camp (BRBC), met him when he started attending camp in junior high. Nay says the light bulb came on for him when he was 15 and he desired to follow Jesus Christ. The Millers noticed his hunger for learning the Bible and as he grew older and CJ invited him to come to TLC. “One day after a camp chapel, I overheard Ormun talking with a counselor and saying he just didn’t understand the

Bible,” shared CJ. Ormun shared this is one of the reasons he came to TLC. Studying the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in eight months gives the students an in-depth view of scripture that plants truth in their minds and hearts. Ormun said he is also excited about being involved in the community. Autumn said she wrote a letter to Ormun after camp and invited him again to come to TLC and to be a part of their life in Port Alsworth.

“I appreciate having TLC as a follow-up and discipleship option for campers after they graduate,” said CJ. “I can see Ormun taking his experience home and sharing it with other students.” CJ also shared

that he is encouraged knowing students are coming to TLC and getting good community, input to their daily life and consistent, sound Bible teaching. Ormun reflected, “I see that God is important to have in my life, and I see how he brought me here and is providing for my time here. I’m excited to grow in my relationship with Him.” Ormun lives with three other TLC men and is working at the local school. He plans to attend the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and pursue a secondary education degree after the program.

Legacy of God's Love

Tanalian Bible Camp has progressed over the years from it's small, rustic beginning, but the vision and the heart remains.

"I remember working with my dad to prepare for (Spring) Conference and Teen Camp," Don Stump reflects. "We had to get the buildings ready, pick the net daily to feed fresh fish to the participants, hunt caribou ahead of time, and haul water for the March conference with the dog team. Before Teen Camp, we had to build an additional outhouse so we could have two available." Don's father, Don Stump Sr., was one of the original men who shared a vision for reaching the Bristol Bay area with the hope of Jesus Christ and started Spring Conference in Iliamna in 1963.

"I think these years were very formative for me." Don shared about his time as a youth during the early years. "I was able to shadow my dad in his leadership, view his commitment, and work alongside of him. It shaped me."



Don and Jan Stump with two of their sons in 1979

Don, and his wife Jan, returned to volunteer at Teen Camp in 1974, after it moved to Port Alsworth and began being known as Tanalian Bible Camp. Danny O'Hara, who was directing the week of camp, mentored him, and soon Don was directing camp, which had grown to two weeks with about 50 youth from surrounding villages.

"Camp was held in Bee Alsworth's shop off the original runway," describes Jan. "The mess hall was in the lower level and the meetings were held in the floor above." Camp was quite a bit more rustic in those days with white canvas army tents pitched directly on the ground, and remained so until the mid 90's when cabins were built. "I helped Barb Crapuchettes, Jacque Wilder, and Sharron O'Hara with the cooking, and we had no refrigeration or hot running water," reflects Jan.

"It was born out of a simple faith-filled desire to see the Native Alaskan people meet Jesus and grow in their new life with Him," shares Jan as she remembers the early years of camp and conference. "They (the founders) desired to get youth out of their isolated environment, bring them together with peers for fun activities and an opportunity to meet Christ." And for believers, it provided much needed encouragement and support.



Campers on Sig Field with white tent "cabins" in the background in 1979

This founding vision remains the core of the organization to this day. Additionally, the focus on God's Word remains central to the heart of the ministry. "His word is powerful and living, changing lives," explains Don. "Although results may not be immediate, over time the power and work of God is revealed. It is God's legacy, not ours. He uses all of us—generation by generation—and we are so grateful to be a part of His big story."

Recently, the Stumps became re-engaged with TBC at the 50-year anniversary event. "It is exciting to see how one week of Teen Camp has grown to a full summer program and a leadership center," Don shares. Don sees his father's passion for Native men and women to reach their own people for Christ being fulfilled through TBC and other organizations in Alaska.

The Stumps share that years ago God impressed upon them that even small regular gifts add up to a significant investment over time. "He asks us to be both faithful and generous," they share. "Imagine the ripple effect for good and for eternity if all who are or have been touched by this ministry were to pray and give regularly as they are able." The Stumps desire to continue to be faithful in supporting this exciting ministry as a Legacy Leader and to see how God can use them in the future.

Don reflects that upon knowing how this organization has flourished, his dad would probably respond with his favorite quote, "There is no limit to what God can do with a man providing he will not touch the glory."

GIVE HOPE

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Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016

Beyond Alaska

I come from the small town of Dillingham, Alaska and if you would have asked me five years ago if I would travel across seas and share the love of Jesus, you bet my answer would have been no!



Girla and her team

Since my second semester here at Multnomah University I have been involved with athletics. I played volleyball and basketball for Multnomah, but today I am the team manager. Being involved with athletics means many great opportunities come up, such as mission trips. Along with my team, I have been to a total of 7 different countries this year. In March, I had the awesome opportunity to help run basketball camps in Japan. Since there is a language barrier, the way we proclaimed Jesus was through singing. Then, during the

summer with a few teammates, I joined Kingdom Ministries and News Release Basketball camps serving the people of Italy. After Italy and some personal travel, we did camps in Germany, Belgium and Ireland. At each camp we shared personal testimonies and the gospel. We also had the opportunity to play teams in these three countries. At times we prayed after games to show what News Release Basketball is all about, but also what Multnomah basketball looks like. I would say our biggest challenge was the language barrier, but I can also say God can show Himself through sports ministry very well!

Traveling overseas always seemed impossible, and terrifying to me, which it was! But this experience was one of the best experiences I've had, and I know I will remember this for the rest of my life. God did big things, and I know I may never see or hear about the seeds planted, but I know God used my team and me for His glory.

Without the help of TBC and TLC, and many others who poured into my life, believed in me, and saw through my fear, I know this wonderful opportunity would never have happened. I can say I am truly thankful for God's timing and

placement of each event in my life. I have discovered, feared, grown, but most importantly loved, in different ways I never knew were possible and I am glad to be a part of His kingdom.



Girla and a basketball camper

When I graduate from Multnomah, I will have a bachelor degree in Educational Ministries with a Psychology Minor and last but not least, Bible/Theology! My plan right now is to return to Alaska to mentor young adults. My desire is to become part of the TLC staff as the first Native Alaskan! If not, I would like to work with young adults in a school to plan for their careers and encourage them to get outside their comfort zone.

Girla Sorensen

Alongside Campers

Many of our summer camp volunteers wonder how campers are followed-up with when they return home. While TBC staff does make village visit trips, we also rely on the partnerships formed with believers and Bible-teaching churches in the villages who pursue relationship with these youth.

One such village partner shares, "TBC offers our students a chance to interact with other believers, in a positive and God-honoring environment. It allows the students an opportunity to step away from their communities and families and just be immersed in the truths found in God's Word and lived out by other believers." Many of these partners specifically recruit youth from their village and help them get registered for camp. "When our students come back they have God's Word hidden in their heart, thanks to the Bible verses they've memorized at camp. It opens the door for some wonderful conversations as they recall the memories with me and share their experiences with other students," relays the partner.

Since these relationships extend year-round, the impact of camp is sometimes a catalyst for deeper growth. This partner shares, "One of the kids had been attending my Bible club for many years and has attended TBC for several years, but had never publicly made a profession of faith. I believe that through all these experiences their heart was ready to make that decision. This book asked specifically if the reader would like to make that proclamation of faith and this student said, "YES" and prayed with the group, confessing Jesus as Lord. It was a memorable moment that I don't think would have been possible without the culmination of his experiences through TBC, God's work in this student's heart, and my willingness share the Good News with this young student."

TBC's mission is to build up the body of Christ in remote Alaska, and through stories such as this, we see how a week of camp can be a stepping stone in a relationship with Jesus, encouraged by counselors at camp, and partnerships in the village.

GIVE TODAY

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