

# the hope

Gabby's warm smile is welcoming as we discuss her current experience at the Tanalian Leadership Center. Her face lights up at the chance to talk about the last seven weeks. ***"This program is going to change my life in many amazing ways. It will make me see clearly what path to take, and it's definitely the Lord's path!"*** she shares. She grew up in New Stuyahok, Alaska which has a population of 600. It's one of the bigger villages in Southwest Alaska but remains just as isolated, accessible only by airplane.

## **How is being at TLC different than your life in New Stuyahok?**

*"Wow, it is way different! I thought my people in New Stuyahok were nice and were big followers in the Lord's path but being here at TLC I realize that this community is so kind spirited, friendly, and big believers in the Lord. I am blessed to have a job also, because while living in New Stuyahok there are rarely job openings. Before I came, I wasn't working, I was just at home helping my older sister with her children."*

This spring, Gabby graduated at the top of her class and was preparing to go to college, but decided to take a year off. Over the summer, she worked in a fish cannery and became friends with Crystal, who was registered to come to TLC. In September, Gabby got a call from Crystal who encouraged her to join her at TLC. This was about a week before the program began. *"I was shocked, it all happened so quickly. I talked to Sarah Wardell about the program and then a few days later was on a plane!"* Gabby explains.

## **What is your favorite part of TLC?**

*"My favorite part about TLC is going to Bible class and to church on Sundays. It's what I look forward to everyday. I want my heart to grow more in the Lord, I want to be able to remember everything about the Bible so in the future I can teach my niece and nephews about the One true love who is the Lord Jesus Christ."*

## **What has being at TLC meant to you?**

*"It means a lot to me. I want to learn more about the Lord and what great things He has planned for me. I want to grow more in Him. I never really felt I had hope about life until I came and attended TLC. The staff members and my fellow classmates are a blessing, they have been so kind and welcoming it makes me feel as if I am right at*

*home. I am excited to see myself become encouraged by God's words and presence and to know that I belong somewhere in life.*

**My favorite Bible verse is, "Be strong and courageous, never be afraid or discouraged because of them, for the Lord your God is with you, He will never leave you nor forsake you." –Deuteronomy 31:6**

*To me this means to never be afraid of anything or anyone because the Lord my God will always be with me for He is what makes me strong when I believe in Him."*

## **How is learning the Bible changing your life?**

*"The Bible is changing my life for the better. I never really understood who God was until I started reading the Bible. I am not going to lie, this is actually my first time ever getting to read it. I mean I've always wanted to read the Bible I just didn't put my time and effort into doing it. I felt that if I read it, the people around me would make me feel like the odd one out. I am so thankful I got the opportunity to attend TLC, I know after this program is over, it's going to change my life in many amazing ways. It will make me see clearly on what path to take, and it's definitely the Lord's path!"*

After TLC, Gabby plans to pursue a degree in Geological Science at the University of Alaska.

*"I believe that God brought me here to grow more like Christ. I am just excited to be able to see the great things He's doing in my life."*

Gabby lives with Megan, the female student mentor and the other two TLC women, Crystal and Georgina. The girls have become like sisters to each other and are excited to be on this journey together.



# Many Thanks

To the many hands  
To the many businesses  
Who make  
**Camp Possible**



Alethia Church  
Anchorage Grace Church  
Arctic Barnabas Ministries  
Blythefield Hills Baptist Church  
Calvary Chapel Charlotte  
Calvary Chapel Vail Valley  
Corban College  
Dena'ina Air Taxi  
Dillingham Moravian Church  
Edward's Road Baptist Church  
FLAPS  
First Baptist Church Loganville  
Gowensville Baptist Church  
Hawley Alliance Church  
Hilltop Community Fellowship  
Iliamna Baptist Church  
Immanuel Baptist Church  
Lake and Peninsula Airlines  
Lake Clark Air  
Lake Clark Bible Church  
Lazy Mountain Bible Church  
Living Hope Church  
Lynden Transport  
Maranatha Baptist Church  
MARC  
Naknek Community Fellowship  
Northpoint Church Corona  
NRA Foundation  
Samaritan's Purse  
SEND North  
Soldotna Bible Chapel  
Tyndale University  
Victory Bible Camp  
Village Bible Church

**250+**

Volunteers blessed  
Tanalian this summer!  
Thank you for your love  
and support.

## Dear Friends of Tanalian Bible Camp,

We praise God for the faithfulness of our many friends and supporters who share our vision to love and glorify God among a people longing to know Him. May the Lord of heaven and earth shower you with His grace and mercy!

For the Board and staff of Tanalian Bible Camp this was a tremendous year of growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Perhaps more than any year in the history of camp we saw Jesus Christ lifted up in honor through this camp season. How was that possible? Adversity. We could only expect that with large numbers of young people giving their lives to Christ, we would experience great spiritual attack from the enemy who sought to discourage and buffet our staff with various trials and difficulties. But God's grace faithfully supplied our need and He proved the power of Christ is made perfect in our weakness. And so, as Scripture says, **"I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."** 2 Cor. 12:9 That He may be lifted up to the highest place.

The Board of Tanalian Bible Camp worked intensively with staff this past year to refocus on our ministry mission and vision. We took actions toward improving our response to the rapidly changing ministry needs in our focus area of Southwest Alaska. We committed to be more intentional about building up the body of Christ in rural Alaska, and training Native young adults to be Godly leaders of spiritually healthy families and communities in order that we may truly bring the hope of freedom in Christ to Southwest Alaska.

Within the TLC program, this is accomplished through much prayer; creating an environment where our students feel safe, accepted and loved; teaching and studying the Bible; learning vocational and life skills applicable to rural Alaska; and strong mentor relationships between students and staff. We see TLC graduates pursuing the Lord in their jobs and as they attend college. Many returned this summer to serve at summer camp and continue to give testimony to the Lord's faithfulness in their life. A former student, currently at bible college, is interested in leading a team to come and serve at summer camp.

As of August 1, 2014, James and Sharon Walsh joined the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. We thank God for their many years of service at TBC and for this new ministry opportunity. Mark McGee continues to serve as the interim Executive Director. We are grateful God has blessed Tanalian with quality staff, volunteers, financial support and key partners who pour into the lives of our campers once they return home. Many lives are seeing transformational change in Southwest Alaska because of the hope in Christ shared during camp and beyond. We give God the glory for His work.

In conclusion, I ask that you remember Tanalian Bible Camp in prayer. I cannot stress enough the importance of prayer in this ministry. Our plans and work have to be inspired by God so that we will build only on what God has planned for us to do (Eph. 2:10). So please pray, and then pray some more! This process will ensure that our vision for the future of Southwest Alaska will become reality, by the grace of God.

For this God is our God forever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end. Ps. 48:14

- Chuck Kopp  
Board Chairman



# the Heart of Camp

We give God the GLORY for being the One who transforms a life!

We prayed for God to do BIG things at camp this year. Beyond what we could physically do or dream. We asked God to use Tanalian to spread the light and truth of the gospel in the dark areas of Southwest Alaska. He answered!

God has plans bigger than we do. A record number of campers attended summer camp this year at 388, more than 65 from the previous summer. We give God the glory as it was not by our work, but His alone that brought these campers. A large number of new campers came from Sand Point and New Stuyahok, villages from where kids do not typically come.

388  
Campers

Each evening campers learned about the redemption offered through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

*"Why would Jesus love me this much? No one in my family wants me. Why would he want me?"* One camper shared with his counselor during cabin time. Brokenness healed by the everlasting love of Jesus Christ is why we do summer camp. We have no plans for numbers, no goal reached makes ministry a success. Hearts saved, grace experienced, and lives forever changed by Jesus Christ is our goal.

- Mark McGee  
Executive Director

did you know that ?



**TANALIAN**  
Leadership Center

## More Villages Reached

Eight students arrived October 6th to participate in this year's TLC program. Students are from Dillingham, Kipnuk, Koliganek, Manokotak, New Stuyahok, Nondalton and Port Alsworth. These students will experience the life changing power of God's Word.

## Join the Team

Tanalian is seeking qualified individuals who have a heart to serve the people of Southwest Alaska to fill the roles of Executive Director and Business Director. Each full-time position is located in Port Alsworth and would work alongside the current team.

### SEASONAL VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Summer Camp Programming Director
- Kitchen Coordinator Assistant
- Communications & Media Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant
- Facilities & Maintenance Assistant
- Work Crew Team Mentors

Interested individuals should contact Mark McGee at 907-444-5112.

## Welcome Keenan

Keenan Herrmann is a former camper who has joined the Tanalian team to work in the area of facility maintenance with the plan of becoming the full-time Facilities Director within a year.

I was born and raised in Dillingham, Alaska. After I turned 18, I worked construction across Southwest, AK to pay for aircraft mechanics school. I was home schooled through high school, and attended the School of Missionary Aviation Technology for my aircraft mechanic license.

Why Alaska and TBC? The full answer to this question is long and complicated, but the short of it is that my heart aches when I see the cycle of death and destruction that is being perpetuated and accelerated in the towns and villages of Southwest Alaska. To me the statistics of suicide, rape, and domestic violence represent faces of those I call or once called friend. I long to see 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 happen here. I have seen lives changed through the work of TBC. I am one of those lives. If it were not for TBC, I probably would not even be following the Lord today, much less going into missions. This is a way that I can use the talents that God has given me to reach out to my homeland.

- Keenan Herrmann



# Please mom... Can I go to Tanalian Bible Camp?

by Cristine Mack of Sand Point



It's been a few years since we've been able to send campers from Sand Point. We were so excited and encouraged when the opportunity to attend was opened up through the generous provision of MARC. We live almost 3 hours in flight time away from camp and travel is the greatest expense for every camper.



None of the elementary kids had a clue about Tanalian Bible Camp.

Some of the parents did though from when they attended and they wanted their kids to have the same chance. Here are two stories of how God worked in Sand Point this year.

Our very last seat on the plane was being saved for a boy who wanted to go. But his mom would not give in to his requests. The boy told me his story at the basketball court and we stopped and prayed asking God to make a way for him to go. Then his dad came in from fishing. He heard the request and came right over to my house to ask if his son could still go for free? They had no money at the time. When

he heard that there was a scholarship for his son he was so excited to tell his boy yes. Why? Because he remembered how much church meant to him as a young boy.

Another mom called about a scholarship and we referred her to TBC. This family had been going through some very difficult times. She wanted to give the scholarship to camp as her daughter's birthday gift. The kids were living with grandma at the time and things were not well in the home. I remember picking up a sad young girl from grandma's and putting her on the plane. I also remember taking her home from the plane as she was all smiles who could not wait to get out of the car and tell Grandma and sisters all about camp.

Thank you for your continued ministry and diligence in serving God and the need of kids and their families. Just last night while at school for a High school girls volley ball game I saw one of our young summer campers who was wearing his TBC t-shirt. As I complimented him on a good choice of shirt he looked up in a huge smile said, "Yes I went and I'm going again next summer! I hope!"

# Camp Possible

God is so important in our lives and we want to give opportunities to our children to learn about God. During their time at camp, they get to have friends that also praise God and love Him. I look forward to a scholarship every year for my children and hope that many other children receive one as well. I believe without the scholarship program there would not be as



many children with the Love of God and Faith in their lives in Alaska. Each year, my two boys look forward to seeing the counselors, I hear about them all year long. I hear how they enjoyed the company, time and encouragement. My boys love the chapel sessions with other children. They come home with new songs, indoor activities they played as a group or with cabin friends. Thank you for helping make camp possible for my boys!

- Kristine Tinker  
Camper Mom

# Help Bring Redemption to Alaska

Tanalian desires to continue expanding our reach in Southwest Alaska. Please consider investing in the vision by becoming a monthly or annual partner, enabling us to fulfill the vision of providing hope to the rural villages we serve. With God's help and direction, and your support, we can continue to provide hope, love, discipleship and leadership.

## General Fund

Assist with operational needs to run the Summer Camp and the Leadership Center programs. This year we have needs for upgrading summer camp programming equipment.

## TBC Scholarship

\$450 - 1 Youth to Camp

Enable a camper to connect with friends, hear the gospel truth and be filled with love and hope at Tanalian this summer.

## TLC Scholarship

\$3,200 - Annual Student Tuition

Tuition covers the basic living expenses.

## Learn More

[www.tanalianbiblecamp.org](http://www.tanalianbiblecamp.org)

[www.tanalianleadershipcenter.org](http://www.tanalianleadershipcenter.org)

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