

Late Winter 2010

ALASKA



Standing in the Gap Ministries

A Ministry of the Black family, missionary appointees to the remote native villages of Alaska.

"And I sought for a man..."



Derek, Laura, and Elias Black

FELLOW GAP STANDERS IN ALASKA

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." - Ezekiel 22:30

MINISTRY UPDATE

Greetings once again to everyone! We trust God blessed you with a great start to this new year. As I write this, the snow is gently falling outside, Laura is getting Elias dressed for the day, and Elias is gearing up for another fun day of house exploration!

The past two months have flown by as we have been busy planning our upcoming ministry schedule. There were also some important decisions facing us that required our attention.

We want to thank God for recently providing two additional church partnerships in Alaska! Thank you to all who diligently pray for the right churches to partner with us in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout Alaska! Our support level is nearing the halfway mark (currently around 45%)!

While deputation meetings seem slow to book, God is faithfully giving us the right contacts. The next two months will be a very busy time for us, but we are excited! March has us heading to Hawaii for at least 5 meetings! For a while I had joked about missionaries doing deputation in Hawaii. Well, God prompted me to call some churches on the islands. Laura and I agreed that if God gave us 4 meetings, we would book the trip (He provided 5). Hawaii is definitely off the regular missionary travel path. Since they are passionate about reaching the indigenous people of Hawaii, we pray God will give them a passion to help reach the Alaskan natives. God's provision for the trip is very evident (from free mileage airfare to a \$11/day car rental).

Upon our return from Hawaii, we get a 1 week break over Easter before heading out to the west coast. God connected us up with some

great churches throughout Oregon, Washington, and Montana during this 4 week period. Early May then brings us back home for my sister's wedding!

Needless to say, we are going to be very busy, but we're very excited for what God has given us! Please continue praying!

Also, if you have not yet visited our newly designed website, stop by sometime (www.thegapstander.com). Stay tuned via our website, Facebook, and Twitter for updates along the way!



JUST A THOUGHT

A PERSPECTIVE ON SOVEREIGNTY

Lately my mind has focused on God's sovereignty amidst life's trials. In the coming months I will be diving into a study of the subject, working on what I hope will be a several weeklong series. God's providence is all throughout Scripture; OT and NT narrative, Romans 8, Romans 11, James 1, and Revelation 4-5 to name a few. When we really

wrap our small brains around God's majestic sovereignty, it results in such comfort and rock solid faith! If we all really meditated on God's sovereign reign as Scripture teaches, we would view every aspect of life differently. Every single rudimentary task, every annoyance, and every tragedy serves God's sovereign purpose of making us more like Jesus. Wow! We don't just have to put up with life's difficulties, we get to grow through them! Just a thought! ([More to come on our blog.](#))

Prayer Corner

- Safety & acceptance in travels
- Perseverance in deputation
- Additional meetings for summer months
- Wisdom in some upcoming decisions

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