

Alaska Correctional Ministries

To Set the Captives Free

February 2024

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Have you given much thought to why it is important to attend Church?

Have you ever been tempted on a Sunday morning to turn the alarm off and go back to sleep instead of getting up and going to Church? Have you ever justified not going to Church by saying that on that hike you took yesterday you were communing with God, so you don't have to be at Church today? Why is it important to be in Church? Can't you just worship God in your daily walks amidst His beautiful creation? Can't you just watch a sermon on TV or listen to one on the radio?

First and foremost, we are commanded in Hebrews 10:25 to **"[not forsake] the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."**

In this verse, and the one preceding it, we see an answer to our question ... we are

to **"spur one another on toward love and good deeds"**. If we are not in the habit of spending time with fellow Christians, getting to know them and becoming a part of each other's lives, then how are we to know when to celebrate their accomplishments, or when they need encouragement, or a shoulder to lean on. **In Galatians 6:2 we are told to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."**

In 1Peter 5:8 we are told to **"be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."** That's rather sobering! (yes, the pun is intended.) I so love the passage in Luke 22:31-34 where Jesus foretells Peter's denial. **Jesus tells him that "satan demands to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."**

Daily, Jesus withdrew from his followers and spent time alone in prayer to and worship of God.

So, yes, worship God when you walk or hike in His great creation, spend personal time in His Word, and listen, with a discerning ear, to messages on the radio and Christian TV.

But remember ... these things are **NOT** a substitute for assembling as frequently as the Church doors are open with your Christian family to Praise God in community, learn together all that God has revealed, help each other to understand God's love and grace; and celebrate each other's successes, and help each other bear their burdens. **We are made for relationships: relationship with the Triune God, and relationship with our fellow man. We are stronger together!**



Transformational Living Communities (TLC):

Through God's great grace and providence, both TLC programs are thriving. Not to say that the participants are always model citizens, but as a group they have far fewer and far less severe problems than those in the general population.

Why is this? One of the reasons why this

is the case, is because they spend all of their time in community. They worship God together, they study His Word together, they help each other understand God's Word. They are encouraged to have a positive, caring, helpful attitude every day. With an appropriate, positive, and caring approach they admonish one another when they see someone going astray. When a brother or sister is dealing with the loss of a loved one, they sit with each other, pray with and over each other ... they help carry that burden ... they let each other know they are not alone.

As they help each other individually grow in their relationship with our Lord, they all grow stronger. The Chaplains watch in awe at the tremendous transformational power of God's mighty hand on their lives.

With God and each other, they begin the often difficult and challenging process to confront themselves, their past decisions, choices, and actions that culminated in their arrest.

With the therapeutic counseling and other classes they study, they learn how to apply what they learn and to think through the challenges of daily life to consider consequences of choice A over choice B, and to make better decisions. In doing so, they become productive, contributing members of their communities when they are released.



On January 21st, **ACM was blessed to be invited to join the congregation at The Crossing @ Birchwood in Chugiak for their 2024 Missions Dinner hosted by the Church family.**

We were pleased to meet and interact with the congregation between services once again this year!

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry this past decade!

please reach out to our Office Manager, Karen, at 907-339-0432 and she will help facilitate the scheduling.



Taking the Show on the Road:

Chaplain Rudy would be pleased to come speak with your congregation and share about the ministries of ACM. Chaplain Rudy often brings graduates from our programs with him to share their testimonies. They speak of how your generosity through this ministry has been instrumental in their growth in their relationship with our Lord and Savior and how their lives have been forever changed!

If you would like Chaplain Rudy to visit your congregation or community group,



We wish to say a special **Thank You to Mountain City Church for their recent, very generous donation.** Mountain City Church is another Church that has partnered with ACM for so many years!

Thank you for all the ways you come alongside us; through your recovery programs, supporting our fundraising efforts, pastoring and teaching inside the prisons as well as with our clients in the re-entry homes.

We are truly grateful for you!

Fairbanks Correctional Center:

Chaplain Rocky MacDonald at Fairbanks Correctional Center recently shared his excitement at what is happening in the faith community there inside.

Many inmates are requesting copies of Strong's Concordance so that they might dig deeper into God's Word. They are so eager and thirsty for His Word!

In their excitement they are sharing God with others ... they are making things happen with their own testimonies ...

Thank You, God!



Prayers & Needs:

1. Prayer – Intercessory, continuous, fervent, intentional...never ceasing to storm heaven!
2. Media Volunteer – loves to play with the computer and rebuild FB, Web Site, Twitter etc.
3. Finances and/or almost new equipment/supplies for new PCC Faith House.
4. Part Time Cold Call ACM Representative....Call Karen – Office Manager at 907-339-0432.

From the Director:

This month we celebrate President's Day. Our great nation was founded on God's principles. Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

Please join us in prayer for the men and women of our government; from the President down to the lowest levels in Federal, State and Local government.

As always, thank you so very much for your prayers, volunteer efforts and financial support of this Ministry!

May God Bless You Abundantly!

RJ Bosley

Executive Director



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