

# ROAD-REPORT

The following articles were written by home school students from across the United States, traveling with **ACTION Impact Missions' Alaska Road-School Mission Trip - Summer 2005**

## You Have to Start If You Want to Finish

If you want to do something to the best of your ability you need to prepare for it. The **ACTION Impact Missions Team (AIM Team)** for the Alaska 2005 Missions Trip wanted to perform to the best of their abilities. For that reason, they worked diligently and efficiently for thirteen hours before taking off for their destination: Alaska.

Their training included a program entitled "Excellence University," which included five Bible studies, focusing on the topics of speech, life, love, faith and purity. Full of visual examples and real-life experiences from biblical and modern perspectives. In order to make themselves professionals in the various areas of the Bible studies, the students were challenged to study and memorize various parts of the student handbook that would be using to teach the classes. These inspiring Bible studies not only challenged and encouraged the students, but also the professors as well.

Most of the training time included learning the presentation pieces that would be used for the next three weeks in Alaska. After learning basic mime technique, the team pulled together into choreographed mime sketches where they present powerful gospel messages to Christian and instrumental music. Though their time was limited, much was accomplished.

The biggest challenge that the team was forced to overcome was the absence of one of the teammates during the initial three-day training. Due to various scheduling difficulties, one young lady met the team in Alaska, so the team had to learn flexibility and how to adapt.

Though training did not last as long as the AIM Team would have liked, it was still successful. On June 6, 2005, the Alaska Mission Trip Team was ready to make a difference in Alaska!

- Danny Paylor, age 14  
San Diego, CA

## An Alaska Night Light

As the AIM Team pulled into Homer, Alaska, they were surprised to see the sun standing high in the sky. "8:30? Are you sure it is 8:30?" With the sun still at high noon in the sky it was hard to fathom that the hours had ascended to 8:30 PM. It would certainly take some getting used to! The benefit of the bright sky was the ability to take in the amazing scenery that surrounds Homer. Looking one direction gave you a panoramic view of the picturesque snowcapped mountains and peaking glaciers, while a glance in the other brought your attention to the overwhelming slope of cascading evergreens. God's creation opened the eyes of the AIM Team as they marveled at the beauty surrounding them.

The smiles were big and the friendships were immediate as the AIM Team welcomed the young people attending their first workshop in Homer, AK. Approximately 25 students were trained in Creative Evangelism and Character Excellence by the AIM Team over a three-day period as they prepared for upcoming evangelism opportunities.

The hours of motivating and training paid off as the students presented their newly learned pieces at the "Day in the Son," an evangelistic, community outreach hosted by a nearby church in Homer. The young people had an opportunity to serve God on stage, through presentations, and off stage, through service. The day was a huge success. To God be the glory!

Though the work was hard, the AIM Team had opportunities for fun and learning. They jumped into the culture as they spent time exploring the "Spit," a small peninsula that shoots out of the small town of Homer, the bottom tip of the Kenai Peninsula. They also learned more about the ethnicity of Alaska and the native villages by visiting the Visitors Center. And just as any other visitor would do, they visited souvenir shops to collect trinkets to share with their families at home.

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### Alaska Fact

*Alaska Summer Solstice*

**Length:** 35 Days

**Average Sunrise:**  
4:30 AM

**Average Sunset:**  
11:47 PM

were teaching but also for themselves. They learned the importance of modeling excellence in speech, life, love, faith and purity as they worked with young people of all different ages and learning abilities. It amazed the AIM Team to watch as God moved and motivated the youth of Homer, AK to step out into their community and stand firm on their faith.

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden..."*  
Matthew 5:14

As they witnessed the sun sitting in the sky nearly all day and night, the AIM Team was challenged to shine!

*"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*  
Matthew 5:17

- Kala Cooper, age 16  
San Diego, CA

## The Fervent Prayer of the Righteous

Be careful what you pray for because it might really come true! The AIM Team prayed that God would strengthen their weaknesses and use them for His glory. They got what they prayed for but it took some stretching and molding first.

Kenai was an amazing example of what modeling excellence is really all about. The AIM Team saw how important it is to meet the individual needs of each person they come in contact with. They learned how to do this task with a loving and Christ-like manner and witnessed firsthand the difference that they can make as a team of servants.

When the AIM Team started the workshop only about five youth were present. By the end the number had jumped to fifteen but this was only the beginning. Most of the young people were excited to be there and learn, but a few were less than enthusiastic and proved to be

somewhat of a challenge. The continuous grumbings and contrary natures of those who did not want to be there made the task of teaching them extremely difficult. Not only that but this uncooperative spirit also caused the other youths to become distracted and impatient. This could have ended in a very perturbed AIM Team and an unsuccessful workshop but the AIM Team took on all of the challenges thrown at them head on. By the end of the three days of training the pupils had been transformed. Their skills had been drastically improved and their attitudes had turned 180 degrees. It was staggering to see the difference that a little bit of patience (longsuffering), encouragement, and perseverance can make. You could tell that the Kenai youth were impacted for the better and inspired to keep their focus on God.

Through taking on leadership roles and observing each other each, the AIM Team members learned an important lesson in patience, encouragement, and self control. Kenai was a testimony of the fact that all things are possible with God! To God be the glory!

- Emily Brooks, age 16  
Fillmore, CA

## Service with a Smile

The bald eagle swoops down on the dock to catch a tasty meal of halibut. Going in to a sharp dive he readies his talons to grab the fish. A scrap is thrown and the seagulls scatter as the "Alaskan King of the skies" comes to get

food to feed his aerie. As he comes up again, out of the corner of his eye. Ten people all clad in green with blazing - yellow crosses on their backs walk up. "Just don't steal my fish," he thinks as he flies away.

Welcome to Seldovia! A small town with a population of merely 300. Famous for it's fishing and water sports (i.e., kayaking, canoeing, and water skiing), and wildlife it was one of the Russian villages established in AK. The Seldovia Bible Chapel was

### Alaska Fact

Seldovia was the first and largest town settled in Alaska until the great earthquake of 1964 leveled it. It can only be reached by boat or plane.

constructed in 1945 at a beautiful location over-looking the Cook Inlet. That night the *AIM* Team had a presentation in the church for the community and everyone loved it! To God be the glory! Later they saw some of the most amazing houses they had ever seen. Built over a river, they were set on posts that were built into the river. You could literally drop a line from your porch and catch salmon.

The director of the *AIM* Team had one more surprise in store for them. After the scenic walk through the small town, the team took a deeper look into the Inlet that harbors Seldovia in a skiff belonging to a gentleman from the town. The team had the opportunity to witness eagle nests, amazing scenery and a lot of jellyfish! The jellyfish ranged in size from 3" to 18" and in some parts were so thick it was as if you were riding through a sea of pure jellyfish.

**ALASKAN WILDLIFE**

- BEARS
- \*EAGLES
- \*JELLYFISH
- \*MOOSE
- \*OTTERS
- WHALES

*\* Witnessed by the AIM Team*

Seldovia is an astonishing place to behold! Without even realizing it you can soak in vast amounts of God's beauty that saturate His creation. The *AIM* Team learned an amazing lesson in the little town of Seldovia: Sometimes ministry has great rewards!

- Zack Taylor, age 14  
San Diego, CA

**Mount with Wings Like Eagles**

It was a sunny day, the water clear and the scenery amazing. As the *AIM* Team soaked in all the wonder they were reminded of their destination, Port Graham.

As the team made their way to Port Graham, they prayed that the Lord would open the doors for

**Alaska Fact**  
Alaska's primary religion is Russian Orthodox.

ministry in the quaint Eskimo village. Problems with the location they were supposed to present at that evening arose almost immediately after the *AIM* Team and Homer ministry team arrived. After a wait of four hours, there was still no word from the village counsel as to whether or not a presentation would be allowed. As discouragement peaked, the winds of spiritual attack were about to change directions. Looking onto the beach, a majestic eagle had just taken hold of its prey and alighted into the air, soaring gracefully on the wind. Isaiah 40:31 captivated their thoughts and restored their hope. Only moments later did they find out that the Lord had opened the doors for a presentation that evening in the gym of the villages high school. As the time drew near for the

presentation, more people than expected gathered to watch. After the 1 hour display of the gospel, the team quickly gathered props, music and other belongings to clear the gym as requested earlier. The pastor approached the team with a rather urgent and surprising request, would the team be willing to present their first two pieces again for come individuals who had arrived late? Enthusiastically the *AIM* Team presented, praying that lives might be touched. It was only after the presentation that the team found out that their small audience happened to be very influential in their community. With so much spiritual warfare taking place, this act was an immense encouragement to the Evangelical pastor in Port Graham.

**Alaska Fact**

Alaska wasn't established as a state until 1959.

Where God leads, He will provide. This was the amazing lesson learned by the *AIM* Team in Port Graham, AK.

- Ryan Manglicmot, age 16  
San Diego, CA

**"Duck. Duck. Moose!"**

"Duck. Duck. Moose!" The child jumps up and puts his hands on his head like moose antlers and chases the one who tagged him. The "moose" is running hard, and reaching out to tag the person he is chasing but is just too late. Now it is his turn to tag...

Duck, duck, moose is just one of the many activities the *AIM* Team did at the Vacation Bible School they held in Chistochina, a small native village in Alaska. The *AIM* Team led 20 young people in creative Bible lessons, which the young people responded to very positively. On June 21, 2005 the angels rejoiced as 6 of the children attending accepted Jesus as the Saviour! The oldest of these was a young boy who had grown up hearing about God and Jesus, yet never felt compelled by the story until now. Not having any spare Bibles to give to this boy, a young man from the *AIM* Team was faithful to respond to God's call and offer up his Bible. The *AIM* Team learned to true meaning of leading by example as they served, played, lead, followed and loved the children of Chistochina. From silly games to heartfelt Bible studies the *AIM* Team established themselves in the small village, leaving a legacy of love in the hearts of many young people. The most amazing thing about Chistochina was the change in the hearts of the young people and the opportunity the *AIM* Team had to witness it.

- Ben Fraser, age 14  
San Diego, CA

**Are You Available to Go?**

Are you ready to go? The *AIM* Team was. They left family, friends and

home, and flew outside of their comfort zones to minister in Alaska. Though they were scheduled to minister in Alaska, their ministry started in San Diego when their flight was delayed causing them to arrive 13 hours later than scheduled. The *AIM* Team then experienced long car rides, mosquito-infested villages, freezing climates, long days, sleepless nights, and sickness, all for the glory of spreading the good Word!

**Alaska Fact**

Fresh Alaska halibut is awesome!

The question remains...are you ready to go? Many people will tell themselves that they can't go. They have a home, a family, a job, etc. The *AIM* Team, though young, witnessed the amazing example of a couple who chose to leave the comforts of their home behind to travel to Alaska and serve God and the *AIM* Team by driving, cooking, and chaperoning. Now here is the great news... you don't have to leave your home to go to Alaska or anywhere else in the world to serve God. He has given you a mission field right where you are. Matthew 28:19 says, "Go into all the world (which is right where you are, unless God calls you elsewhere) and make disciples. I want to encourage you to go. It won't be easy, just like the *AIM* Team discovered, but God promises to use you. But it is up to you to make yourself available to God and GO!

- George Burr, age 15  
High Desert, CA

**ACTION's Alaska Mission Trip Members**

**George Burr**, age 15  
High Desert, CA

**Emily Brooks**, age 16  
Fillmore, CA

**Kala Cooper**, age 16  
San Diego, CA

**Ben Fraser**, age 14  
San Diego, CA

**Ryan Manglicmot**, age 15  
San Diego, CA

**Danny Paylor**, age 14  
San Diego, CA

**Chaperones**  
**Stuart and Jessie Hughes**  
San Diego, CA

**Drivers**  
**Kevin and Cheryl Cooper**  
San Diego, CA

**Director**  
**Jennifer Stafford**  
Branson, MO

**THANK YOU!**

For reading *AIM's* Road-Report!  
If you would like to learn more about this exciting ministry

**OR**

If you would like to bring this *ACTION*-packed ministry to your area

**OR**

If you would like to travel with this life-changing ministry

**OR**

If you would like to support this powerful ministry as it continues to go to the frontlines

**THEN...**

**CONTACT US!**

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