

Presbytery Report February 2014

As I enter my third summer as the Director of Bingle Camp, I reflect back on a wonderful summer in 2013. We saw many new campers attend Bingle, as well as many returning campers. These return campers included our group from Savoonga which has been coming for many years. We were blessed with an amazing staff and we hope to retain many of those staff members for next summer. In 2012 we had 131 campers and in 2013 that number increased to 171 campers. We are growing and gaining momentum for the kingdom of God.

As Bingle Camp embarks on 61 years of ministry, I am pleased to share with you that this ministry continues to share the Gospel with children ages 6 – 18. Camp continues to offer a place of retreat to children and youth, some of whom are dealing with divorce, dysfunctional home life, depression, suicide pornography and a few that are just trying to find their way in life. What a privilege it is to share Christ's Love with children from all walks of life!

As we continue to move forward, we are looking at expanding the ministry. Specifically, we are looking at opportunities to bring in those from Anchorage and the Mat-Su valley as well as securing vital funds to bring in many more youth from various villages. Financial funding seems to be the issue with bringing more youth in from the villages, we just do not have the funds to help them with transportation. While this continues to be an issue we are exploring ideas to bring additional funding to camp. We also have started to connect youth and children to local churches and ministries with programs in place so that these young people can grow their relationship with Jesus.

Our ADA project has plans drawn up and we could potentially move forward on it. Although after having our camp buildings looked at we have other concerns. Many of our Cabins are very old and were not built on cement pads and because of this the bottom logs are starting to show some wear. We are trying to find funding to have these buildings lifted and padded correctly underneath. We also have some flooring issues in our lodge and chapel which we are planning on fixing this spring.

Bingle continues to be a light to kids and youth in the interior. We are constantly reaching out to churches in the interior to let them know of the opportunities Bingle has for their youth as well as their adults through the use of the Knox Retreat Center.

Our theme for this summer at camp is Make A Splash. Please pray for our board, our staff, and myself as Executive Director as we try to make a splash for God in Alaska. Please pray for guidance towards the right funds to fix up the camp and for scholarships as we want to bring any and all kids and youth to camp regardless of their financial situation. May God Bless each of you and we hope to see you at Bingle Camp this summer.

Peace to Each of You

Matt Miner
Director of Bingle Camp Ministries