

DRINKING FROM THE FIREHOSE

September 1-October 10

Firstly, I want to thank all of you for all the different ways you have supported me in this mission God has sent us on. Due, in part, to your prayers, monetary gifts and extended love, I have been blessed to work here in Alaska and to grow deeper and stronger in my faith. I hope your walk, as well, continues to deepen and you know God better each day.

There is much to talk about from this last month, beginning with the Youth Retreat. We started the week off by meeting at the Valley congregation, the North Anchorage campers and staff met those from Wasilla here, and we prayed together then went to Midnight Sun Bible Camp for the last time this year. I and a man from Anchorage cocounselled a cabin of about eight young men, and it was a great time! During the week, we played sport games, went fishing, played cards and shared meals together. It was a great time and such a blessing. We heard biblical lessons about "mountain top experiences" and how to handle coming

down from those mountains. Using examples like Moses and Elijah, the teacher used prepares us for the inevitable times when we will come off the mountain and experience hardships.

After the Retreat, we were instructed to come up with several ministries of our own to start. The requirements for these were that the ministries must have the ability to be continued by other Christians and our schedule must add up to about eight hours of ministry a day, six days out of the week. We came together and talked about homeless ministries, small groups, a campus ministry and various personal activities.



This is a picture of my roommate, David, and I at the University of Alaska at Anchorage doing our ministry called "What's Your Story". We and two other teammates go to the campus every Thursday for several hours, splitting into groups of two and each having a sign

that asks "What's Your Story". We ask this, because people are often left without someone to voice hurt to. So we offer listening ears. Most people approach us and are curious about our sign and what we are doing. It's a great way to start conversation. Because of this ministry we have met several very interesting and kind individuals.

We have also gotten to spend a lot of time with different members of the congregation. We've had



dinner with two families, and both times it was a blessing. Above is a picture taken at a lake near where one of these families lives. Doesn't it make you marvel at God's creation?

Finally, we have spent a couple of weekends at Seward, Alaska helping them and encouraging them. I preached on one of these occasions, and on the other led songs. This brings me to ask for prayers for many of the churches here in the

state. Many of them do not have full time preachers, so please be in prayer that their needs would be met and that they would continue in all their ministries.

I love you all, and I thank you once again for all of your support in whatever way you are able to give it! Please be in prayer over our ministries here, and pray that God would cause growth to the seeds that are planted.

Eric Burleson

ericburleson3@gmail.com

(940)329-1581