



Have you ever climbed a mountain? Had a mountain-top experience? Made it to the top of a large HILL? Ever WATCHED a movie about climbing? Well, whatever your experience we think it's a great analogy to serve as the foundation for our update this month.

Having summited a few climbs over the decades, I've learned there is something that every climber seems to do naturally. You reflect on the path you have just completed to reach the top. You enjoy the view. You plan your descent or next pathway. Your descent reflects what you learned and analyzed from the ascent.

Learning from the ascent and descent isn't just something we do while climbing. It is something we all do in our own life, and a process that can be helpful for organizations. It has most definitely been a process that has driven our ministry here in Alaska, most specifically over the last year.

During our InterAct Alaska May 2016 Conference we reviewed the many climbs our organization has made over the years, reflecting and inspecting those summit experiences as well as the descending trails. Collectively we refined our climbing process, sharpened our ministry focus, and pinpointed our reason for existence. Our "Denali (the Great One)," if you will, is "Discipleship." It's what we feel God has called us to do. The various landscape He has directed us to here in Alaska is with the Alaska Native people.

While none of that information is new, different, or changed from our own ministry (or InterAct) it has allowed us, as the Alaska Field, to see more clearly the mission God has placed before us. As Steve and I serve in various capacities here in Alaska, we have appreciated the concentrated effort to grow in our understanding, strategizing, and abilities to disciple people effectively. Just like any climber, we want to excel at our task and become skilled disciplers. Everything we do, each ministry event or pathway we help develop, must point us toward becoming good at discipling others so that they, in turn, will disciple people. It's the Matthew 28:19-20 task. As our May 2017 Conference so clearly stated, "God's Mandate...Our Mission."

As you review our ministry snapshots for these last couple of months, we trust you will see discipling in action. We hope you see glimpses of us (collectively, InterAct Alaska) sharpening our focus and improving our skills. We pray you reflect on your own mountain-top experiences, your ability to reflect on your pathway in life, and the opportunity to refine your discipling skills! Thank you to all who so faithfully pray for us, partner with us, and journey with us for God's work in Alaska.

A Disciple of Jesus, Serving in partnership with you- in Alaska!



April 2017: Denali in the Distance
A beautiful view of Denali, taken from a Cessna by Steve enroute to the village of Graying. Steve led a team of men to the village to ascertain water damage to the InterAct house in this village and determine next steps in repair of this house utilized by InterAct missionaries.



April 2017: Hearts Going Toward Wellness Conference
Held on the InterAct Campus, Steve and I serve this group as the Conference unfolds. Led by InterAct missionaries, Alan & Linda Ross, this happens several times a year on our Campus. The Conference is all about discipling – helping attendees reflect on their past, examine the hurts and wounds, allow God to bring healing, enjoy the mountaintop vantage, and plan life's next journeys.



May 2017: Anchorage Grace Church Work Team Extraordinaire! Thank you!



May 2017: 4-Chair Discipling
Training day facilitated by Josh Yates, Sonlife



May 2017:
InterAct Alaska Conference
Strategic Teamwork Exercise
Facilitated by...Steve & Jill
BRAVE InterAct staff!



June 2017
Thanks to another exceptional Work Team-
Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
Thankful to have also received help from the Bartells & Snells.

Family Updates & News:

May 2017- Colorado trip to be at our eldest granddaughter's high school graduation! Congratulations Kaylie. Nathan (son) & family drove down to Ruth (daughter) & families house- so we had a mini reunion. Got to visit grandson Owen. Finally, Father's Day 2017 with the Coke family. And our BIG NEWS...Congratulations to Ryley (grandson) & Olivia as they await the December birth of our first great grand baby!



Praise:

For a productive and encouraging InterAct Alaska Annual Conference.
For two amazing work teams, and more to come. We are so thankful for all the work being accomplished on the grounds.
For the opportunity to speak at the Monday night Anchorage Native New Life Fellowship.
Kaylie's graduation- excited for her next step to University in August.
Ryley & Olivia- announcing their upcoming baby.

Prayer:

Prayer for the extensive work we hope to complete on the Campus this summer- safety for work teams, safe travel, and weather that cooperates with the outdoor projects.
Prayer for dedicated time as we develop/draft/design a number of projects this summer for the Alaska Field.
Wisdom as we disciple in a variety of contexts.
Direction as Steve determines the dates and procedure for knee repair surgery that is pending.