

LUKE S. OLIVER

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Dear Friends and Family,

As the last several years of my life have taught me, God sometimes places difficult decisions and unexpected opportunities before us and it is up to us to decide how to respond. I have seen several of these curveballs in recent years, situations which have seemed to knock me off my feet or leave me lost and confused, and yet through these challenges, I have experienced growth and perhaps come to better see how I fit into God's plan for the world. Such an opportunity has once again been put in my path: a chance to serve as adjunct faculty (as well as a few other jobs) at Alaska Christian College in Soldotna, Alaska. After some prayerful deliberation, I decided to take this opportunity which offers both the chance to serve an often neglected people group and the chance for some personal growth and exploration of my own role in bringing the Kingdom of God to earth.

Since it has been some time since I have seen some of you, allow me to fill you in on the last several years of my life. After high school in Winthrop, WA, I attended Westmont College, completing my B.A. in Religious Studies and spending my summers serving at Cascades Camp in Yelm, WA, as a counselor and working on the program staff. Following this, I served as Dean of Men at Covenant Bible College in La Merced, Ecuador, and then the following year went to the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where I completed a Master of Theology in Biblical Studies. I have since been living in Portland, OR, seeking to discern the next steps for my life, and it was here that the opportunity to serve at ACC came unexpectedly to me.

ACC (www.alaskachristiancollege.org) is a ministry of the Covenant church that seeks specifically to serve Native Alaskan people groups. The students come from villages where depression, suicide, alcoholism, and all sorts of abuse are rampant. ACC desires to transform the lives of these students so that they may in turn transform the villages from which they came. In keeping with this mission, however, ACC strives to keep costs minimal so that the students can afford to attend and furthermore, does not turn away students who may be unable to pay for their first year. Thus, staff and faculty do not receive a salary but raise their own financial support.

My job at ACC will include several different roles. I will be teaching classes (Biblical Ethics in the autumn term and one or two others in the spring term). I will also be serving as registrar, mentoring and discipling students, and filling in elsewhere as needed. This year will also serve as an internship year as I look toward returning to school to pursue doctoral studies or perhaps a Master of Divinity degree and further ministry opportunities.

So how do you fit in with this? I am in need of people who will come alongside me both spiritually and financially to send me to Alaska. I *need* to be sent. I *need* to have a community of friends behind me, supporting me with prayer and encouragement as I take on this challenge. It sounds badly cliché to say that this is the most important thing, but it truly is *at least* equally as important as the finances. I cannot get there or stay there without the money, but I cannot survive there without support.

About the money: My estimated needs for nine months of service in Alaska (August to May) are approximately \$1200-\$1500 per month or a total of \$10,800-\$13,500. I have requested funds from several churches and am hoping that they will provide me with a significant amount of that total. I anticipate, however, that at least sixty percent (about \$8000) will be left to be raised from individuals. If one hundred people gave ten dollars per month, that would cover it. If eighty people offered a one-time donation of \$100, that would be enough. Whatever you are willing and able to give, my friends, I will be truly grateful. If you would please respond with the provided form to help me keep on top of my support needs, I would appreciate it.

Finally, In order to keep you connected to what is going on, I would invite you to follow my blog at www.lukesoliver.com. I would also like to send out periodic email updates. Please respond using the provided form to let me know if you would like to be included in those updates. Thank you for your support in any capacity.

Grace and peace,

Luke Oliver

Please copy and paste the following into a new email and send it to supportlukeinalaska@gmail.com:

____Luke, I send you! I'm behind you. I will pray for you and occasionally write you an email maybe even send you a batch of cookies! Please keep me informed through email updates.

____Luke, I'm still sending you. And I may even send you some cookies. But you've also convinced me that what you're doing is pretty worthwhile and I'd like to help you out financially:

____I'm going to give you a one-time donation of \$_____

____I'm going to commit to sending a check every month (because that itself will help me remember to be a "sender") beginning in August and going until next April for _____\$10 _____\$25 _____\$50 _____other (\$_____)

(Note: In order to make donations tax-deductible, you may funnel all donations through my home church. Please make a check out to Community Covenant Church with "Luke Oliver Support" in the memo line and send it to P.O. Box 919, Twisp, WA 98856. They will make sure the money gets to me. Thanks again.)