

March 26, 2009

Dear Pastors and Church Chairs,

We are grateful for the support we are receiving for the partnership the Midwest Conference churches are developing with **Mountain Village Covenant Church in Mountain Village, Alaska**. As we recently wrote you, the ten conferences in the Evangelical Covenant Church have committed to partner with the Alaska Region of churches such that each conference supports at least one of the bush village churches. Each conference will support this church through prayer and by working on designated projects each summer with a mission team(s) made up of individuals from their churches.

Pastor Carl Elwood, Mountain Village Covenant Church, is requesting two mission teams for this summer to help construct a 20x20 building to be used by his church and also as a community outreach facility. The building will be used as a place to repair snow machines and ATV's in the village as there is no other enclosed facility to do this kind of work. It will also supply some enclosed storage space for the church. This project will give the congregation an opportunity to reach out to their neighbors and meet an important need for the whole community. **Midwest Conference churches can make a powerful statement of God's love to our partner village** by showing that we care enough to not only purchase the supplies for the project, but also construct it with our mission teams.

The estimated cost of this project will be about \$38,000. This includes building supplies, air fare for 12 team members to travel from our conference to Soldotna, AK (gathering place for mission teams to fly as a group to the Mountain Village), transportation to the village, and food and lodging during their week in Mountain Village. A team should consist of six people with some knowledge of construction or remodeling; it would also be ideal to have an electrician. The Alaska region leadership suggests that at least one woman on each team is needed to relate to the pastor's wife and the women and children of the village. More importantly, we need people with servant's hearts and some skills.

In a February 27 mailing to conference churches, we asked you to respond by March 27 with your willingness to support this partnership with prayer, finances and/or those interested in joining a team. We have received interest from people who want to be a part of the mission teams, but little financial support. We need to know from you, our churches, if you are willing to support this project for this summer of 2009. We will extend our deadline for another week, but the people who order the supplies for the project need to know if we are moving forward by early April. The mission trips will take place during the last two weeks of July

**May we ask you to respond ASAP if you can support this ministry, even if that is a pledge of money to come later in the spring, WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU! If the financial support is not there we will likely have to postpone our first trips until next summer, 2010. If each conference church could contribute \$400 to this partnership we could meet our goal! Checks may be sent to: The Midwest Conference, 13304 W Center Rd #222, Omaha NE 68144 (memo line: Alaska Partnership).**

Questions can be directed to me (e-mail address below) or the conference office toll-free phone at 888-871-3020 or e-mail to [midcovcon@qwestoffice.net](mailto:midcovcon@qwestoffice.net) Please help us as a conference of churches take ownership in this important mission.

Midwest Conference delegates will have the opportunity to meet Pastor Carl Elwood at our upcoming annual meeting April 24-25 in Mason City, Iowa. We look forward to hearing first hand what he has to share with us about the new opportunity for ministry.

God Bless,

*Robert M. Palmberg*

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