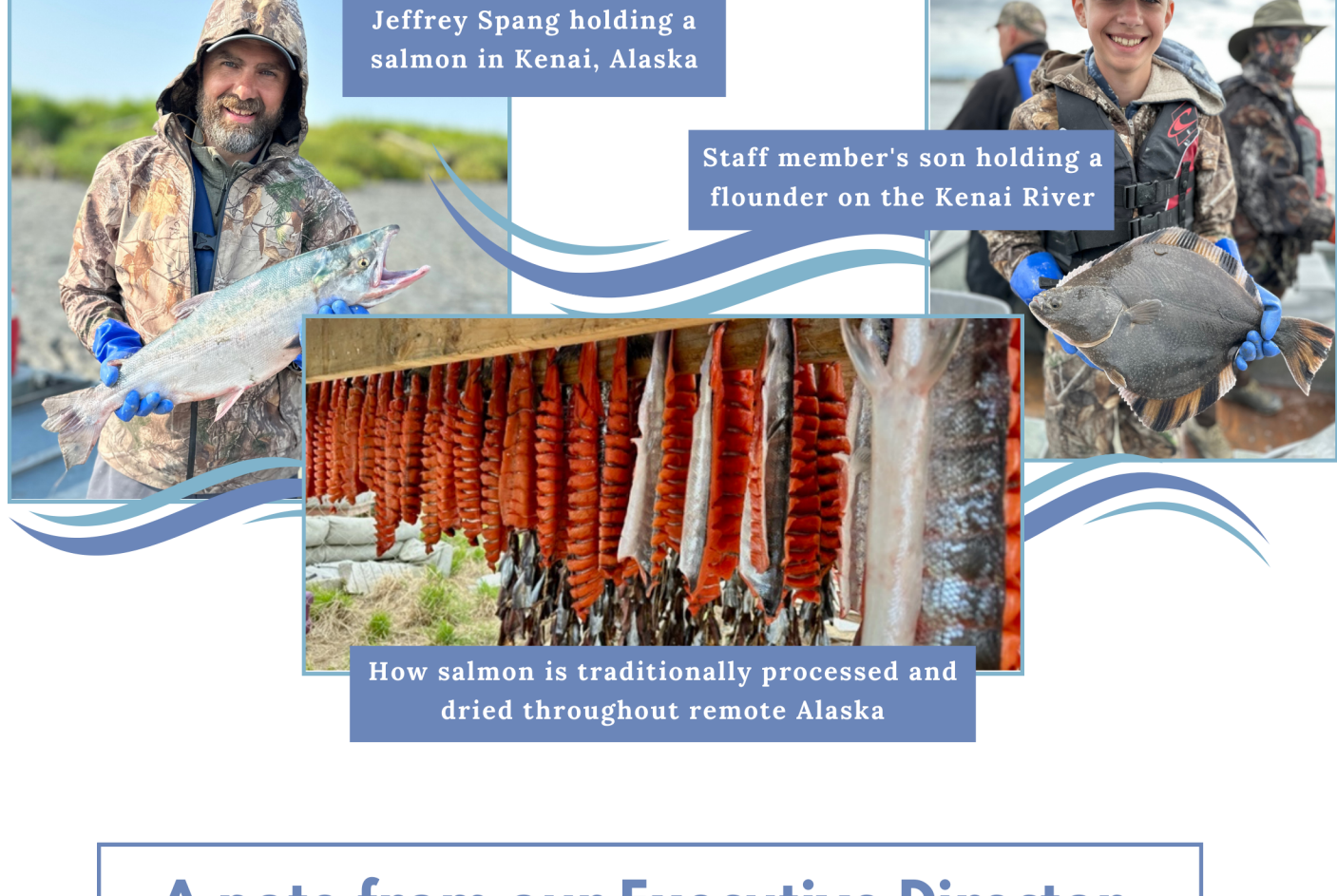


# The Arctic Encourager

The quarterly newsletter of  
Arctic Barnabas Ministries



Jeffrey Spang holding a salmon in Kenai, Alaska

Staff member's son holding a flounder on the Kenai River

How salmon is traditionally processed and dried throughout remote Alaska

## A note from our Executive Director

No matter how you look at it, God made summers in Alaska special! Even on the cloudiest and rainiest days, the beauty of Alaska certainly does its part in declaring the majesty of God. As we reflect on the beauty of our Lord that is all around us, we are reminded that He is in charge and able to use all things for His purposes and plans. The team here at Arctic Barnabas Ministries gets to see that truth play out each summer as the Lord uses short-term mission teams from the Lower 48, interns, airplanes, boats, and much more all for His glory. We're thankful to be part of His work in advancing the Gospel here in Alaska and so thankful for each of you who make that possible. Please enjoy this edition of the *Arctic Encourager*, where you'll learn more about what the Lord has done through your support of Arctic Barnabas Ministries this summer. Thank you and enjoy!

— Rob Bearden, Executive Director



## Fish Camp and Fellowship

By Jeffrey Spang, Connect Coordinator

113, 114, 115 salmon! The numbers continued to climb as each salmon was counted one by one. Everyone onboard was astonished by the final count of the 6-hour day's catch! We praised God together with smiles and laughter.

Each year, during July, our staff is privileged to host ministry workers from remote Alaskan villages to allow them to gather fish for their families and freezers. The abundant salmon returning to their birthplace up the Kenai River brings a unique opportunity. This type of subsistence fishing for Alaska residents allows the fishermen to use 3–5-foot nets to collect their fish instead of just a rod and reel. What joy it is to stand shoulder to shoulder with these faithful workers and fellowship on the boat as we wait for God to fill our nets. Our time together allows for many stories of God's faithfulness through the complex and joyous times of life in obedient ministry. Praise God with us as He provided over 670 salmon for freezers this year.



Jason Maust dipnetting with a ministry family on the Kenai River



Jeffrey Spang with a ministry family in Kenai, Alaska

## Shepherd Serve Refresh Connect Equip

Creating trusting and life-giving relationships through care, communication, and fellowship

Providing practical help to strengthen families and ministries

Offering opportunities for rest, renewal, connection, and growth outside their community

Building partnerships to create sustainability

Fostering an environment of learning

*Our Mission: to personally strengthen and encourage pastor and missionary families to effectively advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout remote Alaska.*

*For I want very much to see you, so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, to be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. — Romans 1:11-12 CSB*

## Ministry Family Retreat - 20th Anniversary!

By Linda Flamm, Refresh Coordinator

God has allowed ABM to host this event for 20 years. Much of the success is due to the faithful partnership of churches and individuals who realize the importance of being poured into in order to pour out the Good News of Christ. Won't you join us in covering this event in prayer? May God be glorified!

"Last year, 2022, was our first Ministry Family Retreat [MFR] and there are no words to truly articulate what a blessing that week was. There is such incredible fellowship, serving us, and pouring out of love and support to us, and plenty of time to worship with other believers pastors and missionaries. Arctic Barnabas Ministries [ABM] arranges for a dentist, for activities, counseling, and so many other things... and this just all brought us to tears. Day after day we as missionaries and pastors and pastor's wife in a rural part of Alaska, do all we can to minister to our community and those around us. So many responsibilities fall on us and we live to serve. It's wonderful to be able to do that, but we aren't used to being served, and both Arctic Barnabas Ministries and MFR just love us so much. Thank you, ABM." — a ministry family



Victory Bible Camp, where we host our annual Ministry Family Retreat



## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Ministry Family Retreat

The countdown is on, and the excitement is building! Arctic Barnabas Ministries' 20th annual Ministry Family Retreat begins October 2. Please pray for:

- Financial provision
- Details and logistics
- The volunteers
- The families
- That God be glorified!

### Provision of New Staff

Please pray for the Lord's provision for:

- Aviation Director / Operations Officer
- Development Director
- Board Members

### Health For Staff

From headaches to head-colds, our staff has had it rough this summer! Please pray for the safety and health of our staff.

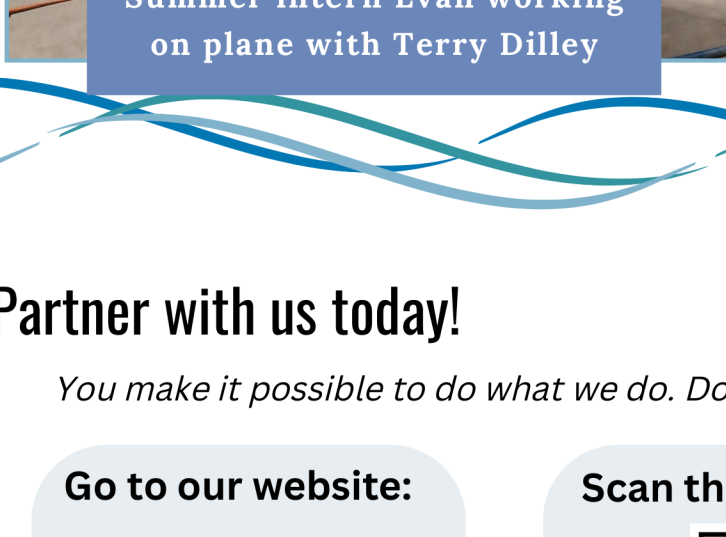
## Internships: "Come and See"

By JoJo G., Equip Coordinator

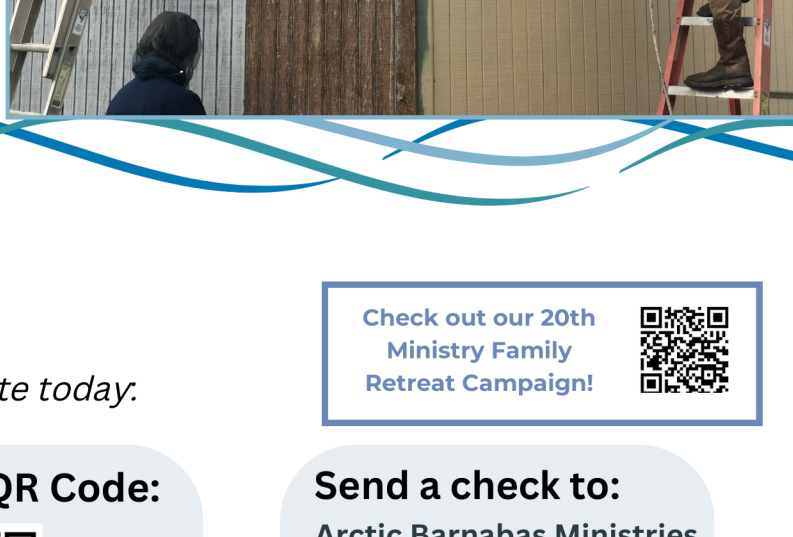
Whether you're a high school graduate looking for a gap year program, a college student trying to figure out what's next in life, or even a family freshly called into ministry, an internship can be a clarifying and transformative experience. At ABM, we offer internships as unique and as varied as the people who apply. This summer alone, we've had interns come up for hands-on experience in flying, aviation mechanics, and data analysis. Internships provide a two-fold blessing. On the one hand, interns can directly apply their skills, experience, and passion to the work of advancing the Gospel in Alaska. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few! Interns are crucial workers in this harvest. On the other hand, internships are an opportunity for people to ask the hard questions about who they are and what God has called them to in a safe yet stretching environment. At ABM, we value creating this space for God to work both in and through our interns. If you're interested in applying for an internship this winter or next summer, you can reach out to our HR Director, Shelby Smith, at shelbys@abmalaska.org.



Our 4 summer interns, Evan, Noah, Jocelyn, and Joel with Ginni Orth in Bethel, Alaska (left to right)



Summer intern Evan working on plane with Terry Dilley



Summer interns Jocelyn, Joel, and Noah painting a building

Partner with us today!

You make it possible to do what we do. Donate today:

Go to our website:

[www.arcticbarnabas.org](http://www.arcticbarnabas.org)

Scan the QR Code:



Send a check to:

Arctic Barnabas Ministries  
135 North Willow Street  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Check out our 20th Ministry Family Retreat Campaign!



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