

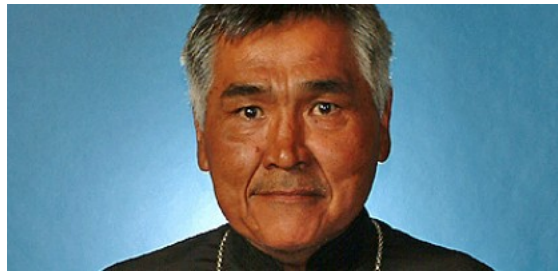


"The steps of a man are ordered by the Lord." (Psalm 37:32)
Submitted by Mary Ann Khoury, Coordinator – October 2104

My travels to Alaska in May were very productive for several things other than the Annual Commencement for St. Herman Theological Seminary in Kodiak. To begin my travels this year, I met Dan Christopulos, US Country Representative for IOCC, in Minneapolis where we flew together to Anchorage. We spent 2 days in Anchorage in meetings to determine partnering projects for IOCC and Outreach Alaska. Our first meeting was with His Grace, Bishop DAVID Sherry Mahaffey, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska. This was Bishop David's first meeting with Dan and he was very receptive to the ideas we presented to him for the diocese – particularly for the substance abuse issues and training of clergy. We also met with Substance Abuse professionals, local clergy, with staff in Eagle River at St. John Cathedral Big House and others. I also helped Dan get acquainted with Orthodoxy in Anchorage and the surrounding area before we departed for our separate destinations. The time with Dan was fast, furious, and very productive. As a result of our work together, the following new projects are underway:

- **Book Drop in Anchorage** – *This is a very successful IOCC project that is scheduled for early October 2014. IOCC will deliver thousands of school books to St. Innocent Orthodox Cathedral in Anchorage for pick up by the private/parochial schools in the Anchorage/Eagle River area. This is being coordinated with the Orthodox Diocese of Alaska, local private/parochial schools and IOCC. There will be support by local media with Bishop David and Dan Christopulos as they deliver the books to these children for use at home or in their schools.*
- **Community Gardens in Villages** – *Fishing in villages is a necessary staple and way of life. Over the years the fishing in "bush" Alaska, which has been the mainstay for food in the villages, has been hard hit and food is hard to come by in these areas of Alaska. Less fish results in less money and that results in less food and funds to purchase other foods. Meeting with Reader Herman Owletuk, a dedicated servant to the church, we learned of an entire plan he has developed for Community Gardens in villages. Dan is familiar with this since IOCC does these projects in Africa and other places in the world. This dialogue opened the opportunity to further explore the ways and means to make this a reality for the villages in Alaska. We will be working forward on this in the future and hope to have this implemented in at least the next 2 years.*
- **Books to Villages** – *IOCC Prayer Journals have been ordered for delivery to Anchorage in October for the Annual Diocesan Conference. There clergy from all over Alaska will have 150 journals available to take back to parishes in their villages. These will be used for teaching their young people about praying for Orthodoxy all over the world. This is a partnership with IOCC and Outreach Alaska.*
- **Substance Abuse Training** – *Over the years, IOCC and Outreach Alaska have coordinated substance abuse training for the seminarians at St. Herman Theological Seminary. Several issues have resulted from recent trainings and we are now more informed on what is needed to better meet this huge problem in Alaska through teaching the clergy. IOCC has now committed with Outreach Alaska to provide 2 trainings a year for the seminary beginning this new seminary year 2014/15.*
- **Furniture for SHS Dormitory** – *IOCC has acquired a supply of like new used dormitory furniture that has been offered to the seminary. Unfortunately, the cost to ship is very expensive and it was lost to another entity before we could get this shipped to Kodiak. Outreach Alaska is trying to raise \$5,000 to assist IOCC with another shipment of furniture that is available. The total cost to ship is \$10,000 – but it is costly to ship from the lower 48 to Alaska. The value of this furniture is \$100,000 and is greatly needed at the seminary. This will be an ongoing project for our general contribution funds until a special campaign can be accomplished to raise the \$5,000.*

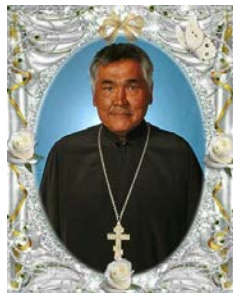
It was my honor to provide a vendor booth for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America Parish Life Conference in San Antonio, Texas after returning from Alaska. My brother, Jad Wolf, traveled with me for the conference and the booth work. This gave us an opportunity to talk with a lot of people about Outreach Alaska and the work of this home based ministry. Many were interested in the upcoming Alaska "2015 Spiritual Travel – Walk the Path of the Saints" and a lot of travel packets were distributed. The sales and donations generated over \$700 and this will be enough to purchase the new Antidoron Bowl for the seminary chapel requested from me by His Grace. It has been a very busy summer since my May travels. Aside from the new projects, it has been challenging preparing for the sponsored seminarians for the "Adopt a Seminarian" project. There have been several issues that have developed with this project and I am now left with 2 unsponsored seminarians entering their senior year. Thanks be to God – I do believe this will be solved and all will be sponsored. But, I still have some work to do on a very short time line. God loves his clergy and He will provide for those who will study to serve His Orthodox Church in Alaska – America's Holy Land. Please pray for Outreach Alaska and for me, the servant who needs so much help for all of this work. Some very good news is that our Father Phanourios Angiokmisis will be returning to Alaska by the end of August. Yes – the person we all knew as Paul Sidebottom is now the monastic priest, Fr. Phanourios. He is assigned to the seminary in Kodiak and I am so looking forward to working with him again. As I close this report on my 2014 summer travels, there is news that one of our dear Alaska clergy has been called to Eternal Memory. Father Yago Steven is the first priest I met when going to the Kuskokwim River area in 1999. There is so much I could write about Father Yago. He was my guide, my skiff captain in a Kuskokwim Storm, my "bush" Alaska mentor, and my friend. I stayed in his home with his wonderful Matushka Elizabeth and their daughter, Katherine – who has married and has her own family since I was there. I had hoped to see them all again next year on our 2015 Pilgrimage. But – this will not be. I am sad. He was a unique person and very much loved in the Kuskokwim. May our Dear Father Yago lay with the blessed and may his Memory be Eternal



Memory Eternal

The priest Yago Steven reposed in the Lord on Sunday, August 10, 2014 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Born on August 25, 1953, he grew up in Oscarville, Alaska. Father Yago was the sixth of eight children. He had a long time career in the National Guard and retired with the rank of Sargent at the time of his ordination to the priestly order. The service of the funeral of a priest will take place at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 13th at St. James Church in Napaskiak, AK. The Divine Liturgy will be concelebrated by His Grace, Bishop DAVID and numerous clergy at 9:00 am with burial to follow in Napaskiak.

Memory Eternal to the newly departed servant of God, the Priest Yago Stevens.



Contributions can be made to Outreach Alaska at St. Mary Orthodox church of to 2421 N. Perry Ave., Wichita, KS 67204

