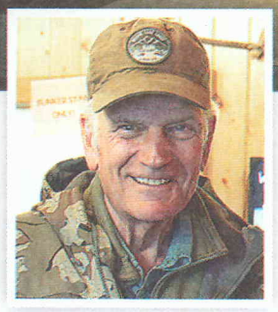


PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL: Samaritan's Purse built this new church as a ministry hub for Pastor Mike Glover and his flock in Cordova. He holds a Bible signed by our volunteers.



Strengthening Churches in Alaska

DEAR FRIEND,

Samaritan's Purse has been spearheading construction projects in Alaska for the past two decades. Many of these 38 projects have been new worship centers for small churches in remote, roadless areas.

This year, more than 300 staff and volunteers from 34 states built a new church for a congregation in Cordova, Alaska. The port city sits on the edge of Prince William Sound in the south-central section of the state. There are no roads to Cordova—you can only reach it by plane or by ferry.

In the early 1900s, Cordova was a copper mining boomtown, which later became the "Razor Clam Capital of the World." After a massive earthquake on Good Friday 1964 destroyed the clam beds, commercial fishing later took over.

The weather there is rough: wind gusts up to 150 mph, more than 100 inches of rain a year, and up to 12 feet of snow. Those conditions can be tough on facilities constructed over 60 years ago, like the church building of Cordova Community Baptist. The structure was prone to flooding and, in some places, had "mushrooms in the walls," said Pastor Mike Glover, who has shepherded the congregation for the past seven years. It needed constant repairs and was also difficult to heat affordably.

Church leadership had been praying for years, trying to figure out what to do next with their limited resources. The work was either not feasible with equipment available in the isolated small town, too expensive, or both.

Then Samaritan's Purse called. It was a surprise—a very welcome one. Patience was proven to be the right course all along, Pastor Glover said. "This entire process is a living example of waiting on God's timing," he said. "Because He doesn't disappoint us, even when we don't see the path that's ahead."



Samaritan's Purse supplied labor and finances and handled the complicated logistics of barging in materials to construct a sturdy, multi-use building. Work took place from May-October.

Those months were a blessing for Pastor Glover, who came out nearly every day to help with construction

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS: A 40-foot cross made by a Cordova resident stands in front of the new church building.

and encourage our volunteers. It was a blessing, he said, "to meet so many people whose hearts are just completely sold out for the Lord. I felt like our church family grew by 300 people." Several Cordova residents repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ through the witness of church members and Samaritan's Purse staff and volunteers. Some were even baptized in the cool waters of the sound.

Recently completed, the new facility is built to last for many decades. An impressive 40-foot aluminum cross, made by congregant Rob Eckley, is the only aspect of the old building that made it to the new site. In a major celebration for Cordova, the house of worship—which includes a sanctuary, classrooms, fellowship hall, kitchen, and more—was dedicated to God's glory in a special Sunday morning service on Oct. 11.

"We now have a space for worship, for ministry, and for just sharing life together here that's safe and healthy to be in," Pastor Glover said. "People can feel welcome, and hearts can be opened when the Spirit of God moves."

Longtime church member Dottie Widmann ran an art supply store and taught lessons for years in the neighborhood. She has a heart for evangelism and says the new facility will foster outreach to children and adults during the week. "When I see this, I'm just in awe," she said. "It's really nice to have a warm place out of the rain. It's hospitality that you can offer your community."

Shoeboxes Help Support Churches Around the World

National Collection Week, Nov. 16-23, is just around the corner for our Operation Christmas Child project. Millions of shoeboxes will be gathered, processed, and sent overseas to be delivered to children by our Christian partners. Church leaders look forward to receiving these shoeboxes, because they know these gifts open doors for evangelism among boys and girls, their siblings, and their parents. Each outreach event features a clear Gospel presentation tailored to children—with materials and training provided by Samaritan's Purse. Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 19:14).

A pastor in Colombia shared that many mothers and fathers in his community cannot afford to buy any Christmas gifts for their children. But at our outreach event, shoebox gifts brought joy to both parents and children alike. Many boys and girls discovered Jesus Christ as a faithful friend who never fails, beginning a personal relationship with Him. Ninety-two children went on to graduate from our 12-lesson discipleship course, *The Greatest Journey.*

Another pastor in Albania, who has partnered with us in Operation Christmas Child for more than a decade, remembers when he received a shoebox as a 9-year-old boy. He loved the gifts inside, but more importantly, he started asking questions about God. Two years later, he received Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. "That small act of kindness redirected my entire life," he said. "It planted a seed that grew into a lifetime of ministry."

Please pray for Samaritan's Purse and the many churches we partner with around the world. Thank you and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham



Cambodia

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

PRAY

Pray for the witness of Pastor Mike Glover and his congregation in Cordova, Alaska. Please continue to pray for our Operation Christmas Child project, specifically for the many evangelistic outreach events that will occur at churches worldwide in the coming months.

ALASKA PROJECTS

Your gift enables Samaritan's Purse to build long-lasting church facilities across Alaska where the harsh weather is a constant challenge. These construction projects strengthen congregations and help pastors focus on sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in America's Last Frontier.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

National Collection Week is Nov. 16-23. Visit samaritanspurse.org/occ if you have questions on how to pack a shoebox or where to drop off your gifts. Your support helps us deliver Good News and great joy to children in need around the world.

WHERE MOST NEEDED

Samaritan's Purse works in Jesus' Name to help victims of disaster, disease, famine, poverty, and war. Your gift to "Where Most Needed" equips us with the resources—including personnel, materials, supporting services, and more—to fulfill our mission of relief and evangelism.

Samaritan's Purse®
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All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Samaritan's Purse has complete control over the use of all donated funds. Our Board-approved policy is that all gifts designated for a specific project be applied to that project, with up to 10 percent used for administrative and fundraising expenses. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need. It is our policy to meet the needs God lays before us, so that Christ is lifted up and the Gospel advanced.

Combined Federal Campaign #10532 03-72-179

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