

VICTORY

Review



GREETINGS,

"Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

Hebrews 10:35-36 (ESV)

For 77 years, Victory Ministries has been faithfully running the race set before us, always looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Through generations, this ministry has persevered, uplifted by the prayers and

generous support of a great cloud of witnesses - people like you who have stood with us in this journey.

Your partnership has made this ministry possible, impacting countless lives with the love and truth of Jesus Christ. As we look to the future, we humbly ask for your continued support, however the Spirit may lead. Whether through prayer, encouragement, or giving, your faithfulness helps sustain the work God has called us to. Together, by faith, let's press on toward the promises He has prepared.

In Christ's Love,

Ward Hurlburt IV

Executive Director

Victory Ministries of Alaska



Victory Ministries of Alaska exists to evangelize and disciple the children, youth, and adults of Alaska for Jesus Christ through Christian camping.

Capital Improvements

If you visited **Camp Li-Wa** this summer, you may have noticed the facilities straining to keep up with the number of campers. It's exciting that registrations have doubled in the last five years, but the aging infrastructure limits future expansion and is insufficient for daily demands. By afternoon on a typical summer day, one building after another loses water pressure and staff must juggle

shower and dishwashing schedules. To address these challenges, a new well

was dug this summer. In 2025, work projects will include constructing a water storage building, building a wastewater treatment site, and installing new underground water and sewer mains. These improvements are crucial for daily camping operations. Water infrastructure is also the next major step for the new lodge/dining hall project.

We are grateful for a productive 2024 season: the completion of electrical grid upgrades, the addition of urethane foam insulation to the new lodge, and the construction of the wood boiler building, and a new outdoor riding arena.

If you are able, there is a place for you to serve at Camp Li-Wa in 2025. Please join us in asking the Lord for the funding required for an undertaking of this magnitude. Your time or donations will be an investment in each moment of evangelism and discipleship.

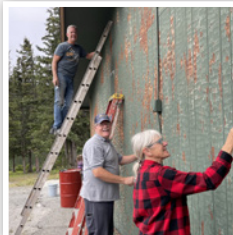


Victory Bible Camp continues to draw campers from the Mat-Su Valley and the wider Anchorage area. Program expansion and facility upgrades are looking to keep up with growth trends and continue to maximize discipleship opportunities. Alpine was a focus this year with a remodel that created a dormitory for the S.A.L.T. program. This fall, staff members moved a cabin to make room for a new campfire area closer to Alpine Lodge – this will facilitate spiritual conversations. The retaining wall that supports the road and Alpine Lodge needs to be replaced in 2025 – materials have already been donated. The gym underwent upgrades to enhance sound quality and accommodate more campers during chapel service. A work team completed roof repairs

on Miracle Lodge in record time and used the remaining days to construct new picnic tables for the RV area. Prior to next summer, a walled tent on a platform will be added to Ranch Camp for boys' housing. This will create more available housing for girl campers. Each week of horse camp had a waitlist, and some weeks had more campers on the waitlist than those who were registered.

Whenever children remain on a waitlist, that is a lost opportunity for them to hear the gospel or grow in their faith. The ministry at Victory Bible Camp is growing. What is your role? Might you give or volunteer a portion of your summer for these important projects? There are openings for work teams at Victory Bible Camp for May and August.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering or sending a work team, please email info@victorymin.org.



UPHOLDING THE MISSION

How does Victory Ministries make disciples for Jesus Christ? It is through intentional conversations with campers and strategic discipleship programs like Li-Wa 365 and Outpost. It's also through being a servant to others, whether children or adults, in the daily interactions that make up camp life. This year, discipleship has looked like sharing late-night spiritual conversations with work team members over graham crackers and peanut butter, reorganizing a workspace to invite spiritual conversations over coffee, counseling with a young woman while stacking wood, and praying for each visitor to the camp properties.

"We exist to disciple others. This is foundational. There is a renewed passion and excitement about filtering everything through fulfilling our mission and purpose."

Mike Dreiske
Director
Victory Bible Camp

"If we believe that 'everything is discipleship,' then in each interaction, we will focus on what God is doing in the heart of the other individual."

Chris Gillespie
Director
Camp Li-Wa



"Arriving at camp, she had no knowledge of the Bible and was in awe to hear about a Creator God who loved her. After accepting Christ as her personal savior, we asked what her atheist family thought about her decision. 'My dad keeps saying that it's not true, but there is NOTHING he can tell me that's gonna make me not believe.'"

Salcha, Cabin Leader (Li-Wa)



"Being her counselor two years in a row, I have seen how the Lord has grown Abby's understanding of the Bible and her faith! Camp LiWa is her only spiritual input."

Tanana, Cabin Leader
(Li-Wa)



"Camp opened my heart in a deeper way to experience God's compassion, increasing my faith in God and His power to change lives."

Summer Volunteer (VBC)

GOD BRINGS THE HARVEST

We're thrilled to share the summer impact of Camp Li-Wa and Victory Bible Camp's programs. At Li-Wa, 39 campers embraced salvation, and many others rededicated their lives to Christ. Victory Bible Camp witnessed 101 young people transformed as they accepted Christ and 108 rededications.

Behind these numbers are powerful stories of transformation. For instance, a troubled camper at Victory Bible Camp found faith after several weeks of attendance. She experienced God's grace through compassionate leadership. At Camp Li-Wa, a young boy finally committed his life to Christ this summer after six consecutive summers. Another long-time camper, who has not yet believed,

returns multiple times each summer, saying, "Save my spot." At home, he faces many challenges, and camp has become a refuge. Summer camping programs and year-round discipleship initiatives may take years to bear fruit. We are reminded that some plant the seed, others water – but God causes all of them to grow!

DISCIPLES OF JESUS ARE MADE HERE

At Camp Li-Wa, campers become students in the horsemanship programs, return to volunteer in a summer S.A.L.T. (Servant and Leadership Training) or W.I.T. (Wranglers in Training) program, reach out to other young people through Li-Wa 365, and return as cabin leaders. At each stage of their development or engagement with the gospel, there are opportunities to grow – becoming disciples who make disciples. The churches in Fairbanks realize what a resource Camp Li-Wa is as they shepherd the same students and maximize interactions. For example, one church recently rescheduled a mission trip so that students would be free to attend summer camp orientation. Young people who have faithfully served in Christian camping are better prepared for ministry in their local churches – sober-minded and mature. This is, in fact, how it should be. At Victory Ministries, we are not making disciples for the camping ministry but for Jesus Christ. When we talk of church partnerships, it is for discipleship. Contact info@victorymin.org to explore what it might look like for your church to partner with Victory Bible Camp or Camp Li-Wa.

New Opportunities

In 2024, Victory Bible Camp introduced **Wilderness Camp**, offering two sessions – a sea kayaking trip out of Whittier, Alaska, and a backpacking trip to hike Noyes Mountain, the highest peak in the Mentasta Mountains. Wilderness Camp invites young people to push their limits, experience adventure, and disconnect from everyday distractions to connect more deeply with their Creator. Wilderness Camp attracts campers who might not otherwise attend a traditional camp. There are plans to expand it into a summer-long program of 5-7 sessions.

STAFF UPDATES

Thank you for praying for the personnel needs at Victory Ministries! God is answering prayer.

Brent and Sarah Bland are retired from the military and volunteer with VBC. Brent maintains the 10-mile multi-use trail system, and Sarah volunteers wherever needed. **Cynthia Carlson** started volunteering with Victory Ministries in April 2024. She enjoys using her bookkeeping and office administration skills to support the finance team and further God's Kingdom. **Diana Vollmar** is serving in donor relations while continuing to work in the kitchen at VBC. **Jason Chapman*** came through the Outpost program and is now an IT technician at VBC. **Jesse Cripps** joined Victory Ministries to serve in fundraising and grant writing. **Kara Erickson*** served on work teams at Camp Li-Wa for four years. She will join the full-time staff team in 2025 to assist in the kitchen and with hospitality. **Peter Loewen*** is serving on the VBC's year-round facilities maintenance team. **Michelle Gillespie** writes for Victory Ministries and enjoys connecting prayer partners with what God is doing. **Sydney Sterner**, a volunteer staff member at Camp Li-Wa, is passionate about discipling horsemanship students and those in the W.I.T. (Wranglers in Training) program. **Tessa Wynthein*** joined VBC to run the gift and coffee shops. This year, she is also directing the Outpost program. **Leann (Allen) Mazack** resigned from the staff at VBC to prepare for full-time motherhood.

A practical and personal way of partnering with Victory Ministries is to join the support team of **staff members*** raising prayer and financial support.



Brent and Sarah Bland



Diana Vollmar



Jesse Cripps



Peter Loewen



Sydney Sterner



Isaac & Leann Mazack



Cynthia Carlson



Jason Chapman



Kara Erickson



Michelle Gillespie



Tessa Wynthein

STRATEGIC PRAYER REQUESTS

New Believers. Pray for the children and adults who've recently chosen to follow Jesus, that God will protect them, strengthen them in His truth, and connect them to a supportive local church.

Church Partnerships. When a church chooses to partner with a Christian camp, it can enhance the impact of both ministries in discipling. Churches benefit when camp staff return to their churches, equipped and empowered to serve more effectively. Churches also experience growth when they choose to become a spiritual home for new believers and their families. A church's relational investment often holds greater significance than their financial investment. Please join us in praying for more church partners.

Legal Resolution. Camp Li-Wa has yet to receive the reinstatement of its tax-exempt status. In the six years that Victory Ministries has been battling this in the courts, many Fairbanks nonprofits have come under similar pressure from the assessor's office. The financial impact has been significant – and we are grateful for the Lord's provision. Please pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of borough authorities and State lawmakers to bring a favorable resolution.

Capital Improvements. Please pray for wisdom as we plan upgrades and repairs to ensure our facilities remain safe, functional, and supportive of our mission to make disciples through Christian camping for future generations.

You can sign up to become a prayer partner by emailing communications@victorymin.org to receive the monthly Prayer and Praise Calendar and newsletter.



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How About You?

Each summer, well over 300 people volunteer a portion of their summer to Victory Ministries. Contact info@victorymin.org for information on how you might serve with us in 2025!

Please use the enclosed response envelope if you have been prompted to make a one-time donation or join our monthly support team. You may also give online at



<https://victorymin.org/donate>

