



# Alaska

The State nickname is “The Last Frontier,” and much of Alaska still calls to pioneer individuals who long to live off the land and test themselves against a harsh and unforgiving wilderness. The state’s largest metropolitan area (Anchorage and the surrounding Matanuska Susitna Valley) is home to approximately 400,000 people, more than one half of the state’s population.

Alaska is a place where a self-reliant people must be convinced of their need for a Savior to free them from the bonds of sin. According to a Gallup poll, Alaska remains one of the top 10 least-religious states in America.

## NEEDS

Baptist Mid-Missions’ work in Alaska is divided into four regions with unique cultures and challenges:

Fifty percent of Alaskans live in the growing **South Central** region. As is common in Alaska, the people are highly transient.

In the **Kenai Peninsula/Homer** area, many live off the grid and want to be left alone. This area includes Russian Orthodox villages.

Juneau, the capital, and the numerous island villages along the **Southeast** inland passage, present great ministry opportunities.

In Alaska’s **Bush/Remote** area, small villages are accessible only by airplane. Ministry requires patience, and many people struggle with alcoholism and depression.

## HOW YOU CAN SERVE

- Church planting opportunities exist in cities, small towns, and bush villages. The Matanuska Susitna Valley has a rapidly growing, diverse population. Baptist Mid-Missions has no missionaries in the Fairbanks region.
- Aviation can be used to access native villages steeped in spiritism and Russian Orthodoxy to enable Bible studies and camps and for humanitarian assistance and building contacts.
- Children’s ministries are possible in any location. Doors can open for the gospel in difficult-to-reach villages through sports camps and VBS programs.
- Fishermen, miners, loggers, and oil workers represent an untapped mission field.



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