

what's happening

August 2007	September	October	November	December	January 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWWI Arrigah House participants/presenter (Anchorage) FWWI Train the Trainers class participants - through October (Anchorage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peacemaker conference participant (N. Carolina) Beyond Borders Transforming Leaders Head Start Region X (Seattle, WA) Beyond Borders short-term service trip (Fairbanks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Borders Transforming Leaders (Fairbanks) Leadership Anchorage program participant (Marta) - through May '08 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FWWI Beauty for Ashes participants/group leaders (Fairbanks) Short-term missions training (Anchorage) Beyond Borders Oikeo Radio podcast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Borders Transforming Leaders, FWWI (Anchorage) Eastern University graduation - congrats Christian Muntean, M.A.! (Pennsylvania) Beyond Borders annual planning retreat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust "Mentoring Experience" - Christian Muntean and Brian Green (Seattle, WA) Vancouver MissionFest workshop presenter with Medair (Vancouver, B.C.)

OUR MISSION is to partner with communities, empowering them by building leaders and promoting healing through the love of Christ.

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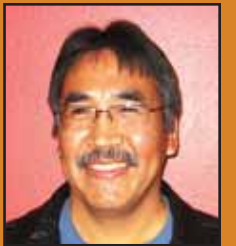
fall/winter 2007



photo courtesy Chris Arend

Transforming Leaders

We recently asked Guy Peters for feedback on Beyond Borders' leadership training, *Transforming Leaders*. From the village of Tanana, Guy has been a participant in and presenter for past *Transforming Leaders* trainings. He lives in Fairbanks where he and his wife lead the ministry Alaska Vision. Here's what he had to say:



"The relationship that has formed with many who have been involved with Beyond Borders has been priceless. There is a freshness to what Beyond Borders offers through Transforming Leaders that is invigorating to my soul and spirit."

"The exploration of motives of the heart is something I don't think I have ever run across in leadership training in any context. Why do we do, or want to do, what we do? I recall that topic being a huge challenge for me and also bringing clarity to why I chose the path I am on."

"...there is content and healing within the presentation of Transforming Leaders that is relevant to any level of village leadership."

"After one Transforming Leaders I came home having worked through several of the principles and helpful tips from the presenters, and decided to apply it to my marriage. I was really blessed to be able to sit with my wife and do some work that we needed to grow and strengthen our relationship. I still find myself thinking about what I've learned through Transforming Leaders and from the other participants that applies to my daily life."

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Please contact our office if you would like more information on *Transforming Leaders*: (907) 522-7200

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photos courtesy SCF

For Ashes, Beauty

By Amy Bethune
Program Coordinator

I had a remarkable experience in early November.

I joined 112 participants and over 50 trained leaders, mostly Alaska Native, at a Beauty for Ashes conference in Fairbanks. It was a profound demonstration of compassion and community.

As sixteen Alaska Native storytellers and presenters honestly shared their stories, challenges, tears and pain – teaching on topics such as anger, shame and recovery – it gave me courage to share my own story with my small group. Each of us was given the opportunity to face pain honestly, receive grace, and step into the process of genuine heart change.

What did I see demonstrated in Fairbanks? That breaking the silence of past harm (including how we've harmed others) in safe and caring relationships disables shame and boldly carves a path for others to follow. I learned that facing pain honestly, and giving ourselves time to grieve, is foundational to real healing. And that in a humble request for forgiveness, we can break up hard ground of bitterness and offer a hand of reconciliation and healing and hope.

I saw with my own eyes that the people of Alaska are warriors, indeed. May we each have the strength to walk this hard journey.

...

Beauty for Ashes (BFA) is the effort of Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (FWWI). FWWI is a program of Southcentral Foundation, a non-profit organized under Cook Inlet Region, Inc. FWWI seeks to address the problems of domestic violence, abuse and neglect in the Alaska Native and American Indian community in Alaska. Its goal is to break the cycle of abuse in Alaska in this generation. Its purpose is to equip both secular and faith-based organizations and individuals to effectively address the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical effects of such damage.² For more information, call FWWI in Anchorage at (907) 729-5440 (toll free at (866) 729-3994) or visit www.fwwi.org.

Six Beyond Borders staff and board members took part in the most recent BFA; three as participants, and three in a leadership role. Whether supporting FWWI events through group leading, speaking and teaching, or training their staff and volunteers through Transforming Leaders, Beyond Borders is pleased to cooperate together in the work God is doing among the people of Alaska.

¹ Excerpts from the poem "The Invitation" from the book THE INVITATION by Oriah Mountain Dreamer, (c) 1999. Published by HarperONE. All rights reserved. Presented with permission of the author. www.oriah.org

² Excerpted from various FWWI materials, by permission.

*It doesn't interest me who you know
or how you came to be here.
I want to know if you will stand
in the center of the fire
with me
and not shrink back.*

*I want to know
if you can sit with pain
mine or your own
without moving to hide it
or fade it
or fix it.¹*

empowering

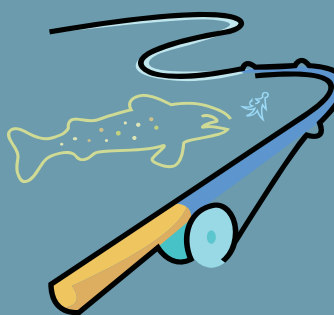


By Christian Muntean
Executive Director

Partnering, **Empowering**, Healing.

'Empowerment' is such a buzzword. But what is it? Why is it important? How is it done? And are we doing it?

'Give a man a fish and you've fed him for the day. Teach a man to fish and you've fed him for a lifetime.' That's empowerment. Of course, a well-turned phrase is easier to say than to do! Here are some basic principles of empowerment which apply to all areas of life.



Empowerment requires two things: 1) Giving people the capacity (skills, resources, freedom) to make and pursue their own choices and, 2) encouraging their ability to exercise and pursue their heart: free will.

Servant leaders do both. They build people and release them to pursue their own futures. They don't abandon people or neglect them. But neither do they build a 'hook' into what they offer, keeping people dependent on them.

Whose Significance? There is a deep human desire to want to be needed and to be significant. This is good. These desires are often what propel us towards giving and helping others. However, when the desire for significance comes with that

hook, it becomes destructive. The man we taught to fish might start fishing in ways that we aren't sure are best. We might not like what he chooses to do with the fish he does catch. He may feel he no longer needs us and we realize that we may no longer be important to him.

This is where empowerment meets its challenge: that is, our desire to control or own, even with the best intentions in mind. The desire to control always ends up killing something – either the human spirit or relationship. This can drive us to try to make sure we stay significant to people and needed by them, even if they are weaker in the end.

What is necessary to truly empower others? I'm still learning this myself, but here are three things I've been wrestling with over the last couple years:

- 1) A genuine desire for those we serve and lead to fully grow into what God has for them.
- 2) An unflinching willingness to examine our own heart, motivations and where we find value.
- 3) Cultivating humility and letting go of control, and the desire to 'grasp' or build our own significance.

I'm grateful and a little mystified at times when I consider that God has genuinely related to us as our Empowerer. He has given us the ability and the freedom to do whatever we want. We use that ability to heal and to destroy. It's a scary thing. But that freedom is the only thing that allows room for meaningful relationship and dignity - which tells us something about His heart for us.

I believe in the vision of Beyond Borders and would like to support your ongoing work.

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