

ACTS 1:8—a relevant challenge

THE WORDS OF CHRIST to the Church are as relevant today as they were to early-church believers. We are to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. The Acts 1:8 Challenge is a way for churches to develop their vision for fulfilling the Great Commission. Here are two of the more than 900 congregations who've accepted the Acts 1:8 Challenge.

BRUCE LANDRY, NOME COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, NOME, ALASKA

Bruce Landry came to Alaska with the military and never left. Now he's pastor of Nome Community Baptist Church in Nome, Alaska—a majority Inuit town near the western coast of the state.



“Right now I really would like for my church to get an understanding that our mission field happens to be everywhere around us. We're in a hub community that has 15 communities around it that are very remote by any standards in the United States. There are high suicide rates in those villages. God would not put a church in a hub community just to sit in a hub community. 'Go ye therefore' is what I've always preached.”

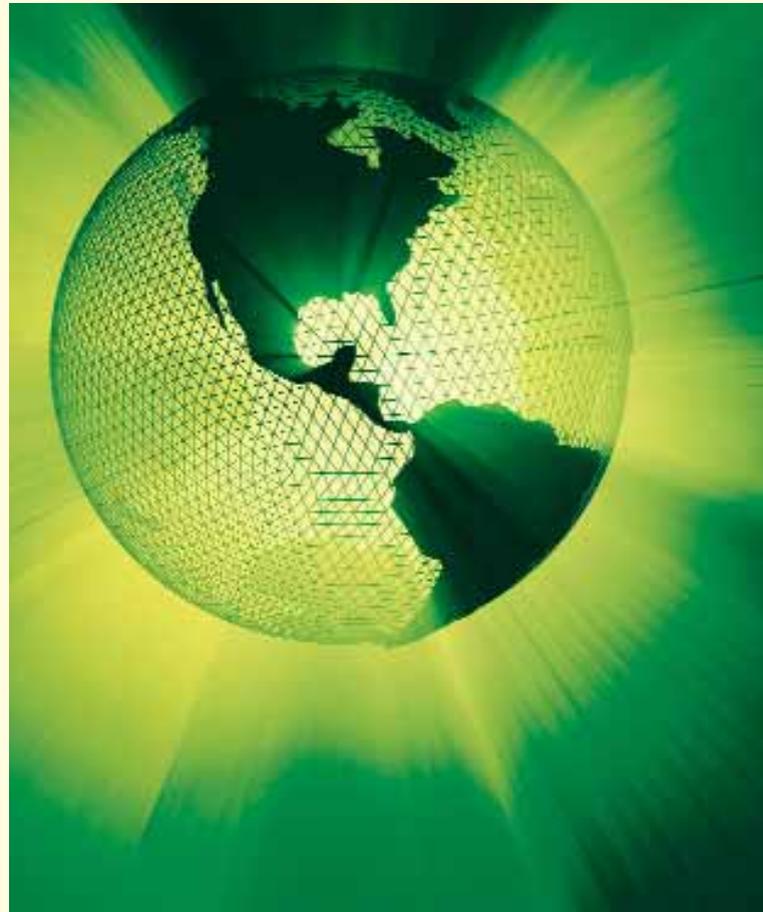
Bruce registered his church to communicate to his congregation that he's serious about missions locally and internationally.

“I'm trying to give them ownership,” Bruce says. “Jesus' last words before going into heaven are something we should pay close attention to. We can get mighty busy on things and not focus on what is the most important thing. Anything to get the point across that the four corners that we worship in every day are not the four corners of the world. 'Go ye therefore' means go beyond the walls of your church.”

WILLIAM H. SMITH, NORTH BUFFALO COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC, BUFFALO, NEW YORK

William Smith says he embraced the Acts 1:8 challenge, because “we wanted to put a stake in the ground that our church will continue in an Acts 1:8 direction and join our brothers and sisters across the continent in doing the same.”

William has been using Acts 1:8 resources such as videos from the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board to show his congregation the



necessity and urgency to become a worldwide missions center.

William says of the 60 to 100 attenders who come on Sunday to the mostly African American fellowship, 25 to 30 percent are excited about and active in the church's mission work.

“Next year we're ready to take it up another notch,” William says. “We plan to do missions more closely related to home.”

“We'd like to get something in every realm,” he adds. “We're a small church, but I know we can do that.”

In addition to a weekly missions promotion, William plans for the church to engage the local community with Vacation Bible Schools and other local outreach strategies.

For more information on how your church can accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge, visit www.ActsOne8.com or call 800-4-ACTS18. To order the Acts 1:8 Challenge doctrine study, visit www.namb.net/catalog. ®