



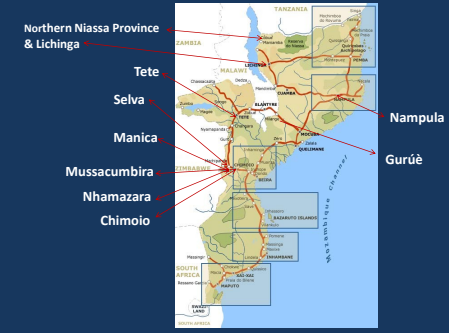
# Insight News

## Growing Human Potential One Worldview at a Time

### Corson/Nichols' Thoughts

We (Jason and Al) have just returned from our trip to Alaska. Both of us spent time in Nome, and Al also spent a week in Elim connecting with friends and supporters in the area. During our work, we often run into the (usually unspoken) idea that being a Christian is mostly academic. In this view, being a good Christian depends largely, if not primarily, on what you know and how well you can explain it. The idea is that if you can explain what being a Christian is, then you should be able to live it as well. The operative term is “explain,” not “understand.” It is often the case that Christians will be able to rattle off a basic explanation of Christianity, but that doesn’t imply understanding. Unfortunately, Christianity is not about being able to explain our beliefs; Christianity is about our relationship with God. The difference is this: if I think my relationship with my wife amounts to how many facts I can provide about her, then I am missing the point of my relationship (and probably annoying my wife with trivia she already knows). Understanding facts is only a small part of a good relationship. **A good relationship is covenantal—it is about building understanding and growing together in a way that strengthens our connection and empowers us to become better than we are.** Without understanding each other, we cannot really grow; just having the facts about our relationship isn’t enough. Of course, God doesn’t get any better since he’s the best there is, and he understands us completely, but *we* have a lot of room to grow. We run into a problem, though, when we mistake academic knowledge for a real relationship with God.

According to the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews, the new covenant is in our hearts *and* minds. It is not simply confessing certain doctrinal teaching, which often comes down to supporting a particular theology without actually understanding what it is or why it is really important. Instead, our covenant with God requires developmental discipleship which is based in relationship. This relationship cannot be developed through a program, because everyone’s relationship with God is different. Instead, we need to help people apply what they understand. It is the difference between teaching someone what they should do and letting them do it themselves (mistakes included). **Understanding isn’t just knowing facts—it is assimilating those ideas into our own belief system in a way that makes sense and can be applied.** We generally understand that theoretical science is useless without practical application (which often results in things quite different from the theory). The same is true of engineering, agriculture, and even computer programming. It is also true of theology. Theology is not actually all that useful in developing a relationship with God. Jason can tell you stories of Bible college professors warning students that their theological studies may actually interfere with their relationship with God. This is because of our tendency to think that good information equals a good relationship. Just because we know facts, that doesn’t mean we have a good



Jason and Al



Jason preaching at the Nazarene Church in Nome

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## Mission Activities

Jason will be traveling to various churches on the way to and from the ICOM. Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee and Oklahoma to name a few.

**Our booth number will be 723. If you plan to be at ICOM this year please stop by for a visit or just to say "Hello".**

AL will be at home w/ Velma as she recovers.



**Coveting your prayers and thanking you for your support**

### Shopping on line? Your shopping can benefit IRI. 2 ways to help.....

- Raise money for Insight Resources International just by searching the Internet with [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com) (powered by Yahoo), or shopping online with [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com).
- [AmazonSmile](http://AmazonSmile) just pick Insight Resources International.

**Looking for other ways to donate? You can now donate online at : [Insightagentsof-](http://Insightagentsofchange.com)**

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relationship. A good relationship comes with understanding ourselves, God, and how we need to work with him in a practical, livable way. This isn't possible, though, if we just do what others have done. Instead, we need to explore *our* personal relationship with God and see what it means as we live it in our lives. You've probably heard the term "holistic ministry." Many people think this is some type of teaching of a trade along with the preaching of the gospel. That may have been the old paradigm, but I want to offer you a new paradigm for holistic ministry. Because the gospel impacts the entire world and we represent the kingdom whether or not we ever engage in any kind of formal ministry, we need to understand how the whole world works. We need to know biology, philosophy, chemistry, math, economics, world government, world economics, poverty, simple living, communism, socialism, culture, linguistics, suppression, PTSD, this list goes on and on. You see, just sharing the gospel message (information) is not enough. We must learn to understand how the Gospel impacts every part of our lives. Until we do, the gospel will only make partial sense. This is why discipleship is so important. Through discipleship, the gospel is presented in the context of a living relationship. The mentor helps the student discover their relationship with God, both through universal truths, but, more importantly, through letting the student navigate their relationship for themselves—mistakes included. **We often get so caught up in making sure people know the right answer, that we forget to let them actually experience living in their relationship with God, with all the challenges, missteps, and frustrations that entails.** This is why you can study Theology for years, but still know nothing about God (as the Pharisees did in Jesus' day).

This kind of holistic ministry, which we feel should be the only ministry development out there, gives those being mentored a practical, living understanding of the world God created. Through that understanding, those being mentored realize who their creator is and that understanding the world and the sciences with in it is part and parcel of knowing our creator God. It isn't enough to simply know the right doctrine or dogma. It isn't even enough to teach it to others. We need to understand all the influences working for and against us in our world, so that we can relate to ourselves, our world, each other, and God in a genuine, lived-in relationship with God. This is the kind of growth we are seeing in Mozambique and now in Alaska, and this growth is the reason we are so excited to be part of this ministry.

### *Jason and Al*

## Nichols' Notes

As mentioned elsewhere in this letter, Al and Jason have returned from Alaska. This trip was primarily a relationship-building trip. I was focused on our friends and organizations in Nome, while Al focused on working with our friends in Elim. Both Al and I had great success. I was able to meet with several organizations in Nome that are interested in what IRI is doing. God opened up several opportunities for further work with these groups. Al was able to meet with some of the leaders in



Elim, and continued building a positive reputation for IRI through working with our friends there. He is being seen as a benefit to the community, and God is being glorified through Al's work with the people of Elim. This kind of work is often slow at first—it takes time to build trust, especially among the tribes. As people share their stories with us, we are finding years of antagonism, miscommunication, and outright abuse on the part of the government and even other church organizations. In order to build a positive relationship, we have to take the time to listen to the people of Alaska and learn what they need in order to understand how we may help. It's a humbling experience, but we are seeing fantastic progress. Praise God for this opportunity!

And now some photos from our recent trip.



Sunrise (6 am)

and



Sunset in Nome



A Cultural Event attended by Jason in Nome



Anna and Duane, friends in Elim



Anna and some village children on the beach



Dan Ward—Pastor in Nome



Fish harvest



Clam harvest

A big thanks to Anna Aukon for the use of the above 4 pictures.

FYI: We will be combining our November and December newsletter. Thanks for your support.

- ☑ Jason as he travels to and from ICOM. **Our booth number will be 723. If you make it to ICOM please stop by to visit or just say "Hello"**.
- ☑ Please pray for Al and Velma's health as they continue to work in His kingdom. Specifically for Velma's knee replacements and recovery.
- ☑ We are very thankful for the gift of the commercial sewing machine, tractor and disk needed in Moz. Our greatest need concerning these items now is funding to actually ship them to Moz. Your prayers and donations are greatly appreciated. Anything you can do to help will be a special blessing to Leo and the brothers and sisters in Moz.

### Get our Newsletter via Email

To get our newsletter via email please email [info@insightagentsofchange.com](mailto:info@insightagentsofchange.com) with your information.

The newsletters is mailed from [irinew12@gmail.com](mailto:irinew12@gmail.com) Please put this in your approved list. **Please notify us of any address changes so you do not miss receiving our newsletters.**

## Prayer Partners

### Tractor Update

Due to the size of the donated tractor it could not fit into a shipping container. We were able to trade it in on a more powerful but smaller in size tractor that was shippable. There was, however an additional cost of \$8000 which we need to raise. We are still also raising funds to purchase a container to ship the tractor and of course the cost of shipping. Those two items will cost an additional \$10,000. **Good news:** a double bladed disk, which will eliminate the need for a separate plow, was purchased and donated by one of our supporters. Please be prayerful concerning these needs.

The greatest thing that you can do for Insight Resources International is to actively pray. We believe that Prayer is the cornerstone of this ministry and without it we cannot stand against Satan's attacks.

# Growing Human Potential One Worldview at a Time

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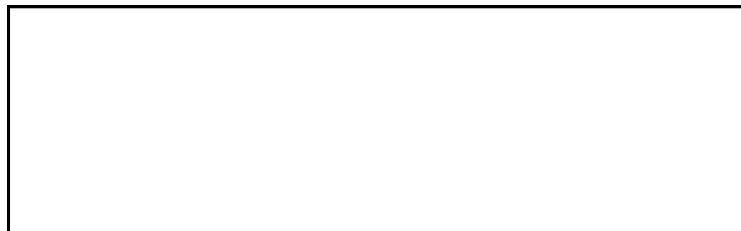
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