



# call letter

10,000 WATT • 850 am • 100.3 fm stereo

box 820

nome, alaska 99762

Fall, 1984

Vol. XXIII No. 3

## New Station Manager Named

After 17 years as Station Manager of KICY, Ralph Fondell (left) has handed over the reins of leadership to Jim Brewer. Jim came to KICY as a volunteer in 1980, has served our music director and sales manager, and played a key role in bringing about KICY's programming changes last year. He is the popular host of 'The Breakfast Show' each morning from 6 to 9 a.m. Ralph will retain his position as General Manager of KICY, and his seat on the board of directors of the Arctic Broadcasting Association. He is currently living in Anchorage pursuing his task of fundraising for a new Christian radio station to serve that area.



## Looking Back ...

*by Ralph Fondell*

For 26 years we have witnessed God's rich blessings, as we have seen KICY grow from a mere dream to a 10 K.W. radio station transmitting the love of God throughout Western Alaska and Eastern Siberia. We have also seen KICY-FM come to share the responsibility 24 hours a day in reaching the Nome audience which has grown from 2300 to 3500.

The staff has quadrupled in size from 5 to 20. During the 24½ years on the air, we have had the privilege of sharing the ministry with nearly 300 personnel ranging in age from 17 to over 70. They have stayed from two weeks to 17 years. The annual cost of operation has increased sevenfold from \$50,000 to \$350,000, with most of the income originally coming through a direct subsidy from the Evangelical Covenant Church. In 1985, we anticipate no further direct support from the denomination. Sales have increased during the years to \$190,000 or nearly 55% of the total budget. Almost all of the original equipment has been replaced now, with the addition of a new auxiliary power generator for the studio site this summer.

KICY was the first radio station to go on the air west of Anchorage and Fairbanks. Now there are at least 20 other stations and one television station, plus satellite TV in most of the villages of the state. KICY was the first station to bring network programming to the bush and the first to introduce both Eskimo and Russian programs to Western Alaska and Siberia.

In answer to one dear old Eskimo's statement, 'You can't leave, you've always been here' we say, 'The staff may

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## A Look Ahead ...

*by Jim Brewer*

Change. The very word can bring feelings of fear, or excitement, or both. A successful ministry must continually adapt to our changing world. Western Alaska has seen many changes in the years since KICY went on the air, and KICY has had to make adjustments in response to those changes. Many villages now have telephones and receive satellite TV transmissions. Nome has 4 jet flights to Anchorage each day and most of the villages have daily bush plane service. Some villagers are even installing running water and sewage systems. KICY's role is changing and yet it's purpose remains the same. We're trying to help our people here adjust to the westernization of rural Alaska life, while still retaining identity as native Americans. Even with added modern conveniences, our part of the world is still very remote. The many small Eskimo villages are 60, 70, 100, or even 200 miles apart with no roads connecting them. The winter is still long, dark, and cold, and radio is still a perfect way of encouraging people with the Gospel, keeping them up on the latest news, and adding to the day with entertainment. In this time of financial and personnel changes at KICY we are both excited and, yes, a little afraid as we look ahead to see God's plan for us. The fear is of 'the unknown,' the excitement is knowing that

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# THANK YOU!



## ... Ralph and Gert Fondell

Ralph Fondell came to Nome in 1958, responding to the Covenant's call to help build KICY. In the fall of 1959 Gert and their children joined him. Ralph was the station's first engineer, and became the general manager of KICY in 1967. Engineering in the Arctic was a challenge, and Ralph enjoys telling stories of 'the good old days,' of putting together and erecting a 260-foot tower (sans instructions!), snowshoeing 4 miles out of town to the transmitter site in a blizzard, and getting up several times each night to check the tower lights. Over the years Ralph's dedication to prayer, his positive attitude, and his sensitivity to staff needs were not only a blessing, but an important source of stability to this ministry. Gert has been a vital part of the station, too. For years she was the bookkeeper, and while Ralph came home at lunchtime, she ran to the station and did a program called 'Lines From a Mother's Scrapbook.' More recently, Gert has been the popular hostess of 'Gert's Corner', a morning, housewife-oriented record show. Gert and Ralph will also be remembered in Nome for their gifts of hospitality. Both have been very active in the leadership of the Nome Covenant Church. Ralph has also served on the board of directors of Northwest Community College, on the True Life in Christ board (a local ministry group), and was active in the Nome Chamber of Commerce.

Ralph and Gert have raised 5 children here in Nome. Kathy, Dan, Steve, and Becky and their families are all living in Alaska, as is John who has now finished school. They are proud of their 5 grandchildren (1 more is on the way!) and are looking forward to being able to spend more time with them. Sometime in the future they are planning to build a home and retire on their view lot in Palmer. For now, they are settled in a lovely apartment in Anchorage. Remember them in prayer as they tackle the challenges of fundraising, and of adapting to a new phase in their lives. Their address is:

4820 Topaz #2  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

## ... Stan and Beth Summers

22 years ago Stan Summers came to KICY as one of our first summer volunteers. After spending several summers here, he returned to join our permanent staff. His bride, Beth, joined him, and together they have served the station and the community of Nome ever since. Stan has spent most of his years here as program director of KICY. Beth is best known to listeners as the voice of 'Book Nook', a continued story-reading program heard on KICY for many years. They co-anchored KICY's news department for a time, and have served in many other capacities at the station. They have been very active in the community: Stan in Scouts, Rotary, school board, brass ensemble, tuba player for the H.S. band, etc. Beth has been active in Women's Club, PTA, the library board, and other groups. Both Stan and Beth have been active in many key roles at the Nome Covenant Church. Over the years they have been 'Mom and Dad' to 14 foster children. Presently they have 2 foster children: Richie (2nd grade) and Marcy (4th grade) who accompanied the family in their move to Anchorage. Their son Peter is an eighth grader this year; daughter Jenny a freshman at North Park College in Chicago. Jenny has volunteered many hours of her time this past year to work on-the-air at KICY.

In July, the Summers moved to a new 5-bedroom home in Anchorage. At this time Stan is not working; they are taking some much-needed time off to relax, to enjoy the amenities that life in a big city has to offer, and to cope with this change of circumstances. Please remember them in your prayers as Stan seeks a job, and as the family strives to cope with the challenge that this time of adjustment will bring. Their address is:

7050 Scalero Circle  
Anchorage, Alaska 99500



## STAFF TRAVEL

August trips - **Geof Woodbury** to Golovin to fill in for Pastor Tim Johnson on August 12. **Sharon Carlson, Laurel Carlson, and Jim Allen** to Elim. **Jim Allen** and **Carl and Jane Nelson** to Gambell. **Terry Reynolds** to Anchorage for broadcast seminar. He also went to Unalakleet in late June for ECCAK board. September trips - **Karen Asp, Doris Ahwinona, Diane Riley** to Shaktoolik. **Donna Powell, Jay**

**Lawton, and Mark Spann** to White Mountain. **Jim Brewer**, along with **Ralph Fondell**, attended the Alaska Broadcaster's Convention in Fairbanks in September. **Doris Ahwinona** will spend October vacationing and speaking in the Chicago, Minneapolis, and Seattle areas. The **Reynolds** family is planning to spend the Christmas holidays and January visiting their families in Pa/Ohio.



## Looking Back

*Continued from page 1.*

change, but KICY is still here.' One man in his early 30's told us that when he was a child and home alone and afraid, he would turn on KICY. Upon hearing our voices, he would then feel safe and go to sleep. Many changes have taken place, but the message of God's love for a needy people has remained constant. We have learned that although there has been and continues to be major changes in personnel, the staff of KICY exercises the same concern for its original purpose of being a friend who cares about individuals and who shares the love of God to those who need Him.

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## A Look Ahead

*Continued from page 1.*

God's plans for us are 'for good and not for evil.' As the staff and I look ahead, we see a continued potential to truly minister to our friends in rural Alaska. We are adjusting to new people being responsible for various tasks as we work together, and we're adjusting to a greater dependence on individual Christians to provide the support to keep us working here. Please remember us in prayer as we look ahead together. Keep supporting us too. We're not planning on going anywhere as long as you're behind us. Considering the beautiful love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the solid promises of His Word, our outlook for the future is bright because we are in His hands.

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Chief Engineer **Terry Reynolds** attended an Emergency Broadcast System seminar in Anchorage this past August, and came home with a grant worth \$20,000 to purchase and install a badly-needed new generator for our studio building. This generator is one of the last pieces of original 1960 equipment which is still being used.

Several Seattle Seahawks flew into Nome last June, courtesy of the Nome Rotary Club who brought them here, to hold a sports clinic at our high school. While in Nome they stopped at KICY for an interview, and also voiced a number of ID's and promotional spots for us. The championship Seattle Seahawks are heard in Nome on KICY-FM. Shown here in front of a banner in KICY's big studio are (from left): Paul Johns (#85), trainer Jim Whitesel, and Jacob Green (#79).



## News Shorts

WELCOME ...

**Greg Bowman**, from Norco, CA. He arrived in July to assist on-the-air and in production.

**Bernice Vlahkos**, from Minneapolis, MN. She spent last year at the Christian Academy in Japan as a short-termer. She has had much experience in journalism, and will be our news director.

**Dave Schmer**, from Overland Park, KS. Dave is our sales manager, with a big job ahead of him!!

**Dan Johnson**, from Jamestown, NY, will be assisting on-the-air, with news, and with production.

Due to arrive on December 1, is **Ann-Helen Anderson**, from Chicago, IL, as our office manager.

### ADDITIONAL STAFF NEEDS:

- one volunteer to write programs for the station's IBM PCXT (some 'on-air' work, too)
- one volunteer DJ (1 year)
- one Action Branch volunteer (work in the community and donate your salary to the station ... we will house and feed you! We have had nurses in the past, but any interested person with a skill can write to KICY for more information.)

\* \* \* \* \*

KICY has a slightly different silhouette these days, thanks to the addition of a 4 foot satellite dish perched on the peak of the roof. It was provided by the Associated Press to enable us to receive their teletype feed via satellite. This will reduce our news costs by about \$200 per month. AP is our major source of Alaska news, weather, and general features.

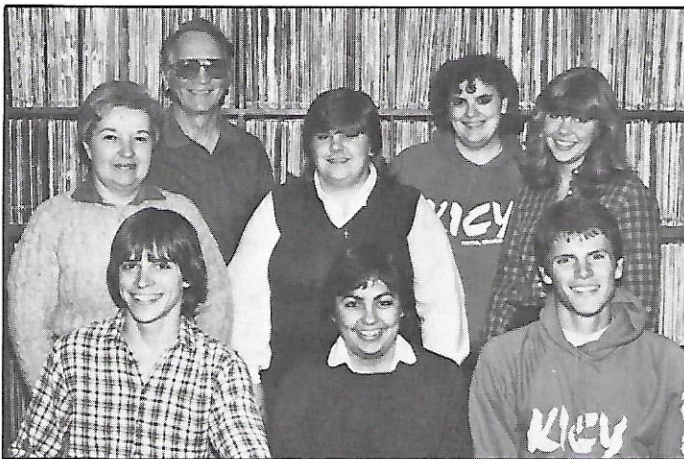
When it is country music you want, KICY is glad to oblige. Recently the Nome Republicans asked country DJ **Terry Reynolds** to tape some appropriate music for a fundraising bar-b-que. Instead, those lucky Republicans were treated to the premiere performance of 'Terry and the Tumbleweeds': **Terry**, **Sue Holder**, and **Jim Brewer**. Included in the repertoire were some old cowboy songs (a la Sons of the Pioneers) as well as some modern country. They were great, and will be heard from again!!!

**Paul Lindholm**, member of the Nome Covenant Church and longtime friend and supporter of KICY, is currently writing a book recording the history of KICY. The book is scheduled for publication some time next year, to celebrate KICY's 25th birthday. (Paul says he would still like to hear from anyone who has not responded to his letters.) His article 'Prayers from a Shoebox' appeared in the September, 1984, Covenant Companion.

The Nome area again received nationwide attention during the Frieda K incident in September, when her 5 crewmen were seized by the Russians and detained for several days in Siberia. KICY's **Geof Woodberry** covered the story ... perhaps you heard him on CBS, or one of several other nationwide networks which took KICY's actualities. The crew was very open about their strong faith in Christ, and KICY's news stories (including those fed to the networks) reflected a definitely Christian perspective regarding their experience. They were a great blessing to us, and a refreshing contrast to last year's Greenpeace incident.

THANK YOU to the anonymous person who sent Trivial Pursuit to the staff ... we are enjoying it.





**OUR HARD-WORKING SUMMER CREW ...** thanks for jobs well done! Bottom left: Mark Spann (Bellevue, WA), Linda Hedin (Bellevue, WA), Dave Sladkey (Leawood, KS). Center row left: Jane Nelson (New Castle, PA), Karen Asp (Tacoma, WA), Laurel Carlson (Chicago, IL). Top row left: Carl Nelson (New Castle, PA), Kris Patch (Shawnee, KS).

Please be in prayer for our winter crew as they are coping with their responsibilities both on and off the air: Jim Brewer (manager), Terry Reynolds (assistant manager and chief engineer), Geof Woodberry (program director), Jay Lawton (music director), Diane Riley (business manager), Bernice Vlahakos (news director), Dave Schmer (sales manager), Doris Ahwinona (native programming), Sue Holder (secretary), Donna Powell (copywriting, traffic), Greg Bowman and Dan Johnson (production), Linda Reynolds (publications), and Sharon Carlson (our Action Branch nurse).

### Keep your Call Letters coming...

We are updating and computerizing our mailing list. You can help us by filling out the coupon below and sending it to us. Or ... send back the enclosed envelope. Your responses will be the basis of our new list.

*(Thanks to those of you who have replied already!)*

**Yes ... please keep me on your Call Letter list!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

KICY

Box 820

Nome, Alaska 99762

Clip and return to KICY

## Pause For Prayer

### PRAISE ...

... for the staff we need in sales, news, business, and in the office.

... that so many have been able to go and experience the unique joys of village life.

... for the testimony of the crew of the supply ship, Frieda K ... for their faith which was shared at a news conference here in Nome (and heard on KICY) following the incident ... for news stories which honored Christ which were shared with listeners nationwide.

... for the trials that come that build character in each one of us.

### PETITION ...

... for unity amongst the staff, as we adjust not only to new roles and responsibilities, but also to each other.

... for sales, crucial during these days of budgetary cut-backs. Fall is an important time to sell sports, holiday and political advertising. Pray especially for Dave as he presents himself and KICY to our local merchants.

... for Ralph and Gert Fondell as they pursue the task of fundraising for a Christian AM/FM station in Anchorage. As of October 1, Ralph reports that they have a good prospect for land for the transmitter site; the FCC is still considering the license applications.

... for the Nome Covenant Church, left reeling from the loss of many families in the last few months, including the Summers and Fondells. The church has lost many good leaders and givers, and the KICY staff has lost a number of close, supportive friends.

The KICY Call Letter is published periodically by the Staff of Radio Station KICY, Nome, Alaska. KICY was built and staffed by the Evangelical Covenant Church and is operated under a subsidiary corporation, the Arctic Broadcasting Association, in cooperation with the American Lutheran Church. Correspondence may be addressed to: KICY, Box 820, Nome, Alaska 99762, or to Evangelical Covenant Church, Department of Church Growth and Evangelism, Dr. Robert C. Larson, Executive Secretary, 5101 North Francisco Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625.

**ARCTIC BROADCASTING  
ASSOCIATION**

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# WHERE DOES KICY STAND?

## Our Financial Outlook

Upon hearing the news that the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism of the Covenant Church was eliminating all financial subsidy for KICY (this presently amounts to \$50,000), our listeners and supporters have asked some very good and very important questions. Let's take a moment and look at three of these questions and then explore the role that each of us plays in this time of significant changes in the mission policies of the Covenant Church.

### First, "DOES THE COVENANT STILL CONSIDER KICY TO BE A WORTHWHILE MINISTRY?"

Yes. KICY's listenership is growing. KICY's sales revenue is increasing. KICY's involvement in the community is expanding. The need for KICY is as great as ever. During the summer months as many as 7 of the 10 Covenant Churches in our listening area did not have a pastor. The need for solid Bible teaching, witness, and worship via radio continues. Because of an accumulated deficit of \$700,000 in our denomination, the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism was forced to make drastic budget cuts. The decision to eliminate KICY's \$50,000 subsidy was based primarily on the belief, and the hope, that the radio station would be able to make up the resulting deficit in sales and individual contributions. This brings us to our next question ...

### CAN KICY REALISTICALLY SURVIVE SUCH A DRASTIC BUDGET CUT?"

Yes. Dr. Robert Larson, Executive Secretary of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism, is quoted at the 1984 Covenant Annual Meeting as saying that he feels "KICY will be able to continue if they are allowed to appeal to churches for support." As a Covenant Mission outreach, we are prohibited from appealing directly to Covenant churches in the lower 48 states for financial support. The delegates to the annual meeting gave the Executive Committee of the Covenant Church a mandate to implement a resolution known as the "Hartman Proposal" by next year. This act will provide more opportunity for various Covenant ministries to share their needs and provide you with more opportunities to respond to them. I should add that at this time we are allowed to make a presentation in a church when **invited** and we may also assist a member of the congregation in making a presentation about KICY. Subsidy reductions are not new to KICY. In 1979, the decision was made to reduce KICY's appropriation by \$10,000 a year for five consecutive years. Some doubted we would be able to continue under those circumstances. Each year, for the past five years, the Lord provided just enough extra sales and contributions to enable us to finish out the year in the black. In 1982, we ended up approximately \$600 to the good out of a budget exceeding \$300,000. That's cutting it close ... but it was enough! God has provided for this ministry through His people in the past, and we know He can now.

### And now our third question: "IF THE COVENANT CAN'T AFFORD TO SUPPORT KICY, WHY HAVE THEY INITIATED EFFORTS TO START ANOTHER CHRISTIAN RADIO STATION IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA?"

The answer to this question lies in where the support for each station comes from. KICY reaches about 40,000 people scattered among small isolated villages along a 1000 mile front on the Western coast of Alaska. Most of our listeners live a subsistence lifestyle and, as a result, a large portion of our support comes from people like you in the lower 48 states. Virtually half the population of Alaska lives in the Anchorage area. It is a typical metropolitan city with a population of over 200,000 and a lifestyle similar to that of a lower 48 city. The Covenant Church has budgeted \$50,000 to get the project off the ground. The remainder of the support is to come from local individuals, local Anchorage churches (of various denominations), and advertising revenue. The Covenant is not requesting financial contributions from the lower 48 and it is anticipated that the station will be self-supporting. By the way, Anchorage does not presently have a Christian radio station.

## What Can You Do To Help KICY?

First; PRAY for this ministry and for our staff. We are burdened with this concern about our finances. We need to focus all our energy on ministering to the people who hear our signal. We need your prayers and our listeners need your prayers.

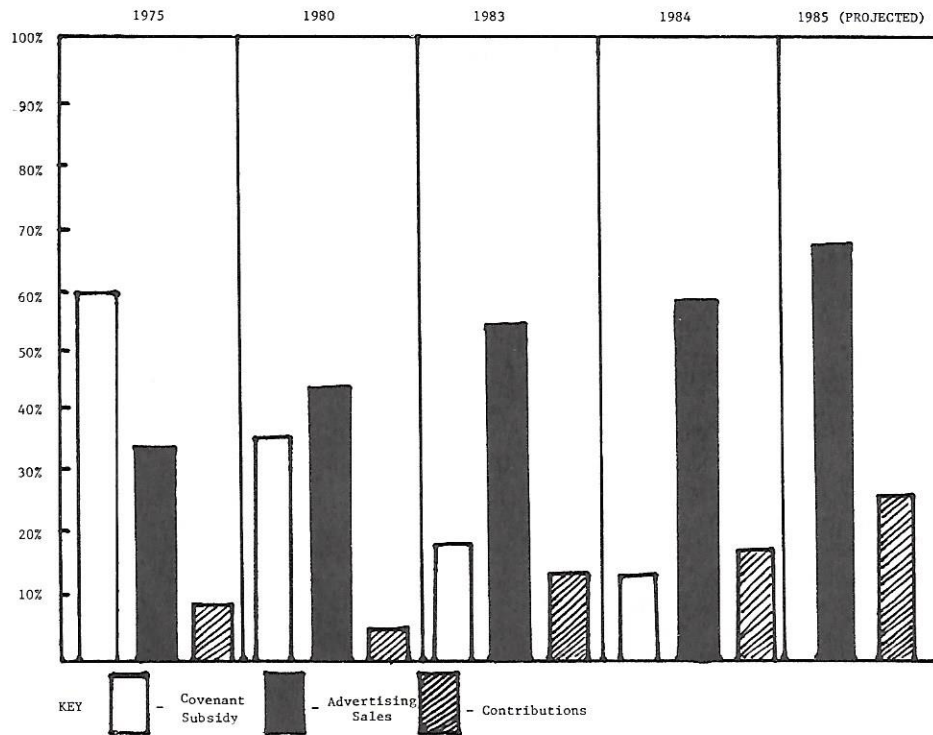
Second; TELL others about our needs. Tell friends, Sunday School groups, Bible study and prayer groups, and other congregations. People will not give to an unknown cause. We will supply any information you need to make a presentation. There is a 20 minute video tape available, along with brochures that detail our outreach. We're also working on a cassette tape presentation. How about a Sunday school class day devoted to KICY? Or perhaps a KICY night at Church? We'll do our best to provide the help you need to put it together. YOU are our best link to potential new supporters of this ministry.

And third; please continue to SUPPORT KICY financially. We realize that the majority of additional funds will have to come from individual supporters and churches. Over the past five years we have made a concentrated effort to generate maximum sales. This has been successful to the point of almost saturating our limited available market. As a result, our greatest potential for increased revenue is in the area of contributions. We are presently estimating that an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 in contributions will need to be raised in 1985. This is not an unreasonable amount and a goal which we see as being attainable as long as people know of our needs and respond to them. We have been able to save money by cutting one paid staff position and we are getting some extra revenue by renting a vacant house which is owned by the Covenant. These are temporary solutions to our present financial crunch.

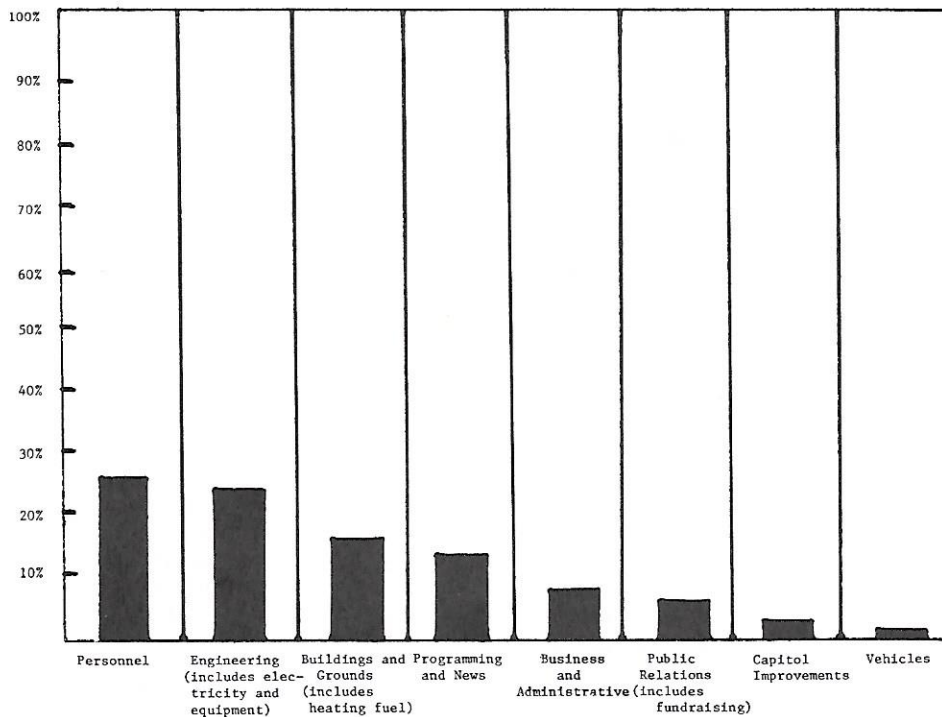
Thank you for your contributions, your prayers, and your support of this special ministry in Western Alaska.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Jim Brewer  
Station Manager

## KICY INCOME TRENDS



## KICY EXPENSE PERCENTAGES -1984



## 1985 FINANCIAL NEEDS

- additional 'Action Branch' volunteers (approx. \$16,000 each)
- elimination of one paid staff position (\$12,000)
- wintertime rental of vacant staff house (\$7,000)
- increased support from Covenant Churches and Individuals (minimum \$15,000)