

Our number one problem is alcohol and drug abuse. Our family life, our young people, our churches, our community and it's leaders all suffer from this disease. Since healing is going to have to start with people, we want to begin with the family, the basic unit of the community.

We know the value of our native living skills which were almost lost. Our present challenge is to bring them back into the family. This is why the theme of the 1988 Gathering will be "FAMILY HEALING".

2/22, 23
We have invited Louis and Eva Frank of the Kyuquot Band of the Nuu-chah-nulth Indians of Vancouver Island. They were part of the first group who lived as a community in what had been the old Christie Roman Catholic Mission Boarding School. From this community has developed the Kákáwis Family Development Centre. As an elder, Mr. Frank is a primary person in making sure that this effort was developed and kept running in such a way as to meet the needs of the people, not to be something decided and imposed from the outside.

We are inviting at least one elder from each main area to join us. We have also invited the Aloysius family to share. We encourage families to come. This way young people will also be present.

We hope that our time together will be a time for sharing, a time for listening to our elders, a time for healing, a time for planning what we need to do to reach toward our vision of the future.

PLACE: *Meier Lake Conference Center near Wasilla*

DATES: *February 19-21 (We urge everyone to travel on the 18th and 22)*

COST: *\$125 per person with a maximum of \$250 for three or more people)*

It is our hope that village and church councils will wish to sponsor people attending. Space is limited. There are only 95 beds. Please respond as early as possible. We urge all pastors and church leaders receiving this to read it to their congregations. We urge all of you to share this with others you think would be interested.

Thank you!

The Planning Group

Bishop Jacob Nelson, Moravian
Bethel

Scott Fisher, Episcopalian
Fairbanks

John Fawcett, Presbyterian
Metlakatla

Walter Moffett, Methodist
Anchorage

Sr. Josephine Aloralrea
St. Marys

Dolly Kugzruk, Lutheran
Teller

Bob Aloysius, Roman Catholic
Bethel

Carolyn Winters, Presbyterian
Fairbanks