

# **Kotzebue Hosting— Council of Churches Meeting**

The impact of the oil industry on the development of Alaska, the native land claims issue, and the church's response to crucial areas of human need will be major topics of discussion at the annual meeting of the Alaska Council of Churches next week.

To be held Feb. 23-26 in Kotzebue, the meeting will be the first for the council in a remote Alaska village.

Keynote speaker for the assembly will be Dr. William Loyens, head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alaska.

Dr. Loyens will focus on the backgrounds and the future potentialities of the native peoples of Alaska.

Representatives from the oil industry will address the assembly Feb. 24 on the history of oil

development in the state, projections about the industries' future growth, the job opportunities that exist, and the particular impact that oil development will have on the native peoples of Alaska. Represented will be the Atlantic Richfield Company, Western Geophysical and the Trans Atlantic Pipeline System.

James Thomas, director of public relations for the Alaska Federation of Natives, is scheduled to give a progress report on the efforts of the AFN to secure an equitable land claims legislation.

It was largely through the efforts of the Alaska Council of Churches that the National Council of Churches adopted a resolution in December supporting the AFN position. The national council represents some 44 million members of major Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican churches in America.

The four-day meeting will also feature a panel on "Life in a Native Village" and the presentation of a research document, "A Consultation on the Church and Human Need in Alaska."

Member communions of the Alaska Council of Churches include: American Baptists, Disciples of Christ, United Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran Church in America, United Methodist and the Salvation Army.