

last run

Brad Lartigue

When folks at Big Sky, Mont., ask this 37 year old to "pray for snow," they really mean it. That's because Lartigue, a Louisiana native, is a snowboarding Southern Baptist minister who serves as the resort's chaplain. He performs marriages and christenings, and hosts on-mountain worship services while still skiing and boarding about 60 days a year.

Born February 10, 1961

Born Again "My father is a minister, but I had to discover God for myself. While in college I felt a divine calling to serve in the ministry."

His Mission "When we think of missionaries, we usually think of them serving in jungles. But the North American Mission Board employs about 50 chaplains at vacation resorts in the U.S., including 15 at ski resorts. After college, I was hired by the Board to be a chaplain at Taos, N.M. I had hoped for a beach resort and had only seen snow twice before. I thought, 'Taos? Where's that?'"

Love At First Sight "I fell in love with skiing at Taos and was cruising Al's Run by the end of my first season there. In 1990 I was hired to be resort chaplain at Big Sky during winters and at Yellowstone Park during summers."

Open Arms "I started snowboarding my first winter at Big Sky because I wanted the snowboarders to feel welcome and included at my worship services and Bible studies. And snowboarders do come more often now."

Heaven On Earth "I do the Sunday worship services on the mountain at the top of the Mr. K trail, under a 14-foot-high wooden cross. I call it the mountain cathedral. The mountains are God's handiwork, pushing up toward the sky."

Divine Reminder "The non-denominational worship service lasts only 20 minutes. On a typical Sunday, I get about 50 people. I lose a few on powder days." —Reade Bailey

