

NAKNEK, ALASKA MISSION NEWS

A MINISTRY OF AFLC HOME MISSIONS - January 2017

NOT A NORMAL SUNDAY

By: Jeremy Crowell

There are a lot of ways that Sundays in Southwest Alaska are out of the ordinary in comparison to a Sunday in the "Lower 48". For instance, in Naknek and the surrounding area, the best way to get around is by small aircraft. Every Sunday, weather permitting, we fly across the river to South Naknek and also 40 miles to the northwest to the village of Ekwok to hold Sunday Services.

Last Sunday was a little more out of the ordinary. This time we planned on delivering a new puppy to Ekwok with us as we headed up there for church. We got our Piper Cherokee Six ready to go.



Delivering a puppy to Ekwok

Flight preparation takes a little longer during the winter, requiring advanced planning. The night before, I put on the engine blanket and plug in the aircraft so it's sufficiently preheated for an easy start.

That Sunday, we accomplished the preflight inspection, removed the engine blanket, and my first load of passengers and I were sitting in the airplane. Pastor Jeff Swanson came to the plane and said that one of the parishioners in South Naknek was very sick and was requesting to go to the hospital in Dillingham. Fortunately earlier in the morning, I had checked the weather for Dillingham and knew that it was supposed to be good all day.

I flew those who were going to do the service in South Naknek there, and left word that I would be back at the South Naknek airport to pick up the sick passenger in 15-20 minutes. I flew back across the river, to Naknek, fueled up for the Dillingham flight, picked up Pastor Jeff and another passenger, and hopped back across the river. There we picked up the passenger who wasn't feeling well.

We flew directly to Dillingham, where a person was waiting at the airport to take our sick passenger to the hospital. Then, we took off for Ekwok. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the church service in Ekwok earlier in the day when we had got word of the need-



Piper Cherokee Six

ed medical trip to Dillingham. The short winter days won't accommodate a longer stop in Ekwok with the "surprise" of added trip Dillingham. But still, we could stop in for a short while.

The puppy was riding along with us this whole time, and seemed to enjoy the flight, sleeping most of the way. Once in Ekwok, we delivered the puppy, some quilts, and some children's books and Bibles to the folks there. Then we headed home.

The airplane is a tool that God uses to spread His Word and His love to people. These out of the ordinary ministry opportunities prove that. We continue to be grateful for the Lord's provision and safety for flying. We appreciate all you who support us as we bring the Good News of the Savior to Southwest Alaska!

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HAVE A HEART FOR MINISTRY?

By: *Bobbie Overgaard*

You may remember the signature song by Tony Bennett, "I Left My Heart In San Francisco"? Well Tony may have left his heart in San Francisco, but I left mine in Naknek, Alaska! For the past 3 years I've had the privilege of serving at The Net in Naknek, a beautiful coffee-house ministry that I'm so happy to be a part of. Perhaps you'd be interested in joining me?

Now wait a minute, don't say NO right away!

Over the next 25 days I'd like to challenge you to read one of the Bible verses at the end



Pastor Jeff and Jane Swanson in front of The Net

of this article each day. After reading the daily verse(s), pray and listen for what God might be saying to you. If he has placed a special message on your heart, then seek peace and pursue it.



A glimpse of the beauty in Alaska

Once you have finished the Bible study, might you consider a ministry trip to Naknek, Alaska in 2017?

- An opportunity to meet and work alongside three full time missionaries and their wonderful families that are already serving in Naknek. You will not find nicer people anywhere.

- An opportunity to meet people from all over the United States and from all over

the world. Last year The Net had visitors from 40 states and 44 different countries.

- An opportunity to gaze upon the beautiful scenery and wild life in Alaska. Last year I saw a bear right outside my living room window!

If any of this peaks your curiosity, I'd love to talk in more detail with you. We are looking for volunteers to serve at The Net in the summer of 2017. If you have a heart to share the love of Jesus with people, if you are willing to step a bit outside your comfort zone, and if you have a couple of weeks available I'd LOVE to put your name on our ministry team schedule.



View inside The Net

Whether an individual or a couple, a Bible study group

or a young adult group from church, whatever the case, WE NEED YOU! Won't you please consider doing the Lord's work next summer in Alaska? Please call me at (805) 705-9556 or send me an email at: sbchilebean@gmail.com

25 Day Bible Study

Day 1: Hebrews 6:10

Day 2: Proverbs 11:25

Day 3: Matthew 23:11

Day 4: Luke 6:38

Day 5: Mark 10:45

Day 6: 1 Peter 4:10

Day 7: Romans 12:9-13

Day 8: Galatians 6:10

Day 9: Luke 6:35

Day 10: Acts 20:35

Day 11: Ephesians 2:10

Day 12: Colossians 3:23-24

Day 13: Matthew 25:40

Day 14: Isaiah 58:10

Day 15: 2 Corinthians 9:7-9

Day 16: Galatians 5:13-14

Day 17: Titus 3:8

Day 18: 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Day 19: 1 John 3:18

Day 20: Luke 10:1-2

Day 21: Isaiah 6:8

Day 22: John 13:12-13

Day 23: Matthew 20:28

Day 24: Philippians 2:1-11

Day 25: Mark 9:35

BECOME AN ALASKA MISSIONARY

By: *Loren Tungseth*

Have you ever wanted to be an Alaska missionary? Have you dreamed of bringing the message of hope that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in remote Alaskan villages? Then let me suggest that the Lord is calling you to that work right now.

In Romans 15:30 the Apostle

Paul says, "I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me."

Notice that Paul isn't asking the church in Rome to pray for him as he struggles. He's asking them to

join him in his struggle. Prayer isn't just a support system for

PRAYER ISN'T JUST A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THOSE DOING MISSION WORK IN ALASKA, PRAYER ITSELF IS MISSION WORK.

those doing mission work in Alaska, prayer itself IS mission work. Just as the heart is a vital organ of the physical body, prayer is a vital part of the Alaska mission.

Without the heart, the body dies. Without prayer, the AFLC Alaska mission work dies.

So I "urge you to join us in our struggle"! Become an Alaska missionary by praying for this work daily. It is a vitally important role that you are being called to!

AFLC MEMBERS SERVING CHRIST IN THE NAKNEK AREA

By: Kevin Lee

This past summer I was part of a group of 12 believers from Prince of Peace Lutheran in Beulah, ND that was privileged to spend 10 days in Naknek, helping at The Net, and working on various maintenance and construction projects.



Work team from Prince of Peace ready to leave South Naknek after a day of painting

There are two things that stand out to me the most from the trip.

1) God has assembled a faithful, dedicated, and fruitful team with the three AFLC missionary families that serve Naknek and the surrounding area. They gave Godly love, and physical help if needed, to all they came in to con-

tact with...including those of us from Beulah. We saw direct evidence of many lives touched by Christ.

2) The airplane is a vital ingredient for ministry in this part of Alaska. There are no roads out of Naknek to the smaller villages that we serve with Pastoral and lay member visits, and VBS teams.

In the short time I was in Naknek, I made 13 flights to South Naknek, ten were work project related, and three to attend Bible study or worship services. I was also able to help fly the VBS team to and from Igiugig and also up to Kokhanok. My wife Margie and I, along with Pastor Swanson and another Beulah team member, flew the FLAPS 175 to Sunday afternoon worship at Ekwok. It is beautiful and remote country to fly over. We were able to see moose and bear on several occasions.

The summer months see the most airplane use with many trips hauling kids to Bible



Kyle Arneson from the VBS team and Kevin Lee in the Cessna 175 flying to Kokhanok

Camp, and occasional flights to Anchorage for medical visits and supplies.

There were many flights this summer for the four young people who served on the 2016 VBS team: Kyle, Marli, Heather, and Amelia. They were flown out on Monday mornings to one of the six outlying villages of Ekwok, Egegik, Igiugig, Kaligonik, Kokhanok, and South Naknek. After their week of sharing with and loving on the children, the team would be picked up Friday and flown back to Naknek for the weekend. There they would gather new supplies to prepare for the next week and participate in Sunday worship. The VBS team was a huge blessing to the children who attended, and their families, and it wouldn't be possible without the use of the FLAPS airplanes.

As it reads in Romans 10:14,15 "And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?"



Evening flight back to Naknek with many fishing boats in Naknek

NEWS UPDATES



WE'RE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO DR. KEVIN LEE WHO ACCEPTED THE FLAPS DIRECTOR POSITION AND STARTED JANUARY 1, 2017. AS YOU READ THROUGH THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL REALIZE THAT THE FLAPS MINISTRY PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE ALASKA MISSION. PLEASE KEEP KEVIN AND THIS MINISTRY IN YOUR PRAYERS.



PLEASE CONTINUE PRAYING FOR MALACHI CROWELL AS HE BATTLES JUVENILE ARTHRITIS. IT'S BEEN AFFECTING HIS EYES QUITE A BIT. PRAY THAT THE MOST RECENT TREATMENT WILL WORK. YOU CAN STAY UP TO DATE BY SIGNING UP FOR THE KNEE MAIL NEWSLETTER ON THE HOME MISSIONS WEBSITE.



GOD IS AT WORK AT THE KAKN RADIO STATION!! WOULD YOU CONSIDER PARTNERING WITH THIS EXPANDING MINISTRY BY SPONSORING A DAY OF PROGRAMMING FOR \$500? CONTACT THE HOME MISSIONS OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WHY I WANT TO GO BACK

By: Heather Hansen

After serving on the 2016 Alaska VBS team I'm excited to get the opportunity to go back. I want to go back to Alaska for several reasons. One reason is because I actually left. I would have no problem staying



Playing games during Vacation Bible School

longer. I remember crying in Naknek as the days to leaving were getting closer and even crying the couple days we were in Anchorage/Big Lake/Palmer. Even though I came back home a part of me stayed in Alaska. I fell in love with the people, lifestyle, salmon and everything else (besides the bugs).

I loved The Net and am curious which cannery workers will come back in 2017 that I met in 2016. I'm excited to meet new people too! Can I say that it really is a bummer that I don't know more than one language. You go to The Net

and just want to love on and listen to (without a language barrier) all those people who have traveled from all over the world to work in Naknek for the summer.

I especially want to go back to my kids in the villages again. I wonder daily if someone is being the light of Christ to them. Are they being spiritually fed? What difficulties are they going through? I want to give them a hug (most of them aren't the hugging type though, so a piggy back ride will have to work). I want to go swimming in freezing cold water to bond with the kids,



Lots of salmon!!

because I miss it. I also want to go see my Naknek friends and dear missionary friends.

There is a need in Alaska and I see how God can use me to fill the need. Yes, sign me up for summer 2017...to go back to the place my heart calls home.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By: Rod Scheel

I returned to Alaska in November to complete the "unfinished business" of June 22. The first project when arriving at KAKN on Friday, November 12th was to construct/paint a wooden cabinet or rack. A refurbished Robert A. Jones FM translator had a good flight from our home in Fergus Falls, MN and was bench tested in the KAKN transmitter room.

On Monday, November 21st we lifted off in the FLAPS Cherokee 6 at Naknek Airport. The day was beautiful and working conditions at Ma-



NanoStation receives Network Service or Wireless Internet Service from GCI the Alaska statewide Cell provider, excellent GCI system

nokotak were even better. All the equipment was installed and in order of signal/data flow: NanoStation, Linksys Router, Bridge-IT CODEC and finally the new Robert A. Jones FM Translator (an existing VersaCount FM translator is forecast to be installed by Jeremy Crowell and Jeff Swanson the week of December 5th depending on good flying weather).

A CODEC at KAKN delivers the FM audio over the internet to the Manokotak CODEC. This portion was having some configuration issues and is the most complex of the tasks. Recorded music is currently being broadcast at Manokotak as the CODEC connection needs some final configuration.

The Manokotak upgrade is the first of more FM translator projects. Two more for sure (Igiugig and Koliganek)



KAKN Project Team with Rod Scheel [two in from left] and Pastor Jeff Swanson [far right]

and possibly another two are being studied. The forecast is once FCC Form 349 is Construction Permit is approved, then Koliganek will be quickly installed. The goal is to align KAKN coverage with villages in which we hold Vacation Bible School [VBS] each summer. Small FM scanning radios will be provided in Summer 2017 to the VBS students.

Prayer is the first step; then some planning, engineering, budgeting, site approvals

to co-locate our equipment with a host and FCC approval. The new FM Translator are "possible" translator sites since they are "white space" (served by less than two other FM stations). And, of course, financial support is needed to purchase equipment. Prayer is where this all starts and ends.

If there are questions about this article contact Rod Scheel, Alaska Project Manager. rodscheel@live.com