



NAKNEK, ALASKA MISSION NEWS

A MINISTRY OF AFLC HOME MISSIONS - January 2018

UNEXPECTED BLESSING

By: *Jeremy Crowell*

Every fall for the last several years, our community of Naknek has hosted a youth retreat through the cooperation of three local churches. As one of those churches, our ministry team has had the privilege to be a part of this outreach. It is an opportunity to serve young people and share the Word of God through preaching, teaching, singing, and fellowship.

This year presented both some challenges and un-

expected blessings. The first challenge was the bad



Retreat attendees

weather that kept our planes grounded. The retreat had to be postponed a week due to weather. However, this proved to be a blessing as more kids were able to come that next weekend!

We live in an area in SW Alaska where there are no roads to connect area villages, so airplanes must be used to get around. We were blessed to be able to use all of our FLAPS aircraft (including our recent donation of the Cherokee 140) and 3 other aircraft. It was a logistical challenge to organize all the flights. It took about 20 flights using all these planes to bring 29 kids from the outlying villages to join the 16 kids from our communities of Naknek and King Salmon.

Cont. on page 3



UNEXPECTED BLESSING > P1

CALLED TO SERVE > P1

ADVENTURES IN DECEMBER > P2

THE GRACE OF GIVING > P3

BLESSED DELAYS > P4



Contact AFLC Home Missions or check out our website to donate online or find more information on the Alaska Mission.

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CALLED TO SERVE

By: *Bobbie Overgaard*

I've written several articles for this newsletter, but I don't know if I've ever really told you my story. As you may know, I have spent the last four summers managing The Net in Naknek, Alaska.

How or who calls a person to serve? In my case, I felt as though there were a number of things that all came together at the perfect time or God's time. I think my interest goes all the way back to when Alaska became a state. For some

reason, I had a child's curiosity about this remote land. Then the movie, "North To Alaska" came out starring John Wayne and the song with the same name by Johnny Horton. I got the sheet music for this song, and I played it over and over on the piano.

I routinely read about missionaries and their mission trips and wondered how these dedicated servants could go to such faraway lands. I couldn't imagine doing something like that. How do you pack up and go to a foreign



A peek inside The Net during Bobbie's first summer in Naknek

land where you can't even speak the language? Not me!

But then, it all came together. I retired....so now my time is my own and I could devote more time to church activities.

Cont. on page 2

ADVENTURES IN DECEMBER

By: Bob Lee

God's gifts are bestowed on us, not that we may have them to ourselves, but that we may the more "abound in good works" to others. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

It's been a busy week packed with meetings and adventure during the visit of Pastor Paul Nash and Alaska Project Manager, Rod Sheel. Let me share about just three of our days in a busy week characterized by fruitful ministry and opportunities to share the Good News.

Tuesday morning found us at Hilltop Christian Fellowship where local men gather together much like a café in farming country. School bus drivers, pilots, a watchman, pastors, a school principal, a contractor and even a politician trade stories over coffee and build friendships.

In between meetings, we had the opportunity to visit with our new friend, David, who Pastor Nash met on his aborted commercial flight to King Salmon. David's father

had come to faith through the ministry of KAKN's founder, Curtis Nestegard. He wanted to hear how his village could receive the broadcasts of KAKN Christian radio. We put his request on a growing list of villages where we want to



Long time listener to KAKN listens for the first time in her home

put translators to expand the ministry of KAKN and share the Gospel message.

That afternoon a twenty-five minute flight to the south took us across frozen tundra to the village of Egegik that has broadcast KAKN to local villagers and fishermen in Bristol Bay. We met with the village manager and his family who faithfully keep the village running as well as resetting our translator whenever it

goes off-line. It was a joy to bring them some Christmas supplies.

On Wednesday, we headed out for another twenty-five minute flight to the village of Igiugig to set up equipment in a faithful supporter's home. Here we hope to have KAKN on-the-air as soon as we get the license to broadcast. Icy conditions swept in delaying our flight and almost requiring an overnight stay. A sudden break in the clouds allowed us to take-off and we safely made a night landing at our little airport in Naknek.

Bible studies on Wednesday night, Thursday afternoon, and a Sunday night service bring in others from the community giving opportunity to sing our favorite hymns and study the Word.

On Thursday morning, we met with a cannery worker who also writes for the Bristol Bay newspaper. She wanted to write a story on our quilt ministry and was asking questions as to where the quilts came from and who receives them. She asked us if she could join

us that afternoon when we went to deliver more quilts.

In the afternoon our reporter showed up and we loaded the airplane with the remainder of the quilts that we had received from churches in the Lower-48. We literally took quilts off the beds in our guest apartments to share as our supply had run out. We brought these to those in need at our church in South Naknek. The quilts are always so appreciated.

Pastor Jeremy Crowell and Pastor Nash attended a Civil Air Patrol meeting in King



Loading quilts into the plane

Salmon that evening where Jeremy was doing the meeting's presentation. Meantime, maintenance issues are ongoing whether there is time for them or not.

Cont. page 4

CALLED TO SERVE CONT.

Cont. from page 1

I had heard about The Net but didn't know much about it. I do have the gift of hospitality and thought that this might be a good match. The next thing I knew was that I received a phone call asking me to manage The Net. It was the perfect storm (in a totally good way) where it all came

together. I had the time, I have the spiritual gift of hospitality, it's a place I've always dreamt about visiting and they speak English. I've been asked to serve and I immediately said "Yes".

God spoke to me that day and it was all immediately clear to me that I should go. Sometimes God works like that and

sometimes it's not so obvious. As I prepared to go to Naknek, I sometimes wondered about this decision that I had made. However, once I got there any concerns were gone in an instant. I'm hooked on The Net and thrilled to be serving in such a unique ministry where the world comes knocking on your door.



Bobbie (right) with some visitors to The Net and fellow volunteer, Jared Langness (left)

UNEXPECTED BLESSING CONT.

Cont. from page 1

Once everyone was finally here in Naknek, they had opportunity to play games, fellowship, sing worship songs, and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. It was a great privilege to help make this opportunity happen. After the

final session of the retreat, we were able to fly these youth home and were blessed with great weather.

Please be in prayer that these youth who heard the Gospel will continue to look to the Savior and for His continued work in their lives!



Playing group games

THE GRACE OF GIVING

By: Loren Tungseth

Hearing the testimonies of God working in the hearts of people last summer brings great joy to each of us involved in the Alaska Mission. The seeds of the Gospel were planted in people from all over the world.

It is amazing to see how God uses each one who works in Naknek to accomplish the spreading of His Holy Word. However, our missionaries in Alaska and those who give of their time to work at The Net or on the VBS Team are providing only a part of what is necessary for what God is doing in the Bristol Bay area of Southwest Alaska. Others are needed to provide the funds, the prayer support and others

supply the materials such as Bibles and tracts or cookie and cake mixes. What is important is that we are all faithful in the part that God calls us to do.

As we look forward to next summer's ministry, there is already planning being done and much to pray about. Who will go up to work at The Net? Who will be on the village VBS Team? Alaska is an expensive place to do ministry and all of this takes funding. Who will provide that funding? We look to the Lord to lay it on the hearts of His people to give.

Do you want to have a part in supporting an outreach where God is obviously making a difference in the lives of people for all eternity? The Alaska Mission is such an

outreach!

In II Corinthians 8, Paul encourages the Corinthian church to be generous in their giving. He writes of the rich generosity of the Macedonian churches that willed up out of their severe trial and extreme poverty. He said that as they gave themselves first to the Lord, they "urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing".



Boxes of donated supplies for The Net in 2017

II Corinthians 8:7 has a challenge for us as we seek God's leading in our giving:

"But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (NIV)

As the Macedonian churches excelled in this "grace of giving", may we do the same!



Jane Swanson (R) and Heidi Steinberg (L) with donated quilts that they are able to share with others

COME TO SERVE



EVERY SUMMER THE POPULATION IN NAKNEK, GROWS BY SEVERAL THOUSAND AS PEOPLE ARRIVE FOR THE SALMON FISHING SEASON. THE NET, PROVIDES A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO VISIT, GET A HOT CUP OF COFFEE, SHARE THEIR STORY, AND ULTIMATELY HEAR ABOUT THE LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL. WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SHARE A WEEK OR TWO OF THEIR SUMMER TO BAKE COOKIES, BREW COFFEE, AND LOVE ON PEOPLE. IF YOU ARE AT ALL INTERESTED CONTACT BOBBIE OVERGAARD, (SBCHILEBEAN@GMAIL.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS.



WE ARE LOOKING FOR A MARRIED COUPLE AND 1 INDIVIDUAL TO SHARE ABOUT JESUS THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN THE REMOTE VILLAGES OF AK THIS SUMMER. MINISTRY WILL BEGIN LATE MAY AND GO THROUGH THE END OF JULY. CONTACT HOME MISSIONS FOR AN APPLICATION.



INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH WORK PROJECTS? CONTACT LOREN TUNGSETH FOR DETAILS. (LOREN.TUNGSETH@GMAIL.COM)

BLESSED DELAYS

By: Paul Nash

Thursday, November 30 is a day that I'll never forget. I had flown into Anchorage late Wednesday night and stayed with our friends, the Caseys. Jerry Casey is a SEND pilot who often partners in ministry with our missionaries in Naknek. We visited late into the night sharing about ministry and what the Lord was doing in our lives.



Prayer meeting at SEND Aviation Headquarters

My flight to King Salmon was to leave at 6:50 am, but my flight was delayed again and again due to weather. We were then told that the King Salmon Airport was closed because of icing conditions and that the only flight that might get to King Salmon would leave at 4:00 pm. I was disappointed as I needed this day to work in Naknek. Was this a Blessed delay? I just wasn't too sure?!

Now what should I do? I knew that Jerry Casey was working on an annual on a SEND airplane so perhaps I could help him. After a quick call to Jerry, he came to pick me up. Instead of going to work on the airplane, he took me to a prayer meeting at their SEND headquarters. It was a huge blessing to meet old friends and connect with new leadership. The fellowship was sweet and I watched God open doors to strengthen our relationships with this ministry in Alaska. I did get to go work on the plane and it was great to get my hands dirty but it was even better to have time with this brother in the Lord.

The time came too soon to head back to the airport and I was back waiting again. We finally got on a plane and next to me was a man that I had noticed waiting at the gate. I found out that his name was David and we began talking about our lives and families. It soon became very obvious that my new friend was a believer in Jesus Christ. Then an announcement came over the intercom telling us that our plane had lost its navigation system and we were heading back to Anchorage.

After landing we were told that we would be given some food vouchers to go eat and they would find another plane to get us out to King Salmon. David and I went together to get food and enjoyed the fellowship and our time together. I found out he was a traveling contractor from Cordova and would be working in King Salmon for some time. I invited him to our worship service on Sunday and he said he would come. We finally got to Naknek that evening.



David from Cordova

David came to church on Sunday morning and Bob and Margaret Lee invited him over for lunch. Then the blessings started to flow! David had made the connection that our ministry had our roots in the Lutheran Mission Society.

David's father was saved in the LMS Lutheran church in Cordova and his parents later worked in an LMS orphanage. He even knew Oscar Brown, the LMS missionary that worked in Naknek. David then told us that he was saved in that Lutheran church in Cordova. He shared how grateful he was for the work of LMS and that now some of his siblings were involved in missions. The Gospel seeds planted by the Lutheran Mission Society are still bearing fruit many years later.

David came back for Bible Study on Wednesday night. He now expressed an interest in getting a translator in Cordova to spread the gospel message of KAKN to his community in Alaska.

I firmly believe that my flight delays were orchestrated by my heavenly Father to make some divine appointments that day. One of those appointments allowed David and I to meet and connect. Blessed Delays are often God's unique way to accomplish His amazing plan for our lives and ministries.

ADVENTURES IN DECEMBER CONT.

Cont. from page 2

A swollen door is repaired, a security lock is replaced, the mill that grinds our wheat for flour has seized up and is now unseized.

Three of four vehicles in need of repair are fixed. We thank

God for the work teams that have put in windows, doors, a ventilation system and flooring, We thank God for the people who have generously supplied furniture, equipment, an airplane, household furnishings, supplies for The Net, food for the teams, Bibles, Sunday school materials

and warm caps, jackets and boots for village children. Pray that nothing would hinder us from helping people with their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

We especially thank God that the Word of God is the foundation of this ministry. This is

the consistent message which unifies us. Although this field is rugged, distant and sometimes harsh, with cultures and religious practices that we may not fully understand, we each have a calling to bring the truth of God's Word to our neighbors.