

August 2008

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness." Psalms 48:1

Dear Pastor, Church Family, and Praying Friends,

I pray this letter finds all of you doing great and enjoying this wonderful time of summer. As the above verse says, we want to 'praise Him' for what He is doing and accomplishing. Jenna, Erin, and I returned the end of June from our trip to Alaska. We thank you for your prayers for us while we were there. Even when things don't quite work out as you had planned, God is still good! We had a great time in the village of McGrath with the Jim Poelman family. They were such a blessing and encouragement to us as we wanted to experience life in a 'remote' village. Remote it was. Once you stepped off the plane, you realized that other than the village itself, there weren't many places to go. Bro. Jim, his wife and family made us feel welcome and at home. They were also a wealth of knowledge of what to do and not to do, what to bring and what to leave behind, and how to have supplies shipped into the village, and ESPECIALLY the cost!

Another thing I learned is patience, well, God was doing His best to give me a lesson and I pray I passed it. We had planned to fly into the village of St. Mary's and also help Bro. John Sleppy with a VBS program in Russian Mission. The one thing that limits what gets done and when it gets done in Alaska is the weather. It had been clear over both those areas before we landed in McGrath, then came the clouds. Long story short, we were unable to get to those two places this trip. I truly believe that it was God's way of saying that St. Mary's is closed to us, at least for now.

But, as I said earlier, God is good, all the time! Just when one door seems to close, He opens another. Several months ago my Pastor mentioned a village called Minto, which is about 3.5 hours west of Fairbanks. I was close to it on my trip last year with Bryan and Jenna. When I went back to my home church to give a report about our trip this year, a fellow member pulled me aside and said his parents were up in Alaska. His father does heavy construction and is working on a runway in a small village. Guess what the name of it is? Yes, you guessed it, Minto. There is a 'church' there, but his parents say the people are asking for a good, solid church to start in their village. You sure don't hear that request very often anymore! Praise God! Minto is primarily an Athabascan Indian village. This seems to have the ring of the 'Macedonian Call' to it, if you ask me. I am praying once again for God's leading and direction.

Thank you again for your prayers on our behalf. We have been on deputation for just over two years and believe by this time next year we need to be on the field. There are many hurdles for the Lord to take care of in order for this to happen, but we have faith that if this is His will, He will make the way and see we are in Alaska next summer.

*In His Service,
The Roughton Family
Bart, Cheryl, Jenna, Bryan, Erin, Rachel, and Nathan*

Support Received: May_____ June_____ July_____