



Anchor Baptist Missions International

3232 Hendersonville Highway, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768
missions@anchorbaptist.org 828-884-7610



Summer, 2021

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Greetings from Kiana, summer is nearly over, and the days are growing shorter already here in the arctic. We have had one of the rainiest summers on record. Today we watched the river rise higher than it has been since breakup. More rainfall does make for easier river travel as the river oftentimes is impassable with sand and gravel bars blocking the way.

As usual, we have been busy with the Lord's work here in Kiana. We continue to have our weekly church services at 11 & 6:30 on Sunday, along with children's Sunday School class resuming for the entire village at 4:30, Wednesday service at 6:30, and Friday Reformer's Unanimous class at 7pm. Our attendance has been good and those attending have a desire to grow in their walk with the Lord. This summer we again partnered with the Food bank in Anchorage to distribute children's meals to every child in Kiana. So far this summer, we have given out 3,709 meals. We also have been distributing the TEFAP food that we order from the food bank. This week we have been busy giving out food, including can fruits and vegetables, dry staples, nuts, and delicacies such as whole chickens, boneless pork chops and one-pound rolls of ground beef. We are thankful to provide this outreach to our community monthly and to help provide a little extra to their groceries.

This past spring, Tammy travelled to Fairbanks to meet Micah and stay with him while he had his wisdom teeth removed. Praise the Lord, he did great and did not have to be put under for the extractions, resulting in a speedy recovery. Micah then flew back to NC, just in time to go and help load the Sea Hope ship and set sail to St. Vincent with disaster relief and medical supplies. Once Micah's voyage was complete on the Sea Hope, he flew back to Kiana to help me with the much-needed task of getting our wood for the winter. We went out on the river every day possible to collect driftwood and bring home. Micah was instrumental in splitting, chopping, and stacking almost 3 cords of wood for us. What a blessing! Micah was able to spend a month with us, and then headed back to Anchor to prepare for the next Sea Hope voyage. (Follow more on the Sea Hope at www.myseahope.com).

While she was already out of the village, Tammy was able to fly to Idaho to spend time with the grandchildren and be there for Elizabeth's 4th birthday! While in Idaho, Tammy was able to see a retina specialist as recommended by her Fairbanks eye dr. This doctor finds issues to believe that Tammy has a 2nd eye disease, other than the JXT, retinitis pigmentosa, that is causing her photo receptors to disappear and her peripheral vision to be deteriorating. He performed DNA testing that we are waiting on the results for. This gene mapping will tell us if there is one gene that would make her a candidate for gene therapy. It will also tell us if the eye diseases are going to be inherited to our children & grandchildren. Regardless, we continue to trust God's plan for our lives and her eyesight.

In June, Tammy was able to take 3 teen girls to Rock Crossing Bible Camp. Two of them were saved at camp and we are rejoicing and praising the Lord for that. They have both been attending our church for several years now. Please keep them in prayer as they grow in the Lord.

We wrote in our last letter to you that we were "empty nesters". Well, that did not last too long, the Lord nudged us to open our home to become foster parents to one of our faithful teens. Please keep us all in prayer as we endeavor to help this teen grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We also thought we were done with homeschooling, but again, the Lord has opened the doors for us to homeschool two of our faithful young men in our church. Please pray for us all as the school year begins in August and we start school. They are 14 and 12 years old.

For some time, the village of Ambler (250 souls) has been on our hearts. We had been waiting for the Lord's timing and provision. Both of these came, and we made the trip last week (7/22-7/24). We packed our boat and 78 gallons of gasoline, not sure just how much our boat would use. Gas here in Kiana is \$6.50/gallon, but in Ambler it's \$12/gallon. We also asked one of our elder ladies if she wanted to go with us. She has family in Ambler and decided to go with us to visit and witness to her family. We finished loading up supplies in our open boat and took off last Thursday morning. The weather has been rainy, but the Lord cleared the skies and calmed the river so that we could watch for the shallows. We only hit a couple of times. Along the way we saw bear tracks and lots of God's beautiful creatures, musk ox, moose, and bald eagles along the way. It was a good trip, traveling 105 miles in 5.5 hours. When we reached Ambler, we found out they needed a pastor to officiate a grave side funeral. Due to the covid restrictions his funeral was postponed and was planned for July 24, the Saturday we were in Ambler. With no other pastor there, I was honored to preach the graveside service. But God!!!! What an opportunity to preach the gospel to over 40 people in attendance. We stand amazed in the presence of a holy God who truly ordered our steps to Ambler!!! Tammy and I walked around the village Thursday and Friday, passing out tracts and talking with the people we met along the way. We invited them to a church service on Friday night. Meanwhile, we cleaned out and organized the log cabin church that had been vacant for over 5 years. We had 5 ladies plus some kids come for the service. There are not any Sunday School classes for the children nor any discipleship for the saints. Please pray about this need to return and more importantly for more laborers to come along side us to serve the Lord here on the Kobuk River. We were asked "when will you be back"? We are praying about going back as we can by boat. It took us 45 gallons of gas to make it there and back. Tammy and I slept comfortably in the church on cots and cooked on a one burner stove we took along and enjoyed the journey together! Not sure how much gas we would need, I stashed some gas along the way in willows to have for the return trip downriver. On the way back down, we stopped to pick up our gas and a bear had knocked one 15-gallon container over spilling nearly all of it out. If we were to fly from Kiana to Ambler non-stop, (105 miles) it would cost us \$270 a piece round trip (\$540) to fly versus \$325 boat gas. The next village upriver from Ambler is Shungnak (290 souls), which again has an empty Baptist church and no pastor whatsoever. The Friends church has not had a pastor in Shungnak either for some years. There is such a need to have preachers in these villages on the Kobuk River. We are praying someone will answer the call to come, there's more to do, than just Tammy and I can do. Will you pray right now for these villages of Ambler and Shungnak, and many other villages across this vast state who need a preacher?

Thank you again for your many prayers, love and financial support that enables us to keep going forth with the gospel. Till He Comes, *David and Tammy Youngblood* 907-475-5116 PO Box 155, Kiana, AK 99749