

August 26, 2008
Arctic Mission Adventure Update

Hi There,

This is an introductory email to everyone on my email list who I think might be interested in keeping up with the Mission work that is taking place here in Bush Alaska. If you do NOT wish to continue being on this list, just let me know and I'll take your name off. I know many of you are very busy, and have trouble keeping up with email :).



The village of Shungnak which lies inside the Arctic Circle

At Camp Meeting in Palmer, Alaska, this July, it began to dawn on many of us working here in Alaska, how little is actually being done to share the love of Jesus in this vast land. Most of the pictures of Alaska that you see show beautiful snow-capped mountains, abundant wildlife, and spotless cruise ships sailing the Inside Passage. But beyond the cruise ships and the well dressed tourists is a completely different picture. Tiny villages, with nothing more than a strip of gravel for a plane to land, and twenty or thirty tiny cabins, many of which still today have no running water or sewer systems. The only way to get to these places is by air. There is nothing but swampy tundra for hundreds of miles in any direction, which prohibits any kind of travel in summer. In winter it freezes up and can be traversed by dog team, but this form of transport is considered "old fashioned" for every day use now. Barges travel the coast line of Alaska in the summer, and some of the bigger towns get visited regularly to deliver freight, but many of the smaller villages are lucky to see a barge on the beach once a year. This means that everything in these villages is very expensive. Even heat oil has to be flown in by air. In some places gas is over \$10.00 per gallon already, and although transport in many villages is restricted to snow machines and four wheelers, all the homes have to be heated with oil for most of the year. If you wished to fly a plane and hold one meeting in each village in Alaska it would take almost a year, if you could reach one village every day. And the cost of fuel to fly a small plane would range from \$70 - \$120.00 per hour. So there's got to be another way to reach these isolated places.

During Camp Meeting several of us got together to see what ideas the Lord is putting together, and it seems that several people have been thinking along the same lines recently. After brainstorming ideas for a while, it seems that it may be possible to put together a lower-power FM radio station package that is self-contained and small enough to be mailed to a village, antenna erected, plugged in and have it play unattended for an, as yet undetermined, period of time. We have three or four people working on the different aspects of putting this together and making it work. This means that we could mail a radio station to a village, have it in a simple enough format that one of the local residents could set it up and have it transmitting 24/7 within hours of arrival. The total cost of one of these packages, we are estimating to be around \$500.



2008-2009 Dillingham Students

As the only Adventist School in "Bush" Alaska, we, in Dillingham, are struggling with the costs of living here, along with everyone else. But we have decided to take up the challenge of "Arctic Mission Adventure" this year and do what we can to help spread the gospel in this remote corner of the world. We are creating a scrap book, with a page for each village in Alaska where it is hoped to place a radio station. The Conference has begun a prayer campaign, and we would like to have at least one person or group of people praying for each village in this State. We will send you a Google Earth image of the village you are praying for, and will keep you up to date as often as possible through this newsletter. If you would like to be a part of this prayer campaign for Alaska, please

let me know, and we'll assign you a village. If you already know of a village that you would like to pray for, we'll add your name to that page in the scrap book.

Our school will also be looking at recording some short MP3 clips to be played on the radio stations too. These will take the form of favorite Bible verses, or ads for BibleInfo.com or other interesting stories or items.

All of our staff at the school here already fly to nearby villages to run branch Sabbath Schools each Sabbath. Rod, Brenda and Misty go to Ekwok, and Gavin, Judi and Missy go to Togiak. You can see more of this part of the work thanks to a Spot Light on Mission DVD that was released in July, and part of which is now on You Tube at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5cT9ye4qO4> If you would like to receive a copy of the full version on DVD, let me know.

We are currently looking at several options for raising the funds for these radio stations, and if you, your church or school would like to sponsor a radio station, your donations can be labeled "Arctic Mission Adventure - Radio Stations" and sent to the Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 6100 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99705-6958 or to the Dillingham Adventist School, PO Box 182, Dillingham, AK 99576. Tax receipts are available.

So, in summary, here's what you can do :)

- Simply continue to be interested and receive this newsletter (or let me know, if not :)
- Share this newsletter with others and let us know of others who wish to receive the newsletter.
- Join the prayer campaign for a village in Alaska. If you want to have a specific village to pray for, let me know and I'll give you one.
- If you know someone who lives in one of these villages, and who may be willing to host a radio station in a corner of their home, let us know, as we will soon be ready to trial the first stations.
- Order a copy of the Spot Light on Mission DVD (I have copies here I can send) and share it with your church, school and family.
- Send out the link to the You Tube clip of the DVD to email friends and contacts, as shared above.
- Go to the Alaska Conference Website <http://www.alaskaconference.org/> and check out "Prayer Line Alaska", "Share the Light", "President's Blog" and "Arctic Mission Adventure". This initiative is much bigger than just 250 radio stations!
- And if you feel impressed to contribute financially to any part of this project, take it to the Lord and let Him be your guide. Details and addresses are given above.

Many Blessings,
Judi Thompson
Dillingham, Alaska