LOVING LIFE MISSIONS



NOVEMBER 2024

A SHIFT INDEED!



Sunrise from our dock at Little Beaver Camp

We had no idea what to expect when the Lord gave us the word "shift" for 2024. We wrote about it in our January newsletter this year without anticipating the shift would bring malaria in March, moving out of our home in May, a trip to the Lower 48 for June to then settle at Little Beaver Camp when we returned to Alaska in July.

"So it was not you who sent me here, but God..." Gen 45:8

No matter the circumstances we find ourselves in, we trust the same faithful God that Joseph spoke about in Genesis, that He has a plan we cannot see in the moment. Living a life of faith!

SEPTEMBER BRINGS REINFORCEMENTS

We owe a huge thank you to all who prayed and gave to see these two donated vans reach Alaska! We arrived from North Dakota on Sep. 16 after four 12-hour days of driving. Already these two vans have been loaned out to other mission families. We can see their great use in AK for missions on the road system!



While in the natural these are just two vans, we recognize that these physical resources represent spiritual reinforcements for God's Kingdom work in Alaska. We believe He will continue to resupply and refresh the missionary effort in this state.

Tyler and Garrett stayed on after the drive for a few days of construction help on the camp's house that we are living in as we remodel it. Zack's parents stayed the entire week and helped out with sheetrock repairs. We are so thankful for all four of them.





The following week the Wilkerson family joined us from Crossroad Christian Fellowship in Newton, TX. Crossroad is such an incredible blessing to us and they amped up that support by sending the Wilkersons for a week of encouragement and further work on the house. Noah and Zack were able to fix multiple leaks in the roof and repair a rotten area from years of leaking. What a needed job!

MALARIA

Thanks to all who prayed for me this spring through what can only be described as a terrifying ordeal.

We had been back from Thailand for about 10 months when I first began to feel sick in March. I was extremely ill for about 5 days before we went to the ER. My decision to finally go to the ER was a life or death decision that I did not realize at the time. I thought I just had a serious case of covid and only went to the ER because my stomach began to hurt, my fever was very high, and I was covered in a rash. Really it was the rash that concerned me the most, not the fact that I couldn't wake up for 24 hours or the fact that my fever was so high. In hindsight we can laugh at my stubbornness and thank God that I listened to the small voice that said, "Something is really wrong..." I was hours away from crossing to the next chapter called eternity. I do long for Heaven but I feel my time here is far from finished!

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:12

The doctor's initial diagnosis was appendicitis and I was rushed through for surgery. By the time I went back for surgery prep I could not talk, my blood pressure was near nothing, my heart rate and temperature were off the charts the other direction, along with many other problems. Doctors were running all around and I was shaking off of the bed as my body went into shock. My eyes caught Zack being pushed out of the small room and the doctors did what they could to stabilize me enough for surgery. From that moment I don't remember anything until the surgeon told me to breath deeply as they put the mask on to put me under. I closed my eyes and asked God for more time. I prayed, "Jesus, I love you and I long for you, but I know what it's like to not have my mom here, and I don't want my boys to have to go through that at such a young age. Please let me have more time with them."

I woke up seconds later, so it seemed, in ICU and still unable to talk. The next morning the surgeon came in, and with a shocked look, said words I will never forget, "I can't believe you are still with us. I lost sleep over you last night. All of your organs were shutting down." She had taken out my appendix but had no idea what could've caused so much damage to my organs and what was making them shut down. "I'm glad to see you are still with us," she said.



Thank you all for praying!



One of the boys' many hospital visits to encourage Mom

After a week in the hospital and many tests it was decided I was "septic from an unknown cause". That was the beginning of several weeks in and out of the ER, multiple tests, allergic reactions to medications, with the diagnosis ranging from lymphoma, to possibly some auto immune disease, to leukemia. *Continued...*

Continued... One evening, just two weeks from my near death experience and with unknown diagnoses in my mind, I found myself alone in the hospital, tears continually running down my face as I prayed for healing. All I could do was worship. I worshiped the entire night and now look back at that moment as one of the nights I felt Jesus closer than ever before. I felt peace that no matter what He was in control and I only needed to trust Him.

That night I surrendered my family and all my fears to Him yet again. I love how He carries us through those unimaginable moments. His love overwhelms me! It would be a few days later when doctors finally discovered that I had malaria. I know that night with Jesus touched my heart in such a supernatural way. I felt His warmth and I know He was there in the room with me.

I am so thankful for all your continued prayers. It was one month of in and out of the hospital and two months of not being strong enough to walk across the room. My strength continues to come back and although I did lose my hair, I am excited to report it has come back very thick! I am so thankful for hair! -Sarrah

I felt your prayers during this season and I can't thank you enough. He has restored my hope!

SUMMER '24

Our family was in the Lower 48 for two months of the summer as we celebrated Zack's parents' 50th anniversary and travelled to share about our vision for Alaska missions.

Thank you to all who hosted us and gave toward our work. We are especially thankful to many friends and family in the Lumberton, TX area who worked so hard to do a fundraiser for Loving Life on June 14. It was our first opportunity to share with a wider audience about the new things the Lord has put on our hearts for Alaska.



We love our time with each of you and are so thankful for the deep connections that the Lord has made between us. We can't do this alone and y'all make it happen.



A favorite tradition with the SEND team- airport selfie!

SEPTEMBER SEND EVENT

On September 8 we hosted a YWAM/SEND team of young leaders who had been travelling all over America for a 50 State tour. Their goal is encouraging Gen Z and Gen Alpha toward a life dedicated to the Great Commission.

We rented out the Palmer Community Center which is the town's old train depot. The unique building at the heart of downtown Palmer was a great setting for a powerful evening of prayer with 150 other believers of all generations. Those gathered spent several hours in worship and prayer for a fresh movement of missions and revival in Alaska.



AK missionary Ron Wayner shares with the next generation.

One of our favorite moments of the night was a time of generational blessing from local political leaders and seasoned missionaries. It is so encouraging when one generation speaks to the next about the great things God has done and will continue to do through surrendered hearts (see Psalm 145:4-6).

We continue to contend in prayer for fresh anointing and fire to rest on the next generation of missional leaders!

GHANA, WEST AFRICA

We spent the first two weeks of November in Ghana! A Ghanaian pastor who leads a national ministry reached out with the hopes of developing a mission aviation program for his country. The driving times across Ghana are 3-4x longer than similar distances in the US so they would like to explore the possibility of flying to speed along their work. The goal is to bring future pilots back to AK for their training.

We also taught this 2 day marriage conference while there:





We're thankful the Lord gave us this opportunity to work in a new part of the world and we're praying about next steps in this region. There were immediate results from the conference as marriages were encouraged and restored! Other pastors invited us back for similar work in surrounding nations so time will tell what the Lord has planned. We were also very encouraged by the aviation potential in West Africa and will continue to pray into this idea.

PRAYING FOR THE 3 P'S...

We receive weekly calls from Alaskan missionaries asking for flights and accommodations as they transition in and out of the villages. We are also planning village trips with missionaries who live in town in the Mat-Su Valley and with service teams from the Lower 48. The need is great in the villages of Alaska and we are praying to be a transportation and lodging resource to partner with the Lord of the harvest as he sends laborers into his field.

Continue to pray with us for these needs to be met! We know Philippians 4:19 still rings true today: "My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." We know that help for these missionary families will come so we wait expectantly for the resources to help them.

Please join us in prayer for these 3 P's. We are even asking you who feel led to join us in fasting prayer for these needs. Philippians 4 again guides us as we, "by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present our requests to God" (Phil 4:6).

Plane

We are in need of an aircraft that can transport missionary families and mission teams in and out of village Alaska.

Property

Our prayer is for a piece of property in the Mat-Su valley where we can build small homes for mission families as they rest and resupply before heading back to the village.

Partners

Loving Life Missions is in a season of growth. With growth comes the need for additional financial support for the ongoing operation of aircraft and housing for missions.



Visit **LovingLifeMissions.org** for more information and to donate

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