

Alaska Vacation Bible School - 2018

Your numerous prayers and wishes for a productive and successful Vacation Bible School in Alaska this summer were answered. Thank you very much. I truly felt your love and support.

There were NO setbacks and NO surprises this summer!

The most unusual occurrence was the over-flooding of the streams from the Kobuk River that separated the major area of town from a residential section of town called "Up Road". While the residents of Kobuk had no trouble fairing the flood waters caused by the melted snow flowing from the nearby mountains, we, on the other hand, did not carry our high-water boots with us. They could get to VBS, but for the first three days in Kobuk, we couldn't go visit them.

Oh, and we also had to put on our oxygen masks on the bush plane shortly after leaving Kobuk and returning to Fairbanks. (That was a first!)

A record number of children participated in VBS this year in both villages, and the adult involvement was unprecedented. The kids responded eagerly to the lessons, songs, and crafts that complimented the theme of *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks*. We selected that theme for a focus on prayer because of both the extremely high child abuse rate and the high teen suicide rate in the villages. Seeing the kids get excited knowing that Jesus is with them always and that they can reach out and grab His hand and talk with Him is ---- wow! Watching them turn frowns into smiles is beyond awesome. And by the end of each week, most of the kids could recite the Lord's Prayer.

This was my sixth year to teach VBS in Allakaket (native Indians), which is on the Arctic Circle, and my eleventh year to teach VBS in Kobuk (native Eskimos), which is thirty-three miles north of the Arctic Circle. The enthusiasm of the people in both villages to invite us back to share the love of God seems to increase each year as they become more familiar with us.

In Allakaket we were invited to a couple of different unique get-togethers. Then in Kobuk we were visited by at least five kiddos that we taught VBS to back in the early 2000s, who came by to share memories and hugs.

In both villages we were met by the natives upon landing and

escorted to our sleeping quarters. Upon leaving the villages we were pretty-much begged to return next summer. Praise be to God from whom all blessings flow!

I can't thank you all enough for your prayer support and your financial support. Thank you from the people in both villages, too.