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Kicking off year six!

I'm writing this newsletter on the tail end of our Mission conference and trip south. Thank you FBC Keller TX, FBC Ardmore OK, and Calvary Baptist of Shreveport Louisiana. We are encouraged and excited. And at least five pounds heavier. After meeting people working all over the world, I'm amazed at the stories. Some were missionary kids who grew up in other countries, some were living life like us and felt the call in the way we did when they least expected it. Each person and story were different, but one thing we all had in common, we have a burning desire to reach people with the message of hope. Hope for a better tomorrow in this life and in the life to come. As we shared stories of miracles we had witnessed and lives we have seen changed we are still amazed. Not surprised because we know who God is but amazed at how he works. The commonality I saw in each of these couples was the love they have for the people they minister too. They love them more than their own needs, safety, or bank accounts. We were blessed to visit and serve in a rescue mission in Shreveport LA and hear the stories and testimonies of how God is using people to reach out to those who have hit rock bottom. The couple running the mission just a few years ago, had a growing family business. They were involved in the church and community doing what they could. God called them to sell their business and run the mission full time. They are seeing lives changed every day. Like us, they get tired but the passion of rescuing another soul keeps them pushing forward. I could go on and on with the stories we heard, but the point I want to get across is this. When we answer the call and step out, we're not promised we won't have heartache, persecution, and pain. What we are promised is God will never leave us alone, but he will leave us in awe of His love and care for each of us. I never understood the life of a missionary before but now I know they are just ordinary people, they have the same struggles everyone else has. They are just trying to do the best they can with faith that God will do the rest.

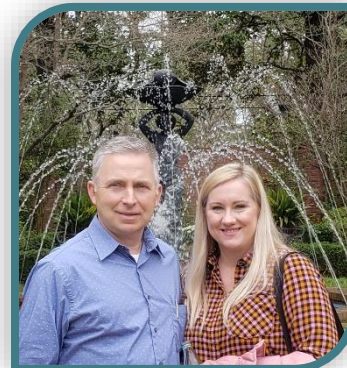
You don't have to be in full-time missions to make a difference, you just need to be aware of those God is putting in your life at those opportune times. They may not resemble Him at all but could be that one person he's trying to reach and chooses to do it through you.

Changes

Jeff and I bring people in and train them for one year. After that, it is up to them and God where they go next. We are once again making some transitions here at NLM. The Rowe's are moving a little south to work in a church in Willow, Alaska.

A new family will be moving up from Virginia to work with us. Jacob and Amanda Dyer. They feel God is calling them specifically to do children's ministry. This is a great need and will be a huge blessing to us and to the children in the villages. This is the next generation, and the best time to reach them is now.

Life in Tok is extreme and a little different. So keep them in your prayers as they settle into a new entity that will be unfamiliar to them.



We tell everyone that moves up, "If you don't fall in love with the people you work with, you won't be here very long." They are such special people, and once they find out they can trust you, and realize you are here to stay for a while, they will then open their hearts. Once their hearts are open to you, your life will never be the same. My native friends have taught me so much about love and life. They have blessed us more than we could ever bless them. That's the thing a lot of people don't realize about ministering. If you work hard and serve others, you end up coming away with blessings you never expected or knew existed. I think this statement applies where ever God places us.

Projects

This month we have scheduled an eye doctor and his family coming to do exams in the villages. Dr. Elliott has spent a great amount of time and effort to get his license so he can serve the communities in Alaska. He will give each person a free eye exam and free glasses. This will be a huge blessing to the villages as some have a hard time getting out for things like this. He says God has blessed him, and this is his way of giving back.

In April, we will have construction teams coming. They will be building a Sunday school room on to the church in Tanacross village and building a parsonage for a pastor in one of the local communities.

In May, we hope to kick off our summer with a short trip to all of the villages we will start summer teams back up in June, and they will run through the end of August. As always, these teams will be doing Bible studies, VBS, projects, and mostly making a difference in the lives of others.

Personal and Prayer request

- Teams and impacts on the ministry because of the Coronavirus
- *Update on our children and their lives.*

Valerie is still living in Knoxville, working full time.

Tyler is still in Texas finishing up his second year at South Western Seminary and in the apprenticeship program with a pastor there. He got a job as the recruiter at Alaska Bible College, where he finished his undergrad. He will be moving back up this July.

Kenton & Jennifer is in the process of selling their home and starting another chapter in their lives.

We seem to be ever-evolving in our family and have been called extreme, but that's okay. Life is never boring with us.


- Thank you to the Urban family and their faithfulness in working in Tetlin Village.
- Pray for Jeff and me to be filled with love, grace, and wisdom as we lead. Like Jeff says, "Sometimes faith is just putting one foot in front of the other, not knowing where God will lead next."
- Pray for teams and Interns as they come this Spring and Summer that they will make a big impact.
- Pray for the Dyers and Rowe's as they transition.
- Last but not least, pray for the people we are ministering to that their hearts will be open and ready for all God has for them.

News!

We finally have a website!

As most of you know, Jeff and I stay busy, and things like this have been lower on our priority list.

We want to thank Austin Davis in Tennessee for taking time out of his busy schedule to build the website.

You can find us on  and <https://www.northernlightsmission.com>

We look forward to seeing you soon here in Alaska for your summer 2020 Mission trip.