

Pray for Job and Bethany Hale



Church Planting Missionaries

Napakiaak, Alaska & Villages July 2026



Hi there!

It's hard to believe that we are already on **week six of the 2026 Alaska Villages Summer VBS Program**. It has been absolutely amazing seeing God's plan unfold for this outreach - everything that he pulled together... opening these communities up for doing vacation Bible school; giving us contacts there in the villages and the needed volunteers to staff the VBS teams; places for them to stay during the week, buildings to hold the lessons and activities in; funds to cover food, materials, and other necessary supplies; as well as transportation capabilities to and from the villages and even there on the ground. A lot has gone into this, and it's so exciting to be a part of what the Lord is doing in it. Please keep praying - your prayers are being answered!

The VBS teams consist of three core volunteers - Aaron, Kellan, and Abby - who are joined by a chaperone couple every week, and other volunteers as needed - up to 16 at a time, but **an average of six team members** total. There are helpers coming out from all over the U.S. and Canada to join in on the different weeks. **They travel out to the remote community scheduled for each week**, by either boat or airplane (depending on distance from Napakiak and the size of the team) along with everything they need to do ministry there from Monday through Friday - daily food, cookware, sleeping bags, personal necessities, snacks and candy for each VBS session, supplies for games and activities, Bibles and prizes for the kids, and so on. The first couple weeks were a trial run on what they could do without in the village, as we have to be sparing on what goes out due to weight and space in the airplanes. **The mission planes have opened so many doors** this summer and we are very blessed to have them.

So far, the team has been out to the villages of **Tuluksak, Akiak, Chuathbaluk** and **Shageluk**, and they are currently in **Stony River** as of this writing. That leaves **Kalskag, Kwethluk** and **Holy Cross** on the calendar to finish out the summer. Praise the Lord, two of the villages already done have tentatively rescheduled for next year!

We are absolutely thrilled to have our Cessna 182 mission plane back!!! It had a different engine put on it, and the original engine is going to be overhauled and eventually put back in. The plane was returned to airworthiness and I went to the Anchorage area to fly it home last month just in time for it to jump into service with VBS transportation and helping other missionaries in the region. Bethany is delighted to be reunited with "her" plane and return to flying after many months of waiting.

Another update here in Napakiak is the beginning of **an addition being built onto the church**. We are putting a new entryway onto the side of the building, and extending the front of the church auditorium into the existing entryway. This will provide space enough for three or four more rows of chairs, which has been needed lately as it's been standing room only on Sundays, with everyone that's coming and going as well as the locals that attend. A volunteer crew from Georgia came up to work on getting that started, and we're grateful for their help.



* See the back page for a short update on each of the VBS villages so far! *

Sending Church:
Crestview Independent Baptist
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Alaska Villages Summer VBS Program



Napakiak: Here in our village, VBS was held the first week of June, and **we were greatly blessed with a sweet spirit** amongst the helper team and the 57 total kids that came through the week. This year's theme was sin: what sin is and how Jesus died to pay for our sins. Many of the kids seemed to grow in their head knowledge, at least, and several have continued asking questions. We are rejoicing that one boy, **9-year-old Corban, came to a saving knowledge of Jesus** the week after VBS. Your prayers are appreciated that he would keep coming around and growing in his newfound faith.

Tuluksak: We got all of the supplies and most of the team transported there by boat (about a 45-minute drive from Napakiak), and some of them went ahead by airplane to pass out flyers and invite kids to come. During the week, they had 79 total kids attend, out of a population of 400 residents. The kids were pretty rowdy, and the team had to learn how to redirect their energy to wholesome pursuits. **This VBS was unique in that we were allowed to host it at the local Moravian church building**, because we know the pastor there and he said we could come, without asking the overseeing board in Bethel. Unfortunately, the board has denied our going into other villages for VBS, but God provided us a way in Tuluksak.

Akiak: This village we were able to boat to also, and, as all of the villages, really stole the hearts of the team. The population of Akiak is around 450, and 69 children came to the VBS through the week, held at the school. A handful of them seemed very interested in hearing more about the gospel, one of whom was **Brian**, who came close to calling on the Lord but was not ready to make that step of faith. In each village, if the people are open to it, **the team holds a Bible study**, usually on Wednesday evening after the VBS session. Several adults came to Bible study in Akiak, and were encouraged by it. Just this past Sunday after church, some of the team got to fly over and reconnect with a few of the kids, which was a sweet opportunity. The principal there said he would like us to do VBS again next year!

Chuathbaluk: The way this village worked out was really neat - we met a couple from there while conducting a funeral in Kalskag earlier this year. Turns out that I had been in contact with them already since he had gotten my phone number from the tract in a Bible they had been given. **They invited us to come do VBS in their small village** of 100 people, and the school hosted it. Chuathbaluk is over an hour away by airplane, so it was the first village we really had to be selective in what could be taken along. The 13 kids that came out to VBS enjoyed more **one-on-one time with the team members** than the larger villages are able to get. The Chuathbaluk school principal has ok'ed us to come back next year!

Shageluk: In last month's update we wrote about the church service we were privileged to do in Shageluk, on invitation from a couple that lives there. They set it up for us to come back and do VBS for the kids. When the team first arrived to the village (by plane, as it's an hour and half flight from Napakiak), **they were met with some resistance** from the Episcopal lady 'deacon', but after she observed the singing and saw that the kids were having a good time, she softened up and said she would stop speaking against them being there. Shageluk is another village of 100 residents, and like Chuathbaluk, doesn't get a lot of things for the kids to do, so the nine that attended had the opportunity of something new while **hearing about Jesus**.

We will update you on the rest of the villages in the next prayer letter. Thank you for praying!

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