

Pray for Job and Bethany Hale



Church Planting

Napakiak, Alaska & Bethel



January 2025 Update

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

Happy New Year to you all! God did mighty things in 2024, and we look forward to watching him work more in 2025. To God be the glory!



On Sunday the 8th of December **we had a baptism here in Napakiak**. Four young adults - Tristan, Chris, Steven, and Kaitlyn – all of whom were saved this past summer, followed the Lord in believer's baptism despite two of them facing religious persecution. We set a steel horse trough inside the church which we filled with water hauled from the local well and then put a water heater in it so the water wasn't freezing cold. What a blessing to see these believers stepping out and declaring their faith. **Please keep them in your prayers as we disciple them** and they learn to navigate life with Jesus' strength. That Sunday we also had the first seven members officially join the church!

My wife organized a Christmas gathering for local ladies, and we had a special service the Sunday before Christmas which included an "Eskimo gift exchange". Just some fun events for the folks.

We enjoyed spending Christmas with my wife's sister and brother-in-law, who live in St Marys, a village about a 45-minute flight from Napakiak. Israel and Rebecca Warren have three kids and they planted Faith Baptist Church there a few years ago. St Marys is where Bethany and I first met so it's an extra special place for us.



Looking ahead, **our focus for 2025 here at Napakiak Armory of God Baptist Church is missions**. In the villages of Alaska, "missionary" is generally considered to be a bad word – their culture and way of life was negatively influenced by missionaries of unbiblical faiths who came in, took their kids away to boarding schools, punished them for speaking their language, and committed unspeakable sins against them. While this certainly can be moved past when one's heart is willing to forgive, it can be difficult for people to let go of cultural trauma they've been conditioned to hold onto. So, **we desire to instill in them a love for worldwide and local missions** by showing what biblical outreach and sharing of the gospel looks like around the world and right here at home. There are several missionaries

that we have scheduled to come out through the coming year to present their works and give the folks a glimpse into global and national missions, and we will be continuing Bible distribution in the surrounding villages as we have the funds to do so. **Our missions conference is coming up in March** and we're excited about that!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support of us and the church in Napakiak. We appreciate you! May God bless you as you serve him.

Sending Church:
Crestview Independent Baptist
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