

Pray for Job and Bethany Hale



Church Planting

Napakiak, Alaska & Villages *Sept. 2026*



Hello out there!

Another month has gone by in the blink of an eye. It's amazing how time flies when you're having fun - and **the best fun to be had is in serving God!**

It was a great privilege to have a **baptism here at the church** on August 16th. Michelle is a ten-year-old girl who professed faith in Christ a few weeks prior, and has been coming over almost every day to spend time with

Bethany for the past few months. She has a real desire to learn more about God and the Bible, full of questions and growing more and more each day. **Please pray for her continued growth**, and pray for Bethany as she shepherds her young heart in the ways of the Lord.

We were grieved to hear of a suicide that occurred in Napakiak earlier in August. The young man and his family were known by us but not very well. It's always a somber reminder of the hold that darkness has on many lives in western Alaska - depression, bitterness, fear, anxiety, and destructive behavior have touched each person in some form or fashion. **Only the light of Jesus can set us free! The funeral was conducted last week**, and I was honored to be a part of digging the grave as usual, although this time not by hand like we've been doing - I was able to get a new-to-us mini excavator here from Bethel by river barge just in time to dig it. That is the primary purpose of this mini-ex - grave-digging - and we're happy for the way it will assist in ministering to village families.

Quinhagak is a village about 30 minutes away by plane, and for several years we've been praying about how to reach out to the people there. The Kuskokwim River was unexpectedly closed down for gill net fishing, and we were not able to fish as much as we usually do due to being busy with VBS things on the days that were opened for fishing. So we flew over to Quinhagak a few times to do rod and reel fishing instead. During that time, the opportunity came up to organize **a fishing tournament, hotdog cookout and Bible giveaway** on August 22nd. That was a really fun avenue to make new friends, gather contacts and start forming relationships with people who live in Quinhagak. We hope to do Vacation Bible School there next year.

While we were in Quinhagak for the fishing tournament, we received the news that **my grandfather had passed away** at his home in Palmer, Alaska. We quickly wrapped things up, flew back home to grab a few things, and made it to Bethel to board as the last ones on the Alaska Airlines jet out to Anchorage that night. Attending his memorial service was a sweet time. Charles Sweatte lived a life full of praising Jesus and lifting up his name to others. May we all aspire to be someone who is remembered for their devotion to Christ.

Our main focus right now is working on **the church building expansion in Napakiak**. It's been exciting seeing the changes unfold during construction. The interior wall of the church's old entryway was knocked out to provide more room at the front of the auditorium, and a new entryway was built off to the side, so now the entrance door is on the side instead of the front. Where the old entryway was, is now a platform for the pulpit. When this is all finished, it will create the space for more church seating, which is needed as we have been overflowing these past several Sunday mornings. We are beyond grateful for all the helpers that have aided in this project, and **amazed at the Lord's provision** of the needed materials.



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