

Pray for Job and Bethany Hale



Church Planting Missionaries

Napakiak, Alaska & Villages

August 2026

photo credit: Gilbert Consford



Hello everyone!

Wow!!!!!! There are not the words to describe how exciting this summer has been and **what a privilege it is to serve God** in the things he has placed in our path these last several weeks. Truly his goodness is far beyond our wildest imaginations, and his power has been evident over and over again.

It's hard to believe that the Alaska Summer VBS Program is over. There is so much I could share about each village that the VBS team visited from June 1 through August 7 - nine weeks packed full of travel, kids ministry, adjusting to new things, and **a whole lot of God's grace**. I'm struggling to decide what to write because all of it is so much a testimony of his going before us, creating connections with villagers, and meeting our needs. To God be all the glory!

As mentioned in last month's update, the villages that were done Vacation Bible School at are **Tuluksak, Akiak, Chuathbaluk, Shageluk, Stony River, Upper and Lower Kalskag, Kwethluk and Holy Cross**. Each one tugged on the heart strings of the VBS team members - between falling in love with the children that attend, talking with the adults, and seeing the need for Christ in these rural locations, it's easy to feel a burden for them, and our prayer is that some of the people who came out to help with the VBS program will be called to ministry in western Alaska. The longing for truth and light is very great, yet the laborers are few. Our Lord is seeking those who will serve him!

Here on the home front in Napakiak, one really nice thing to get done was yard cleanup. The flood waters back in October floated around building materials, fuel tanks, benches, and other stuff that's on church land, and I hadn't had the time to get it all back where it belongs and neatly arranged. Finally got that accomplished when a large group of helpers came out for Kwethluk VBS, which was quite a relief, as **the church property looks much better now**.

Another big blessing was **the opportunity to fly out to Hooper Bay and Chevak for passing out Bibles**. We took 3 planes (my dad left his twin-engine here to be flown by another pilot) and 13 people for the hour flight one way, and gave away **577 Bibles** between the two villages. It was a great day making more contacts in the region, and it's always awesome to get God's word into peoples' hands. In both places we had kids following us around helping - the photo included is of a local Hooper Bay girl reaching to give a man a Bible while he was up on his stack of drift wood.

Napakiak is still recovering from the effects of Typhoon Halong in October. For the last several weeks, different teams from around the US have been coming out to work on repairs needing done after the storm - replacing insulation in homes, leveling houses, constructing porch stairs, etc. This is a good way for us to contribute to the well-being of our village and reach into families. The teams stay in **the "mission house"**, which is what we call the place we acquired after the storm damaged it and the owner moved away and sold it to us. We fixed it up and it sure is a blessing having the extra room to let volunteers have their own space.

The **Napakiak Armory of God Baptist Church** is seeing growth in its members. There are two teen boys, Steven and Chris, that I've been counseling through life and working to train them to be preachers, as is their desire. There's a great deal of spiritual warfare that they both face on a daily basis, compounded by the fact that neither of their families come to church aside from sometimes Steven's sister and Chris' stepdad. **We would appreciate your prayers** that these two and others would continue moving closer to Christ, and that Bethany and I will have wisdom as we disciple the believers here.



Hooper Bay

*** See the back page for a short update on the rest of the village VBS weeks! ***

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Alaska Villages Summer VBS Program



Stony River: This was the smallest village done this summer, at a little over 50 people. Seven kiddos attended the VBS, and the team was able to focus on each one individually more than is possible at bigger villages with more children. It was the tribal administrator (the person in charge of the tribe) that **invited us in** after we met her last summer while passing out Bibles there. She at first had been wary of what we were doing, but then turned around and was excited to have us back out for VBS.

Kalskag: This is actually **two communities that are connected by a road** - Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag. The principal of the high school allowed us to use the school to host the VBS sessions as well as be lodging for the team, and it was a good place for kids from both villages to come to. There's some kind of rift between the two from a long time ago that seems to be religion-based (one is Roman Catholic and the other is Russian Orthodox), so providing an event that could bring together the 48 kids that came was a good opportunity. For the Friday VBS Wrap-Up there, we were able to bring a preacher from the Navajo Nation, Pastor Joel Haynes, and he shared a message with the ones who attended. Afterwards, **five people gave their lives to the Lord**.

Kwethluk: For this village, the biggest one this summer at over 900 residents, we used two boats to get there, as it's closer on the river to Napakiak than the others, and there were fifteen volunteers that made up the team. Bethany did fly some of their supplies there along with one other helper and start getting set up. **It was an interesting week**, as the city hall had accidentally double-booked for VBS - our team, and also a team from a Korean church in Anchorage. So that church used the library in the same building for both their VBS and their lodging, while we used the gym for VBS and two classrooms (that building is the old school) for team lodging. It worked out alright, and there was a total of 123 kids and teens in attendance. **The team was able to have open gym time every night**, which was another good opportunity to connect with the locals. For the Friday Wrap-Up, Norman and Anna from our church in Napakiak boated in so that Norman could share a message. **A reported nine people got saved!**

Holy Cross: Weather was not an issue all summer until it came time for the last week of VBS. On Monday **we ended up on weather hold due to high winds and low skies**. Once the clouds lifted some around 11am, I made it out in the Cessna to try and make it to Holy Cross with two team members and some supplies. It was bumpy, but we landed fine, and I dropped them off and went back home for Bethany to make a second flight with the other team members and the rest of the stuff. Going over to Holy Cross there was a **50-knot tail wind**, meaning that the wind was blowing hard enough to push the plane 50 knots (about 57 mph) faster than its cruise speed. Bethany said that lining up for final to land was like going on a bull ride. The Lord blessed with the wind going straight down the runway and not a crosswind, which was the only way we could have made it in safely. Once they were all on the ground and talked to different people there, **everyone said they were so happy that the team could come** and how much they appreciated the effort we made to get there. There was a small window of better weather in the evening time, during which I flew to St Marys in the Maule to pick up a family who also wanted to help in Holy Cross. Bethany ended up staying in Holy Cross the whole time, which she really enjoyed. They had a sweet time spent with the 21 kids and teens that came, and by the end of the week they saw **one adult and two children trust in Christ**. Praise God! Everyone they spoke to during the week expressed a desire that we come back next year, and there was also mention of some other opportunities to return back there. We look forward to what God has in store for Holy Cross in the future, as well as all the other villages.

I hope this little bit has given you a glimpse into all that God did during the VBS program. He is not done working in western Alaska! **We are already making plans for VBS next summer - will you join us in prayer?**

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