

June 7, 2020

The McCoys

Church Planting In Native Alaska



Psalm 127:1a "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..."

Greetings from the McCoys here in Unalakleet.

Our prayer is that this letter finds you all doing well as we are in the face of adversity. One might think that because of our geographic location we would not be affected by the current events from Covid19. However because of the size of our village, and the watchful eye of those opposed to this ministry we are under the microscope more than one might suppose. We have however been able to use the situation to our advantage thanks to the blessing of having our own FM radio station. Because of the station I have probably preached to more in these last few months than ever before during a church service. Instead of preaching to the tens and twenties its quite possible I have been preaching to the hundreds. Many folks will tune into the station when they wouldn't feel at liberty to come for fear of persecution. As a result our people asked that although we are meeting again, if we would continue to broadcast the preaching service over the radio to those that have been listening that won't come. I agreed to continue to preach live on the station as long as I didn't feel like it would affect our own peoples faithfulness to attend. Thus far it has worked out really well and not only have we not noticed a lull among our own peoples attendance but it actually seems to have increased their excitement, and encouraged others to attend.

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Although we remain encouraged to preach, minister and serve here in Unalakleet there are some things we need much prayer for.

Due to the virus we have lost our air carrier in and out of Unalakleet to Bankruptcy. I had noticed a pattern in their operations over the last year and had an inclination that they were having financial difficulties. As of the end of March they announced because of the closures in Alaska they could no longer be able to afford to operate. We are praying they will be replaced soon with an airline that will not only provide service to Unalakleet from Anchorage but one that will be affordable.

Also we have had to scale back on some of our outreaches at this point because of the social distancing rules in place. We are unsure if we will be allowed to have our VBS, July fourth outreach & Labor Of Love, etc. as we have in the past. It may be that we once again have to take some outside the box measures to even a different level but regardless we will not retreat.

There are a couple of things I want to mention as well before I close this letter. They are in the area of finances and the building program.

I traveled to a Church Planters conference a few days in February just before all the turmoil came about. I was able to raise funds to add to a previous commitment that was made so I could order materials in May. Unfortunately our support check for the month of March was almost 1/2 of what we normally receive and honestly we are still trying to catch up.

Thankfully we got the same stimulus money as everyone else and as churches are beginning to reopen, we have found some relief. Although our people here have been faithful we are still paying for the remainder of what we owe for the concrete and equipment usage last year so we have a ways to go to. In addition to the other financial set backs mentioned, the person that was going to give a large sum towards the church building has had to cut back as well. All this being said we are still encouraged, we know the Lord is still in control, and we know he will provide in his time. In other words we are not sure how or when but we know the Who that will meet our needs.

In closing we ask for your prayers as we continue this endeavor to establish the Independent Baptist Church God has called us to plant. Also please pray for the summer outreaches to go forward, the finances for the building to come in, laborers to be able to come, and direction as to the Lords will for us here in Unalakleet and Native Alaska.

In Christ,

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