



June 2006
Rick Hellings' Newsletter

Heir-mail

A note from one heir in Christ to another, concerning God's work of creating more heirs in Alaska.

Mission Trip

May 30 thru June 7 was a Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) camp at Solid Rock Bible Camp in Soldotna. CYIA is a Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) camp designed to help prepare youth to share the Gospel, Bible stories, and their testimonies with other youth and children. The youth are then given different camps, and Vacation Bible Schools to help lead as practice. These youth will also make several trips into the bush villages each year with CEF to hold 5 day clubs, VBS, and backyard clubs. There are several CYIA camps held each summer all over the state. This year's camp at Solid Rock had youth from Soldotna, Kenai, and Homer (towns on the Peninsula) as well as several plane loads of youth from "bush" villages.

MARC is actively involved with CEF, whether we are flying teams out to the villages for clubs, or VBS, flying youth to the various CYIA camps, or taking out leaders and teachers to facilitate the CYIA camps. CEF has become important to me as most all my friends here are somehow involved, either as leaders, participants, or chaperones. This year, however, was a special CYIA camp for me as a group of eight from my home church, 1st United Methodist of Cape May Court House, NJ, traveled up to help. For 10 days they ate dinner, played games, attended chapel, lead devotions and slept in the cabins with the youth at CYIA. This was a big help to the leaders who spend all day teaching the students various lessons, i.e. how to use the Wordless Book, because it allowed the leaders to either go to their homes for the night, or be able to get some sleep and be refreshed for the next day's classes.

The group was also a blessing to MARC. Since they were on duty at the camp from dinner through morning devotions, they had their days off. They graciously volunteered to help at MARC and prepare our new hanger for the Open House. They were truly a God send as they worked Wednesday and Thursday painting, installing electric switches and lights, polishing pipes, sweeping, mopping, and other general cleaning. I am not sure we would have been able to finish the work on the hanger and get everything set up without their help. On Saturday they then attended the Open House and Dedication for the hanger.

The Dedication was a wonderful event that highlighted the work that MARC is doing in rural Alaska. Franklin Graham spoke, and the board of Samaritan's Purse and MARC prayed for the hanger and its continued involvement in ministry. That was followed by a "handing over of the keys" to a newly remodeled King Air that was so graciously donated to MARC by Samaritan's Purse. (Our total ministry fleet now consists of 3 Navajo - 7 passengers, 1 Cherokee 6 - 6 passengers, 1 King Air - 9 passengers, we also are allowed to borrow Samaritan's King Air, and Grand Caravan). The entire ceremony was very pleasant, was well attended, including the Lieutenant Governor, and very focused on the ministry. Of course the program ended with lunch and a picture with Franklin Graham.

The missions team also enjoyed some tourist attractions, a sightseeing drive to Homer, the beauty of God's amazing creation in the mountains, volcanoes, moose, lakes and rivers. I really enjoyed seeing them all again, attending chapel, and driving them through Turnagain Pass and the Portage Glacier Visitor center. Thank you for your prayers for them on this trip, and keep the youth they interacted with in your prayers, that they will continue to grow in God, and share what they have learned with their peers.

My Update

Thank you all for your prayers concerning my vehicle situation. After the wreck at the end of last year I got a truck that was worse than initial indications had shown. It turned out that the best way to deal with the truck was to sell it and try again. I am happy to say that I have got a new truck. It is a Chevy Silverado with low miles. For those of you who don't do names it is a dark gray/metallic pickup truck. It has the bench back seat, so I am able to still have a full load like the Jeep, and it gets better gas mileage than the Jeep did which is also good with prices as high as they are now. Thank you all for your prayers and gifts as reliable transportation is a relief for me.

Also coming up this week is the annual gill net fishing day. This is the day when residents are able to set our nets and catch our subsistence allotment. I was not a fish eater until I got here, but I have to say that the salmon here is a blessing. Not only is it good, but with it being almost free we fill our freezers and can the rest. I am very excited because I had emptied the freezer a month ago, and am looking forward to the fresh fish.

On the food line, Mark Swensen and I were able to get MARC on the moose "hit list". This list is for non-profit groups who are willing to remove, butcher and use the meat off of animals who are hit by cars. This year we butchered 2 moose and 2 caribou. This is another way that God provides for the families at MARC, as we distribute the meat to those who need or want it. On a more personal note, it has been very interesting for me to learn new life skills, and in fact I butchered one caribou all by myself - A first!!

Support

Let me start by saying THANK YOU to all of you who are praying faithfully and supporting me financially. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you are constantly being brought before God in prayer, and to see what is happening in the villages due to your willingness to support me and allow me to participate in God's work here. Several of you have asked for papers to sign up for direct deposit, and some have been incorrectly told that direct deposit is not working. I am enclosing a sign up form; if you would prefer to have your support automatically withdrawn, please fill this form out and send it back. If you have any questions filling it out, please call and I can try and help you. This is a great method if you find that sometimes you forget, or you don't want to have to spend the time writing a check. It also helps on this end to keep the budget even, and not have such a disparity between months. Again thank you so much for all your prayers and support over the last 2 years.

Please make sure your checks indicate "Ricky's Support" or they will be put into MARC's general fund.

Prayer

I am also enclosing a prayer calendar "On Bended Knee". This calendar is put out by MARC every 3 months. The intent is that each day of the month you pray for whoever, or whatever is listed. Each quarter we send in our requests and they are compiled, and distributed. This is a great way for you to start getting to know more about MARC's and my ministry and the other missionaries I work with. The delay in getting this newsletter printed was an attempt to synchronize the newsletters with the On Bended Knee, so that I can include one with each quarterly newsletter. Also it would seem that many of you have followed the national average and have changed your email address. If you have, please email, call or write with your new email. Also since many of your email hosts were declining the email from rickatmarc.org we have changed the address we are sending email updates from. Please look for email updates from RickatMARC@yahoo.com and if you have a high level security filter on your email please add this address as a contact so you can receive the updates.

Please Pray

- For safety for the MARC pilots and mechanics and the spiritual impact for the people of Alaska.
- For the added work and late nights that accompany summer. We fly so often that sometimes a plane comes back broken is needed the next day, causing long nights of work.
- Several of our pilots and mechanics are having back problems, this makes their jobs much harder or impossible in some cases. Pray that those of us with out problems will stay healthy and be able to pick up the slack, as well as praying for healing for those injured.
- My training schedule has changed again. Instead of working on the Flight Instructor (which I have been concentrating on for the past 3 months), I am now back working on my Inspectors Authorization. I am almost done; all that is left is the test, so please keep praying.

Praise

- That the work team had a good trip, and were able to affect so many youth.
- That my housing is going to work out long term, for the comfortable, convenience, and low cost.
- That the new hanger is up and in use; that the new King Air is being used A LOT, and the other planes are all currently working great.

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