



Winter 2009  
Rick Hellings' Newsletter

# Heir-mail

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

## Shop

The work here at MARC is still going strong. In the shop we have had some major additions and improvements. Greg Hess has moved from the flight department on to the shop floor upping our full time work force from 2 to 3. On top of that Scott Lazeros is here for three months volunteering in the shop. He is considering full-time service with MARC and is using this time to get acquainted with us and the work we do.

Again this winter Cisco is back in the shop. For those of you who don't know, Cisco is a retired Navy Officer who has volunteered each winter as a mechanic. Cisco is my neighbor and he and I are a team in the shop also. I always enjoy having him back, not just for the help but also for the stories, encouragement, and mentorship.

Some great news to be included in this edition is the arrival of new manuals for the shop. Mechanics must use the most up-to-date information during the maintenance process. We must also have access to new emergency information on possible problems on the planes we fix. MARC's library of manuals and system for disseminating information was very outdated. In fact microfiche, which was our main media is no longer available as an option to continue receiving updates.

Through a few generous donations, MARC was able to completely update not only the manuals but the entire maintenance information system. We are now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with all of our manuals and many of our other information available on the computer through CD's. Praise the Lord for the gifts, the givers, and the resources to keep our planes and other missions' planes safe.



## Alaska

Well this has been a crazy winter! Over the holidays temperatures dropped to severe lows. We had 3 weeks with temperatures in the -20's and -30's. A few days it even dipped down into the -40's. I was forced to call my Uncle Bert and Aunt Nancy who were coming to visit from Florida to let them know it was COLD.

The day before they arrived it was -40 and then two days later it was 44 above. The best part? It was 41 in Orlando that day. Yes, my Uncle and Aunt came from Florida to Alaska in January to get warm! I told you it has been a crazy winter.

During their visit we did get a lot done on the house. The bathroom got tiled, the remaining sheetrock was hung, the countertops were built in the kitchen, and the storage closet finally got a door. Praise the Lord again for their willingness and ability to come help.

Now it is February and my Mom is here. We had hoped that this would be a painting trip, but the contractor I scheduled to mud and tape was unable to fit me in, so I have been learning "on the job". The good news: the bathroom is done and painted, the kitchen and hallway are only days away from painting. At this rate we may even have the bedroom finished and painted before she has to head back home.

A big and special thank you to all who have helped both financially and in person with the project. It is a blessing to be making such progress on a very nice and comfortable cabin.

And yes, Mt. Redoubt, the volcano which is about 50 miles from town is threatening and yes, I have my masks. Thanks for your concerns. Keep an eye on the news.

## **Thank You!**

As most of you heard, during my first three years here at MARC I was receiving about 80% of my needed financial support each month. Paul, a more eloquent writer than I, wrote "Encourage one another, and build up one another, as you indeed do" (I Thess. 5:11), so as you have encouraged me, let me also try to encourage you. I am very happy to report that over the last year I have received 100% of my pledged support. I know that not everyone has been able to give each month, but the Lord has provided. Several times throughout the year when a specific need arose many of you gave above and beyond your pledged support. This allowed me to do extra work on the cabin, replace broken secondhand appliances, or acquire special tools needed in the maintenance of our planes. Your encouragement of me and confirmation of my continued use in the ministry has been a great blessing. I hope this "Thank You" is an encouragement to you as you have all had a hand in the ongoing ministry here at MARC and throughout this area of the world.

## **Prayer Partners:**

When I initially started here at MARC my goal was to have 100 prayer partners. I realize that I have no way of actually tracking or quantifying that number. Some of you send emails or letters, which are always a major encouragement to me, letting me know you are still praying.

Would you be willing to be a Prayer Partner? Maybe you already pray faithfully, or said you wanted to but have forgotten recently? If you would like to be or are involved in this portion of the support team would you please let me know? You could send an email or a note to the address below, or you can log onto the website and send an email from there (please fill out the return address field).

I feel that having prayer support is critical for missions to be successful and I would love to have you on the team. Thank you for your prayers in the past, and also for your prayers in the future.

## **Please Pray**

- For Scott as he and the family are visiting and volunteering for 3 months. That they will sense the Lord's desire whether it be for service here at MARC or elsewhere. Pray for the interns who have applied to come up and help this summer: for their finances, travel plans, and other arrangements to fall into place smoothly.
- For me as I take on a role with the youth group. I have worked with AWANA for 4 years, but have started this year to be involved with the youth. Pray for the Lord's leading in my ministry with them.
- For the work on the house. We have made great strides, the end is in sight. Pray that I will not get complacent and leave it in a "livable" condition, but will finish all the projects.

## **Praise**

- For the much needed manuals in the shop. For the generosity of those who gave to make this necessity become a reality and have enhanced our maintenance capabilities.
- For the Lord's provisions through you to allow me to stay in ministry here. For the encouragement you have been and continue to be.

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