

THE ALLEN'S ALASKA NEWS

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WE'RE BACK

Life happens! You know, the things that you don't plan on happening but they do anyway. Well, they happened. Teresa was very ill with viral meningitis and ended up in the hospital. She was a very sick girl. Even after she was out of the hospital she was very weak for a long time. We were planning to go to the lower 48 to visit some churches and Teresa's folks when Teresa got sick. We did go but most of the time we were there I had to make sure that Teresa didn't do anything so she would mend. That was a hard job, because if you know Teresa, she can't sit still for a minute. We got home right before Thanksgiving village feast and singspiration. Right after that I discovered that our printer wasn't working good at all. We had to order a new printer and it just arrived. Then we started special Advent services and that lead into practices for all kinds of Christmas programs (you know what I mean). Then on top of everything else, traditionally we have church services every evening between Christmas and New Years. After each of these services there are Eskimo Games of Skill and Endurance until midnight.

Thank You

We want to thank everyone this season for the cards and gifts that we have received. You have made our Christmas a memorable one. We try to send out personal thank you notes as soon as possible. If you send your gifts through ECCAK we do not receive a list of your giving until after the end of the month. So this means that our thank you notes to you are sometimes late. If we have missed sending you a thank you note we want to send you a great big THANK YOU right now!

WE LOVE YOU!



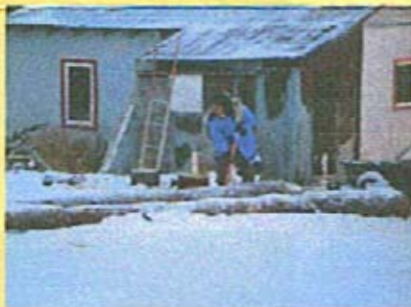
A WORD FROM TERESA

I have given a lot of thought lately to the idea of "FRIENDS". As many of you know Terry and I made a trip to the "lower 48" back in Sept. and Oct. We had the opportunity to get to know many new friends as well as reconnect with our old friends. During those weeks so many of you invited us into your homes, shared your meals, and just generally made us feel very welcome. We will never be able to remember all of your names or where you live but you know who you are. You gave up your own beds, gave us gifts, made special meals for us, prayed with us, and like "Hallmark" you cared enough to give the very best. How blest we are by the outpouring of "FRIENDSHIP".

In God's Word there is much said about friends and friendship. One thing that comes to my mind is the passage that tells us that Abraham was considered a "friend of God". How exactly is that possible? How about thru communication? Sitting around your living room sharing your lives with us and allowing us to share our vision for the ministry here in Elim allowed all of us to have real communication. It is so much more important for us to share our lives, dreams, and visions with our Heavenly Father. In fact He expressly created us for that purpose! Another mention of friends and friendship in God's Word is that our Lord is a "friend that sticks closer than a brother". No earthly family is perfect. In fact it is absolutely normal for siblings to fuss with

one another over the daily stuff of life. I have seen first hand when a child is being picked on by a bully. Quite often another sibling will step into the fray to protect and defend. Jesus did that so perfectly when He went to the cross to bear our sin burden. Jesus commands us to "Bear one another's burdens" too. You, my FRIEND do that each time you pray for Terry and I. Thank you for being our FRIEND.

Teresa



HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW SHALL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?

ROMANS 10:14

THE NEW YEAR IS FINALLY HERE

I'm sitting here at the computer keyboard and it's 1:56 am on the first day of 2009. Our Watch Night service is over and everyone is setting off fireworks to bring in the New Year. I'm watching the rockets explode into beautiful colors through the window. Since Thanksgiving we have had 18 church services including one every night between Christmas and New Years eve besides all of the other duties the pastor has to do each day. This is the 4th Christmas we have been in Elim and we love the ministry and the people here but we are exhausted. We appreciate all of the prayers that you are sending up for us and our extended family. We are looking forward to this coming year. We believe that God has good things in store for the Village. We would appreciate your prayers that people's lives will be changed for the Glory of God. We believe they will be. May you have a blessed New Year!

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

The custom of receiving Presents is different here. You don't get your presents on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning - You get them Christmas evening. Christmas day starts with Candlelight Communion at 8 am in the morning and then we go home and have breakfast. About 4 o'clock we have Christmas dinner. During the day everyone brings their presents and puts them under the tree at the church. At 7 pm the festivities

begin. We have the children's program, choir program, solos, Bible readings, and a short but to the point Salvation message because everyone in the village is there. Then the service is turned over to the Mayor and he asks the young people to help pass out the gifts.



THE LONGEST DAYS OF WINTER

Now we go into the longest and coldest part of winter. For the most part, there is nothing to do or nowhere to go unless you want to spend The \$7.25 per gallon for your snow mobile or spend the \$288. or \$675. per airline ticket to go to Nome or Anchorage. This is the time we need your prayers the most. This is the time when alcohol and drugs become abundant and all kinds of crime happens. We do a lot of counseling during this time for spousal abuse. Along with your prayers we need notes and letters of encouragement. When we get these in the mail, it really makes our day. That doesn't mean that you have to put money in the envelopes. We just need to know that you are keeping us in your prayers. Thank you ahead of time for these love notes.



Two telltale marks of a Christian are giving and forgiving, because the world knows little of either.

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A NEW YEAR IS UPON US

I remember when I was growing up thinking that when the year 2000 came around I would be 50 years old. Now it's 29 years past that and sometimes I ask myself where has the time gone? Have you ever asked yourself that question? Sometimes we wonder if we really have accomplished anything so far in our life.

Isaiah 43:18-19 says: "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Last year's gone and now we need to focus on the new year ahead. I am so glad that the Lord will be with us each step of the way.

Philippians 4:13 says: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Joshua 1:9 also says: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

We need to give ourselves to the Lord each day and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in everything we do. This doesn't mean that everything this year is going to be perfect but we can stand on the promises God has given us. He will be our strength. He will give us hope, peace, joy and love as we serve Him



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

THERE IS NO HOMEL OR FORGAIN IN GOD'S MISSIONARY VOCABULARY



ESKIMO GAMES



CHILDREN AT PLAY

WISH LIST

SEAL A MEAL BAGS ON A ROLL

GALLON FREEZER BAGS

CRYSTAL LIGHT DRINK POWDER
(OFF BRAND IS OK)