

## ALASKA NEWS LETTER March 2024

Temp, low 18° High 50° with sunshine

## What will 2024 bring...

That's the question we asked in the January newsletter as we shared the next steps of NLM and asked you to pray with us as we continue our ministry and move forward with our newest opportunity, the NLM Multi-Purpose building and Vocational Training facility. We are happy to announce that we have received almost



ninety percent of the needed funds for this project, and much of the materials are already on site.

Last week, we started pushing the snow off the building site to thaw and dry the ground. We had the well drilled on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The electric service and septic systems are next. Hopefully, the ground will thaw enough to allow this by the end of April. Although the weather forecast doesn't show a nighttime temperature above freezing until sometime in May, the sun is shining with over fourteen hours of daylight and gaining 6 minutes and 17 seconds more sun each day!

Regardless, we have plenty to do. This week, we have a team from TN, SBC Clinton, and Dixie Lee Lenoir City running the sawmill to cut our lumber, building forms, and many other projects. Needless to say, I'm in my element and loving it! Our desire is to complete the building before the winter sets in and start some of the classes soon after....Keep up the prayers.

Shelly and I just returned from the Lower 48, where we visited a few of our partnering churches to give mission reports and spent almost a week with the kids. We also got to see some of our families in KY, although the schedules never seem to allow all of us to get together. To the many friends that we did have the opportunity to visit, even if for a few minutes, you filled our hearts with the Love you gave us, and we are grateful for each of you.

Well, as the days get longer, our teams will continue to arrive, and we are excited about all that will be happening this summer. Our staff at NLM has been busy these past three months with many projects in the local churches, including a team from Keller, TX, that helped with Bible studies. Each church has joined with the local village for our Easter programs, Egg hunts, Potlucks, and much more.

As always, our greatest joy comes from seeing God work in the lives of the people, watching them grow in their faith and relationship with Him, and absorbing the word; as they grow and can share their testimony of salvation, many are following in baptism, and we are excited that we have several that will be baptized this summer as soon as the ice leaves the lakes. I truly believe that God has brought the church into these communities and that through the continuity of their local church, they will continue to be a shining light to other communities of God's grace and Love, leading them to Jesus and the desire to have churches in their home villages. Isn't God so good? And we are filled with Joy to be here serving as the local Pastor.

Shelly and I feel blessed with our health, and we ask that you continue to pray that we remain healthy, strong, and willing to serve in the calling that God has given us. (Acts 20:24) Our work here started with a desire to disciple people for God. Now He has grown the ministry to have several churches under the umbrella of NLM, along with our outreach work to several other villages and the Church in Tanacross where I serve as Pastor. We have some tremendous help and are excited that the Fendleys, Taylor & Marissa, and their family will be joining us this summer to help with some of the children and youth work and to assist Pastor Bryan in the church at Northway.

Pastor Ben McGatlin and his family are doing incredible work in Tetlin Village, we are equally thankful for them. Many of you have been with us on this journey from the beginning, and others have joined in along the way.....Together through prayer, many types of support and your partnership God is doing a great work here in Alaska. Thank You!

This month's verse of encouragement is Proverbs 16:6 In mercy and truth, Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil.

In Love, God has already provided forgiveness for our sins and the sins of all who will fear Him and accept His mercy.....Today, be a missionary and share God's love with those God puts in your life. How sad to consider that many will spend eternity without peace in torment...... I wonder how many will wonder why we didn't care enough to share the story of Jesus with them.

## **Prayer Request and Praise**

- Travel & safety for our summer teams and staff.
- The possibility of a new church plant in 2025
- Pastors Jeff Sulfridge, Bryan Watson, Ben McGatlin
- Thank you to our Partnering Churches along with NAMB and the generosity of all our supporters for the financial support in 2024 and your awesome giving to help with the new building at NLM



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