

MARK & NICOLA FAIRES

"Here am I Lord, send me." Isa. 6:8b

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Mission accomplished

Looks like a record! The funds for the Cessna 206 purchase have been raised! The fundraiser started slowly but with the combined efforts of the SEND North and SEND International offices over \$55,000 was raised in no more than three weeks and we have surpassed our target total of \$60,000. Anything given further at this point will be used for operating expenses.

If you would like to contribute to help us keep the plane flying, donations can be marked for IAMP. This is essentially a ministry account for the airplane to aid in missionary support, ministry trips, work team travel, Bible camp support and whatever else the Lord puts before us.

In addition to the normal flights this summer, we hope to be able to take time to travel to the villages to encourage our fellow SEND workers and help maintain fellowship among the interior team.

So far, yet so close

In our last newsletter we mentioned our future plans to travel next year for home service. We're trying to form plans now since, once summer hits, our time will be limited. Lord willing, we will begin our travels in January of 2018. Except for our first stop, we plan to be driving. We've been working on a target itinerary so we can do our best to connect with all our supporters along the way. So, here's a map and list of dates and stops along the way that we hope to make. Items in yellow have weekends.

Jan 6-8	Spokane, WA
Jan 10-16	Gilbert, AZ
Jan 20	Alpine, TX
Jan 22-28	Longview, TX
Feb 4	Pensacola, FL
Feb 11	Franklin, TN Dayton, TN
Feb 18	Abbeville, SC
Feb 25	Charlotte, NC
March 4	Jacksonville, NC Virginia
March 11	Maine
March 18	Rochester, NY Farmington, MI Ionia, MI Chicago, IL
March 25	Bluegrass, IA



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Work team from SC.

Looking “up”

As I (Mark) present what we are doing here, I come across connections to different villages across the state. The ones that get my attention most are those north of Fairbanks. There are many villages that lack any real Christian presence. Some have the form and/or tradition of a church - but no substance. Jesus is missing. We need “boots on the ground”.

Alaska is a difficult environment. Life in the villages can be, and most often is, tough. But as such there are many opportunities for believers to position themselves to be lights in the dark. There are positions in post-offices, airports, schools, and medical facilities that are often left vacant in rural Alaska due to the demanding nature of the environment.

It is not for the faint of heart. But we as believers would never be lacking in our willingness to go if God called - would we?

SEND North is focused on making disciples in the northern regions of Alaska and Canada. Many of the personnel connected with SEND North use jobs in the local villages to help support their work and provide an avenue to connect with people. What skills do you have that could be put to use? Perhaps you know of someone with a calling but looking for direction. Up north would be a good direction.

Around the grounds

Work on the guest house continues. Hopefully by the time you receive this letter, one of the addition rooms will be in use. A work team with Grace Works Alaska used the guest house while working at the Iditarod but then stayed an extra two days to help work on the house! God continues to send people to help our efforts. The work remaining inside the home now is mostly trim in the two rooms and then some drywall patching and painting as well as finishing the new entryway. Outside the guest house still needs quite a bit of work. There's some siding, painting, trim, sidewalk, and the 2nd floor stairway to be completed. We hope to have much of that completed with several work teams this summer.

For the airplane side of things, I will be setting up an aircraft fuel station this spring so that I no longer have to make an extra stop for fuel on my flights. That will save about a half hour of flight time for many trips. At \$230/hr operating cost, a half hour is rather significant.

The home front

There is not too much new to report on the home front, but we did celebrate Winston's third birthday on March 16th. It is hard to believe we have a 3-year-old already. He greatly enjoys having books read to him and building all sorts of creations with his blocks. Evelyn is 1 ½-years-old now and is quite the helper around the house. She eagerly seeks out opportunities to help with chores and can be very particular on how things should be done. Baby Faires is healthy and due to arrive in just about 10 weeks. Winston is quite excited for his newest sibling and tells everyone that we will have a 'special baby' that will be arriving at our house this summer. I am not sure if Evelyn really understands that there will be another baby in the house, but she does like to rub and kiss my belly and surely will take every opportunity to be a little mother to both Winston and the baby.

Donations to our aviation-related efforts can be made to SEND North and denoted for IAMP (Interior Alaska Ministry Project). Donations can be sent to:



SEND North
4227 Spenard Rd. Unit B
Anchorage, AK 99517

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Luke 10:2 NASB