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The Ordinary and the Extraordinary!

When a child, missionary conferences always seemed to portray the lives of missionaries as exciting and full of adventure... all the time. (At least that is how a young mind interpreted it). Now having served as full-time missionaries for the last five years, we've come to the realization that much of missionary life is just, doing life... not always spectacular or super exciting. It is, however, an ordinary life with a divine purpose and in that knowledge and expectation we become more aware (at least more than we were before) of how God moves and acts in those moments as well as in those times that one would label extraordinary. For this realization, we are eternally grateful. God is good and serving Him is exciting!

The new year came in, for us, very quietly but very cold. In January and into February we had six weeks of sustained negative temperatures. So much so that long-time Alaskans commented, "we have not had temperatures like this for 40 years". We had some reprieve in February, but as we write this newsletter, we are once again plunged into arctic temps for the next several weeks.

We were blessed with a moose road kill on January 22nd. The call came in from the State Troopers at 7pm after Steve returned from prison and dinner was done, so with the help of our local towing company and a neighbor, all of the salvageable meat was quartered and hung within several hours. We even made it to bed that night by 1130pm. In Alaska when a large game animal is killed either by auto or illegally, there is a waiting list of people who have signed up to receive such a blessing. We had signed up when we first arrived in 2020 and this was the first time we got the call.

Prison Update:

We continue to go on the first Sunday of the month, together, to minister to the men at Wildwood. Steve preached morning and evening these past two months and in March, they are adding a third service in Pretrial. (more on that next newsletter). Steve also conducted

conducted

16 Bible studies, Discipling and counseling the men who are in the minimum side of the prison. These Bible Studies are usually attended by 8-10 men each time. The men are really growing in their faith and seeing God work in their lives. Steve, along with over 30 other volunteers, has also been preparing to take part in the Kairos 4 day event at Wildwood coming in March. Renee has, periodically, been meeting to encourage the wife of one of the men who is facing many years of incarceration. We are praying that this relationship grows and this couple will thrive in their marriage despite the hard circumstances

Towards the end of December, Steve's mom ended up in the hospital and then the healthcare unit of the home where she resides. She had both pneumonia and the flu. Since that time she had been doing rehab and recently has had a serious fall and surgery on her arm. The road ahead of her seems long and arduous but we know God will walk with her and bring her through this tough time. Please continue to pray with us, for her.

LightShine Update:

We are leading a new team this year to the Copper Center area, partnering with a new ministry called Fields of Alaska Ministries. This trip will take place in October. You can read more about that on www.LightShineministries.org under 2026 Teams. We are currently looking for four to six people who would like to serve on that team. If interested, all of the details are listed online. We are also planning on participating in several teams this year.

Thank you all for partnering with us through your prayers and financial support. God is blessing His ministry and you are part of that blessing.

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