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Some things change and some things stay the same...

Wow, it's hard to believe how fast time flies! It has been several months since our last update and for that we apologize. With the arrival of Spring and better weather we seem to get busier every year. We will try to briefly cover the highlights of the last three months in this edition.

April was a month filled with preparation for the upcoming summer season. Above I mentioned that Spring arrived but that was, it seems to Alaska, just a calendar date as the coolness of winter still held on through the entire month and into May. Morning temps were still in the high 20's to low 30's without much improvement throughout the day. We even had snow showers for several days.

Gradually though, the weather began to improve as the month progressed. The ministry at Wildwood is going great. Over the past several months we have seen a number of men give their lives to the Lord for the first time or rededicate after years of wandering. For this we are praising the Lord and thankful to have been used by Him to minister to these men. I continue to hold weekly Bible studies (2x per week) and both of us go in on the first Sunday of the month, to minister in three different services. This month I was involved in the yearly Kairos retreat at the prison. During that four day weekend the lives of the men were touched by God and it yielded fruit in many lives.

Over Mothers Day weekend, in May, we hosted a LightShine team here in Homer. This year we divided the team between two churches, Regent Life and Christian Community. In both locations we accomplished what was asked of the team. At Christian Community Church, we installed a drop ceiling in the fellowship hall and at Regent we installed cabinets, built a bookcase, helped to install a one way window in the nursery, repaired a retaining wall and painted the sign on the outside of the building. One of our team members served in the youth outreach at Regent for a couple of afternoons. All of this and the team finished a day early!

This year seems to be a year of officiating weddings. So far, I was able to officiate the weddings of two couples in the last two months. The first was in May, as friends from church got married and the second was in June. The son of long time friends from Gulkana got married so we made the trip north to spend the weekend celebrating with them.

We did have some vehicle issues these last few months. Our car, that we've had since before we moved here, finally bit the dust. Our truck broke in half but since our engine was only 6 years old, we found another vehicle that was in good shape and needed a new engine. A friend from church did the work for us and we once again have a good running truck. We were so thankful for another couple in our church, loaning us their truck for a few weeks.

Two of our co-laborers through LightShine came to spend a couple of days with us after their mission trip to Glennallen at the beginning of June. While they were here we arranged, with a friend, a Halibut fishing trip. Needless to say many fish were caught and the Lord gave us a beautiful day out on the water. We really enjoyed our time with them.

During the last two weeks of June we were honored to have our oldest grandson, Elisha, visit with us for a couple of weeks. During his stay we took him fishing (not as many fish were caught this time), bear hunting (emphasis on hunting - no bears were harmed during the making of that memory) and he also helped me with several projects around the cabin that we needed to knock off our list. We also ate plenty of ice cream, as we had to contribute to the fact that Alaska, per capita, eats more ice cream than any other state in the USA. It was great to have Elisha with us and to see first hand the young man he is and we are thankful that he loves Jesus and wants to serve Him.

Thank you all for your continued financial and prayer support for us and the ministries we are privileged to take part in here in Alaska. You are a vital part of the ministry that takes place here and we could not do what we do without you.

While writing this newsletter we have found we need to make a visit to Pennsylvania at the end of August. My mom, Toni will be officially moving from her apartment at Fairmount into personal care, where she has been staying since June. We plan to head down on or around the 18th and spend a couple of weeks helping mom go through and empty the apartment. As this wasn't a planned trip, pray that the finances will come in, for scheduling, safety, and peace of mind for all of us. Changes can be hard, but we believe God has our best interest in mind.

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