



RCA Missionary Update

from Brian and Elizabeth Bruxvoort

As a pilot, mechanic, and flight scheduler for the Mission Aviation Repair Center (MARC), Brian Bruxvoort helps make evangelization and church ministry possible in Alaska's remote villages. He transports pastors to and from their congregations; brings missionaries, students receiving mission training, and work teams to their mission sites; flies children to Bible camps; and helps maintain MARC's airplanes. He also connects people with the goods or services they need and helps Alaskan Christians feel connected to the rest of the body of Christ. His wife, Beth, participates in a women's Bible study and an after-school club called Child Evangelism Fellowship, volunteers in her children's classrooms, and reaches out to women around her who need a friend. The Bruxvoorts have four children: Brianna, Michael, Lucas, and Jonathan.

Alaska facts:

- Population: 620,000
- Size: 570,833 square miles (largest U.S. state)



MINISTRY

Mission Aviation

LOCATION

Soldotna, Alaska

PARTNER

Mission Aviation Repair Center

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Dear Friends in Christ,

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As I watch out the window this morning the snow crystals are drifting lazily down and the tree branches are heavy with snow. It is breathtaking in its loveliness and fills me with pleasure. Yet as we think over the past year, the constant evidence of God's grace in our lives is far lovelier. Through this year we have become ever more aware of how desperately we need His grace, and how precious it is that He would have the patience and love to gently show us our continual need and His fullness. Oh how good He is! We can truly say it was a year of God's provision, prayers, protection, and promise.

Provision

The Lord has used you to provide for our every need. From the normal monthly financial needs to the many extra medical and vehicle costs that we experienced this past year, God has thoroughly blessed and provided for us. He has provided encouragement through your cards, letters, prayers, and gifts; through His Word; and through friends. His grace and care have been evident each day, even when our eyes missed it.

Prayers

Many prayers were answered. From a hangar being dedicated and a "new" turbo prop airplane in that hangar, to Elizabeth's medi-vac to Anchorage for tests, God showed

Himself to be faithful and full of power. Each flight last year had a safe outcome. Thousands of people prayed together for the people of Hooper Bay as they experienced tragic loss through a fire destroying homes, schools, and a store. Prayers were answered, and Hooper Bay was blessed through the relief efforts spearheaded by Samaritan's Purse and Mission Aviation Repair Center's logistical support for the volunteer work crews as they raced to beat the oncoming winter. Those prayers most assuredly kept the evil one's intentions at bay as we flew 44 flights over 36,000 air miles with only two delays for weather! Most certainly it had to be prayers as lives were changed because of this—the lives of many in Hooper Bay, the volunteer work crews, and us as we followed Christ's leading in this. As we as a Christian community in Alaska rejoiced at the dedication of the five houses built, I believe we at MARC and Samaritan's Purse were reminded that there are valleys below the mountaintops, and thus we come to:

Protection

As Larry (a Samaritan's Purse pilot) took off in the Caravan (a single-engine airplane) an indicator light came on only five minutes after takeoff. The light can mean that complete engine failure is likely. He immediately returned to the airport without incident. And yes,

the light was correct: the engine had to be taken apart and repaired. It is now back in the air! Then, three weeks later, Bob (a MARC pilot) was departing from Soldotna with passengers on a ministry flight when a steel oil line fitting broke, which resulted in the engine seizing up and quitting. Bob was able to feather the prop and return to the airport uneventfully on one engine. That airplane is still down. Two weeks later a heating pipe in our office broke, flooding the office and shutting down the heating system for a while. It could have been even worse since the scheduling computer sits under my desk and was not damaged! Our staff has had serious mechanical difficulties with our vehicles and difficulties with surgeries and illness among the families. In all of this we have seen the Lord protect us. The question is, are we willing to keep a joyful attitude when things are seemingly *not* going well? Will we *praise* Him when the van's transmission goes out, when MARC has an unexpected \$40,000 overhaul bill on an engine, or when someone is seriously ill as much as when things are going well? Which brings us to:

Promise

Just before Christmas, Brian had the opportunity to take a work team to the bush to work on a parsonage. The house was so cold that you could not keep it heat-



Brian gets ready for a trip to the dump

ed adequately. As we tore out the old sheetrock, paneling, and insulation, it had to be taken to the landfill three miles out of town. My job was to do the dump runs using a snow machine and pulling a dog sled. Because of the time of year, most of my runs were done in the dark. On the second night we were there, as I was pulling out of town and looking up into the sky, I saw spectacular northern lights. I stopped and watched in awe as they danced back and forth across the sky. When I got to the landfill I discovered that someone had lit the trash on fire. As I emptied the sled, the stench and smoke were almost overwhelming. I was struck with the incongruity of it all. As I faced the dump I was reminded of Jesus' words in Mark 9:48 talking about the fire of hell never

dying. As I looked into the dump I realized that everything in there was made by man and would burn up! As I looked back at the sky, I saw God's lights and nothing but beauty and glory! As I drove back to town on the snow machine my back was to the northern lights. I had to turn around to see them. The odd thing was, the closer I got to the lights of the village the harder it became to see the northern lights! It struck me as I went into the house, isn't that the way our loving Father works? He does reveal Himself—in nature, in His Word, in His son, but we get so caught up with the work we have to do, the goals we have set forth, and the man-made lights of the world that we fail to stop and see, or even to seek, His light—the light of the world. The more I look at the things of the world, the less I see the things of God. And then I realized His promise—His promise that those who seek Him **will find** Him, but we must seek Him with all of our hearts.

Praises

- Safety in flight this past year
- Many signs of God's work in Alaska
- God's protection on Elizabeth's health this year
- Our boys growing physically and spiritually
- MARC's staff really coming together for the project in Hooper Bay
- Faithful supporters in prayer and giving!

Prayer Requests

- Protection and wisdom for Brian as he flies
- Our marriage and family to stay strong
- Spiritual growth for those we love
- Brianna living on her own
- Funds for the aircraft engine
- Wisdom as we schedule our time with you all this summer

Lastly, we want to thank all of you who stand so faithfully with us by kneeling and praying for us and giving to the work that is going on here in Alaska. May we never take our eyes off of the Light of the World who is our life, salvation, and joy. We believe that it is because of your prayers that we can and do serve here. You truly are partners with us in the work. **Thank you.** May God *richly* bless you.

Because of His grace,

Brian & Elizabeth

The Bruxvoorts