



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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LEARN MORE AT

www.rca.org/bruxvoort

Dear Friends in Christ,

January 2011

Home! That word unearths many thoughts and feelings in all of us. We have been especially aware of it in our family due to the events of the last few months. This year we are attempting to try doing furlough differently than in the past. We are splitting our furlough into two different times of travel to enable us to see more of you than in the past. Therefore, for many of you, this letter comes at the conclusion of the first half of our furlough, and we had the joy of visiting with you this past summer. For those in the Midwest this letter comes before our expected travels in March-May of 2012 when we hope to see many more of you.

Just before we left to travel this June we received the news that Brian's father went **home** to be with the Lord. Because this happened days before our planned trip the funeral was held until we arrived. We were amazed as we saw God work out the many details. All of our children were able to attend Grandpa's funeral, even Michael, who was working in remote Alaska at a gold mine. We already had our tickets purchased for furlough, and Michael was able to fly on airline miles. Within those few sentences is an amazing story of the wonderful workings of our God of detail, creativity and provision! We were still at Brian's mother's home when we learned that Elizabeth's last remaining and closest uncle had a massive stroke after surgery. We drove to Minneapolis, dropping Michael and Brianna off at the airport to return home to Alaska. We were blessed to visit with Uncle Earl and Aunt Marcie in the Intensive Care unit for a couple of days. Our hearts were further saddened, as we had to tell Uncle Earl goodbye. He went **home** to be with the Lord a few days later. How grateful Elizabeth was to have that time with him and the family.

After Minneapolis we traveled for two more months, covering 11,000 plus miles, visiting so many friends and supporters. Each visit was a joy to look forward to and a sorrow upon leaving that in some ways still tugs at our hearts. You welcomed us into your homes, prayed over us, and blessed us with your love and hospitality, then sent us on our way. We truly felt like each of your homes was our **home** for the night!



And yet, as we traveled, we missed our friends back in Alaska, where we now call home. And we believe that even more than that, we were missing something else. After we returned to Alaska and were reunited with our children, friends and church family, we came to realize that we are still missing some place else. A place that we will someday call **home** forever. I Peter 2:11 calls us "aliens and strangers" and Hebrews 11:13 and 16 says that "the people of faith ...are looking for a better country, one that God has prepared for them." This especially became real to us as we said goodbye to Brian's dad, Uncle Earl, and all of you!

When we got home, Brian's first flight back at MARC was most unique. He flew a family out to Russian Mission and Kako Retreat center. The purpose of this flight was to take a family, whose husband and father had been a pastor at Russian Mission many years back, to bury his ashes in Alaska. As Brian visited with this family of adults and their spouses he heard many stories of when they lived in Russian Mission. This was the last place this family had lived together. As the kids each went their separate ways, they each thought of Russian Mission as **home**!



As we ponder these things, we realize that **HOME** is what missions is all about! It is about reconnecting man to God through Jesus Christ to bring us **home** to the Father. It started back in Genesis when God came seeking man in the garden (after man had broken the relationship). It will only end when, through Christ, we are eternally restored to relationship with the Father. Then and only then will we be truly back **home**!

Since we have returned to Alaska, Brian has been gone flying more than last year (when he concentrated more on maintenance because of maintenance needs). On the home front, Elizabeth is again involved with a local CEF after school club, as well as with two Ladies Bible studies. Lucas made All State and All Northwest in choir and will be traveling to the Seattle area over spring break for that event. This will impact our plans for furlough and he and Jonathan may not be with us as we travel this spring, as they will be in school. It was a new feeling to have only two of our four children with us as we traveled this past summer, and as the realization hit us that this might be the last time they would accompany us, we tried to relish every moment we had with them.

We want to thank you with full hearts for your prayers, letters, gifts, and support. You are an amazing blessing to us and we marvel at how God uses you all to show His love and kindness to us.

Because of His Grace,

Brian & Elizabeth

The Bruxvoorts

Prayer Requests:

- For those who are adjusting to losing mates
- For our boys to finish this school year well
- For continued safety in flight and maintenance
- For the kids who went to camp to grow in Christ
- For a marriage and family life that will draw others to Jesus Christ
- That we be good stewards of the gifts God gives us

Praises:

- A safe trip with many joyful reunions
- Readjustment of Lucas and Jonathan to school
- A safe summer of flying for MARC
- For many kids who went to Bible camp
- For 28 years of marriage
- For God's provisions in our lives

To access extensive information about the Bruxvoorts, or to make a financial gift for their ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/bruxvoort.

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