



RCA Missionary Update

2008 yearly report to supporting churches from the Bruxvoorts

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

CONTACT

Brian and Beth Bruxvoort

37220 Birchwood St.

Soldotna, AK 99669

Email: marcsked@acsalaska.net

bruxvoort@gci.net

Increasingly, RCA churches are asking missionaries they support to complete a yearly report of their mission activities. These reports play a valuable role in that they give supporters a better understanding of the specific accomplishments, joys, and struggles of their missionaries and allow supporters to pray more specifically for their mission team. However, the task can become a bit overwhelming and detract from other mission work if missionaries are asked to complete reports for several churches or supporters. RCA Global Mission has decided to take a good idea and, hopefully, make it even better by standardizing the process and asking all missionaries to write a brief mission update report at the end of each year.

1. In one sentence, what is your ministries primary goal?

MARC's stated purpose is to help spread the Word of God in Alaska through the use of Aviation

2. Over the past year, how have you seen God working in your ministry? Please share both the progress and the setbacks with respect to your ministry goals. Please include your joys, challenges, and/or disappointments.

We have seen many young people come to a decision to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through the ministries of the various summer camps we provide flight service to. We have also seen many volunteers who have come to Alaska with various work groups impacted in a new way in their personal lives as they have served in "bush" Alaska. I personally have had the joy of meeting some people in Spokane as I represented MARC at Moody Aviation and a year later was able to fly them to a mission station in Alaska. They told me that they were here as a direct result of my sharing with them in Spokane. We have had a very good year as regards safety, with no accidents or incidents!!

On a more personal level, I can say that I have enjoyed being able to share with those we serve as we stay with them on our extended flights during the winter. Just a few weekends ago, I had the opportunity to share my personal testimony, with those in the village who were attending the singing event the group we had brought there was hosting. I also have the great opportunity to teach Sunday school to 4th, 5th, and 6th grade and occasionally lead worship at our church and bring a message to a church when we are out flying. At MARC we have also seen an addition go onto our larger hangar to handle the increase of freight we have seen in the last two years. Elizabeth has been reaching out to several women who have large personal problems, including very messy divorces.

As regards setbacks—one of the largest is that of a friend involved in Ministry across Alaska being arrested for child pornography and also charged with child abuse. He was a close friend of our family and is still in jail awaiting trial. That event shook our family, my children, and several ministries.

We also at MARC are constantly dealing with the effect of high fuel costs, and low income, which often impacts our maintenance goals, not allowing us to keep as many aircraft flight ready as we wish we could, thereby impacting the ministries that we serve.

3. Share any physical or spiritual health issues that have impacted your ministry during this past year.

Due to a series of events, this has been a very stressful year for our family. I took the month of Oct. off (using up unused vacation time) after two of Elizabeth's brother's died within 33 days.

During the time off I spent dedicated, concentrated time focusing on getting rest, spending time with the Lord, and getting a full physical. I am now starting to implement some things in my life that should get me back to a healthier lifestyle, including diet, exercise, and making myself take more time to not always be doing something I have to get done!

Elizabeth has had several undiagnosed health issues this year, and is under a doctor's care trying to diagnose what in fact they are. One of these indicates the onset of arthritis.

4. Briefly discuss any goals, dreams, and/or changes you would anticipate in your ministry for the coming year.

My goals for this coming year are to maintain the current level of flying and maintenance that I am doing. My roles have changed this past year as I asked to not be scheduler. As a result I am more involved in maintenance and I really enjoy that. Additionally I would like to obtain the ATP rating, which will challenge me to a higher level of professionalism and hopefully a higher level of safety. Another personal goal I have is to be supportive of our staff here at MARC. Lastly I am a deacon at our church and I am chairman of the board at ABC Pregnancy Care Center in Kenai, all of which keeps me very busy.

5. Share any specific project related needs and other ways supporting churches might be able to assist you.

At this time it is difficult to address this issue. MARC's biggest need is to establish a long term base of donors to keep the ministry functioning, I am not in a position to do this. It would be wonderful if someone in a supporting church would be able to help us in writing for grants that would help fund some of our operations. Elizabeth and I want to emphasize that we feel very well supported by our supporting churches. On a more personal note, we have seen a huge increase in our living costs because of the increase of fuel costs-which everyone has seen. Soldotna has the highest price of gasoline in the nation, and as a result our personal budget has at time been very stretched.

6. Please tell us about ongoing as well as special prayer needs you may have at this time.

We would ask for prayer for our marriage, we have been married 25 years, but the daily pressures of ministry to others, helping in our church, meeting others needs who are going through divorce, and the physical ailments (undiagnosed) for Elizabeth, have been and continue to be a stressor for us. We ask for wisdom in our schedules, saying no is not easy to us as we came here to serve. We ask for prayer for our children as they are growing up, and now face the challenge of making our faith their own faith.

To access extensive information about the Bruxvoorts, simply go to www.rca.org/bruxvoort.