

# Alaska Village Missions

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Dear Friends,

Well, it seems like we are pulling up out of the pandemic pandemonium, at least here in Alaska. Travel on the in-state road system has opened up again, restaurants are opening, and masks are strongly recommended instead of required. Alaska was really spared from much of the trauma suffered in other places. We will just need to check in after a few weeks to see how it's all going.

Our Bible school students have finished up the last of their classes online, and the graduation ceremony will take place on Facebook on May 22, Friday, at 5:00 pm. Join



us by going to the Facebook page of Alaska Bible Institute, find the Events link on the left side, and click on the Graduation link for the video. If you aren't able to make it, you can go back later and watch the video testimonies of the students and of our graduation speaker, alumni Skip Bowersox. It will also be on the ABI YouTube channel.

## ***Salmon fishing boats in Homer prepare to head to the fishing grounds***

Our summer work teams are still somewhat in limbo, contingent upon when the State lifts the 14 day quarantine on travelers from outside the State. Travel to the off-road villages is also restricted except for essential workers, which at this time does not include those who *'bring good news, who announce peace and bring good news of happiness, who announce salvation, and say to Alaska, "Your God reigns!"'* So our summer VBS programs are on hold for now. We would appreciate your prayers for our village outreach this summer.

Meanwhile, here is an update from Duane about how they have been connecting with the villages via Zoom and Facetime.

*Last summer when Beth and I were in Chignik Lagoon for VBS, the ladies there expressed to my wife Beth that they wanted to have a ladies' meeting, learn the Word of God and be strengthened in the faith. God is now giving them the desires of their hearts. Over the past couple of months, Cate (one of our AVM Board members), has led a weekly Bible study with the ladies there by means of Facetime. Not only are they being taught the truth, their hearts are hungry for the Word of God.*



**Zoom Church: Bible Teaching in Port Graham**

*On Easter Sunday, we held a church service in Chignik Lagoon by means of Zoom. It was wonderful. We had about 15 people there, and the women were thrilled that the men came! Cate brought a resurrection message from the Word of God and led in worship. Beth led in communion, and I was able to lead the people of God in prayer.*

*In the village of Port Graham, we have been averaging 8-12 people per Sunday by means of Zoom. Terry and Lara, new school teachers in the village, have brought a lot of life to the church family. This week, Lara led worship, I (Duane) preached and Beth guided us in communion. Plus Lara is leading an adult Bible Study on Wednesday nights that the congregation has really enjoyed.*

Lastly, in the spring of 2016 we took on the assignment of stepping in for Ray Arno as he began his retirement. When Ray asked us if we would take his place, my first thought was that we don't have 50 years to give like Ray did (we are both 68). But we felt the Lord was directing us to make a five year commitment to AVM. We assumed that a big part of our role would be to facilitate the transition from Ray's leadership to someone younger, with more years than us to invest in the ministry. This spring is the beginning of our fifth year at AVM, and we feel that the transition phase has gone well and that AVM is ready for someone younger to guide the way into the future. We have informed our Board that this will be our last year, so they will be seeking the Lord over this next year about who the new leader will be. Please pray for the Lord to guide them in that process.

Thanks, Randy

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