

FROMM

Families Reaching Out
In Missions & Ministries

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Reverend Eugene & Nancy Strickland



AUGUST 2011

Dear F.R.O.M.M. Partners and Friends of our Family,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus! Thank God, July has passed for us, as it was busy, busy, and more busy. Now you might say, "How busy was that?" Well, I thought you would never ask.... We hit the ground running on the 29th of June, got our stuff gathered up and left Anchorage heading for Homer Alaska (325 miles south.) We stopped off in Kasilof for a couple of nights of good fellowship with former neighbors and fellow ministers, Al & Judy Harris along with others from the Foursquare Church who were building a home in the area. It was good to discuss God's work among indigenous people with those who are also working with these often forgotten people groups.

Leaving Kasilof, we drove on to Homer where we met with Pastors Bill & Leatha Williams and the "family" of Haven Worship Center in Sunday services and again the next day as they prepared some really good ministry booths, Christian music band, and food stuffs for all of those celebrating the 4th of July, which has become an annual event for their church. This trip was not only an opportunity for Nancy and me to meet with fellow ministers, but it was also one of the nicest "4th" celebrations we have enjoyed in many years.

Following our return to Anchorage, we re-organized our "stuff" and a day or two later boarded the jet for Bethel. Our B&B in Bethel was with our dear friend, Anna Alexie, who just "happened" to live close to the kids playground, covered pavilion w/picnic tables. We were busy over the weekend with preaching and meeting with long lost friends, as well as putting together crafts, and preparing for the upcoming Kidz Klubz.

For the next three days the wind blew the constant rain sideways w/chill factor of about 20°, but it did not stop us! Can you believe we averaged 23 children every day? Only a few of those kids went to church, with only a couple of them having attended our "Kidz Klubz" last year. We did have a great time in spite of the weather, and the children enjoyed the crafts, stories, games and snacks! Most importantly every child took home a New Testament the first day, and brought it back every day for the "Kidz Bible Klub" recognition. We were so proud of them, and thankful for you who helped make this possible. God blessed us with one of the local native teenager volunteering to help us every day. Jeanine Wasulli really made a difference in our being able to minister to the children with love and patience, if you know what we mean!

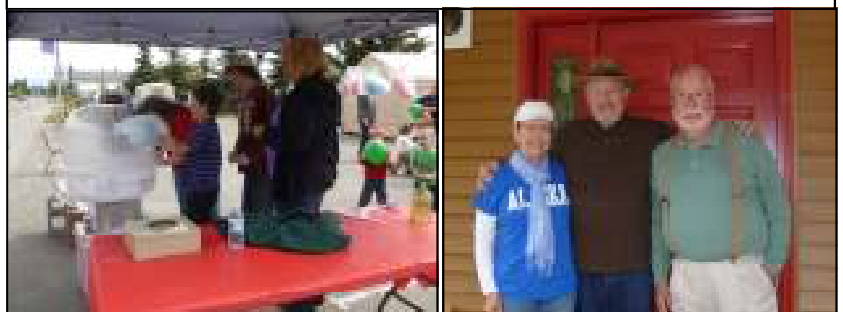
The following Sunday we left for Nunapitchuk on one of those itty, bitty Bush planes. I crawled in determined that I would get to Nunap this year. Pastor John met us at the dock with his large commercial fishing boat, which made my getting in and out so much easier. The weather was pretty decent that evening, so our time there began with ease... Yeah, that's right, it rained every day after Sunday....BUT we were inside this time. AND we averaged 38 mostly 4-8 year olds, just Nancy and me...no other adults! (Anna Alexie was supposed to come but she had to start babysitting to supplement her income and Ann Jenkins was supposed to come from Anchorage, but her work place would not let her off for this week.) Yep, we are still having nightmares about all of those kids who hadn't been under our leadership—a whole new group of kids who need to be "raised up" in the Lord! But there were several older children who had been a part of our ministry for several years and were really listening and were thinking about what was said! I believe that their lives were impacted with the Word of God and what is required to "have faith to be obedient to God's Call!"

After enduring the return trip to the airstrip to wait for the plane, we were reminded why Eugene hasn't been able to come to Nunap for the last 3 years. It was challenging, in more ways than one. Especially when we were getting into the 5-seater plane that already had 3 people and too much luggage....Nancy once again prayed diligently for safety as even the pilot was unsure about the planes' weight load, and our take-off and landing as we did the "milk-run" to 2 other villages before landing in Bethel. Later that day we returned to Anchorage and quickly did laundry and repacking at Ann's house since the very next day, Bill and June Johnson were to arrive from Jacksonville to minister with us in Fairbanks!

God saved the very best for last as we made our way to and from Fairbanks! June, Bill, Ann, Nancy and Eugene set out in 2 vehicles for Fairbanks (365 miles north) on Saturday morning, arriving at the Fairbanks Rescue Mission around 9pm. Nancy had made reservations to stay there as we had done so with a previous group several years ago. Good opportunity of minister, safe, sanitary and reasonably priced!

Sunday morning the 3 women went to the Samoan church that was meeting in the mission chapel there at 10am. Three hours later they returned elated that "God" had introduced them to a woman—Eva who had 5 teens/young adults who were very much interested in coming to our Kidz Klubz in the park beginning the next day. After our last bout with unruly children, all of us knew it would be great to have more help! The rest of Sunday our team handed out flyers, traveled to "North Pole" radio station to give them our radio ad on the community board & prepared for Day 1.

Below left & Bottom Center: Homer, AK—making cotton candy at Haven for July 4th outreach.
Below right: Eugene w/Al & Judy Harris in Kasilof, AK;



(continued from front page) Monday (and each day we were in Fairbanks our ministry time began with prayer over the city—street by street starting at the park where we were to hold our Kidz Klubz. Over the past ten years the city has really begun to change and become revitalized. This particular area has become a better place over the last few years as well. A lot having to do through the many churches which had come to the area. Interestingly though there were several women with children to the park that wanted nothing to do with any church as we talked to them, and they did not want their children to participate in the program we offered either.

So though our Kidz Bible Klubz had few young children, our newfound friends Tiana, Cinta, Taute, Lui & their cousin. Delightfully these young people joined in the singing, games, crafts & Bible stories, helping the younger children to get involved with the activities! We averaged 7 children/young people per day for this totally new area of ministry!

These young adults were a divine appointment not only for our ministry, but for what they were about to embark on with their own family. Their father had just retired from the military as a chaplain, and they would be moving to Anchorage over that weekend. There he will begin pastoring a newly established Samoan church. Later in August two of them will be attending college—one of girls to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, and the young man to his second year at a California university. Of the other two girls, one was a jr. in high school, and the other had just graduated college with a masters degree. So these young people are grounded in education, and all are now on fulfilling God's calling in their lives! God is good.

Our last day in Fairbanks the team traveled by car north of Fairbanks to Minto, an Indian village. We had some good talks with a number of people and are praying about ministry in that area.

All in all, our time in Alaska has been so good! Every morning we prayed for divine appointments—and there are so many, we will have more to tell next month, but we know that God has given us a refreshing in Him and encouragement in what He has for us.

Thank you so much for your part in this ministry. You are helping others to achieve opportunities of serving God in many places across this land. When we go through heaven's gates, we will meet those whom God ordained for eternity, and you had a part in their walk with Him. For we are all....

..Laborers Together for His Kingdom.

PS—Please forgive the lack of pics of Bethel & Nunapitchuk ministries. Somehow in the downloading of the pics, they disappeared. Have worked several days to recapture them to no avail. ☹

Monthly Budget Needs \$6,000.00

Received—July 3,571.51

Short fall \$2,428.49

Thanks to The Westbrook & The Worley Families for purchasing VBS crafts & prizes. Your generosity was much appreciated.

F.R.O.M.M. PRAYER CORNER

- ◆ VBS IN PALMER, AK— AUGUST 7-10.
- ◆ INCREASE IN FINANCES FOR OPERATING BUDGET
- ◆ MORE MINISTRY PARTNERS
- ◆ F.R.O.M.M. PARTNERS FACING MAJOR CHALLENGES: HEALTH , JOB LOSS, FINANCIAL CRISIS
- ◆ OUR COUNTRY



We slept at the Rescue Mission It was very close to the park!

Fairbanks chapel & Samoan Church where we met Eva and her 4 children.



Thanks to Crossroads Methodist Ladies we were able to give the rescue mission lots of knitted winter wear!

Ann, June and Nancy grew so fond of these young people who came to be a part of our ministry and each were working on God's plan for their lives! So refreshing...

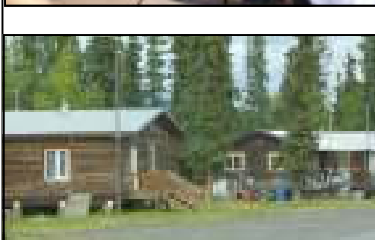


Making crafts!

Playing Games



Hearing Bible Stories & hanging out



Minto was 150 miles (40 miles of gravel road.) NW of Fairbanks. Bill was a good Samaritan a native lady.



Our team on the Denali Hwy. which was 135 miles of gravel road between Cantwell & Paxson— beautiful scenery!!!!

