

THE POLAR News Flash

"FOLLOWING THE LONDON FAMILY ACROSS ALASKA"

February 2008

WE FINALLY MADE IT!

Shirleen and I have arrived! We made it safe and sound to our new home and new ministry! As we enter week 2 of our time down here on the Kenai Peninsula, we are starting to get settled in. We've been unpacking like mad and are down to less than 30 boxes to go! Shirleen has 15 credits this semester and already has been doing homework and had study parties. I've been waking up before the crack of dawn (between 5:45am and 6:00am) Monday thru Friday to go to breakfast and devotions with the Amundsen Educational Center (AEC) students and staff.

While at AEC I'll be focusing on 3 main areas. 1) I'll be in charge of admissions, which means traveling to different villages to recruit and follow up with potential students. (Thankfully, Shirleen will be able to come with me to several of these villages). 2) I'll be trying to get students scholarships through financial aid. 3) I'll be spending most of my time with student life. I'll be meeting one on one with the students regularly to ask them questions like, "How is your walk with God?" and "How can I pray for you?" I'll also be organizing worship services, mission trips, and fun events.

For those of you that are not very familiar with AEC, we are a Christian carpentry school for Alaska Natives. Students get to come and build an entire house as they work toward their state-recognized Certificate in Home Construction (or Advanced Certificate during the second year). Additionally we seek to encourage spiritual growth and healing from past wounds.

Quick Note

Sorry about the confusion!

Some of you wanted to send us support last time but were not sure about how to do it. We're very sorry about any confusion. We know that the instructions were not very clear. If you would like to send support to the Londons, please fill out the enclosed card and send it back to us with the enclosed envelope. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thanks! Your support is greatly appreciated as we need to raise 100% of our salary

Getting to Know The Londons



Now that Shirleen and I are living in a new town, we are meeting a lot of new people. One question we get a lot is, "How did the two of you meet?" I love to answer that question!

Shirleen and I both attended Alaska Christian College, which gave us a shared experience...but we didn't meet there. We met in the summer of 2004 when we were both counselors at Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet. At the end of camp we exchanged email addresses and wrote to each other occasionally. In 2006 we started dating...but that's a story for another day.

FROM ONE MINISTRY TO ANOTHER

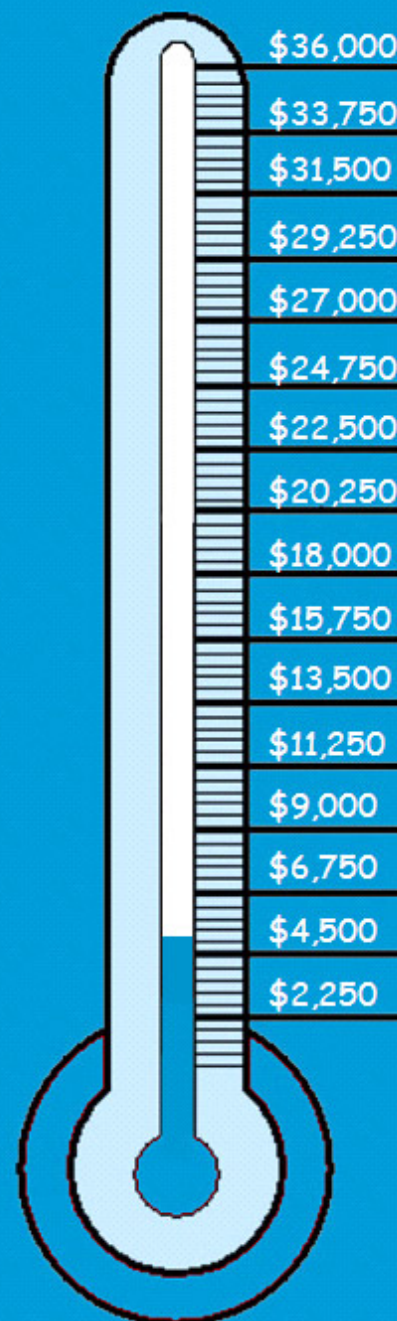
For the first time last week, Shirleen and I were not on staff in the volunteer ministry, "Arigaa," located in Anchorage. The word "Arigaa" comes from the Inupiaq language and appears in many Inupiaq hymns, one of which is "In the Sweet By and By." Meaning "sweet" or "so good," our hope is that anyone who participates in the Bible Studies and weekly events will see that a relationship with God is "arigaa." As you may guess from the name, the target audience is Alaska Native or from rural Alaska. Still in it's start-up mode, the attendance for Bible Study is usually around 10, but over 30 college-age men and women have come to an Arigaa event at least once. Since most of those that have come to Arigaa do not attend church, one of our main goals has been to help them feel comfortable in a church. We also seek to help them realize that growth in their relationships with God as well as being an active part of the Body of Christ are inseparable. Shirleen and I hope and pray that as we detach from Arigaa that the ministry will continue to grow and reach college-age men and women who would likely have little or no other contact from the church during these important years if Arigaa did not exist. As you think about Anchorage, please remember to pray for this exciting ministry.

While we will struggle with leaving Arigaa, we know that God is at work down at Amundsen Educational Center as well and we look forward to being a part of the Body of Christ down here.



For God so loved the world
That he gave
His only
Begotten
Son
That whosoever
Believeth in Him
Shall Not perish,
but have Everlasting life.
John 3:16

FUNDRAISING GOAL



Will you prayerfully consider joining the London's support team? If God is leading you to partner with us in ministry, we ask for support in two areas.

- Firstly, and most importantly we ask for partners who will regularly pray and intercede for us and the ministry at Amundsen Educational Center
- Secondly, we ask for financial partners. To be fully funded we are seeking to raise \$36,000. Both 1-time and monthly gifts of ANY amount will help

If God is leading you to support in one or both areas, please fill out the enclosed card.

We cannot tell you how grateful Shirleen and I will be for your support.

All financial gifts can be made out to Amundsen Educational Center and are tax-deductable

Snapshots



AEC students learn all parts of building a house from the foundation to the roof. Darren here is doing wiring.



As the students learn to build houses we also seek to build hope in their lives. This is the "House of Hope"



Maktak for the holidays! For those of you that aren't familiar, the black is whale skin and the pink is blubber.



Inside the house, Shirleen visits with Bob, who is working on an Advanced Certificate in Home Construction.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for us *especially* in the area of finances. We need to fundraise a lot more in order to make ends meet.
- Please pray for Shirleen as she continues school. Pray for her as she seeks to pass the last of her tests as she gets ready for her internship.
- Please pray for Adam as he is busy transitioning into a new job. Pray that he can wake up on time, build meaningful relationships, and bring glory to God through his work.

Thank you! Your prayers DO make a difference!

Fast Facts -

- The coldest recorded temperature in Alaska was -80 °F...alappaal! (that means "very cold" in Inupiaq Eskimo)
- The record snowfall in Alaska for a 24 hour period was 62 inches...can you imagine how long shoveling would take?
- Alaska's official state sport is Dog Mushing. Right now mushing is in full swing, building toward the Iditarod, "The Last Great Race," which starts in March.
- Alaska is celebrating it's 50th year as a state this year. January 3rd, 1959 was the official day Alaska became a state

London Family Favorites

To help our supporters get to know us a little better Adam and Shirleen want to share with you a few of their favorite things...

Shirleen: *One of my favorite Bible verses is Isaiah 40:31 because it reminds me that we can not do anything good on our own. Without God's help, we will simply tire out and only God can truly keep us going.*

"...but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength...."



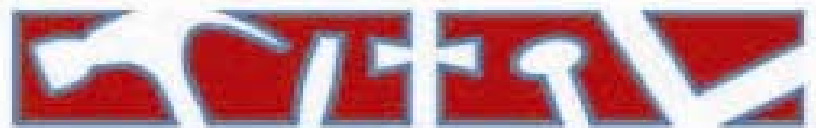
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

From:

Adam and Shirleen London
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Amundsen
Educational Center



Vocational Training in a Christian Community for the People of Rural Alaska