# THE POLAR News Flash

Winter 2011

"Bountiful Blessings from Above"

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"I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter his courts with praise. I will say this is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice because for he has made me glad."

Fall is a time for hunting and gathering. Adam was asked to go out moose hunting (even though he didn't catch one). As fall ended, Shirleen's parents came to visit and caught a few silver salmon and picked blueberries. They also celebrated Talia's first birthday with us while they were here. We were blessed with all the fish and berries we were able to put in the freezer for the winter. Someone from church even gave us some fresh moose.

During the month of October, Adam had the privilege of filling in for Pastor Joel. Before Adam took over Pastoral duties, the family traveled by plane to Port Alsworth and attended a family retreat. After the family retreat we were dropped off in the village of Elim to help out with the High School retreat called Fall Blast. Adam led games, one of the many things he enjoys.

While Adam was pastor, he led the services for two funerals. The community suffers from the loss of members in church. However, we have been blessed again and again by the prayers of support from the Body of Christ.

Adam continues doing youth group every week for both Junior High and High School. When open gym started again during our normal youth group time, we saw numbers dropped in the Junior High youth group down to 7 students (from around 20 normally). But God is faithful! After only 3 weeks of smaller attendance the Junior High youth group has rebuilt to our normal attendance along with 2-3 volunteer adults.

Every Wednesday, there are men's and women's Bible Studies. Students from the youth group do the childcare while parents are able to grow closer to God through the studies. Both Adam and I have been really encouraged and blessed by the Bible Studies.

Meanwhile, it did not take long for temperatures to drop and the land to freeze. We had a few snowfalls in early October but it finally in late October we know winter was here to stay. In November, we had a major storm which hit nationwide news. With many prayers, we weathered the storm well. However, some villages suffered from flooding and damaged from the strong wind.

We are looking forward to entering into the Advent season. I love this time of year when we focus on Jesus' birth. We are forever grateful that God knew his Son would be the ultimate sacrifice.

## **Prayer Requests**

- Please pray for continued good health, especially during the dark wintery days
- Please pray for the youth group, and that God will continue to raise up leaders. Adam is planning on taking the youth on some trips ex. CHIC 2012 and they will need to fundraise
- Please pray for the upcoming regional youth events. CYAK is planning a Junior High retreat and CEF Leader, Sarah Oyoumick would like to do follow-up VBS visits
- Please continue to pray for Adam as he juggles full-time work and online classes this year (and being a father and a husband too, of course!)

# Getting to Know the Londons



Adam and I will be celebrating five years of marriage on December 16. Entering our sixth year, I am excited to see how God continues to work in our lives. Looking back, we have been blessed by being a part of many ministries. We are thankful that God gave both of us the passion to love and serve in the village.

Before we were married we served and did school in Fairbanks. After we were married, we moved in to Anchorage and helped start the nowthriving Arigaa college ministry. We then moved to Kenai to work for Amundsen Educational Center and Covenant Youth of Alaska. We also lived in Chicago for 2 semesters as Adam worked on his Seminary training. After all that, we finally moved to Unalakleet.

We've also been blessed with great fellowship. Shirleen, in particular, remembers praying one night with a friend that God would provide godly girlfriends wherever we went. God has been faithful in Kenai, Chicago, and in Unalakleet!

We are so thankful that we have found a place to call home. We are beyond thrilled and blessed that our children have made friends who will be their classmates in school. God knew long ago, that he would call us to serve in Unalakleet.

"You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head." Psalm 139:4-5

Happy first birthday Talia (9/18)! Such a big girl—walking and talking now. Tom is happy for this stage





Donald, Colin, Talon and Makiyan getting ready for youth group. Every week Donald leads worship for high school



First real snow! Thomas playing out as his best buddy's house. Thomas loves living in Unalakleet



One picture of how God provides bountiful blessings for his people. Drying silver salmon in the fall



High School Fall Blast in Elim Sept. 20-Oct. 2. Youth from the region traveled to fellowship and hear God's Word.



We survived the Super Storm!Thank you to everyone who prayed for safety during November 8-10



Shirleen's parents visited and we all enjoyed each other's company while picking berries and fishing

## Financial Update

Praise God we were fully funded this whole past year! We are still about \$600 short on committed monthly giving, however, that shortfall has consistently been made up by one-time gifts. Is God calling you to give?

If you would like to give a financial gift to this ministry, you may go online at:

<u>www.PolarNewsFlash.com/donate.html</u> or send a check made out to CYAK with a note attached for "London Support" to:

Covenant Youth of Alaska P.O. Box 372 Unalakleet, AK 99684

Thanks for being on our support team!



One of the elders, Daniel Soxie was blessed with catching a beluga whale. Shirleen and Michelle helped cut it up