



Hungry Dogs on the Yukon

2020 has been a catastrophic year all over the world and unfortunately it is neither getting better, nor is it over yet. In a number of places natural disasters are adding huge burdens to an already stressed and stretched population. Earthquakes, wild fires, floods, and landslides continue to have large impacts in certain places.

Alaska is experiencing its own somewhat unique disasters. This year the annual Yukon River salmon run did not materialize; which is a rather rare occurrence. Of the more than 225 native villages In Alaska, more than

one quarter are located on the Yukon. These villages depend on subsistence resources for a major portion of their daily fare. These resources include berries, wild greens, caribou, moose, and water borne creatures, including fish of several kinds, and seals near the coast.

The Yukon salmon usually provide a major portion of both human and animal diets. Since the cost of fuel for ATVs, and snow machines has gone mostly out of reach, many native hunters and fishermen are resorting to the tried and true friend of man—the sled pulling, all-around work companion-canine hunting, fishing, and trapping partners. However, to keep, care for, and feed a 16 dog team can amount to a lot of effort.



Adding to the challenge a few years ago a law was passed prohibiting the harvest of large game animals for the purpose of feeding dogs.

So, the lack of an adequate salmon run is a disaster for both man and dog. Several community groups are trying to have a better outcome than men and dogs going hungry. Purina Dog Food company is donating more than 30,000 lbs. of dog food. Several commercial flight operators have offered discounted rates or free freight as space is available on the semi-weekly village runs.

Just this past week, we have made contact with the principal leaders of these efforts and offered flights to any villages within about 300 nautical miles of our AWA base in Fairbanks. It appears that we may be asked to follow up and fill in the cracks, where the larger carriers, may have needed to skip.

Only portions of the large amount of donated dog food has arrived. So, we are standing by to help wherever the need comes to light.

We thank those who steadfastly offer prayer and financial support for the high latitude responders.

Pictures

Pictured are Heidi Ueek, an Alaska pilot and recent graduate of WWU Flight School. She was on a training flight to the village of Tanana in 2019, which had an abundant salmon harvest. With Heidi is Pat Moore, a local village leader and dog team owner.

Also pictured is Pat’s fish wheel, which he collects the fish from a couple times a day when the fish run is on.

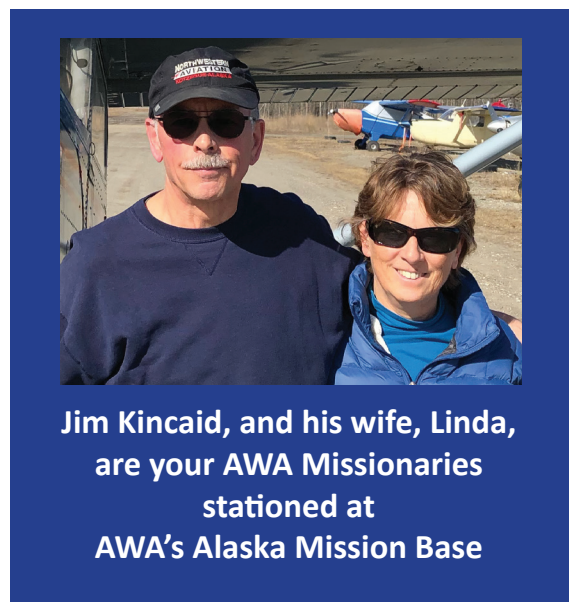
The beautiful scene on the front is a typical view from a mushers’ sled while on a trail in the Boreal Forest of Northern Alaska.

Please call today 1-888-477-8945 or go to the website, flyaway.org to partner with us to help these people in the far north.
Thank you!

Thank you for your prayers and your donations!

God bless you all,

Jim and Linda Kincaid



Jim Kincaid, and his wife, Linda, are your AWA Missionaries stationed at AWA’s Alaska Mission Base