



2021 Summer Project Ambler Village Mini-House

Our goal for more than ten years has been to reestablish an Adventist presence in the Inupiat Village of Ambler. The first Adventists to pioneer a work here were John and Naomi Topkok in the late 1960s. Their efforts there spanned more than 30 years. They had obtained two townsite house lots; one for their own house, and the other for a chapel. By the end of the 1970s they had built an A-frame log house to live in and on the adjacent lot a log chapel.

Before they even had a house of their own Naomi invited the village children to their accommodations for

“Story Time” several times a week. Services were held in the chapel when it was finished.

Now, fast forward to about 2010. John died in 2006 in his early 80s. Naomi lived in the village by herself until it became too difficult to do so. Both their house and the chapel suffered from the untreated logs rotting. The roofs of both buildings gave way from huge snow loads.

After 7 years of effort, we were able to purchase the house lots from Naomi and John’s estate. (It is very rare for non-native people to hold title to land in a native village). In 2018, in our first work project we removed the fallen down buildings. The next year we finished cleaning up the lots and did site prep for new construction, which we had hoped to begin in 2020.



Covid19 put a stop to that plan as the villages went into lockdown and quarantine.

The villages are still under restriction for any outsiders to come in. The hope is that the number of cases will continue to drop. The vaccination program may also help ease the restrictions.

The other issue that will determine how far the Ambler project advances is the availability of funding. The first phase of our plan is to build a very small, highly energy efficient house as a foothold in the village. Then phase two will be a larger apartment/chapel complex on the second lot.

Our quote for the building material in 2019 was about \$25,500 FOB Fairbanks. The cost for a DC-6 Charter was then quoted at \$25,500 per flight. It was our hope that it could all be done in one load. We currently have about \$18,000 saved up for this project.

Anyone who builds anything knows that lumber prices have shot up maybe more than 150%. We will soon have a new estimate, and that will determine how far the project will advance this year, assuming the travel restrictions will be relaxed.

Please pray that soon we will again be able to work and minister in “the Friendly Village of Ambler.”

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**