



A Blessed Day

Sabbath, July 10 marks a very happy new beginning for the mostly Athabaskan folks who live in the village of Birch Creek. The last ministry visit took place about two years ago pre-Covid.

This Sabbath dawned bright and clear, with temperatures climbing into the comfortable mid-70s. On the 100 nautical mile flight north from Fairbanks, the smoke from several of the wildfires now burning could be seen rising off to the east of our flight path.

Fortunately, the smoke did not obscure, or otherwise affect our travel.

After the regular Sabbath services at the Fairbanks and North Pole Seventh-day Adventist churches, 12 volunteers gathered at the Fairbanks International Airport, and boarded three airplanes. The aircraft were contributed by AWA, Jim and Linda Kincaid, and Eric Proell.

On the flight were a few neophytes who found the moderate convective activity disconcerting, but fortunately, nobody lost their lunch enroute. Once on



the ground at the village, everyone's stomach settled and a wonderful experience was had by all.

About a half hour after our arrival the worship service in the log chapel began with enthusiastic music and singing. It seemed the villagers could not get enough singing in group worship having been so deprived because of Covid19.

Daphne Keeney presented an interactive devotional experience that was appreciated by all. Her husband, Jim Keeney, is one of the pilots.

Immediately following the worship service a meal was shared with everyone from food that was brought along with our visiting delegation.

The village chief, Jackie Baalam, during lunch, told us that most of the village residents were in attendance with us.

As we prepared to return to the urban world of Alaska's interior the villagers wanted to know how soon could we return?

To receive such a warm welcome, and to hear the hunger and thirst for more is very heartening, especially in these days when in many places it seems that faith is diminishing. Thank you to our faithful supporters, who have kept us in their prayers and thoughts throughout the long Covid19 night. We keep reminding ourselves that the Kingdom of God is built one soul at a time, not only in the urban centers of the world, but also in the small, out-of-the-way remote villages on the cutting edge of survival.

God bless you all,

Jim and Linda Kincaid



