



Precious Memories

This picture of the waterfront at Shungnak, Alaska brought a rush of precious memories. It was here in the summer of 1981 that I baptized Napoleon Black, with whom I had had weekly Bible studies for several months. He was a rare person who, regardless of social norms and popular majorities decided that he would be committed to Jesus, His way of life, and His commandments.

The Alaska Mission President was present and gave me special permission to officiate even though

I was not licensed or ordained. The date was mid-June and because of spring runoff, the water in the Kobuk River was high, fast, and very cold. It was a memorable event for both of us for several reasons.

It has always been a challenge for those who choose to follow Jesus in every way including Saturday worship to march to the music of a different orchestra. In a small Alaska village typically, there are only two games in town when it comes to the dispensing of religious instruction. It takes a strongly committed person to withstand the social fallout and persecution of those of the dominant religion and culture.

Napoleon Black was a faithful member although alone for many years. I would call him and ask him to get the heating stove going in the church in the deep dark of winter. He passed away in 1996 and his family and the village asked me to come back and speak at his memorial service. It was a great privilege.

The river front at Shungnak is the same as it was, but at the same time it is different. It used to be populated with locally built wooden, plywood skiffs. Now, such a boat is almost non-existent. Now most boats on the Kobuk are “store-bought” aluminum craft.

Thank You!

We wish to thank the donors who steadfastly give of their means to continue the support of the ongoing effort to seek out the honest hearted seekers of God in all the cultures of Alaska.

Scripture of the Month

In Revelation 22:1-2 it states, “*And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*”

*God bless you all,
Jim and Linda Kincaid*

Shall We Gather At the River?

*Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain: *Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

*On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day. [Refrain]*

*Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace. [Refrain]*

—Robert Lowry (1864)



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