



Survey Trip to Alaska

We're back from our survey trip to Alaska! Thank you for your prayers and support on our trip there. It was awesome to meet the people there and hear their stories about living in Alaska and what the work has been like there.

We met Jim Kincaid and his wife, Linda, on our second day at the North Pole Seventh-day Adventist church. They've been serving as missionaries in Alaska for about 50 years and have a wealth of knowledge and experiences to share. We sat down with them and heard how they moved there after school without much experience and how God led them through and built upon their willingness to serve and grow their talents. Before too much time had elapsed, they found themselves on the front lines of the mission field, working in

the villages of Alaska and eventually serving in conference administration. Wanting to return to the field, he left work at the conference in Anchorage. He returned to serve God among the Alaskan natives.

Jim encouraged us not to be discouraged at the mountain in front of us and said that we should do what we can at this time. He and his wife had stood where we stood, and God was faithful in leading them onward so they could help in bigger and more significant ways. That was very encouraging and is one of the reasons we need mentors in our lives to help us keep going by retelling the stories of God's faithfulness.

While in Alaska, we met with conference administrator Pastor Tobin Dodge, whom we'll work with as we co-labor

with the church to support its mission and share hope with the hard-to-reach places in Alaska. He told a little about the challenges the church faces in Alaska and some of the ways they've used to move forward. He told us where he thought he could use our help the most but that he would support us in our decision if we sensed God leading us elsewhere, which we appreciated.

You might remember from past newsletters that Yosi's mom and sister live in Mexico in a town that is less than safe because of the violence and crime there, and how God had opened the door for them to start working on their green cards to immigrate due to an over 20-year-old petition that finally came through. We've been waiting for over 2 years for an interview, which is the final step to receiving the green card. But what do you know, while in Alaska, my wife got a call from her aunt telling her they received an email from the US government saying that the interview had been scheduled! We are thrilled and feel this is God's way of confirming us in this direction. We don't have space in the house we're staying in at the time to receive them, so we're trusting that God will provide us with sufficient space in Alaska.

After finding out that Yosi's mom would have her interview soon, we met with Pastor Dodge, AWA global operations director Deyvid Batista, and Jim and Linda Kincaid. After discussing the needs they had in Alaska, Pastor Dodge told us that the church could really use our help in the southwestern part of the state in and around Dillingham and that the conference had a parsonage in Dillingham that would be available in the coming months that we could possibly use, that has three bedrooms! I thought, "Could this be God opening the door for us?" But we didn't know for sure, so we looked for housing around Fairbanks and its surrounding communities for the rest of the duration there. We met many friendly people and saw some lovely places, but nothing looked like an open door for us. We attended three churches by attending two church services and a prayer meeting. We could network and ask questions about Alaska living, which was very good, but we never found a house that we felt God was for sure leading us to.

Upon returning to Tennessee, we continued looking into housing and talking to people in Alaska. I called the head elder in Dillingham and spoke to him about the needs and some of the church's history in the area. Dillingham is an off-the-road system in Alaska, which makes it harder to access, and it is much more of an aviation community. There

used to be more pilots in the church supporting the mission. Still, their numbers are dwindling, making outreach to the villages difficult. The church wants to make Dillingham a hub for mission work for the region, and for this reason, they would like to see us deploy there if we feel God is leading in that direction.

And so, after a week of prayer, thoughtful consideration, and gathering of counsel, we have decided to deploy to Dillingham! We want to thank everyone for their prayers regarding this choice. We wanted to be sure of the location and God's leading, and we have peace with this decision. We ask that you continue to pray because the journey is just beginning! There are many hurdles yet to get across and more details to work out, but we know that with God's strength, all things are possible! God is good!



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**Josh, Yosiday, Isaac and Caleb Fix
are your AWA Missionaries
preparing to serve at
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