



Greetings from AWA!

Alaska attracts millions of people every year to experience its exquisite mountain peaks, incredible glaciers and splendid flowing rivers. It is the largest state in the union (1/5 of the entire USA and twice the size of Texas). Of the 20 highest peaks in the United States, 17 are in Alaska. With an estimated 100,000 glaciers, ranging from tiny cirque glaciers to huge valley glaciers and more than 3,000 rivers and over 3 million lakes, it is a state of many wonders!

As you would imagine, there aren't many big cities in Alaska. Actually, there are just 29 cities and towns with a population of more than 1,000 people. The larger cities are Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks. Juneau, the capital city has no road access to the rest of the state. It is the only capital city in the United States accessible only by boat or plane.

This is where Adventist World Aviation comes into the picture.

AWA project managers and missionaries, Jim and Linda Kincaid, live near Fairbanks, but they support many Arctic villages hundreds of miles away from their home base. Conditions in the winter are so extreme that flight operations are limited and present challenges that many other areas don't routinely face. "The people are experiencing difficulties never seen here before," Jim shares. A huge problem for Alaska's 225 native villages, has been that in spite of state and federal infrastructure upgrades, many are still without public water and sewer systems. This creates challenges for those trying to follow public health measures and recommended hygiene practices.



The same protocols as the rest of the United States (and globally) exist in Alaska as a response to COVID 19. Like other states, people have been affected and sadly some have lost their lives. In the past few months Jim has flown several hundred miles in response to the needs of the people for food, supplies and PPE equipment. Villages where the Yukon salmon usually provide a major portion of both human and animal diets have experienced huge loss due to last year's salmon run which did not materialize. Several agencies and organizations have come together to help relieve the hardship of the native people of Alaska.

Beverly Schoonover, director of the statewide Suicide Prevention Council, said "Last year, [suicide] attempts, ideation and completions were much higher than we want to see. This has been an ongoing problem, and it's not just the pandemic that's contributing to that. Suicide has been an issue long before COVID-19. What we have heard from



many people and from many communities is that there's increased anxiety, increased depression for kids [and] for adults.”

People in Alaska need Jesus. Just as people everywhere need Jesus.

**Herein is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us, and sent his Son
to be the propitiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought
also to love one another.**

—1 John 4:10, 11

Jim states, “We feel honored to be asked to provide this important service in this time of great need. We encourage our supporters to pray for the safety of our pilots for these mid-winter flights during the limited daylight. Also, please consider what financial resources you might direct our way for these humanitarian efforts.” While the task is great, Jim adds, “That same Creator is still upon His throne, and He has instructed us that we have a mission

to carry forward, souls to be saved, sin to be rebuked, food delivered to the hungry, medicines carried to the sick, and clothing for those who need it.”

We don't often think of the mission field of Alaska, but it is every bit of a region worthy of our consideration. Reaching people in need in remote areas has always been AWA's mission and we need your partnership to help the people of Alaska. Please consider a regular monthly donation to sustain the work there. Pray for those trying to survive and those seeking to help.

Thank you and God bless!

Ric Swaningson,

AWA President & CEO

**The Lord is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.**

—Nahum 1:7

*Information on Alaska from Alaska.gov and matadornetwork.com



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