

HOUTZ FAMILY

Serving in Alaska



Kids' club Christmas Bible lesson



Raw veggies are a treat here, and peppers are often used as noses!



The school's Christmas program



Greetings from the Houtz family.

Happy New Year! We trust you have had a blessed and peaceful Christmas season. Instead of seeing fireworks go off at midnight on New Year's Eve, we saw a beautiful display of the northern lights. As we launch into the new year we have SO much to look ahead to, and you probably do as well. Our prayer is that we slow down enough to take one day at a time and have faith in our God Who knows the future.

We have now been in Iliamna for 3 months, and the Lord has graciously allowed us to adjust well. We have especially enjoyed getting to know the people who attend our church services. Most of them are believers and it has been a joy to learn their stories and build new friendships. The winter here has been very mild so far. We are excited for colder weather and more snow, but are grateful to save money on heating oil (smile).

We were glad to be visited by several people the last few weeks. Steve Anderson, our field administrator from Baptist Mid-Missions



Baking Christmas cookies to hand out to families



Fellowship after our Christmas church service



Christmas trees are plentiful here!

came to spend a day with our family and the Clarks. We really enjoyed seeing him again and appreciated his encouragement while he was here. We also had a surprise visit from a group with the flight school Aaron plans to train with next summer. The group flew a plane to Iliamna and delivered two totes full of groceries for our family and the Clarks. What a blessing!

Thank you very much for praying that we would be able to build relationships with the people here. The Lord has allowed us to get to know more people in several ways. We attended the village school's Christmas program and were able to meet new people and become better acquainted with others.

Aaron has been able to do several projects for people, with a few more on the way. He already has two washing machines to fix up and have available for someone who needs one. Rachel has had good conversations while actually just getting the mail. All our mail comes to our PO Box, and she has been able to get to know several ladies by just checking our box. Please continue to pray for more opportunities to build these relationships and share Christ.

Lord willing, by the end of January we will finally be purchasing property to build our house. It has been quite the process logistically, but it seems like the Lord is allowing us to purchase the property we have prayed for. We are looking forward to updating you on that soon. Aaron is also planning to begin the bookwork part of flight training this month, with hopes of beginning flight training this summer.

Lord willing, we will begin taking more ministry responsibilities beginning this month. We plan to lead the weekly Bible Cub for kids, Aaron will be preaching more frequently, and we will be doing more music during church services. We have loved ministering alongside the Clarks, and we are excited to be more involved with ministry responsibilities.

We miss you, and we pray for you. We would love to hear from you.

With Christian love,

Aaron, Rachel, Anna, James, and Melea

Matthew 9:38

Please pray:

1. For smooth **transition** into more ministry.
2. That we can purchase **property** by the end of January.
3. For the Lord's working during men's and women's **Bible studies**.
4. For continued **relationships** with the people here.

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