

Alaska 2003

On August 9, 2003 ten people ranging in age from 9 to 64 headed north to Alaska. For several this was their first trip to Alaska. For others this was their first mission trip. And for some it was the first for both.

We met in Nashville on Saturday morning to begin our trip. We left Nashville, changed planes in Chicago, then flew the six hours to Anchorage, AK. We arrived around 2:00 P.M. After picking up our rental van and eating we began our seven hour drive to Fairbanks. We were told only about 20% of people that go to Alaska get to see Mt. McKinley, the highest point in North America, due to clouds. Well God was with us. It was as clear a day as you could ever want. Needless to say we stopped several times along the way for pictures.

We arrived in Fairbanks around time the sun finally went down, around midnight. Well actually the sun went down around 11:00 P.M., but it was still light enough to see without a light. We got in bed and rested for services on Sunday. Keep in mind Alaska time is three hours earlier than Nashville time, so we didn't get there until three in the morning my time. We attended church at Northern Lights Free Will Baptist Church in North Pole, AK. Not the North Pole but North Pole, AK. Bro. Ron Wallace, a south Georgia native and his wife Janice pastor there as home missionaries. We enjoyed a wonderful service with them and their people. After service we went to a lunch buffet and filled our tummies. After the long day before, then eating we needed to rest. Later in the evening we visited our work site for the next three days, the new home of Northern Lights Free Will Baptist Church. This is going to be a beautiful building right on a main road. We started working on Monday hanging sheetrock. We hung 5/8 inch 12 foot sheetrock for the next three days. The ladies of the church provided our lunch each day. On Monday night we had a pot luck dinner with the church folks at the new building. On Tuesday night we went to Brother and Sister Wallace's home for a true Alaska feast. We enjoyed moose and gravy, marinated moose, (both of which was road kill), fresh smoked salmon hot off the grill, (not road kill I hope), halibut chowder and other assorted vegetables and desserts.

On Thursday we enjoyed a day in Denali National Park. While taking the bus tour we were within thirty three miles of Mt. McKinley. We were able to see caribou, sheep, moose and grizzly bear, all in the wild. We had a great day.

I appreciate the unity and willingness of our crew to pull together and do things that they may not do had it not been the Lord's work. Thank you Brian and Becky Phillips, Mansfield, OH, Tom Harman, Ewing, IL, Gary Stambaugh, Woodward, OK. Lillian Moore, Lemay, MO. Ronnie, Tammy and Julia Lee, Cookeville, TN and the person responsible for keeping me straight, Sandra Akers.

Enjoy pictures of our trip and keep watching for more pictures and details on where we will be going next year.





