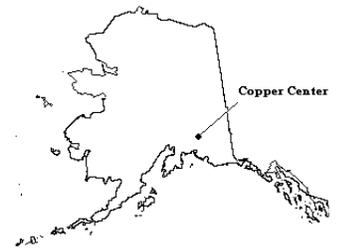


Northern Moosings



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I sat talking with a man. Our conversation was good. We talked about his health issues and we talked about the Lord. In the midst of the conversation, the man got up and grabbed a couple of candy bars. He opened and ate one and set the other one aside to presumably eat later. I was not hungry nor did I desire a candy bar, but I was fascinated that the man did not offer me a candy bar. In the Philippines where I served for 12 years, it would be unthinkable to eat in front of someone without inviting them to eat.

I have also noticed that I often enter a person's house and they do not offer a drink or something to eat. I thought this was a cultural thing until I visited one of my friends who is an Athabascan elder. Each time I come to his house, he gives me a glass of water or tea. On occasion he will feed me a bowl of moose soup or give me a plate of crackers. Never do I visit his place without him offering me something.

One day as my Elder friend opened a box of crackers for us to share, he said, "We always feed people that come to our houses."

I told him the story of the man who did not share his candy bars. I said, "There are a lot of people like that now. I thought that was Indian culture."

"No," he explained. "It is young people. They don't know nothin'. It is too much of this." He pantomimed texting on a cellphone.

"It used to be white people or Indians. When someone came to their house they would tell their girls to give them some grub. That is the way that it is supposed to be. When you share, God gives you more."

Our conversation really made me think. Somehow the values of generosity and hospitality are getting lost in Athabascan culture. I wonder why. My elder



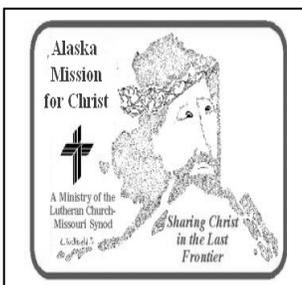
Hospitality is very important to us. After worship every Sunday we have a potluck meal.

friend thinks it is because of technology. He says that people are too caught up with cell phones so they don't think. He also says it is different because people knew that travellers had a long way to go and it was hard to get food. Now we have cars that can go to Anchorage in a few hours. I don't know the answer, but I do know there has been a change.

Hospitality and generosity are also Christian values. The Bible teaches us to be generous and to entertain strangers. I wonder if there is a touch point here. Do young people realize that they have left their culture when they are not hospitable? If so, it may be a segue to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus. None of us live up to our cultural ideals and that reminds us of our need for forgiveness. Pray that the Lord will give me wisdom and insight as I think about this issue.

Blessings,

*Todd, Kim,
Audrie, Kalae, Karis and Amani*



Did ya' Know???

The Native people that live in the Copper Valley are Athabascan Indians. Their language is closely related to Navaho and Apache. Their traditional culture is rich in art and spirituality. Unfortunately, a lot of Athabascan culture is being lost as Elders die and some young people take less interest. The Ahtna Heritage Foundation and others are working to preserve and celebrate the culture. I believe that Athabascan culture is a gift that God has given which enhances the body of Christ.

Todd, Kim, Audrie, Kalae, Karis and Amani Roeske are serving with the Alaska Mission for Christ - a non-profit corporation organized and directed by the churches of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Alaska. Our goal is to reach the small and often remote settlements and villages of Alaska with the message of the Gospel.

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Make checks payable to "Alaska Mission for Christ"
Mark Checks "Ministry of Todd Roeske"

Or click donate at: www.alaskamissionforchrist.org

To support our continuing Philippine work, please
send gifts to:

LCMS World Mission, Missionary Support,
PO Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179-0089
Mark gifts: **Support of Todd Roeske**

Audrie Update (21 years old)

Drie was very worried about her first exam after being out of college for three years. She was very pleased when she got it back with the highest grade in the class. Way to go, Drie!

Kalae Korner (16 years old)

Kalae is hoping to get her driver's license and a job this Summer. It is scary to see my kids grow up.

Karis Kronicle (11 years old)

We are making a trip to Anchorage for Karis' birthday. She wants to go to Chuckie Cheese, H2Oasis and have a party and get lots of presents. We can't do everything so she has been changing her mind several times each day about which combination of events and presents she wants.

Amani Activities (7 years old)

Amani is enjoying Cross Country Skiing. She has found that the longer skis go faster, but to wear them she needs to also wear the bigger boots. It is quite an ordeal to get her boots tight enough that they don't fall off her feet.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all of my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel..."

Join us as we pray...

- ❖ For Athabascan Elder, Kenny Thomas of Tanacross who is terminally ill.
- ❖ For teams that are making plans to come to Alaska this Summer to share the love of Jesus. May the Lord put the right people in the right communities so that the Love of Jesus is proclaimed clearly through word and action.
- ❖ For Tim Norton as he explores the possibilities of mission in the Tok area. He will be here in April. He hopes to be a "tentmaker". Please pray that he will find a job and we will be able to help him with moving expenses and other needs. To see how you can help visit: <http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org/support/jeremy-faga-missionary-support-fund.html>
- ❖ For my trip to the Philippines and China from February 26 to March 21. Pray that the Lord will make the trip productive and keep me physically and spiritually safe.

Join us as we give thanks...

- ❖ For the lay ministers that drive over 100 miles each way to serve the congregations in Sterling and Cooper Landing!
- ❖ For the lay ministers at Mt. Drum Lutheran Church that cover for me while I travel to Asia.
- ❖ For God's hospitality to us. May we also be hospitable to others.

Jesus Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved!

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