

## Duell's Dispatch

### July 2017

Dear Prayer Partners,

Thank you for your continued prayers for us. Much of what we wrote that we had planned for the summer is already history. The shooter's retreat for men went well with the gospel being clearly presented as well as a challenge to greater commitment. Our ABWE administrator Clare Jewell did a good job of speaking and was well received by the men. Several talked to us personally about concerns in their lives. Clare also spoke in both of our Sunday services with a challenge to reach out and plant churches among the many people groups around us. He also outlined what tools ABWE has available to help our church assess where we are and what we need in order for Dimond Baptist to reproduce itself. That assessment process is ongoing and will help our church leadership to determine the next steps. Our ladies have a shooting retreat coming up in August!

Leon spent several days on a leadership canoe trip in June with just one man named John Saari who is in charge of the young adult ministries at Dimond Baptist. None of the others who were invited could make that trip, but the one-on-one time studying a leadership course that we wrote called "Jesus the Model Minister" proved to be profitable. He has a vision to use wilderness ministry to disciple and develop leaders in the future, so I was pleased to have that time to invest in him personally. We were able to scout out a good 3-day route that will be more conducive to getting our promising young adults involved, since week long trips are hard to fit into most people's work schedules.

We are pleased to see the continued development of the men in the preaching class. They have all made advancements in their ability to study the Scriptures, properly interpret it, form a sermon outline, and present the message to the church on Wednesday evenings.

Leon also just spent 10 days in Iliamna, Alaska helping a Baptist Mid-Missions missionary couple with a construction project and preaching on two Sundays. Most of the villagers are Native American from the Yupik tribe and Russian Orthodox if they attend church. It was good to meet several true believers there and interact with them. They listened attentively to the sermons and expressed appreciation for the teaching. If you would remember Mike and Jeannette Clark and their children in your prayers, they would appreciate it. They have served there for 13 years and have a really good testimony in the community. Pray that God's Spirit would work in the hearts of these souls who are largely lost and content to live in sin.

Donna stays busy helping to keep things organized at church through her job as church secretary. She is also part of a women's mentoring ministry that is getting underway. And of course, she keeps her husband much more organized than he would be without her! She also taught pre-primary children during a week-long VBS program in June.

We'll close with a story: I was fishing with our son Levi right here in Anchorage on Father's Day afternoon when I was charged by a mother moose with a calf. When I first saw her she was about six feet away with ears laid back, eyes red and bulging, and coming at me. Levi said that she was six inches from me when she turned back as I tripped and fell in front of her. God continues to use your prayers to protect and deliver us!

Leon and Donna Duell