

SOMETHING WORTH CELEBRATING

In the Iditarod race, dog mushers from around the world annually compete for the prestige of first place in a grueling test of endurance. The famous Iditarod trail begins in Anchorage and concludes 1,100 miles later in Nome. It winds through Alaska's treacherous passes, over the frozen Yukon River, and along the windswept Bering Sea. In any given year it takes the first-place musher between eight and twenty days to complete the course.

On March 13, 2003, Robert Sorley, a Norwegian fireman, was the first to pass under the famous burl wood arch on Front Street in Nome. Even though it was two o' clock in the morning and the temperature was below zero, a crowd of some two thousand was on hand to celebrate his accomplishment. Sorley was greeted by the mayor of Nome and the governor of Alaska.

Two hours later an Alaskan musher, Ramey Brooks, crossed the finish line, where the Norwegian champion, Sorley greeted him and honored his achievement. Several hours later, Jeff King arrived with his team of dogs in third place, and both Sorley and Brooks welcomed him. As fourth place finisher Martin Buser crossed the finish line with his dog-drawn sled, the three previous finishers were on hand to rejoice with him. On and on it continued.

Although it is not mandatory, mushers greet mushers at the end of the 1,000-mile trail as a way of celebrating each person's achievement. Having already completed their own race, they cheer on those who are about to reach their goal.

We get a chance to celebrate with each other June 25th. Not because we finished the Iditarod race, but because we finished paying for a much appreciated and used Children's Building. Also we are celebrating the fact that for the first time in over 25 years our church is debt free. Now that's worth celebrating!