

**THE MCCOYS**  
**CHURCH PLANTERS WITH**  
**BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS INCORPORATED**

“I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.”

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus,

Many years ago I returned to Unalakleet after preaching my brothers funeral. In only five years I had lost a brother in law, two brothers, and our son. I will admit I was discouraged from the losses and by this time many other Alaskan missionaries left the field in discouragement, who hadn't been here as long as I had. That night 11 years ago I was telling the Lord “I'm getting weary of the persecution, the discouragement, with little fruit to show for my labor.” As I was making my petition, that still small voice and him bringing his Word to my mind, two verses of Scripture came to my heart. Acts 13:18 “And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.” & Deuteronomy 32:52 “Yet thou shalt see the land before thee; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.” I knew that night the Lord may give me a Joshua or a Caleb and although I may be able to see it from a distance, I would never enter the promised land of an independent autonomous Baptist Church for myself. I also knew that my job was to be faithful regardless of the results, to raise up a generation in the “wilderness of Sin”. From that night until now I knew my job and never again was I discouraged at what God called me to do. Twelve years later, we being in our 19th year, the Lord has established an active bus ministry, an FM radio station, many salvation testimonies, baptisms, & soul winning campaigns in surrounding villages, etc. I can say today and without reservation **Mark 12:11 “This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?”** I said all that to say that it is apparent for the last year or so the Lord has been working on my heart. Although I didn't realize it at the time I now see the Lord was preparing me, letting me know my time here in Unalakleet is coming to an end. Initially I resisted as I had thought there was so much left to do and truthfully there is. However the part I have played as a ground breaker by preparing the fallow ground i.e. eliminating the rocks, tearing up the roots of religion is done. As the Lord's will would have it our part was to prepare the ground so the seed could be sown, that “fruit should remain”.

As I mentioned in our last letter God has called Michael Forss to Unalakleet. I thought it was to help and work with us but as it turns out that was just me not wanting to let go, and really likened to Moses desiring to see the promised land. Now I have no doubt that the man of God the Lord has called to Unalakleet will take this work into the next tertiary of the local church. Although this work is still technically a mission work and my successor is not a Native Alaskan, he is Native to Alaska, and is familiar with Natives as well as the Villages. Michael has been coming to Unalakleet to help in “this ministry” since he was 15. Now with a family of his own they have been our go-to couple anytime we took a furlough, have helped us with VBS and Michael has done much of the ground work at the new Church location. In short our people know them quite well and always ask when they are coming back when they leave. They are sent out from one of the most solid churches not only in Alaska but America where Michael and Amanda have served faithfully. Their Pastor has full confidence that the Lord will use them in a great way here in Unalakleet, as do I.

### Our Duty

In Luke 17:7-10 the Lord was teaching his disciples about faith & duty and in this parable he finishes in verse 10 by saying **“We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”** Twenty-two years ago we started our deputation journey. During that time of presenting “this ministry” we promised the churches we would do 3 things. Go to a native village, plant a church, and as the Lord appoints turn it over to another. I say with full assurance “we have done that which was our duty to do.”

### The Work...

In Acts 13 we read that the Person of the Holy Spirit separated Barnabas and Saul for the work. For the last several months after much fasting, praying, seeking counsel from my Pastor, BIMI directors, Pastors & several other men of God. I have been praying not only about turning this ministry over but a new Church planting ministry. Originally I thought the Lord would surely keep us in Alaska as the need is so great. There had been a need in Nome for someone to take over a struggling work left over from a previous plant many years ago. As a matter of fact I was able to go to Nome and survey the area to discover what I suspected, a lot of religion and not much truth.

When I returned from that trip there last summer I was going to announce to Lisa and Levi that if the Lord didn't change my direction we would possibly turn this work over and go to Nome. However as I was still in my struggle with leaving Unalakleet I held off until I was sure. As it turns out a few weeks later after our first revival meeting with the Marksmen Quartet we contracted Covid. I was pretty ill at the time and ended up with a lingering Pneumonia. We had a furlough scheduled in November but with being sick we spent most of that time trying to heal. It was during that time the Lord presented us with a very inexpensive trip and free place to stay in Hawaii. Being in need of some sunshine, and with only having about four days during the week of Thanksgiving, we decided to go. Looking back on the trip Lisa and I kept talking about how the Lord worked this out and it must be because he knows we need a furlough. Remember this was when there were still many travel restrictions and Hawaii was closed to travel. That being said the Attorney General of Hawaii had just recently enacted a mandate that would allow anyone that had Covid within the last 90 days to come to the Islands. When we arrived in Honolulu nothing really special stuck out. It is beautiful but so is Alaska, it's secluded but so is Alaska. Many people were there on vacation but the same can be said about Alaska, and there are a lot of Native folks but again we are used to these things. Although it was warm Hawaii wasn't one of those places I really wanted to visit but then again neither was Alaska. It was on our third day we had decided to drive to the North Shore of Oahu but something happened I didn't expect. As we got closer to the area I got a sense of something very familiar, like this is where I am supposed to be. As we finished our trip this lingering feeling was something I couldn't ignore. So after several weeks of dealing with these feelings I began praying and asking the Lord if he was leading me to start another church, and if so is the North Shore the place.

With the prayer I began researching places with the greatest need of the Gospel, one of those places was Hawaii. I contacted two Pastors in Honolulu that have been there since the 1980's. They confirmed that the area of the North Shore is one the greatest needs in Hawaii. There are over 35,000 people living on the North Shore, and with the second largest BYU college, Mormons have all but taken over. As I continued praying about the Lord's direction and realizing that a burden is not a call, I put the spiritual fleece out and the Lord answered. Still such a big decision was not to be taken lightly, so I continued to pray and shared all these things with my Pastor. Finally I have surrendered to the Lord to go to the North Shore of Oahu and plant another new church.

### **...Whereunto I Have Called Them**

I want to mention that although the location is changing the vocation remains the same.

In Acts 13:2 we read "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." I want to summarize this letter by saying that the "work" is what the Holy Spirit has separated us to do and as the Lord leads we are going to do exactly what he has called us to. That although the "where" has changed the church establishing endeavor will continue to be the goal.

### **The Next Step**

Our next step is to continue serving here in Unalakleet until Michael has had time to make the adjustment. We are planning on staying on however long that is needed to ensure a smooth transition. It may take a few weeks or months but if it is sooner than later we will send a prayer letter out immediately upon our departure so you will know better how to pray for us.

### **Prayer Request**

We ask that you would continue to pray for the McCoys as we turn the work over to the Forss family and for a smooth transition. Also that the ministries here at Lighthouse Baptist Church would be more fruitful than ever before. The most intimidating part of this ministry for Michael is Bering Light Radio but we have very solid partners in this work. Dr Grinstead, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church with Truth Radio, and more recently Broadcast Technical Partners, LLC have stepped up and helped us with our full power license, obtained attorneys, and even more recently sent equipment to cover a surge we had. They have agreed to continue helping this radio ministry.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless this and other aspects of the ministry here in Unalakleet.

In Christ,

Patrick, Lisa and Levi McCoy