

On The Road With the Marshalls

December 2005

School is well under way, our road travels are over for a spell that is until another destination is determined, the when, the where and perhaps even the why.

Little did we know when 2005 started out just what all it would hold for Marge and me but God gave us the strength we needed to do what He called us to do, to go where He directed us. For Marge it was with David and his family in Alpine, Texas, with Larry and his family in Albuquerque, New Mexico and with Janet and her family in Kansas City, Kansas...and me? My time was spent ministering in Kotzebue, Anchorage and Emmonak, Alaska for almost 4 months.

Our communication was enhanced by our high-tech society, which really knows no distance, via the telephone, the computer networking and the prayer line that I found was never "clogged", never "busy", was never "put on hold" and didn't really require any "caller ID" and according to one of my favorite scriptures that I call "God's telephone number" is Jeremiah 33:3 where we read "*...Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*" (NASB)

We have thoroughly enjoyed hearing from our friends and family throughout the year. What we are finding out is that "most" of our friends are nearing retirement or are retired and it is hard to keep up with them because of their traveling, then there were those us who found out that "after 40 it is patch, patch, patch." For some we have had the duty of committing loved ones to their eternal reward. There have been a few weddings along the way. Reunions, family get-togethers, grand children and great grand babies are still joining our families. It is a joy to experience what some call 'ole age'.

A lot of this "remember when" stuff is going around. While I was in Alaska, Marge enjoyed forwarding jokes, pictures, stories about getting older and I wondering IF she was trying to tell me something.

We hope this "on the road" report will help you to know that Marge nor I have really retired. She more than me, so maybe in 2006, should the Lord tarry His soon return, we will slow down a bit. Reckon'? :} :}

A dog and a Skunk.

David and Shannon have a dog that found out the hard way ...skunks are not to play with. Recently, Gunner, their dog, was let out for his final trip out for the night when he encountered a skunk in their yard and got a "face full" of spray they discovered after they let him in the house. It does not take much of an imagination to know what followed next was a bath, deodorizing...anything to make him smell better. Even tomato juice I heard?! Did I get the story right, David?

Un-retired!

I don't know about the rest of you guys who've retired, but I did not enjoy "last winter" at all, with nothing to keep me busy, so while I was visiting with my brother-in-law, Carl Seaton, I told him that most golfers had their caddies and I suggested that with all of his traveling maybe I could go along and carry his brief case. Well, he didn't think much of that idea.

Sometime later his daughter, Lori Thrasher, the business administrator for Seaton Van Lines, was talking to him about needing to hire someone to help with the telephones, scheduling appointments for their sales people, he suggested she call me.

To make a long story short,

she and I met one Saturday morning...result? Monday morning I was at work and was to do so 3 days a week, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. And...would you believe they were actually trying to figure out a way for me to keep working while in Alaska? That idea didn't "fly"! Wonder why?

Well, summer is over, and I am back at work at SVL, and now they are trying to get me to work "full time". I do enjoy having the opportunity to be out of the house. Hopefully the weather won't get so bad that I'll have to stay home ... 'cause I don't plan on driving the interstate highway during icy road conditions. Sorry boss!

55 years and Holding

The last of September Marge and I attended my 55th Class reunion in Lyons, Kansas. Our numbers are decreasing, as there have been those who are no longer with us, only in our memories. The Class of 50 was a unique class and many of us have enjoyed getting together over the years. By the way, Carl and I were classmates from the 3rd grade up and have lots of fun just remembering many of the things we did as kids! Our wives used to remind us that "little pitchers have big ears" when our kids would be around.

4 Wheel ATV

For years I have watched people zoom around on ATV's and wondered about the shifting and the throttling but never took time to even look at one of them until Kotzebue. The Saturday before I was to leave, Pastor Jim Mercer uncovered theirs and took me for a ride. I told him it was my first ever in 74 years of living...and then after arriving in Emmonak, Pastor Bob Wheeler took me to the post office on the one Camp AN owns. Ya ride kinda "side-saddle" and hold on. Then he had me drive it and he hung

On The Road With the Marshalls

December 2005

on, I am not sure why 'cept' a new driver, ya know what I mean? He and his wife were scheduled to leave Emmo on Thursday but after getting everything ready to go, thought if they could get a seat on the Wednesday afternoon flight, they'd early, which they did. I drove the ATV out to the airport to see them off and was on it almost every day after that.

I praise the Lord for it because IF it had not been there, I would not have been out much due to the difficulty I was having with my left knee and my right hip. So, God does provide and care for His own! Amen?

Marge and her summer!

A few days after I left for Alaska, Marge left for Texas, via Lyons, Kansas, heading for Alpine, where she stayed with David and his family until mid August, when she drove to Albuquerque for a time with Larry, Renee and Miranda before heading for Kansas to prepare for my return home. Janet had been here all summer taking care of the things around the house.

Thanks for our family for their love.

My Lady Friends from Northland Cathedral

Before I left for Alaska, I had learned the Little Beaver Camp Caretakers had resigned to become pastor of the Assembly in Dillingham, Alaska. I was kidding Gale and Elaine Thomas about taking the job, well that didn't work out but when I learned they were needing 3 cooks for the camping season I told Elaine about it and she made contact with the Alaska District...to shorten this story...she, Veda Roush, and Judy Holsted came up and worked for 3 weeks and then were joined later by Gail Pals, who came for a week. Little Beaver Camp is about 45 miles north and east of Anchorage.

On their first Sunday in Alaska, Elaine, Veda and Judy attended Crossroads Assembly of God where I was interim pastor for Jim Schulz for 5 weeks for one of the Sunday services...and then "held me hostage" and took me to dinner...and Veda Roush told me people would think I was a Mormon taking 3 women to a restaurant after the Sunday evening service ...It was great having familiar faces around. Thanks ladies for coming and for the wonderful steak dinner!

Freedom Really is not Free!

For the month of July we had this theme on the marquee sign in front of the church at Crossroads Assembly. After all the Word of God says ***"...If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed"***. John 8:32 [NASB] Our freedom cost God His Son, Jesus!

To Tickle yer Rib Cage

The couple had been debating the purchase of a new auto for weeks.

He wanted a new truck. She wanted a fast little sports-like car so she could zip through traffic around town.

He would probably have settled on any beat up old truck, but everything she seemed to like was way out of their price range.

"Look" she said, "I want something that goes from 0-200 in 4 seconds or less. And...my birthday is coming up. You could surprise me".

For her birthday, he bought her a brand new bathroom scale.

Services are pending!

"Laugh a little, a do a body good!"

Our Missionary Grand daughter!

Kari Davis has completed her 3rd missionary trip to Guatemala and is planning on her 4th trip early in 2006. The Lord is doing some wonderful things for Andy and Kari as they walk with the Lord. Andy was ordained a Deacon in their church in Gardner, Kansas earlier this year and he is on the building committee for their new church. Marge and I know that Larry is as proud of them as we are. As a matter a fact, all of his children are exceptional people. Jami, Jason, Kari and Miranda and now his grand children follow! Sharp family they are! And ...our great grand children are the greatest! Each of us has our own "mission" field in our own families! ***"But as for me and MY house we'll serve the Lord!"*** [Joshua 24:15]

Jami and family

Jami and her children, Jacey and Hunter are living in Gardner, Kansas. Jami is enrolled at JCCC [Johnson Co. Community College] and is studying radio and television broadcasting and has her own business in the entertainment field!

More about our Grandkids!

David and Shannon's son, Branin graduated this spring from Nathan Stanley High School. Marge and I attended the ceremony which was held at the First Assembly of God in Alpine, Texas. He wrote his graduation speech and it can be read on his website. He was voted the "most likely to succeed"; he was class treasurer and secretary, he was the class clown, he was also number one in his class of ONE! His honors included being valedictorian and salutatorian. He was honored at a reception prepared by the student body's parents, David and Shannon Marshall along with his sister, Halee Marshall.

Congratulations, Branin!
Spaciouskies.us/Branin

On The Road With the Marshalls

December 2005

Washington, DC Is not the Same Now!

During the summer, Miranda and her parents, Larry and Renee visited our nation's capitol.

They were there to accompany Miranda on her trip to study the medical field to determine IF she really wants to enter the field of Sports medicine, as a Doctor. Miranda will be graduating in the Spring of 2006, and we plan on being present for this great event

Tasso, the Businessman!

Tasso, who is Janet's son, is in business as interior decorator, and owns Tasso's Vending Company. He spent a portion of his summer in the Philippine Islands with Julie Voutiritsas, his stepmother and his sister, Thea. Julie grew up in that part of the world and it was Tasso's first trip to visit there, and wants to go back. He and his Mom, Janet, are making plans to visit Greece next year. Good for them!

Ya Gotta Hear about Jason!

Jason has been living in Albuquerque, New Mexico and working with his Dad at VIA in Belen. Jason stays busy entertaining Karissa, his girlfriend, with rock climbing in various parts of the country. Larry joins in on that activity as well. It is our understanding that Jason and Karissa are headed for Greece sometime later this year.

Jason bought his first home in Albuquerque...very nice place Jason! He can watch the balloons every year when they fly over his house! We are also glad he is out of the Army for good!

Ok, Halee you are Up

Halee is home schooled and will be graduating next

year she thinks and would you believe she is dating a young man by the name of Marshall? She and Branin are active in their youth group at First Assembly there in Alpine. She is getting pretty good at the candy making and cake decorating business that her mom owns. Halee's current goal is to get graduated from high school and master her driving skills. That a-way, Halee!

Ice Break Up

I arrived in Kotzebue, Alaska May 27th and one of the first sights Jim and Nancy took me to see was the ice breaking up on the river and the ocean. What a sight! From what they told me, the breakup was very mild this year. The ice is very powerful when it is driven out toward the Artic Ocean and in the past has threatened the road system, houses, and businesses that are close to the shoreline. If you visit my website you'll see pictures of the ice. Wow! I still do not understand how people can doubt there is a God! Such awesome power displayed during the change of seasons! Sing it!

"What a mighty God we serve,

What a mighty God we serve,

Angels bow before Him,

Heaven and earth adore Him,

What a mighty God we serve!"

- Selected

How Big IS God? He IS big enough!

GOODBYE...EMMO!

What a delightful time the Lord gave me while living in this unique village of about 600 residents...mostly Yupik Eskimos.

The Yukon Delta Assembly has gained a number of new folks...David Toggles, who is a PA at the Clinic, his wife Robin and their daughter, Lila, Margaret Scrimber,

a nurse and then Pauline & Bill Paxton from Louisiana. Pauline retired from teaching there and they moved to Emmo for 3 years. These all will be added blessings to assist Phil and Lynn Covlasky and the congregation.

Traveling about the village on the ATV was such a blessing...it afforded me many opportunities to visit with the locals and meet many I would not have met otherwise. If the Lord gave me the desires of my heart, it would be to commit 10 more years to that "harvest field!" However, since that is not possible, they will linger long in my heart!!

The door opened to minister to a number of Catholic families shortly after arriving. One of the Elder women lost her only son in a boating accident near Bethel, and was not found for over a week. On Friday after I got there I met her and offered to pray with her and her family who had gathered in her home, along with a number of friends, so we joined hands and I prayed..."...Lord help them to find Evan's body soon." I learned Saturday that his body was found early evening on that Friday we prayed! God does hear and answer prayers! Amen?

One of her daughters attends the Assembly in Bethel and she visited us on Sunday night for our fellowship time and we prayed for her family...more on that later.

The first Sunday in September one of the young ladies in the church, whom we had met in 1998, came and with tears in her eyes wanted me to baptize her on my last Sunday there. This I did along with 3 of the young boys who had attended Camp AN, and had been Spirit filled. And...not only that, but Mildred wanted her daughter dedicated to the Lord. When her sister in law learned I was going to dedicate Deanna, she wanted me to dedicate their daughter, Serenia.

On The Road With the Marshalls

December 2005

So, on my final Sunday, we had a wonderful worship service,, which included the dedication of two children, followed by baptizing 4 and then we enjoyed a great fellowship dinner.

Emmonak has become our extended "family"!

Exclamation Mark!

The "exclamation mark" came on the Wednesday afternoon before I was to leave on Thursday morning. William Lamont and I had been visiting and were ready to leave, when the door of the parsonage opened and a voice was heard "...I am ready to accept Jesus into my heart!" It was the sister of the lady in Bethel.

Agnes had been in our service 2 weeks before with her husband, and had stopped to visit on the following Monday morning. I really felt like she was going to get saved at that time but she was not ready.

After leading her through the Romans Road scriptures, plus, I John 1:9 and Revelation 3:20, I asked her if she was ready to pray the sinners prayer. She said "yes". So, we joined hands and all prayed the sinner's prayer. I then prayed thanking the Lord for what He had just done, followed by her praying and thanking the lord for saving her and William prayed. I had listed some scriptures for her to read in her Bible and wrote down September 14th, 4:00 p.m. as the date and time she invited Jesus into her heart. I asked her who she wanted to tell and she said her sister in Bethel, which she did. Josey asked her when she got saved and Agnes said "...4:00 today!" I call this the final "Exclamation Mark" for my time in Emmonak and Alaska, I do have one more "EM" to tell you about.

And the Angels Rejoiced!

Gary and Margie, my homeless friends, have lived on the streets of Anchorage for years. For Gary it has been over 6 years and for Margie over 20 years. I met them while "pastoring" Crossroads Assembly in Anchorage. Pastor Jim had told me about them and when I

met them I soon realized I cared for them more than I thought, I would.

Margie is almost totally deaf, and alcoholic, as is Gary. They came around the church almost every day and I would appeal to them to turn their lives over to the Lord...tears would stream down their cheeks, and they knew they needed to change but couldn't.

When the time for me to return to Anchorage on my way home, I e-mailed Pastor Jim Schulz and asked him if he would try and get them to let me take them to lunch before leaving Alaska. This he did and we were able to be together for a couple of hours. At the time of our luncheon they had been in a rehabilitation center, called "Homeward Bound" for almost 2 weeks and had not had anything to drink during that time, and they both looked wonderful...before...I let them out of the van, I prayed with them and talked with them about being ready to meet Jesus and they both said they were trying.

I made one more appeal and told them "...I want to hear it from you right now, if you were to die would you go to heaven?? They both assured me they were ready. What an awesome God we serve. Wow!

These dear people are on my prayer list for total victory in their lives.

MY TRIP HOME

My "red" eye flight home was a long one...2 hours from Emmonak to Anchorage, 5 ½ hours Anchorage to Chicago with a 3 ½ hour layover in Chicago...and 1 hour to Kansas City. It was worth it because when I arrived at MCI, Marge, our daughter, Janet and our grand daughter, Kari and her two children, Jaden and Jaxen were there to meet me! After arriving home, our other grand daughter, Jami came for a short visit! After almost 4 months, it was

with great pleasure that I was home at last!

What About 2006?

Many of our friends and family members ask me if I am going back to Alaska. At this point in time, it does not look like another trip will be in the planning. Why? Because not only is Marge having her physical problems, I am having my own as well. I do not believe it is feasible to start planning on such a trip, as much as I would love to. With over 14 villages without a resident pastor, and the need so great, and I do have a burden for Alaska, I have to learn to turn it all over to the Lord and believe He will do the "calling of Pastors" to Alaska! Are YOU listening?

About contributions...

Over the past 10 years Marge and I could not have gone into the villages where we ministered without the help financially and the prayers of our friends, for which we are indebted and thankful.

Should the Lord lay on your heart to make a contribution to our ministry, you may do so by using the following account number: 2077055 Springfield, Missouri.

Jesus said: *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."* (Matthew 6:33) NASB

For Your Information:

Mailing Address:

Howard & Marge Marshall 1044 South 74th Street, Kansas City, KS 66111 (913)788-8637

www.spaciousskies.us/howard/

howard@spaciousskies.us

mmarshall@spaciousskies.us

www.spaciousskies.us/home

Our Scripture Promise: Romans 8:28 *'...and we KNOW...'*

Merry Christmas and have a very Happy New Year!
