



The Flight Plan

January—February 2012

www.marcalaska.org

Giving Wings to Alaskan Missions



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Last month we were excited to announce MARC has been granted membership into the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), an accreditation agency dedicated to helping Christian ministries earn the public's trust.

We believe exemplifying the model of biblical accountability is vital to our testimony of service, and we were thrilled to request ECFA's review of our internal processes.

Likewise, we know our supporting stewards are encouraged by ECFA's endorsement of our financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance, and ethical fundraising processes.

Please share this information with your friends, family, and churches as they make support decisions in the coming year. They can be confident their financial gifts to MARC will always be used as intended.



The London Family

Adam, Shirleen, Thomas, and Talia

God's Glory Shines Beyond the Clouds

Rising through the lingering cold fog and gray winter skies, we're constantly reminded of God's glory as we burst into brilliantly clear sunshine and the snow-capped mountain reflections of His creation. Despite the storms of life, God's glory is always shining beyond the clouds; and throughout the history of worldwide missions, God has consistently transformed events of sadness into eternal joy. The savage murder of Jim Elliot and fellow missionaries on the Ecuadorian jungle's "Palm Beach" in 1956 has been one notable catalyst for countless missionary efforts since. God used that tragic event to reach many souls beyond just the Auca Indians and to call many missionaries into worldwide service since.

Similarly, when MARC mechanic and pilot Don Irvine died from injuries sustained in a plane crash near Unalakleet, Alaska, God used that tragic crash to orchestrate a chain of ministry events that have enabled many young people to gain eternal hope. Today, hundreds of Alaskan youth living in remote Alaska have been introduced to the love of Jesus Christ through the ministry of Adam London who serves with his wife Shirleen in Unalakleet as the associate camp director of Covenant Bible Camp and youth pastor at Unalakleet Covenant Church. Having now worked at the camp for the past eight years, Adam recently shared his testimony with us that explained how God used Don's death in missionary service to lead him to Unalakleet:

The first time I heard about MARC I was probably 14 years old. Our church was a long-time supporter of MARC, so we would occasionally hear reports of the ministry MARC was doing. Every summer MARC would fly a team of volunteers from our church to serve at Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet. Our youth group also would occasionally send teams to the Covenant villages to do short ministry trips. That all being said, I really didn't think about MARC very often until the summer before my senior year in High School.

In June of 2000, MARC pilot Don Irvine gave his life serving Christ when his plane went down. When I first heard the news, my heart went out to the friends and family of Don. The tragedy was also a pivotal point for my Youth Pastor, Keith Hamilton. Keith had been entertaining the idea of moving to Soldotna to help start up Alaska Christian College. Keith told our youth group that when he heard about the tragedy, the Holy Spirit brought him to tears and both he and his wife, Debbie, knew that God was indeed calling them to Soldotna where MARC was also stationed. Shortly afterwards, I also responded to God's call for me to go to Soldotna as a student at Alaska Christian College.

During my year at Alaska Christian College, I flew with MARC a handful of times on village ministry trips. I was also blessed by being able to fly co-pilot with Bob Widman a couple of times. (Saying I was "blessed" is also another way to say that I was the heaviest person in the plane, so I had to sit up front. God works in mysterious ways). As I flew with MARC and talked with Bob, I was really struck by the gentle servant hearts that the MARC pilots have.

After I finished college at North Park University, I returned to Alaska Christian College as an admission counselor. A big part of my job was to travel to the villages to recruit students. Later, I also did recruiting for Amundsen Educational Center in the villages. During my recruiting days, I visited about 40 different villages, often flying with MARC. I was often blessed by flying co-pilot with many of the MARC staff. The MARC pilots are much more than simply a transportation service. Many times the MARC pilots have prayed for me, lent a listening ear as I talk about needs in my ministry, and have even given me relationship advice: for example, Brian Bruxvoort, in particular told me to 'hurry up' and marry Shirleen, who is now my wife.

Since I have been doing ministry in Unalakleet, I have also had the chance to host MARC pilots. Whether in the air or on the ground, MARC pilots offer encouragement and fellowship for those that do ministry in the villages. MARC meets real needs in the villages and I look forward to their partnership for many more years. - Adam London

Has MARC played a role in your life? We'd love to share your story with others to encourage them in their relationship with Christ. Contact us at marc@marcalaska.org, or (907) 262-5388.



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
PRST
U.S. Postage Paid
Soldotna, AK 99669
Permit No. 42

Use a QR code scanner on your smart phone to access our mobile donation site!



Missionary Aviation Repair Center

Pick. Click. Give.



Make a Difference



(907) 262-5388

Share the Hope

www.marcalaska.org

Pick. Click. Give.

This coming year, Alaskans can designate a portion of their PFD directly to MARC when filing on-line. For info, visit www.marcalaska.org/pickclickgive.

From the mission frontier . . .

Hooper Bay, with its howling winds, ironically has a way of taking the wind out of life's proverbial sails. A week and a half ago we had another suicide in the village. This time it was a 22 year old young man. To put this in perspective a bit, over the past 14 months we have had at least 10 young people—people we know and talk to—die. Some of these were murdered, one was sniffing (huffing) gas, and most took their own life. Some were very close to our family, others were people we interacted with, all have now stepped into eternity, and most were not ready for the transition.

Somehow, the weather takes back seat to the painful realities of sin and death. A pervasive hopelessness exists where extreme hope is readily available. We are living where the god of this world has blinded the eyes of so many. The clouds of pain, abuse, anger, and darkness have hidden the Son from their view. Please pray that the Son will shine through and that the winds of "hope and a future" centered on the Savior will begin to blow.

In the midst of life's storms we are also seeing some "Sonshine" in the lives of many here. Two young men who have been growing over the past year were able to travel with Ron Hutchcraft's On Eagles Wings team doing outreaches on reservations where 720 Native young people gave their life to the Savior. They will be sharing their summer in a church service here. Pray that it will challenge many more to get off the bench and get into the game for Jesus!

I have to admit, I am excited about climate change. The spiritual climate in Hooper Bay is in transition. We are beginning to see a broken layer in the dark clouds and the Son is shining through. A young man said in last Sunday's service, "I can't wait till next Sunday. It is becoming so exciting to come to church." Three young men came to church that have never been before. They walked to the second row and sat down. It was great to talk to one of them about how God can change lives and hear him responding to the Savior. —Lenna Funk