

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4



Ernie and Nancy Wyrick

P O Box 157

Delta Junction, AK 99737

Phone: 907-378-6691

Email: [wyrick@wwntbm.net](mailto:wyrick@wwntbm.net)

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Sending Church:

McLeansville

Baptist Church

P O Box 197

McLeansville, NC 27301

Phone: (336) 697-8121

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Mission Agency:

World Wide

New Testament

Baptist Missions

P O Box 725

Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Phone (704) 730-1440

Greetings from Delta Junction, Alaska,

Nancy and I wish to thank everyone that gave a special love gift for Christmas. We are truly grateful for all of you and so appreciate your wonderful gift towards the Lord's work here in Delta Junction.

The year hasn't started out as I planned, but we all know that our plans don't always match up to God's. We also know that His plan is always better, even if it means hardship, sickness, etc. As long as He is glorified, that is what matters.

The year started out with me having to take a stand on something that I know has cost me some friendships. Others just don't understand why I was bothered over the situation. But for me it was a no-brainer. I was to separate, no matter the cost. But God has already opened doors to minister that give me even more opportunities to share the Gospel and to be an encouragement that I have not previously had.

The middle of February I started a series of devotions on "Growing in Adversity and Just Trusting God" that I send out to individuals on my devotional list. Little did I know that not long after starting the devotions I would come down with an infection (not Covid-19) and would be put on an antibiotic that would not do much for the infection. I was sent to a specialist that had treated me in the past for the same type infection. He took one look at me and said "you are going into the hospital". I spent four days in the hospital. After I was released I had to return to the ER twice with complications from the medicine they gave me. Even though the past few weeks were not what I had planned, I have learned many things, and I still am learning. Praise the Lord that through it all God has been so good, just as He always is, and as He always will be forever.

I am slowly getting my strength back and have a few more doctor appointments and a test in the near future. But through all this God has shown me that there are always others around us that are going through things themselves and are needing someone to be there for them as they go through their trials. Just before I went into the hospital, our neighbor had a stroke. His wife called us around 3:00 a.m. I called 911 and then Nancy and I rushed over to their house. Since there was a lot of snow in their yard, I made arrangements for more help to come to assist the medics in getting him into the ambulance. Nancy was able to be with his wife as the medics helped her husband. He was in the hospital for more than a week. The medics brought him home right after I was released from the hospital. He was only home for 3 days when he had to be taken back to the hospital. This time his wife was able to get a friend to take her to stay with him in the hospital. On Thursday, March 4, I had a doctor's appointment in Fairbanks. On our way back to Delta, his wife texted Nancy and asked if we could come to Fairbanks the following day and take her and her husband's daughter home. They were releasing him and she was to be at home when the ambulance got him home. On Friday we returned to Fairbanks and brought them home. However, the ambulance was unable to bring him home that day. On Saturday she again texted Nancy and asked if we could take her back to Fairbanks. It was unclear when the ambulance would be able to bring him home and she did not want him to be alone. So, for the third day in a row, we made the 200-mile round trip to Fairbanks. We dropped her off at the hospital. Due to the restrictions, we were unable to go in with her. We went to get something to eat. While we were eating, his daughter texted Nancy. She was very appreciative of all we had done for them. Nancy told her that we were just trying to show God's love. She responded back, "That's clear!" Through the years we have shared the Gospel with them many times. Please keep this dear family in prayer, not only for their spiritual need, but for their physical needs as well.

I have written all this, not to focus on us, but to show how we all have the opportunity to be a help to others. Yes, you may be going through your own trials, but instead of focusing on your trials, look around you. I promise you that there is someone close by that could use your help and what a wonderful opportunity to show God's love.

Today a friend that I led to the Lord last Easter called Nancy. She has been going through some tough times physically and financially. In addition to all that, she is dealing with some family problems as well. But what a wonderful attitude she has, even through all the trials. She made the comment that she was just going to trust the Lord and that she had been reading the devotions I have been sending out. Some of them were hard and convicting, but she was trying to apply them to her life.

We all face adversity. It is just part of life. But it is how we respond to it that matters. For myself, I pray that I will grow closer to the Lord, become more like Him, and focus more on the needs of those around me.

This is not what you may think of as a normal missionary letter, but it is what God has laid on my heart and it gives a little glimpse into our lives and our struggles. We are so thankful for all of you and we appreciate all the prayers and financial support.

Love in Christ from your missionaries,

*Ernie + Nancy Wyrick*

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