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Greetings from Delta Junction, Alaska. Winter has arrived and I am not ready for it. Even though it comes about this same time every year, I still have things to take care of outside and to make sure the truck is winterized and ready for winter travel. I did get the tires changed over just before the first snow with the help of a friend and the use of his heated garage. Praise the Lord that made the job much easier. The antifreeze was checked, and a new thermostat installed, but I discovered this morning that one of the block heaters is not working. That will have to wait until a later time as long as the other one keeps working.

I apologize for the delay in getting this letter mailed. It has been very busy since I last wrote. Praise the Lord that Nancy had her cataract eye surgeries. Everything went well and she is seeing much better. I had my prostate procedure done, but things did not go well. I have had difficulty ever since. For several weeks I made several trips to Fairbanks to the doctor, or to the clinic here in Delta and even once to the ER in Fairbanks. But over the past few weeks I have learned what helps and what does not. With the Lord's help I have been able to adjust and continue. Lord willing, it will eventually heal. I know God knows all about it and I am learning over and over that His grace is sufficient for all situations. I haven't arrived yet, but I am a work in progress. I think of the passage, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." Psalms 119:71 (KJV). David said it was good that he was afflicted. Paul says, he would rather glory in his infirmities. "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." It is simple, just trust God that He knows what He is doing, and He has a purpose in what He is doing. If I can glorify Him in the difficult situations and others can see Christ because of that, to God be the glory.

Even during those difficult days there were opportunities to minister, when physically I just did not feel up to it. But in those times, it seems we can be a blessing and a witness to those that are having an even worse day than we are. One morning I had been to Fairbanks already to pick up a lady at the ER. The hospital had called the night before about 11:00 P.M. saying that she was being released. The medics had transported her earlier that evening and I knew the situation and told the medics to give my number to the ER nurse if this lady needed a ride. When they called, we had not been in bed long. I asked the nurse if I could pick her up about 7:00 A.M. She said that would be fine. Neither one of us could sleep, so about 3:30 that morning we got up and drove to Fairbanks, about 100 miles to the hospital. We got to town, got some breakfast, and went to the hospital and picked this lady up and headed back to Delta. We got back to Delta about 9:30 A.M. and took her back to her cabin. There is no road to her house, only a trail, but I was able to drive the truck to her cabin and get her inside. Her husband was there but since he is in a wheelchair, he is not able to drive. We were able to witness to her on our trip home and pray that something was said that will touch her heart and she will be saved. We came home and finally laid down to get some rest. A few hours later the clinic called, not knowing that I had already been to Fairbanks that morning. They asked if I would assist a lady whose husband was being transported by ambulance to the hospital with a possible heart attack. They had been in Alaska less than 24 hours when he began to feel ill, saw the clinic sign from the highway and stopped there. After driving all the way from the east coast to visit Alaska, their plans changed abruptly after only one day here.

I thank the Lord for the opportunity to help this Christian couple by driving their motorhome to the hospital for this lady. I was able to pray with her and talk about the things of God with her. We kept in touch with them while they were in Alaska. Praise the Lord, he is recuperating after staying several days in the hospital. On the way home, I began to feel sick and went to the clinic as soon as I got back to Delta. I was dehydrated and needed two bags of fluids. It was determined that because of the procedure I had the week before, inflammation had caused a blockage which led to another problem. This began a couple of stressful and painful weeks going back and forth to the clinic and the ER in Fairbanks and then back to the doctor there. But all I have gone through has helped me be able to help another individual who is dealing with much of the same issues as I. He ended up in the hospital for several days with a life-threatening illness because of it. Driving him back and forth to Fairbanks has given many opportunities to witness and pray with him. In the past, he has seemed cold, and the door seemed closed, but now he is more receptive to the gospel.

At times during these past few months the ministry opportunities have seemed overwhelming, but God has given us strength to do those things He has called us to do. It is an honor and privilege to serve Him, and it seems every day there is something new to do or someone new to whom we may minister. I just want to praise Him for all that He has done in our lives recently. With covid, eye surgeries, prostate problems, and many miles traveled, He has been so good to us, and we want to praise Him.

As Chaplain of the fire department, I responded to a call where a family lost a loved one. Pray with us for them to know the comfort and peace that only the Lord can give. Please also remember Pastor Cliff Henry, pastor of Greatland Baptist Church. He has a pinched nerve in his back that is causing a lot of pain. Brother Dan Middlebrook and I have been filling in for him while he has been down with his back. We have also been on the road ministering a lot and we praise the Lord that the old truck is still going on for Him. It has over 417,000 miles on it now. We are looking forward to being able to drive the GMC back to Alaska next spring, Lord willing. We really need it, but God has kept the Chevy running so that we can serve Him. Thank you so much for all the prayers and support. We consider it an honor to have such wonderful prayer and financial partners with us as we go about doing those things which God has us to do.

Love in Christ,

Ernie and Nancy