

December 2021

Dear Brethren!

It's been cold at -40 then warmed to -10 to 0. This is the GREAT STATE OF ALASKA so cold is the norm for about 7 to 8 months! The daylight is down to 4 hours. We start gaining daylight after Dec 21!!! Cold comes in like a roller coaster meaning it may be 0 degrees for a few days but then the bottom drops out and -40 to -50 for the next week! For example, here is the forecast for today:

Description

...Bitter Cold Temperatures For the Interior Friday through Sunday... Another strong arctic high will bring bitterly cold temperatures to the Interior beginning Thursday night and persisting through Sunday morning, with the coldest temps likely on Saturday morning. Expect lows to drop into the -30 F to -45 F range for lower elevations, with some cold valley spots in the Yukon Flats dropping to near -50 F Saturday morning.

These things you know! Another thing is people love to come and visit in the summer to fish and hunt in the fall but leave before the cold winter hits!! The main group of people that come here to live are the military that finish their service and love Alaska for its fishing and hunting! Not many are beating the doors down for ministry and no one has inquired that I KNOW OF about pastoring Chena Valley Baptist Church!

Why am I saying all this? Why am I here? Am I here for 0 to -60? Hahahaha! I don't know any that love blasting cold. I don't love it but it's a huge part of my life!! This week my son and I had to work outside in -40 on Saturday and Sunday after church to get our heat fixed, the next day I had a successful knee replacement surgery and the next day back home! Do I love the dark with the cold? NO! I LOVE THE LIGHT!!! Am I here because the Eskimo peoples LOVE ME? NO! They don't care if I live or die. They don't flock to me! So WHY DO I STAY? It's like for 7 months you fight to keep your ministry going and keep from freezing and staying alive! Am I complaining? NOOOOOO!!!! I will always love ALASKA! There is something special about 40 below the moment you walk outside. There is an immediate bite with a particular smell that's outstanding and you never forget!!! After that you might want to go back to the FIRE hahahaha!

I AM HERE BECAUSE GOD CALLED ME TO BE HERE!

Am I happy? ABSOLUTELY!! There will be love in my heart for the Eskimo and Indian peoples when I die!

What breaks my heart is the way Covid has affected village travel! WOW!! It has hammered the people! Shutdowns here, there, and everywhere. You may call one day and it's open and the next day it's closed!

A year ago I said I will do both knee replacement surgeries and I have! All is going great! They sent me home early. I worked hard on my legs to prepare for this, and it's paid off! I walked for the hospital physical therapist down long halls and up a flight of stairs and back. She said you can go home! I will be ready to travel in late spring by the Grace of GOD. YAYYYY!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS

One good man is GEORGE PITKA! Pray for him to be strong! He knows traveling with a boat and can read the water! He is saved with a tremendous testimony! Another man has talked to me about going! The more the merrier!

I am NOT INTERESTED in going to a village of 100 people and begin living there trying to win their friendship which may take ten years BUT WHAT I AM INTERESTED IN IS THIS: Travel to as many villages as possible and PREACH THE GOSPEL!!! People that get saved work with them thru Bible study. GOD CALLS MEN TO PREACH AND CHURCHES NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED!

Is it over? Have these last days in a world of Covid shut us down? Many have suffered many have died! We all have had friends that have died! THE ANSWER IS NO! GOD IS GREATER THAN ALL!!

I believe in the POWER OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE! I have seen it work just like you! Souls are dying; we need a burden to preach the GOSPEL!!!

Please pray for me. I am not King Kong. Healing and strength are good. Pray for brother GEORGE PITKA !!! Pray for Chena Valley Baptist for a Pastor. Call my son at 907-328-9994.

Text me about anything at 907-687-0417.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE LOVE OFFERINGS!!! Over the last few months we have received love offerings from the following churches: Highland Missionary Baptist Church \$1,000; Underwood Baptist Church \$100; Calvary Baptist Church \$300; Belfast Baptist Church \$1,000; Victory Baptist Church \$250; Faith Baptist Chapel \$500.

Lastly MERRY CHRISTMAS 💙 💙 💙 💍 💍 💍 💍 💮 🚳 🚳 🚳 🚳 🚳

Bro. GARY HAMPTON