

Arlene Ensley

Missionary to Alaska

January 2017

Dear Co-laborers,

As I am sitting and writing this letter to all of you, my mind and heart is overwhelmed at everything that happened in 2016. I really don't know where to begin. First let me say that one thing I do know is that my Lord and Savior is faithful and my strong and mighty tower. With all that happened in 2016 I truly take courage in knowing this.

The beginning of 2016 was great. In January we enjoyed the wedding of our nephew and his sweet bride, got to be with our son Andrew and his sweet fiancé, Kayce, along with family and friends. The Lord was blessing our ministry here in Craig with new folks and the school was doing well. Life was good...Then...May comes and everything changed very fast and not for the better. As all of you know, my husband went home to be with the Lord and now my life has changed forever. But this one thing I know is that my Lord is faithful and my refuge in the very time of trouble. I love Him for this.

Now we will move on to December, I was able to travel south and spend the holidays with family and friends. This truly got me through one of the hardest times of my life. I thank God for everyone who held me up in prayer. On December 31 we had my son Andrew's wedding to his beautiful Kayce. Now I have a daughter. I feel truly blest.

Now here I am in January 2017 and you may ask, now what? Well, most days I ask myself this very question. This one thing I know is I may not know about tomorrow but I do know Who holds tomorrow and He is my Heavenly Father.

I have been praying and asking the Lord what He wants me to do, and He has laid some things on my heart. I will attempt to share them with you. I have been praying and searching God's will for my life, and the Lord has given me the desire to work with children. Whether that be in a preschool or daycare it is up to the Lord. All He asks of me is to be willing to do what He calls for me to do in His work. I am very willing and feel that I can be used of the Lord to work in a children's ministry. I have prayed and ask the Lord to show me where, and He has definitely laid Craig, Alaska, on my heart. I feel at peace with this. I have been blest with a piece of land, and I feel that the Lord would have me build a home for myself. He has given me peace about this also. I have been blessed with the help of one of my supporting churches, Northside Baptist. They are sending a work crew of eight men and women in March to start building. I am so thankful for them. I truly praise Him for giving me peace during one of the most difficult times in my life. I can truly say that I know that my Lord is in control. Praise His name!

I have some very specific prayer requests:

1. That the Lord would continue to give me peace.
2. If the Lord lays on your hearts to continue supporting me with your prayers and financial help.
3. That if it is the Lord's will that He will send more work crews to help with my home. He knows who and when.
4. That the Lord would continue to bless New Hope Baptist Church and send the right pastor and his family to us.
5. For the pulpit committee that the Lord would lead and guide them in the search for a pastor.

Let me close by saying thank you for all of your prayers, giving each month and all of the special love gifts during the holidays.

Your sister in Christ,

Arlene Ensley