



Warriors Discover “A Fight Worth Fighting”

If you could look into our heart for the people of the north, you would see that the youth take up a big chunk of it. These kids have so much joy, energy, and hope mixed in with the hurt and challenges they have to overcome. So, when summer rolls around, we get excited about putting on special events that are fun and connect these kids to the joy of knowing Jesus, the One who has already overcome.

It's no surprise then, that when SEND North aviation pilot/mechanics Tim and Hayley Batt were challenged to join a team creating a Vacation Bible School type experience for their village, they said to themselves, "let's go big." From their experience as Sunday school teachers in a remote village, they knew a successful introduction to Jesus would combine Bible stories with memorable activities. The team wanted to create something that captured the kids' imaginations and could be used year-round and in other locations. Their inspiration came from Nick Hanson (AKA the Eskimo Ninja), an area hero who regularly competes against other athletes on the intimidating obstacle courses of the hit TV show, American Ninja Warrior.

The Batts are constructing and testing a safe, aluminum structure measuring 40'x10'x10' that contains 14 ninja warrior obstacles, including the iconic warped wall. This course can be disassembled and transported by air to practically any village in the interior of Alaska. Many young people root for their local ninja warrior star and test their abilities on fun, homemade obstacles. To be able to practice and attempt this on a large-scale, quality apparatus was an impossible dream until this summer.

“A Fight Worth Fighting” is the theme of the Bible program. It centers on lessons from Samson, Joshua, and Jesus that are reinforced by the obstacle course. In the Batts' village trial program this year, 1st–5th graders will experience this during a week-long day camp program. The teenagers will then have it for a week as part of a full camp experience. Tim and Hayley Batt would love to see this course used by other ministries in Alaska next year.



PRAY for all of the teams that will provide VBS and Bible camp opportunities for kids of the North this summer. Many of our SEND North people play vital roles on those teams.



GIVE If you want to help fund transportation costs including helping kids get to camp, write checks out to SEND North, designate Camp Transportation, and send in the enclosed envelope.



GO If you or your church would like more information about volunteering for remote summer camps in Alaska or Canada next year, please send your contact information in the enclosed envelope.

SEND North

MAKING NORTHERN DISCIPLE-MAKERS



“Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me.”

John 12:26

Known by the Nations

For those growing up in the remote communities of Alaska and Northern Canada, it might be easy at times to feel forgotten by the rest of the world. Yet just as our Heavenly Father sent Jesus to live among us, He continues to send his followers into some of the most remote regions of the world.

SEND North (originally Central Alaska Mission) started in 1937 when a family from New Jersey was sent to carry the Gospel to Glennallen, Alaska. Eight years later, another mission was formed by former GIs who were sent to carry the Gospel instead of guns to Japan and the Philippines. This mission was named Far Eastern Gospel Crusade. In 1971, these two missions merged and later became known as SEND International. SEND North's partnership with this global organization is central to our efforts.

SEND International is not just mobilizing North Americans into

ministry, but we are part of a global network of sending agencies who desire to make disciples among the least reached. SEND North is one of many SEND International fields, and our team alone consists of Swiss, Germans, Australians, Native Alaskans, Canadians, and US citizens. Currently, we even have a couple from Mongolia that is exploring how they might join us to share the Gospel in rural Alaska.

We believe that a multi-national mission makes us stronger, and it gives us a beautiful glimpse of the Bride of Christ. In this newsletter you will read about the perspective of two different German interns. We are grateful that their families and churches sent them to the other side of the world to share Jesus with those who live in these often forgotten places, and we are grateful for our partnership with SEND International that connects us to this global network.

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Sprichst Du Hope?

Salome Schneider is a long way from home. She has served since March as a SEND North intern in a tiny village in Alaska, more than 4,000 air miles from her home in Germany. You might well wonder what caused a young Bible school student from a city in Germany to travel by herself to a village in interior Alaska in the middle of winter.

In her words, "I felt the Lord asking me, if I was willing to go into ministry for him. I didn't even know that there were missionaries in Alaska before. And a friend of mine, who is in Bible school told me about Franz (the intern before me) and gave me the contact information of Armie Friesen (SEND's mobilizer in Europe). So I contacted her and talked with her about opportunities and applied for my internship."

As you might imagine, Salome has some adventures to share with her friends at school. Like the time she volunteered to run some friends home on a snowgo (what people call a snow machine in Salome's village). She broke the first rule of travel on a snowgo—

she forgot her gloves. "I thought it wouldn't be a big deal, since it was supposed to be only a short ride (It turned out to be not that short)." Almost immediately things started to go wrong.

"So I lost the trail, almost ran into a tree and tipped over. We all fell off in the deep snow, so we weren't injured. It was super hard to get the snowgo back up and to get out of the deep snow, but we could all laugh about it later. When we finally got the snowgo back on the trail, we were all covered in snow and my hands were freezing by that time. I managed to drive them home without any more incidents, but as soon as I dropped them off, I got lost, as it was too dark to see much. I didn't drive where I intended to, but I actually managed to find the way back, although my hands felt like they were falling off by then."

The biggest struggle Salome has faced in the village isn't the language barrier, homesickness, or the brutal Alaskan winter. Instead it is "definitely experiencing the spiritual darkness in this village. I never got confronted with that before so I didn't really know how to respond to it. I saw a lot of spiritual warfare going on."

After Salome's internship experience, she will have a lot of advice for future German interns. Don't forget your gloves when you ride a snowgo; don't forget to put on spiritual armor for warfare; but above all, don't forget that God is at work in the village.

"God has opened my eyes for the need of the people here. They need hope and light and Jesus is the only Light. He showed me the Glory and the Hope that we have in him and the resurrection of Jesus."



It's 35° Below Zero . . .

What would you do if it is 35 below outside? You might think staying inside is the best option, but not for me. My name is Johannes Weinmann. My parents are German, but I grew up as an MK in Spain. So here I am in bush Alaska as an intern, and I could not be more impatient about going out even if it means freezing my face off. So I thought I could still get out and run some errands on a day when it got so cold that the car would not start. The post office in our village is just a few kilometers away, so I thought I could pick up the mail on a bicycle. Easy right? Ummm ... no. As soon as I took the bike out of the house every piece of it started to freeze. Pedaling was much harder because everything was stiff and breathing was not easier either. Half way to the post office the police officer passed me. Five minutes later he came back and offered to put the bike on the truck and drive me wherever I wanted, but I was still full of motivation so I refused. Half an hour later I finally arrived at the post office with my big backpack ready to pick up a lot of mail. There was just one problem, I wanted to take the key for the PO Box, then I realized that I had not taken it with me! The trip had been pretty much for nothing and I still had to ride back. After almost 2 hours I was back home again and had just covered around 5 miles. My face was totally frozen, every time I closed my eyes my eyelids would freeze together and I almost couldn't see anything. After that, a lot of people recognized me as the guy who drove with the bike to the Post Office at 35 below. I had a lot of fun though and learned that accepting help from other people doesn't show weakness, it shows intelligence.

