

July 11<sup>th</sup>

Well, we are back in Anchorage. We left last night after VBS ended. It was crazy though. As we left Copper Center it started raining and we even encountered some hail on the way, but we made it back to Anchorage safely and we even saw a moose!!!

I really think this week has been good for us (and I hope the kids in Copper Center). We all seemed to be pieces of a puzzle and we fit together just right with all of our talents. Our kids did very well with their lessons and crafts and interacting with the children and each other. Hopefully when we get home we can show everyone pictures and tell you about the children. They were all so sweet. I wanted to stuff a few in my suitcase and bring them home.

Well, once again, thank you all for your support in this trip. I know that many of the kids are already talking about coming back next year.

Carrie

July 9<sup>th</sup>

I forgot to mention the other day that we had a ladies bible study on Wednesday night. It was about "comforting." I really enjoyed it and I think it gave us all (the girls) a lot to think about when working with these kids. Some of these kids were hit really hard by a fire back on June 10<sup>th</sup> where they lost 2 children. One little girl here cried during VBS the other day over this loss. It was heartbreaking.

Last night we spent youth night with the youth here. We had a spaghetti dinner and then watched part of a movie, talked about that, and then played some really fun games with them. I had a really nice time.

Sorry this is short, but I am really tired and I cannot think of what else to say. I will try to do better next time.

Carrie

July 7<sup>th</sup>

Today was another busy day. I was able to venture out on my own today to pick up kids. Is anyone else surprised by this considering I got lost on every field trip I went on this past year? The children really are precious here. I do not have many stories to tell of them, but some of the stories the "team" here tells me are very moving and they are getting the message we are putting out for them. Todd and Kim are wonderful. They really run this program great. Their teen group has been great too, very welcoming and involved. It warms my heart. Our group, of course, is great. They continue to impress me with their knowledge of the bible and the stories and how good they are with the children here. Once again, thank you for supporting us in this trip.

Carrie

July 6<sup>th</sup>

Today was very busy. We got up early and it never seemed to slow down. The community here is wonderful. The kids are a blessing. I drove out with Audrey (Pastor Roeske's daughter) to pick up kids today. That was fun. It gave me a chance to see where they live and their surroundings. It really made me grateful for what I have. I was also so surprised how readily they wanted to come us. We drove up to one house because we just happened to see the kids outside, asked if they wanted to come to VBS, and the 9-year-old boy begged his older sister to go. So we showed up with 3 more kids. I hope we can bring more in tomorrow. Thanks for all your support with this trip. After driving around today and even interacting with these kids, they really need a constant in Jesus in their lives. I think, and I hope I am saying this right, I think they need to know that it is not them or their parents or community, but Jesus to look to for help.

Thanks again, Good night from Alaska, which surprisingly HOT!! (I feel like I have been sweating nonstop since we got to Copper Center!)

Carrie

July 5<sup>th</sup>

Wow! I am so happy to be here in Copper Center. The church, sleeping arrangements, etc., have all worked out so well. Everything is falling into place. Now we just need the kids to show up. I am still amazed at the daylight at midnight. It is really hard to go to sleep and surprisingly, I have not been that tired during the day.

We had bible study and church this morning with Pastor Roeske and his congregation and then had a fellowship luncheon. The food was fantastic. The people here are great. We had a lot of great conversations. Well, I will write more later tomorrow after the actual VBS. Hope all is well in Hartland!

July 4<sup>th</sup>

Good morning from Alaska! It has been sunny here ever since we arrived so it feels like we should never be sleeping, but we have managed a few hours here and there. So far everything has been going well, the flight, the hotel, getting the vehicles. We are very blessed. Yesterday we met with Ruth Zellar and she got us up to speed with what our mission project is and it sounds great. I think we will make a difference there. We then went into Anchorage and did the "touristy" thing, shopped and went sightseeing a bit. It was nice. Not too hot. The sun was out. I really like Anchorage. We then headed out to Portage Glacier. It was about a 40 mile drive, but took us about 2-1/2 hours because we kept stopping and taking pictures of the mountains and water. Beautiful! Liz, Wibs, and I saw whales surfacing at one point in the water, but we did not get to stop for pictures.

We are heading out for Copper Center this morning and I am really happy to get getting on our way. It has been nice in Anchorage, but I think everyone is ready to dig in and get our "mission trip" started. I hope you all like the pictures and hopefully once we get settled in we can all write more.

Carrie