

July 10, 2009

Its hard to leave these kids behind...we all want to take these kids home with us. The VBS went as it has the past few days except for at the end we had a water balloon fight. When that was over the kids started leaving. It was so sad to see them go and think we won't see them again until probably next year. It was heartbreaking to see the kids crying about us leaving and giving really long hugs just holding on to us. It is not an easy thing to see them go. These kids have been through A LOT but I really do feel like God has used us to get his word to them and it worked. Something I thought was really great at the end when I was holding JoJo who was 4 years old and he saw a cross and asked me, "So Jesus died on that for me?" It was soo great! I just pray that we have planted a seed that the Holy Spirit will now take over the lives of these kids. The positive side of leaving these kids is that they have families and have a chance to go to church and I know the Roeskes will continue to look out for these kids. The Roeskes are absolutely great with the kids!

Well tonight we are off to Anchorage to stay for one more night. We all wanted to be able to leave Copper Center tonight and then just be right there in Anchorage so we had time to go shopping and then be right by the airport. Thank you so much for all your support for the mission trip! It all went great!

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

After I finished writing this journal.....I saw a moose! Carrie spotted it on the side of the road and she slammed on the brakes and we were able to take pictures. My goal of seeing a moose..complete.

July 8, 2009

VBS today went great! It was so great when the kids walked in because they were familiar faces and they came in hugging us. This made me feel so blest to be here. Today I worked in the snacks with Jake and everything went really well. The kids can be a challenge sometimes because many of them have fetal alcohol syndrome so they have a short attention span, but I feel like we are getting through to them and God really has placed us here. Even through our crazy change from Gakona to Copper Center, I never was nervous about the change because I knew God was in charge and he would take care of us and sure enough he did.

When VBS was over, we had youth night with the youth from the church. Later we went to Valdez because we had heard it was a fantastic place to go fishing, see a bear and it was great scenery on the way. The drive was beautiful!! There were so many mountains with waterfalls falling from them. When we finally got to Valdez, we went to the water and one man told us there had just been a bear there a few minutes ago. Melanie and I went to look for it. We got really scared because we thought we heard the bear and ran all the way back to the car. Later we found out we were just hearing the sea lions. We still saw no moose on the way, but hope we do before we leave.

July 7, 2009

Today was our second day of VBS. Everything seemed to go much better today because we already kind of knew the kids and they were opening up so much more to us. It is very sad because a few weeks ago there was a house fire and two little kids died in the fire. There are many of the little kids and older kids that are still very upset about it. My lesson yesterday was about how we are sinful and we can not do anything about it but one day we will be in heaven and everything will be perfect. This brought up some questions and comments about the girl that died in the fire. It was great to be able to give them the comfort that she was in heaven because she had recently been baptized and believed in Jesus. We went fishing again today and did not catch anything and saw no moose. We have VBS again in the morning and tomorrow Megan will teach the lesson. Please continue to keep these kids in your prays because they have all been through a lot in their lives.

July 6, 2009

Today was our first day with the kids at VBS. We were all pretty nervous because no one knew what to expect. Today was my lesson and it went pretty well even got some discussion going with the older kids. I was exhausted after we were done because we had been working with so many kids and the last few night I have been out fishing till 2 a.m. After we had dinner we found out there was a little ice cream shop in the down so we went up there. After the ice cream Carrie showed us some of the house where she picked up the kids for VBS this morning. The houses were really small and rundown. Out for 12 a.m. fishing again and up and ready tomorrow morning to have another day of VBS. Hopefully tomorrow we will see a moose because me and Carrie and Liz are really going to try to wake up this time to go see one.....hope I see one!

July 4, 2009

This morning we went shopping in Anchorage for things that we will need during the week. When we were done with our shopping we headed to Copper Center which is where we are staying for the rest of the week. It was about a 4 hour drive from Anchorage. The drive really did not seem long because of all the beautiful sites. We had to stop many times to get out along the road and take pictures. We finally arrived here to the church at about 7:30 and Pastor Roeske was here to greet us. He showed us around and when we got all settled in at the church, we went up to the gas station to get a few day fishing license for the boys. I went fishing and I caught a stick. We have church tomorrow morning and preparing for VBS on Monday. Goal is still to see a moose but it may come tomorrow because me and Carrie are going moose hunting(viewing) in the morning...wish us luck.

July 3, 2009

Today we went to downtown Anchorage to shop. It was a very cute little town with many unique shops. We were there for a long time and we were all pretty tired from the flight and not enough sleep last night, so we went back to the hotel to rest up for about an hour. It was also hard to adjust to the daylight all the time. After we rested up we went a very pretty ride to see some glaciers. We drove along the water and saw mountains for miles and miles. Everything has been going great and tomorrow we will

leave for Copper Center to get ready for Monday VBS with the kids. As of now my goal is to see a moose.