

Our Alaska Journal

1st week of September 2003 – Todd was joking that “maybe God will send us to Alaska” completely in joking....

2nd week of September 2003 – Eva sees a pair of baby socks with Alaska and little Eskimos on them.

That same week Todd’s co-worker Dan shows him an e-mail about a man mangled by a grizzly bear in Alaska – he was cleaning out his old emails from a month ago...

We went back to Goodwill and Eva found the Alaska socks still in the bin – it took some searching but God let me find both socks!!

September 23, 2003 – Eva sees handmade baby slippers with fur made of animals skins that said made in the Arctic by natives...

September 24, 2003 – Eating at Licks and we hear this old song about a gold rush up north and then Todd is about ready to eat his hamburger and he was bringing it up to his mouth and the chorus said “come up to Alaska” – we both heard it and it was too unreal. Of all the times we’ve been to Licks we have never heard that song before.

September 24, 2003 – Todd was sitting on the sofa and above his head was dresses and shoes for Abby that we had gotten shopping that day and the shoes fell on his head and I said “Daddy just got hit by an avalanche!” – not realizing what I had said!!

September 25, 2003 – Okay, this is REALLY getting scary – Today Eva listened to a message by David Gibbs called How to be Great with God – and he gave an example of the northern white wolf and how the ALASKANS catch them!!!

October 22, 2003 – Pastor Evans read a letter from a missionary family to the Arctic region.

October 25, 2003 - Eva’s mom called and read some statistics about vaccinations and was just picking info here and there and told her about a measles outbreak in Alaska.

October 26, 2003 – On the way to church Eva saw a sign that said “American Eskimo puppies for sale”. It wasn’t a big sign either.

November 5, 2003 – Eva and Abby went to Dollarama and Eva was looking for a ball for Abby to play with and found a clear bouncy ball with a little iceberg and a penguin on it.

December 3, 2003 – Eva and Abby are grocery shopping and hear Alaska in another song (not the same one as Lick’s).... Then later that night Eva was reading in The Remnant

magazine and just glanced at the back cover and one of the letters was signed Alaska.

December 11, 2003 – Eva is searching for holiday recipes on the net and runs across a recipe in the top 10 for Alaskan Salmon Chowder...

December 15, 2003 – We were at Home Depot buying Mom's birthday present, and we were walking out, not even looking and Todd stops dead in his tracks – what is right there but a bin of Alaskan ice melter!!

January 5, 2004 – Abby and Eva were shopping at Value Village while Todd got water and what does Eva find but a child's belt that had ALASKA on the front of it in beadwork! Normally Eva doesn't even look in that section!

January 14, 2004 – Listening to the weather report on 680 news and what comes on but a commercial for Alaskan Ice Melter – we've never heard it before or since! And we weren't even really "listening" – you tend to tune out the ads between the traffic and weather...

January 20, 2004 – Eva was listening to the preaching hour on WGCR and caught it a little late and not 20 seconds after I turned it on the preacher gave an example about a preacher he knew in Alaska – amazing!

March 24, 2004 – Eva and Abby were shopping at Goodwill in Ajax and found the board game "North to Alaska" – from 1984! I'm convinced Lord!!! - Eva

April 2004 – Jess tells Eva that she is working with a lady from Alaska at Wal-mart

On Vacation July 4th Weekend 2004 - on the way down south we passed a billboard advertising "Alaska's Furniture" – then Todd met Charlie Vess, Jess and Bryan's neighbor, and he had just recently went to Alaska on vacation. Also, Eva got to meet a lady from Jess's work at Walmart who is from Alaska.

July 30, 2004 – Eva and Abby were shopping at Value Village and Abby had wandered a little far and Eva called her back while making a call to Todd on the cell phone and when she looked up after she was waiting for Todd to pick up she saw a man's cap with Alaska written on it and the big dipper!!! Too neat!

October 15, 2004 – 3 weeks ago we had a missionary family, the Donaths, up to present their work and Bro. Donath was just recently in Alaska and was working out of Bible Baptist in Fairbanks, the same church Bro. Hodge told Todd about a few months back. He told Todd a lot about his experience in Alaska and it was interesting. We haven't had any recent "signs" about Alaska and Todd was just telling You yesterday, Lord, that he would really like to have another sign about Alaska. Well, last night a guy from work handed Todd a CD and said "enjoy" – he gave it to Todd because it has a song on it called "Johnny reb". This morning when I pulled it out of his lunch pail, I noticed it had the song "North to 'Alaska" on it – amazingly, when we played it, it was the SAME song we heard back in

September of 2003 at Licks when we first knew you were calling us!!! That was a real thrill to us today!

November 12, 2004 – We are at Walmart and Todd went in with me (unusual) – I had to get some groceries and we were in the dairy aisle, and Todd looked down and there was Juneau butter! As big as life! It was amazing!

November 26, 2004 – Eva is looking at a catalog at Mom and Dad Shaw's and finished looking, put it down (facing down) and on the back cover was a child's Eskimo playset with igloos and Eskimos and penguins!

December 6, 2004 – Eva is looking online for printable certificates for King's Kids and there's a link for Alaskan coloring pages on one site.....

March 2005 – we got a good tax return, and will have enough for Todd to fly to Alaska for a survey trip – praise the Lord!

March 9, 2005 – go to church tonight and talking on the way home and we were thinking of more questions for Todd to ask the pastors in Alaska and I was sharing how maybe asking if there are any ministries that are needed in Alaska that they don't have and Todd thought that was a good question and then he said "like a children's home" and there was no way Todd could have known it, but I had been listening to Freedom Village's program today as I was treadmilling and the same thought passed through my heart that maybe there was a need for a home for young people in Alaska – so I shared that with Todd – weird!!

March 19th, 2005 – Eva and Abby were at the Chiropractor's office and Abby was playing in the children's play area and Eva went to put her coat on and looked down at the book pile and there was a pictorial book on Alaska!

March 22nd, 2005 – We are out for a walk around the block and our neighbor's new front door is a mountain scene – reminded us both of Alaska immediately!

March 23, 2005 – Eva was online looking at Phil Kidd's guestbook, ran across a boy's home site in Gastonia NC (Solid Rock Baptist Church) – and one of their boys is from Fort Yukon Alaska! They only have 3 or 4 boys, so this was pretty neat! This boy was on the first page of their website....

April 18, 2005 – we are on our way down south to go talk with Jodi and Ricky and we see a kayak on top of a car and the brand was "Eskimo"

April 22, 2005 – Todd and I were at Chimney Rock at Exclamation point and were resting – there was a guide there talking to some kids about the mountains and Todd said "Let's Go" so we started to leave and he was ahead of me, and just after I passed the group I heard the guide say "the plants that grow here are the same as the ones that grow in the permafrost of Alaska"!

May 12, 2005 – Todd prayed specifically that you would show him something about Alaska, Lord, as he seeks Your direction about the survey trip and as he was driving back from GM (at work) he saw a transport truck with a big igloo and a polar bear on it!

June 11, 2005 – Todd was at the Dr's office waiting and picked up a children's story book and the cover story was of 2 children being chased by a bear so he decided to read that story – it was set in Alaska!

June 12, 2005 – Eva was looking for a mailing envelope for Dad's Father's Day gift and one of the envelopes she had had hair bows mailed in (never noticed it when it first came) had stamps with polar bears on them on it!

July 9, 2005 – Todd gets an email back from Bro. Duffett after not hearing from him for some time – Todd had been down that day and Lord, you sent the email just to encourage him...

July 15, 2005 – we are driving home from the grocery store and Eva sees a man coming out of his house and had a t-shirt with JUNEAU in big letters on it!

July 17, 2005 – Visited Maranatha Baptist for a revival meeting with Bro. Carper and met Bro. Barry Sizemore from Union Grove Baptist Church, Lexington, N.C. and Eva was talking to him and he was asking if Todd preached in our church in Lindsay and when he was asking if he was pasturing there I told him that we were called to Alaska and he said that he and his church had been there the year before last to do VBS there – and I said “ at Bro. Duffett's church?” and he said “yes” so Todd talked to him for awhile about Bro. Duffett and it was really encouraging! Thank you Lord, for keeping us directed and encouraged!

July 26, 2005 – Todd was driving to GM and right near the Thickson Road truck stop is a sign that says “Alaska Fish N Chips” – he said he'd never seen it before in all his trips to GM – then later that day Eva was at the grocery store and came out and a teenage girl came by in a red t-shirt that said North Pole on it (university of North pole or something like that)

July 30, 2005 – Todd was talking to the next door neighbor and he had an Alaskan husky dog.

July 31, 2005 – On the way to church this morning Eva saw a little wooden eskimo on a tree swing in Oshawa (the house on the left just over the railroad overpass on Harmony South – after olive but before bloor) –Then Todd was sweeping the bus and the sticker on the corner of the broom said “kodiak” and had a little polar bear on it.

August 4, 2005 – Eva and Abby were shopping at Buck or Two in Ajax and Eva reached down to get Abby a sucker and saw this candy (never seen it before in my life – neither had Todd) – it's called Eskimo Pie Snowpeaks! I couldn't resist buying a pack!

August 12, 2005 – Todd was at GM and a guy working there had pictures laid out on a

table of wildlife and what was on one in bold letters – ALASKA!

August 13, 2005 – Eva is taping MP3's from No Greater Joy and Michael Pearl uses an example of Alaskans digging fence posts!

August 14, 2005 – Listening to 680 news for the weather and one of their spots was about how far a polar bear can swim! (46 miles or more a day, by the way)

August 25, 2005 – Eva and Abby are at the Library and Eva sat down next to a stack of books and on top was a book called “What do polar bears hear?”

September 19, 2005 – Well, it's STILL happening! Thank you Lord for continuing to confirm your will in our life – Eva and Abby were out and were exchanging back US money from our Survey trip and the Sony store had a DVD playing about icebergs! Then, they went to Value Village and there was a jacket there in Abby's size that says “Iditarod team” and has sled dogs and a musher on it! We couldn't resist getting it – that is so neat!

September 27, 2005 – Eva is shopping on Ebay for winter dresses for Abby and comes across 2 sellers from Alaska – one in Anchorage and one in Seward!

October 4, 2005 - We were at Jerry's getting water and Eva went down to Salvation Army and they had the SAME Iditarod team jacket there that I found at Value Village!

October 5, 2005 - Were at Hand Me Downs in Courtice and Abby was in the play area, Eva went to get her and noticed in the books next to the play area a book called "The Whales Go By" - a book about whales in the Arctic ocean and other Alaskan animals. Then we went to Goodwill and they had another North To Alaska board game and a sweatshirt for a little boy with a polar bear and an igloo on it! It's so neat to see all these things, Lord - thank you for not letting Alaska out of our hearts!

October 15, 2005 – Eva went to pick up pizza at Pizza Hut and on the counter right in front of the checkout was a newspaper with 2 eskimos on it! It was called “North to Nunavut” but it looked just like Alaskan Indians on the cover – amazing! And it is a great resource since the inuit are closely related.... Then later that afternoon we were going to Pingle's and on the way passed a sign that said “American Eskimo Puppies for Sale” – it was at the same place we saw it a couple years ago but we never drive that way to church anymore so it was neat that it happened to be out when we were going that way...

October 18, 2005 – Eva was at MDS having bloodwork done and while she and Abby were waiting a lady came in and sat down across from us – she was wearing a t-shirt with ALASKA printed on the front with a polar bear!!! And then we were looking at National Geographic magazines in the office and the one we picked up had an article in it on Alaskan Moose! This National Geographic was from August 1987!

October 22, 2005 – Todd was looking through some News pictures and saw a herd of Musk Ox.



October 22, 2005 – was searching for a bible crafts on daniellesplace.com and there was a craft on there called “if you give a moose a muffin”!!

October 26, 2005 – Took Abby to the pediatrician and was looking through Homemakers Magazine and there was a recipe for Bake ahead Alaskan!

October 27, 2005 – Todd was in a meeting at GM and the Delphi rep walked in wearing a jacket that said ALASKA!

October 27, 2005 – Eva was merging onto the 401 and right there was a motorcoach bus with Indian Trails on the side (www.indiantrails.com)

October 28, 2005 – Eva and Abby are listening to the Captain and Sparkle this morning and Children’s Bible Hour Story mentioned Alaska – the mother in the story said “and then we’d see the pictures on Alaska” – ha!

November 3, 2005 – Abby and I are at Goodwill in Whitby and there is a totem pole on auction (hopefully we can get it for our display) and if that weren’t enough we were checked out and I grabbed our bag, and next to the cash register was a bin of cassette tapes – and the tape on the top was “Sounds of the Humpback Whale”!!!

November 22, 2005 – Flying to Charlotte and the flight attendant told us there was a diagram of the Charlotte airport in the magazine in the pocket in front of us and so I checked it out and when I was done, closed it, and on the back cover there were 3 men ice fishing, which was pretty cool in itself but then it said under them ‘ICE FISHING IN ALASKA’! Too neat!

November 23, 2005 – was at Walmart in Forest City getting groceries and saw a lady wearing a black “Alaska the last frontier” t-shirt! Jess dismissed it as “Alaska is a popular vacation place” but we know the truth, don’t we Lord!

December 7, 2005 – Todd is behind a gas truck and on the cylinders it said POLAR

December 20, 2005 – Eva is shopping at Value Village and looks over and sees a package of napkins with Alaska and all kinds of Alaskan animals on them!

December 28, 2005 – Received a letter from Jesslyn – one of the girls from Fort Yukon I sent a picture to way back in September! God knew we needed the encouragement this week, thank you Lord!

July 29, 2006 – Have not been keeping up the journal since we started Deputation preparations – but it has been amazing to see the Lord continue to direct our steps. Today Eva was in Goodwill and saw an Old Navy t-shirt that had a polar bear on it and said “Polar Ice Rink – Noatek, Alaska” – Noatek is one of the villages we stopped in briefly on our way to Point Hope on our Survey Trip!

August 6, 2006 – On our way to a meeting at Mission Baptist Church and we stopped in Tilsonburg at Wendy’s – we pulled into our parking spot and right in front of us was a huge poster of Alaska (it was a travel agency). Then that night we used the restroom at the church and the towel dispensers said Arctic right on the front!