

JOY

1985

Dear Friends,

This is the first Christmas letter I've ever written, however, I have many friends who do this annually and it seemed to fit our needs this year. With us being in Kodiak this year and since I haven't been very good about writing everyone, I thought I could fill everyone in at once.

Having been here for 8 months now, (Bill's been here 10 months already!) I finally feel like I can make an honest statement as to what I think Kodiak, Alaska is really like. Never before have I've lived anywhere that the people depend so much on the weather for their livelihood. If it's a bad day, (and there have been plenty!) the planes might not get in with the mail, or the boats may not get in with the food, or the planes may not get in, (or out!) with the people. Bill could go on a job that should take a couple days, but actually be gone weeks if the weather turns bad and he can't get back in. But, that's Kodiak and people just get used to it. I'm still trying!

Our first summer here was very rainy. Everyone said that was unusual. The first snow came on Oct. 20, (and has kept going ever since) and everyone said that was unusual. The kids seem to really enjoy it though, making the most out of every spare moment. All summer long they were in every activity I could find and the boys even got to go to church camp for the first time.

School brought a new experience for us. We put the kids into a private Christian school. With the girls being in school all day this year, I wasn't sure what I would do with my time. So I got a job at the school as the secretary. It is only half days and helps pay the tuition. We all enjoy the school very much and the kids are doing great.

Bill was busy most of the time this summer, but his spare time was well spent filling our freezer with fish. He caught mostly salmon, but he wasn't picky, he would take what ever he could catch! Now that winter is here, he's trying for deer. He got one on opening day, but ~~the~~ the last time he went out, there was a bear that was interested in him

"I bring good news of great joy...
A Savior has been born to you"
Luke 2:10, 11



So he came on home, (quickly!) without a deer.

We have found a church we're comfortable in and most of our social life stems around it. People don't go out much up here; either because there is no where to go, or it's just to expensive.

Bill's folks were here for Thanksgiving and that went real well. It was nice to have family with us. We didn't feel like we were so far away from the real world.

Kodiak is really beautiful on nice days and it is real teaching us about patience. We are glad to have had this opportunity to for such an adventure, but will be just as glad when our time is up and we come back home. We're not to sure what the good Lord has in store for us up here, but we're ready to tackle each new day with anticipation. We've done things none of us have done before and some of them have been fun, and some not so fun, but each has been a real learning experience.

That about brings you up to date with us. We wish each of you a wonderful holiday season, and hope that sometime throughout this season you will give our family a thought. We miss each of you and hope to come back to the "lower 48" soon, even if just for a visit. As we remember why we celebrate Christmas, we pray that the Peace and Love of Jesus Christ be with each of you throughout the coming year.

Love,

Bill, Connie,
Russ, Randy,
Stephanie and
Sabrina