Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
July 2018

Emmanuel Independent
Baptist Church
Pastor Frank Herndon
704-718-8239

USA AGENCY INFO:

All Points
Baptist Mission
Executive Director:
Gary Forney
P.O. Box 977
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
www.allpointsbaptist.com
pnbm.org

CANADIAN AGENCY INFO:

Points North Baptist Mission
Harvesters Baptist Church
Pastor Doug Wood
9488 Westminster Dr.
London, Ontario N6P 1P3
CANADA
www.pnbm.org

CONTACT US:
P.O. Box 11374
Iqaluit, NU X0A 1H0
CANADA

867-979-4852
hitz4baffin@gmail.com

Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

The month of July marks nine years since Loretta and I and our (then) two children left North Carolina and flew to begin our life in Nunavut. We spent nine months in Rankin Inlet interning with the Nathan Jones family before moving to Iqaluit. Most of the past eight years in Iqaluit have been marked by laying a solid foundation and planting seeds, tending, and often replanting, rather than much "harvesting", as such work often has few outward marks of "success." However, God is showing some of the *beginnings* of the harvest He is preparing.

As we shared in our last update, in March we had **a wedding** for a young couple who had professed faith in Christ last December. In May, it was our joy to see a second couple whom we had been counseling get married as well! Many, many people packed our little auditorium and heard the Gospel preached and witnessed its life-changing power in the lives of the couple being married. In these small northern communities where "everyone is related" and everyone knows everyone, the impact made by these opportunities is far-reaching.

Several in our church have asked about being baptized, and we will soon begin some classes to teach on this subject. Please pray with us that those interested would truly understand the significance of baptism and be willing to follow the Lord in this area.

This year, the LORD began to press upon my spirit an undeniable urging to **pursue options to enlarge our church facility and to acquire a home of our own for our growing family.** If our family were to move out of the church building, we would more than double the space available to the church, and I perceive that the LORD's work would be greatly enhanced. The men of the church are unified in pursuing this expansion. With a building dedicated solely for the church, several ministries would be facilitated. One such ministry is **our "Bible Institute" class**. In January we began this class on Monday nights, with four of our church adults attending, as well as our oldest son. On a recent Sunday night, all five students were recognized for attending and passing the class. (A photo of the class is attached to this email.) Having a classroom in the church would greatly aid in continuing these Bible classes and seeing that impact extended. Additionally, our church is prayerfully considering **beginning a local Christian radio station**. Radio is very popular in the north, with the radio going constantly in many homes. There is no local Christian radio station of any kind in the whole territory and we think this would be a powerful way to impact our community. More space is needed in order to pursue these opportunities.

The first step towards all these goals is for our family to move out of the church building. Interestingly, an old building just three doors down from the church has come up for sale. I have been in contact with the vendor, my bank, and a building inspector to see about the possibility of our family purchasing this building; thus our home space would be expanded and we would be free to expand the church facility. There are plenty of obstacles to hinder this remarkable opportunity, but we are thankful that we have One on our side with Whom nothing is impossible. **Please pray specifically with us as we intend to make an offer on this building soon.** We will have to offer significantly less than the asking price and we are looking to God for favor in the eyes of the seller.

If the LORD allows us to proceed with purchasing this old building nearby, we would likely need to bring up a crew of workers to make some repairs to it, as well as to help reconfigure part of the church building. There are many details and needs involved in all of this that are far beyond our abilities. Please pray with us that GOD would lead and provide for everything that is needed. As always, our greatest needs are spiritual in nature and our greatest asset is your faithful prayers. **We hope that you will rejoice with us for the victories, pray with us for the developments, and continue your vital role of helping us to see God's Kingdom furthered in this remote corner of the world.**

Christ's for the Arctic,
Paul J., Loretta, Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, and Eden Hitz

Isaiah 42:4 "The isles shall wait for His law."

Praises:

1. Nine years in Nunavut
2. A Godly wedding
3. Blessed Bible Class

Prayer Requests:

1. God's wisdom in our lives
2. Spiritual growth of believers
3. Plans to buy a home and expand the church