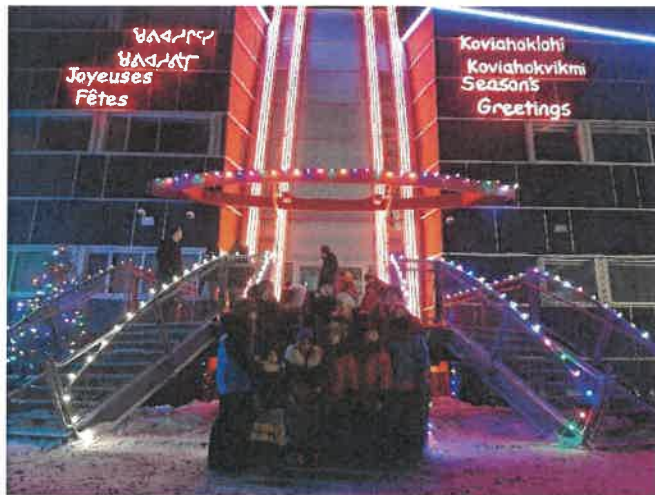




After the Christmas Concert



Stuffing Christmas Gift Bags



Standing Outside our Legislative
Assembly Building

Dear Friends and Supporting Churches,

It's a new year and with it several changes for our family and ministry. We are honored that you all take the time to read our updates and pray with us for these needs. Our winter has been unusually warm and that has brought with it a lot more snow. Our children are all enjoying the snow and sledding!

With the Christmas season, we were able to have some extra fellowship times with the church family here as well as continue our tradition of making Christmas goodie bags for the men and women in our prison facilities. It is a joy to see our church family come together at these times.

In the past year we have seen several new people join our church fellowship. We are thankful for each one and for their testimony of faith and love for Jesus Christ. Our small group has a lot of children and each family (including our own) needs God's wisdom. Please pray with us that we would be effective ministers of the Word of God.

Speaking of children, we are joyful to announce that God has blessed our family with another precious soul. **We are looking forward to June and, God willing, the addition of our 10th child.** With this birth, our children will age from 14 years down to newborn, and our girl vs. boy ratio is increasing: Baby number 10 is another girl! It is such a privilege to have these precious ones in our hands, but the weight of responsibility does not escape our minds. Your prayers on our behalf are greatly desired, that we might walk in His way before our children.

Our new home has already become such a huge blessing. We have attached some photos below. We are still in the process of finishing much-needed renovations, but we are able to live in the building. Thankfully, the dirtiest work is already done. After living in much smaller quarters with a large family, we feel like we now live in a mansion! We are so thankful for God's provision. Thank you to all who have prayed with us for God to work out all the seemingly insurmountable difficulties for us to get to this place. Truly, nothing is impossible with God.



We look forward to all the opportunities this year will hold for us. We wish we were able to make plans for a trip to the States and see some of you, but with travel restrictions in Canada being tightened plus the difficulty of finding someone to take our place in this remote area, we still have no plans for a trip south. Thank you all for your faithful prayers and support. The work is "slow" up here, but we are seeing a gradual increase. More and more we can see so clearly that God's greatest desire is not what He can accomplish through us, but what He wants to do within us. Though we long to see many more people come to salvation, we know that much of our fruit is commensurate with the faithfulness of our conformity to Him. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

The Hitz Family

Paul J., and Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, Carol, and Baby Hitz



Baffin Island

Hitz Family
September 2021

Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

Below is an overview of this update:

- Growth in church attendance 2021
- Work on our new house continues
- Canadian citizenship exams
- Plans for our mini-furlough
- Government plans for a vaccine mandate to fly within Canada

Summer came slowly to Nunavut this year and disappeared almost before we knew it was here. In September, our temperatures have quickly fallen to 30's and 40's (0-5 degrees celsius) and the beautiful colors of autumn are fading from the tundra. We can usually expect that by Labour Day the weather will have turned cold for the start of another long winter.

Our church group has seen some numeric growth this year, but COVID restrictions have also been an ongoing difficulty. Thankfully we are presently able to meet with very little restrictions. Along with the growth in people attending and the blessing of God's working through His Word, there are the disappointments. We have seen some believers struggle and the burden a pastor carries is a real weight. We thank the LORD for the privilege to be His hands and feet in a needy place.

Thank you again to all who prayed long with us for the purchase of a larger home separate from the church building. Having enough space for our large family has been life-changing! With the purchase of this house, we have had a lot of renovations. Most of the interior is done, but much exterior work remains. With summer ended now, we are striving to get some last projects completed for this year. Plenty will remain for next year, but there is critical work to do now before another winter takes its toll. As you can imagine, the harsh environment means significant wear and tear on structures.

Recently we were able to take one of the final steps toward acquiring our Canadian citizenship: taking the citizenship test. This test would typically be done in person, but the government has gone virtual for most of these processes. We passed the exam and are hopeful that we will acquire citizenship soon. Praise the LORD for getting us one step closer to dual Canadian and U.S. citizenship!

We are excited to have finally made some definite plans to take a mini furlough this fall. Our intention is to be in the States for about two and a half months starting in November. For the sake of the ministry up north, we do not feel that we can stay away for too long. We have a few men who are willing to step up and keep services going while we are gone, as well as a couple of preacher friends who are planning to fly in for a weekend to preach and encourage the church family. Because of the brevity of our planned trip, we regret that we will be able to see only a limited number of our supporting churches. Lord willing, we will attempt another mini furlough in the not-too-distant future to visit more of you.

Please do keep our travel plans in your prayers. The Canadian government has recently announced plans to restrict anyone from commercial air and train travel without a government-approved COVID vaccine. (This includes children down to age twelve and probably lower ages soon.) We certainly live in challenging times. Amid all this, the country is having a federal election on September 20. Most political parties in Canada are promoting the vaccine mandate; however, one main party is opposed. Please pray with us for leaders who will allow us to "lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Timothy 2:2)

Christ's for the Arctic,
Paul J., Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, Carol, and Rosa Hitz

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

Praises:

1. Church growth
2. Canadian Citizenship Progress

Prayer Requests:

1. Plans for furlough
2. Government vaccine mandate plans

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Baptist Church
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BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: Sep. 9, '21
40 F (5 C)

Sunrise: 5:41 a.m.
Sunset: 7:22 p.m.



The Hitz Family in *Nunavut*

We are thrilled and thankful to announce the arrival of our sweet new daughter:

Rosa Eleanor Unaapik Hitz

Born June 13, 5:12 pm

7 lbs 10 oz; 19.5 inches

(*Unaapik* means “precious little one” in Inuktitut; pronounced *oo-NAH-peek.*)

Praise the LORD!

Thank you for your prayers and care,

The Hitz Family

Paul J., and Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah,

Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, Carol, and Rosa

Our mailing address is:

Paul and Loretta Hitz

PO Box 11374

Iqaluit, NU X0A1H0

Canada

The Hitz Family in *Nunavut*

Dear Friends and Supporting Churches,

The family is greatly enjoying the onset of spring here in the far north. The snow around town is melting fast but it will be mid July before the ice in the bay breaks up. Life in our new home is vastly different with having so much more space and a much quieter neighborhood for the kids to play. The LORD has been so good to provide these blessings! Our children are growing up quickly and we are thankful for each one's desire to do right and please the Lord.

The big news in Nunavut is that our capital city, after avoiding the coronavirus for the past year, was finally visited with our first confirmed case. The numbers are not large and have recently dropped to only 20 active cases as of this writing. Regardless, the government has introduced strict lockdown measures which have affected our ability to hold public church services. We are hopeful that these measures will be short-lived as they were elsewhere in the territory. Please pray for wisdom as we seek God in how to deal with this situation.



Loretta is just two weeks to her due date with baby number ten! Both Loretta and baby are doing well, and everyone is looking forward to the new addition.

With the coming of our short summer season, we have several projects we need to accomplish on our new home and the church building. The days are never warm enough long enough to get all done that we hope, but we will do what we can while we can. One special prayer request would be for the LORD to provide the needed lumber for some of our projects. With the cost of material skyrocketing, we are looking to locate sufficient scrap material in town for our needs. Lots of material is shipped up every year in wooden crates and with the right connections, there is usually sufficient materials if one is at the right place at the right time.

We are still waiting on our Canadian citizenship to be finalized. Because of COVID shutdowns, the Canadian government is behind on immigration paperwork. We had hoped to receive our Canadian citizenship by now. Realistically, it will probably take until some time next year.

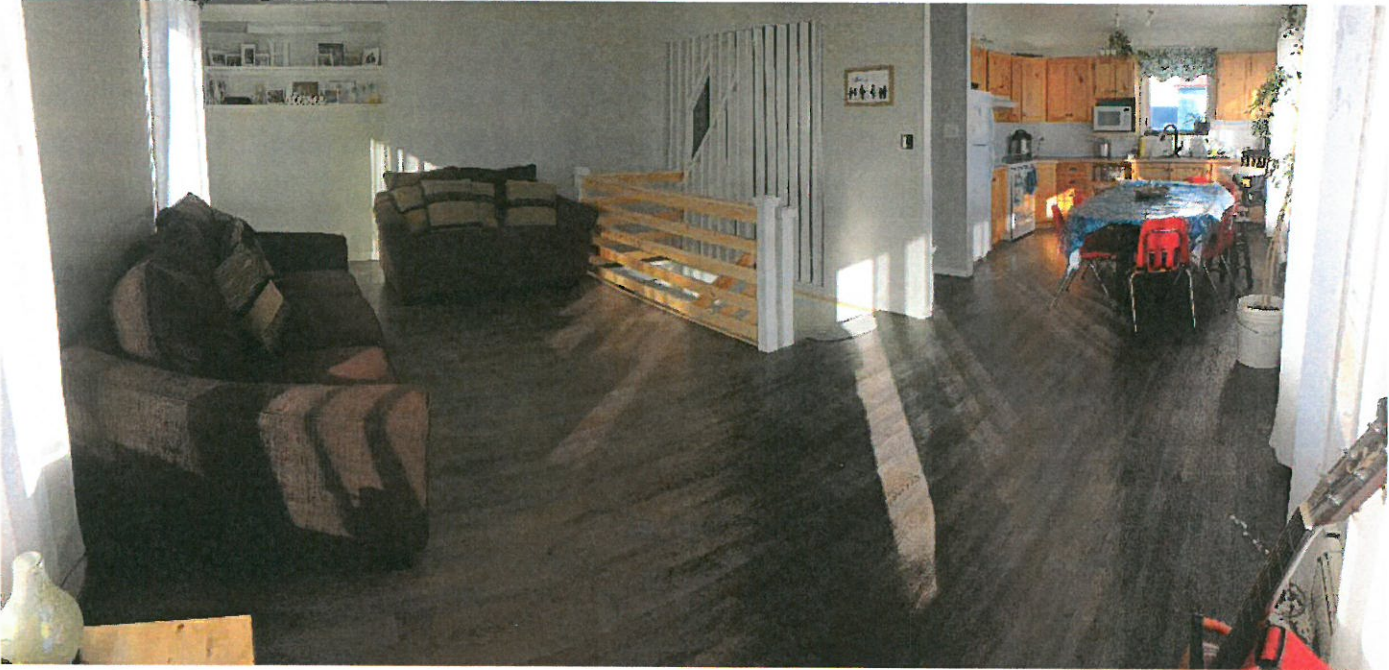
It has been about four years since we have taken a furlough and seen many of our supporting churches. We do not have any travel plans at this time, partly because of current restrictions, but also because of the need for someone to fill in for us while we are gone. Please pray with us for growth in our church that our men would be developed to take on more and more responsibility (we have some great guys who are growing).

The Hitz Family

Paul J., and Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, Carol, and Baby Hitz

Before and after of our upstairs living room and kitchen area. Stairwell and railing had to be built, a wall removed, drywall work, painting, flooring, and electrical... lots of work!



The Hitz Family in *Nunavut*

October 2020

Dear Friends and Supporting Churches,

We are delighted to share that we have closed on our new home! There were some delays outside of our control, but everything is finally done. **PRAISE THE LORD!!! Please pray with us that we can quickly get some renovations completed to move in.** The house renovations are not extreme, but large enough that we cannot move in until some of the work is done. We are praying that the LORD would provide us with good help and progress to enable us to move in soon. When we vacate the church building, the church will continue to meet there; we are eager about the new opportunities this will afford for our church family and ministries.



Along with paperwork for the house purchase, planning the renovation, packing, several outdoor summer projects, church responsibilities, online seminary class, and part time work at the Medical Boarding Home, we have had a very busy summer! And now that “Fall” is upon us with cold and snow and increasing darkness, we are looking forward to getting moved into our new home and having a more settled routine throughout the long winter.

Early this year, the four of us who were not born in Canada filed with Immigrations for our Canadian citizenship. As we are already Permanent Residents, we are allowed to live in Canada as long as we like, but living in the USA for lengths of time could jeopardize our Canadian Permanent Residence status. There are numerous privileges that citizenship will afford, including the right to vote, and longevity in our relationship with Canada. Recently we received word that our application was approved and that we should be notified within the next several months to take the citizenship test to become Canadian citizens. Thank the LORD for this progress!

Another development that the LORD has recently brought to us is the opportunity to teach a faith-based addictions program in our local prison. Our friend in Rankin Inlet, Pastor Nathan Jones, has been teaching this program in their facility for years, and it looks like we may be able to begin it as well in the next few months. Please pray with us about this opportunity, that the LORD would open all needed doors for God’s Word to be heard by Iqaluit’s incarcerated.

Our children are doing well and growing constantly! This year we have six in homeschool with grades ranging from ninth all the way down to kindergarten. The children are enjoying their subjects as well as learning piano and other skills. In a house with eleven people, there is never a dull moment.... wait, normally from about midnight to 7 a.m. things are a bit quieter. 😊

Please continue to pray for the church family up here and for the many to whom we and they witness. There are many struggles and challenges for the first-generation believers, and for all of us in this present evil world. We have a vital role to play in praying for their growth.

We are so grateful to you all for faithfully supporting our family. During the economic difficulties of this year, you have been faithful to give toward our needs. Thank you and God bless you!

The Hitz Family - Paul J., and Loretta,
Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, and Carol

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The Hitz Family in *Nunavut*

Hello, all!

We have some exciting news to share. We had asked you all to pray concerning the bank's approval of the purchase of a separate home for our family. This past week we received word that our application was approved! Lord willing, we will take possession of the building Sept. 30. The building is currently staff housing for a local business and it is in need of some renovations and repair. This is a major step for our family and a huge answer to prayer. Thank you all for praying and please don't stop as we make preparations for renovations and moving. Thank you!

The Hitz Family

Paul J, Loretta, Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, and Carol

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You are receiving this because you signed up to receive our email updates.



The Hitz Family in *Nunavut*

Dear Friends and Supporting Churches,

This month marks a milestone in our family's life: we conveniently remember it as 07/08/09 – that is 11 years ago on July 8 that Loretta and I and our two boys landed in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut to begin life in the far north. Paul Jon was then 23 months old and Kenny 10 months; we now have nine children and our oldest is turning 13! We look back with gratefulness for all that the LORD has graciously given us. THANK YOU for your part in supporting our ministry these 11 years!

We are pleased to report that the government of Nunavut has recently allowed the reopening of churches. After more than three months of not meeting publicly due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are very thankful to be gathering again. Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this unusual time. God has blessed and provided opportunities all the while.

Our family continues to do well, and we are all greatly enjoying the cheer and energy of getting outside to work and play in the beautiful arctic summer weather. The days are long, with the nights bright all the way through, and the weather is “warm” (think around

65 degrees/15 Celsius). 😊 The children are growing so fast, with our little baby having already turned one in May. Loretta and I are thankful for these precious lives and sobered at the great responsibility of rearing them. Please continue to pray for our children and our growth as parents, to accurately guide each one in “the way he should go.” (Proverbs 22:6)

In our last update we mentioned our ongoing search for housing. Last month a house came available that appears to be perfect for our family. We were able to make an offer to purchase it and have agreed with the owner upon a sale price. This happened very quickly, and we found out that there are other very interested parties, as there are very few houses currently available. We thank the LORD the seller accepted our offer rather than waiting to see how many other offers would come in. We’ve heard of this happening and sometimes houses selling for *more* than the already inflated asking price. We are currently awaiting confirmation from our bank concerning the mortgage, and we expect to hear word this week! We greatly appreciate your prayers concerning this opportunity. We are very hopeful that this may finally be the answer to our large family’s need for more spacious housing. Thank you for your interest in this matter and for praying for God’s clear direction.

The church family is doing well and glad to be together again. Please be in prayer for our local families as they strive to see their family and friends come to Christ. There are real struggles and difficulties in peoples’ lives that only the LORD can heal. We need daily wisdom in how to counsel and/or share Christ with people here.

God is Faithful and we are so blessed to know Him and get to serve Him in this place and for such a time as this. May the LORD bless your lives and churches as we all seek to faithfully serve Him according to His design, not our own!

The Hitz Family

Paul J., and Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, and Carol



The Hitz Family in *Nunavut*

Dear Friends and Supporting Churches,

COVID-19

Our lives have been dramatically changed, as we know that yours have as well, with the ramifications of the coronavirus. Our territory is the last place in Canada that has no confirmed cases of the virus. Regardless, the government has taken measures like everywhere else in Canada; all schools are closed, and we are not able to hold our regular church services. We have moved to recording and sharing sermons onto an internet platform and we are thankful that all our church family has the access. We are still able to go to the stores, post office, and other necessary places, but we are advised to stay home as much as possible. Please pray for our church family at this time that each one would stay encouraged and growing in the LORD.

Our family is doing well, and we are all very thankful for the first effects of Spring! The days are getting longer and sunnier, and the sun has melted the snow and ice off most of the roads. In all, we are very healthy these days and we are striving to use this time to spend quality time as a family (still homeschooling) and making progress to spread God's truth in any way possible. My part-time work at the medical boarding home has continued, as it is an essential service. This obviously puts me at higher risk for the virus, but we are content to take precautions and trust the LORD with all these things.

We do not know how much longer our situation will remain, but until things change, we will continue to minister from a distance with our church folks and put God's Word online for all who have ears to hear. It has been neat to see the content posted online already reach far more people than we did before the virus shut down our public services. Please pray specifically for our church family here that each individual and family would grow spiritually through this time and that Loretta and I would have God's wisdom to disciple and evangelize effectively during these unusual times.

HOUSE HUNT

We had asked prayer about an offer we made for a large lot that the city was putting up for sale. We have not received a definitive answer; however, at this point it does not look likely that we'll be given the opportunity to purchase. We have spent considerable time looking into expanding our current building, but we've also run into several hurdles (including the pandemic situation). We are still seeking a path forward to have more space for our large family, as the current situation of sharing the building with the church makes everything very tight. Our capital city has outgrown its current housing capacity and construction attempts do not seem sufficient for the continual growth. There are very few properties for sale and everything for sale is very expensive. But God is able! Will you continue to pray with us about this need?

Thank you, each one, for your prayers and financial support of our family. We strive to be faithful to the LORD that your investment in this ministry not be in vain. Please know that good things are happening here and we are so thankful for your faithfulness to help us!

The Hitz Family

Paul J., and Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, and Carol



The Hitz Family in *Nunavut*

The far north has descended into the dark and cold months of the year with some communities having watched the sun set for the last time in four months. We are thankful our community is a little bit below the arctic circle so although our winter days are very short, we at least still have some sun light every day. Please pray with us during the long, cold winter when it is common for suicides and alcohol-related accidents to escalate.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In this past year the LORD has brought several changes for our family, one of which was for me to start a part-time job at our local medical boarding home. Because Iqaluit has the only hospital in the territory, Inuit are sent here by the hundreds every month for treatment. The LORD opened the door for me to start working there as a driver and this work environment has proven to be very helpful on many fronts. It answers to one great need that I have been praying about: that I would be able to increase my Inuktitut language abilities. Because English is predominant in the "big city", it is challenging to get a daily, working use of Inuktitut. Now, with my work, I am hearing and speaking far more Inuktitut than ever before. Also, I have gotten to know many people from all over Nunavut. The boarding home is a constant revolving door of precious souls needing physical and spiritual help. The extra work has proven a challenge in some ways, but also a tremendous blessing. **Please pray with me that my Inuktitut language abilities will greatly improve and that these friendships will result in people coming to know our LORD.**

CHRISTMAS

Christmas time was a time of ministry for our church as we again put together and distributed gift bags to three different prison facilities in our town. I am still regularly going into the men's minimum-security prison on Saturdays and am pleased to regularly have men attend the Bible studies. We also held a special Christmas outreach service and had many visitors attend and hear the Gospel. Though we are still a small group of believers that meet, we are seeing our "circle of influence" gradually growing with each passing year.

FUTURE PLANS

For the past couple of years, we have made great efforts to figure out what to do with our church building and housing situation. With our growing family, we have well outgrown our small living space. The whole town has been in a housing crunch for years with recent growth creating what many are calling a crisis. There are truly next to no options for land or housing in our town and the few options that come available are sold for astronomical prices. One option we have been pursuing is to expand our current building to make more room for our family. However, an unusual opportunity recently arose when an old satellite site facility moved out and gave their lease and buildings back to the city. The city put out a call for proposals for this unusually LARGE lot (1.8 hectares/4.6 acre) with a 1,300 square foot building. Because of infrastructure issues, there are not many viable options for the lot. However, seeing that a church would fit the requirements of the lot, we submitted a proposal to purchase the property and buildings from the city for Iqaluit Baptist Church. This is a very rare opportunity and we are praying for God's clear direction in the city's decision. **Please, please pray for God's intervention in this important opportunity!** We are looking to Him for either a "yes" or a "no".

Concerning the church group here, we continue to see growth in the lives of our core families. Also, the LORD has given many opportunities recently to witness and some of the situations are extremely needy. How we long to see more people submit themselves to the life-changing power of our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ! **Please pray for our core families to continue to grow and live for the LORD with no restraints, and for the many lost souls to whom we are witnessing.**

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support of our family.

The Hitz Family

Paul J, Loretta, Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, and Carol

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You are receiving this because you signed up to receive our email updates.

Our mailing address is:

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Before and After



Supporter's faithfulness – In meditating on our ten years in Nunavut, our minds are quickly drawn to the blessing that you all have been to us over the years. Many of you, churches and individuals, have prayed for and/or financially supported us from the very beginning. God has used you to meet so many of our needs. Just starting to count all that has been invested during these ten years is humbling. THANK YOU to each and every one who has prayed for the ministry here and generously given to meet our financial needs. Only the LORD knows who all has done what. May He bless you greatly for your love and care for our family and the precious souls of the Inuit whom we have been called to serve.

The next step.... – It is natural at this milestone to think about not just the past ten years, but the next ten years as well. If God should tarry His return and keep us in this present world, what will the next ten years hold for our life and ministry? Some of our vision for the next years of the work in Iqaluit are as follows:

- To see our children mature into Godly adults who know and love Him with all of their hearts.
- To see the believers here increasingly grounded in their knowledge of and relationship with Christ to become Godly leaders, spouses, and parents capable of making disciples of others.
- To apply for and receive dual citizenship in Canada for me and Loretta and our two US-born children (our Canadian-born children will automatically be eligible for dual citizenship). We have started the process of preparing all the paperwork.
- To see our church group take the next steps into officially organizing and acquiring it's own building.

Again, ten years is a long time that many of you have supported us in Nunavut. THANK YOU for your prayers and financial support. May the LORD be exalted in this far northern end of the world until He returns.

Christ's for the Arctic,

Paul J. & Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, Eden, and Carrie Hitz

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

Praises:

1. 10 years of life and ministry in the north
2. A small but growing assembly of believers
3. The LORD's faithful provision

Prayer Requests:

1. Spiritual growth of our family
2. The church group to be stable, to organize and acquire its own building.
3. To acquire dual citizenship in Canada

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BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: Sep. 10, '19
42 F (6 C)

Sunrise: 5:42 a.m.

Sunset: 7:20 p.m.



Hello, all. We are happy to announce the birth of our tie breaker child... And the girls are ahead with the birth of Carol Mae Aputi Hitz. She was born at 12:40 PM, May 28. She was 19.5 inches (50 cm) long and weighed 8 pounds. Loretta and baby Carol are doing well. Thank you to all who have prayed for us. We are so thankful for this new life added to our family. What an amazing gift from God.

In Christ, Paul Hitz and Family.



Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
January 2019

Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

Whenever the weather is extremely cold and especially when it is windy, we can tell the difference in our house. I woke up this morning and could feel that the house was a bit cooler than normal. After checking the weather app on my phone, I knew why. For those unfamiliar with Celsius and not sure of the comparison to Fahrenheit, let me assure you, it was very cold!

We had a good Christmas holiday season with several extra activities plus some added time to spend together as a family. Our annual church Christmas dinner was well-attended and a blessing to all. There was plenty of food, good fellowship, and some visitors. For the second year in a row, our church gathered together Christmas gift bags for the men at one of our local prison facilities. This year we expanded the effort to include the women's prison facility. Both the men and the women were very thankful and appreciative for the gifts given. We included some Scripture material in each bag and we pray for the Good Seed of the Word to grow in hearts. Another blessing this year was the invitation I received to attend a Christmas gathering sponsored by the prison. After more than two years of consistently holding Bible studies in the prison facility, we are seeing increasing opportunities to influence.

Our church group over the past year has continued to grow in spiritual strength and maturity and we have added a couple new consistent attenders. We have had many visitors, and most happily, our local people are increasingly making an impact in their families' and friends' lives. This is the long-term growth, the "fruit that remains" that we have been working toward from the very beginning. There is still much to be accomplished, but we praise the LORD for what He is doing and we are seeking to be faithful to Him in all our ways.

Our family is excited to announce that, LORD willing, in May we will grow by another precious soul! **Loretta is due with baby #9**; we would appreciate your prayers for her and the child. This little one will be a tie breaker between the four boys and the four girls, so we are waiting to be surprised at what God has chosen for us. Now for the hard part..... deciding on a name!

With the continued growth of the church group and the growth of our family, we sense more and more the need to either move out of the church to our own home or to have the church move into its own space. When we moved into the shared church/house, we had five young children six years old and under; but now with baby #9 soon to arrive, we are feeling the squeeze of the tight quarters. These conditions have been a difficulty, to be honest, but we are more thankful for God's refining of our hearts (our attitudes) toward our situation than we are about the prospect of God relieving our situation. We have spent over a year praying and searching for either option; the greatest physical obstacles (nothing is impossible with God!) are the immense cost and the lack of real-estate options in our capital city. **Would you pray specifically for us that God would open the door for us to take this next vital step?** There is a foreclosed house that has recently come on the market. It will need some significant repairs, but it is in much better condition than the church building was when we bought it. If we are to get this building, we will need the bank to accept an offer within our affordability, and we will need some help to do the repairs. **Please pray with us that God would open this particular door if that is His will.**

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

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

Praises:

1. Church growth
2. Ministry opportunities in the local prisons

Prayer Requests:

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

Emmanuel Independent
Baptist Church
Pastor Frank Herndon
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P.O. Box 11374
Iqaluit, NU X0A 1H0
CANADA

867-979-4852
hitz4baffin@gmail.com

BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: Jan. 10, '19
-26 F (-32 C)
Wind chill -54 F (-48 C)
Sunrise: 9:07 a.m.
Sunset: 2:17 p.m.

▼ Current Conditions	
 Ice Crystals	-32°C °C °F
Wind: NNW 32 km/h	Wind Chill: -48
▼ More details	
Temperature: -31.8°C	Pressure: 102.5 kPa↓
Dew point: -36.2°C	Visibility: 16 km
Humidity: 66%	
Date: 7:24 AM EST Thursday 10 January 2019	
Observed at: Iqaluit Airport	



Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
October 2018

Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

Winter has returned to the far north. The last couple months have been busy with extra time devoted to winter preparations. Among other repairs, I fixed a leaky drain pipe, installed a new heat trace, repaired weather stripping around exterior doors, and installed a more efficient oil pan heater on our vehicle. We are thankful to have a woodstove, and a supply of wood (mostly from used shipping pallets) chopped and ready for the winter. As I type this letter I am enjoying the warmth of the stove. We've been in the north for nine years now and I don't think I can say that I love the cold any more than when I came. However, I have learned how to better prepare for it and to learn to enjoy some of the unique opportunities that come with it. These physical difficulties are a good opportunity for us all to be reminded that our joy and strength to walk with God does not come from external circumstances. How many times do we find ourselves thinking, "If it just wasn't so cold ... , or "If I were just a little younger... then I'd do this for the LORD." Our sole purpose in life is to know and serve Christ.

In our last update, we asked you all to pray about our need to expand the church facility and find other housing for our family. Our offer to purchase a building down the street was rejected and although the owner has come down slightly on the price, he is not willing to meet us in the middle at a price we can afford. We have not given up hope and we trust that the LORD will provide somehow; if not this building, then something else. For those who may not realize, the housing market in the capital city is very high: we recently looked at a 1-bath, 2-bedroom house (plus a den) that has been reduced in price to \$499,000 CAD (about \$380,000 USD). Our town is constantly growing and there has been a history of shortage and overpricing in housing. "With God all things are possible."

In September I had the opportunity to go to a pastor's conference in Saskatchewan. While there I was able to connect with several old friends and make some new ones. It was a blessing in many ways to be able to be there.

In October, we had some severe weather (high winds) that caused a lot of damage to buildings in town. Many buildings had roofing and siding ripped off. Our church property was not damaged other than one small piece of metal flashing that I had to re-screw at the corner. With so much debris flying around, the LORD protected us, for which we are thankful. For Canadian Thanksgiving on October 8, our entire church family came together and we had a great feast. After eating and some time in Scripture, we all gave testimony of our thanks to the LORD. As a pastor to these people, I was very blessed to hear each give thanks to God for His working in their lives. It is humbling to look around a room and see the faces of people that God has allowed you to lead and influence. Also in October, I was able to take advantage of some air miles and make a short trip to see my dad on his 80th birthday. The time went so quickly, but I am very thankful for these little opportunities to be with family on this side of eternity. Missionaries of the past said goodbye to family at the shipyard, knowing they would likely never see their family again until Heaven; we are very blessed in our day to have such amazing transportation opportunities.

With winter upon us, we are making plans to start up several different teaching opportunities. I will be teaching a Bible Institute class on weeknights and Loretta is preparing to hold some weekly meetings with our ladies who are raising children. There is much ground to be prepared and seeds to be sown, but we are thankful for a group of believers who are hungry for God's truth. We are also preparing to have some baptisms soon. Please pray with us that through this winter we would see much growth in the lives of these believers and also progress made in witnessing to the many souls all around us.

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. Safety Traveling
2. Successful winter preparation

Prayer Requests:

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

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

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Executive Director:
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BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: Oct. 19, '18
13 F (-11 C)
Wind chill 5 F (-15 C)
Sunrise: 7:34 a.m.
Sunset: 5:04 p.m.



VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
CERTIFICATE OF THE BIBLE
Nick Markpe
Presented to
[Signature]

VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
CERTIFICATE OF THE BIBLE
Gloria Markpe
Presented to
[Signature]

VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
CERTIFICATE OF THE BIBLE
Paul Jonathan Hitz
Presented to
[Signature]

VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
CERTIFICATE OF THE BIBLE
David Nalsonwick
Presented to
[Signature]

VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
CERTIFICATE OF THE BIBLE
Becky Kilabuk
Presented to
[Signature]







Baffin Island

Hitz Family
August 2017

Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

We are settled back in Iqaluit and enjoying the “warm” summer. We say “warm” because the summer temperatures are typically in the 50’s and 60’s (10°-15° Celsius) here. We are so thankful to be home! The longer God has us here, the more this place truly feels like our earthly (although still temporary) home. These people have become our people and we pray and continue to work to see that these people truly see us as one of them.

There have been many needs and responsibilities with returning to Baffin Island. Nathan Schrock, Loretta’s younger brother, has completed his two-month internship with us and in Rankin Inlet, helping to fill in for Nathan Jones and Kangiqliniq Baptist Church. Nathan has done a great job and will soon be starting his senior year at Bible College. Please pray for him as he seeks God’s direction for the next steps in his life.

The ministry here is growing. That is not to say that our Sunday and Wednesday crowd has grown exponentially, but that the LORD has given us more and more opportunities for ministry with the people here. We are actively discipling some of our church folks and working with unbelievers to see them come to true faith – firmness – in God.

Along with the ministry to others, our growing family is a great focus for this time in our lives. Our oldest son just turned ten. It is sobering to realize that roughly half of his “at home” training is past. These years are so important and we desire your prayers that we would discipline ourselves to know and walk in God’s design for training our children. Loretta is due with baby #8 at the end of this month! We have a friend coming up to be with us for a bit to help with the extra responsibilities.

During the summer, there are always many projects that need to be done. With the warm weather being so brief, summer is an important time to get as much outdoor work accomplished as possible. Yearly maintenance on the house, vehicle maintenance and repairs, and a number of remaining projects on the church property keep us very busy. We also received our yearly sealift order of dry goods and other materials; it is always a process to get all those things organized in the house, as many of the items must be kept from freezing and heated space in the arctic is always hard to come by.

This past week we received word that Paul’s Grandmother died and entered her rest with the LORD. She was bedridden for a number of years and we are happy for her. It is moments like these that are great reminders of the brevity of life and the necessity to “seek those things which are above.” (Colossians 3:1) Thank you for your prayers for our family at this time.

Christ’s for the Arctic,

Paul J., Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, and Baby Hitz

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

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BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: June 8, '17
61 F (16 C)
Sunrise: 4:28 a.m.
Sunset: 8:49 p.m.

Praises:

1. Nathan’s good internship
2. Loretta’s and baby’s good health
3. Grandma’s Entry to Heaven
4. Hannah’s coming to Iqaluit to help

Prayer Requests:

1. God’s Wisdom in our lives
2. Salvation of souls
3. Nathan’s senior year of Bible College
4. Loretta and the delivery of Baby Girl



Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
April 2017

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BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: April. 18, '17
9 F (-13 C)

Sunrise: 4:53 a.m.

Sunset: 8:13 p.m.

Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

Hello to all! We are halfway through our furlough and grateful to report that we have had safe travels over many thousands of miles. The LORD has indeed been gracious to us! Our travels have taken us from Ottawa to as far west as Arizona and as far east as North Carolina. All of our supporting churches that we've visited have been a blessing to us and we have been encouraged by the love and care shown. It is fun to watch our children experience so many things that were normal to our childhood, but are foreign to them. We've gotten a barrage of questions such as, "Why does one town need so many stores and restaurants?" and, "Do they have bathrooms in the States?" The children have also been fascinated and terrified by bugs, thunderstorms, and the threat of tornados, some things that they never encounter in the far north.

Our co-worker, Bro. Thad, reports continued good services and ministering opportunities in Iqaluit while we are gone. We are very grateful to have their family continuing the ministry in our absence. Though we are away, our hearts are not far from our home and the dear friends we have there. It is neat to see how the LORD ties one's hearts to the people to whom He sends one. Please keep the believers in Iqaluit in prayer as well as the many who still need to be saved.

We are delighted that the LORD is giving us another child, and it is a GIRL!! Maybe some of you noticed the subtle hint in our last prayer letter in which we included "Baby Hitz" at the end of our signature. Loretta is due at the end of August; we intend to get back to Iqaluit in June and have the baby up there. Please keep Loretta and the baby in prayer as we travel.

Another blessing is that God is sending another summer intern to Nunavut! Nathan Schrock is a Bible College student who will be helping out with our ministry and the Baptist church in Rankin Inlet. We'd appreciate your prayers for Nathan as he finishes up his junior year at Ambassador Baptist College and makes preparations to come north in June for about eight weeks.

We have just uploaded our furlough video to the internet. For those who would like to see our update video, as I mentioned before, just send us a reply e-mail and we will send you a private link to view the video.

Christ's for the Arctic,

Paul J., Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, and Baby Hitz

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

Praises:

1. Safety traveling thus far
2. Good meetings with supporting churches
3. Good report from the ministry in Iqaluit

Prayer Requests:

1. God's Wisdom in our lives
2. Continued language study
3. Salvation of souls
4. Safety traveling on furlough

Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
February 2017



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Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

Our family is now in the States for the next four months. We are looking forward to updating many of our supporting churches, presenting the far north to a few new churches, and spending some precious time with family and friends. We had a blessed trip down from Nunavut, and we trust the LORD for safety and His blessings and provision as we travel the States. God graciously provided a twelve-passenger van from a Christian business man and all of our needs are being met.

December and January were full as we saw the return of our co-workers, had Christmas activities and special services, saw the arrival of the Peacocks' seventh baby, and prepared to take our furlough. Our church Christmas party was a particular joy; though we are not consumed with numbers as though that is the standard of success, we were definitely encouraged to see a record attendance of 61 souls for that gathering. The message given that evening was on the meaning of the title "Christ" as attributed to Jesus, seeing Him as the "Chosen One" promised from the earliest days of man's history (Genesis 3:15).

The ministry in the north is going well; we continue to see a number of the people who come to church growing in their understanding of God and their relationship with Him. We have been giving marriage counseling to a young couple who have been seriously seeking God's leading in their life. It is such a joy to see people growing and listening to God's Spirit through His Word! Please pray for this couple and the number of others who are hearing the Word: that the lost would come to saving faith and that the saved would continue to grow in their understanding. Below is a recent photo after a Sunday service. Some of our regular attenders were missing, including Thad and Emily, as little Brooke was born only a few hours later!

Although we will not be able to visit with all our churches on this short furlough, we will try to send a video update and prayer cards to those churches that we are not able to see this time. If anyone who receives this letter would also like to receive our update video or prayer card, please respond to our e-mail address with your contact information and we will try to include you in the mailing. Please know that you are ALL appreciated for your part in our ministry. Thank you for giving and praying for the LORD's work in the far north!

We will keep you updated in the following months as to how our furlough is going, and we earnestly desire your prayers for safety as we travel many miles. Also, please pray that God would use us to be a blessing to God's people and anyone we may meet as we travel.



BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: Feb. 08, '17

-21 F (-29 C)

Sunrise: 7:50 a.m.

Sunset: 3:47 p.m.

Christ's for the Arctic,
Paul J., Loretta,

Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, Elaina, and Baby Hitz

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

Praises:

1. Well-attended church services
2. Safety traveling thus far
3. Safe Delivery of Brooke Peacock

Prayer Requests:

1. God's Wisdom in our lives
2. Continued language study
3. Salvation of souls
4. Safety traveling on furlough

Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
September 2016



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Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

Hello from Baffin Island! When we last wrote to you in June, spring had finally come to us. Three months later, summer is over and autumn is upon us with lots of rain, wind, and sleet, a little bit of snow, and temperatures below freezing point at night. Each season bears the mark of the Creator's handiwork and brings with it different opportunities and responsibilities. Of course, we will miss warm, sunny days but we also are looking forward to what God has for us this winter season.

The summer was very busy for us with outdoor projects, fishing, maintenance, and many ministry opportunities. We are thrilled to report that many of the first time visitors that I previously mentioned are now attending regularly. Three new families have started coming this summer as well as three single adults and we have had many more visitors. God has continued to give us open doors to preach His Word into lives and homes. We have spent years in Iqaluit just trying to "break through" and now that God is giving us people who are listening, the responsibility of shepherding weighs heavily upon us. Please pray with us that God would have the victory in these individuals and families: that they would become rooted and grounded in the LORD. There are so many distractions and we are not ignorant of Satan's devices.

In July, Paul's parents were able to visit for the first time. It was a very special time for all of us and great memories were made. The picture below is of the oldest six grandkids standing with Grandpa and Grandma between the jaw bones of a bowhead whale.



Our co-workers are still traveling on furlough and are doing well. Many of the folks here keep asking us when they are coming back. They are planning to return to Iqaluit in December. Please keep them in prayer.

These days there is much going on in our lives personally and in the ministry publicly. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated. Loretta's health is good once again, seven months after her surgery. We both are quickly approaching the mid-point of our "three score and ten years" allotment of time from our Creator and are realizing more and more the importance of laying solid foundations: in our home with our children and marriage, in our personal walk with the LORD, and in our ministry. As you pray for us, pray that we would ever be seeking and receptive to know and follow God's design. Time is too short to waste it on anything else. May the LORD bless you for your ministry in our lives!

BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE
Iqaluit: Sept. 16, '16
33 F (1 C)

Sunrise: 6:01 a.m.
Sunset: 6:58 p.m.

Christ's for the Arctic,

Paul J., Loretta, Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, and Elaina Hitz

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

Praises:

1. Visit from family
2. Growth in people coming to church
3. Progress made throughout the summer

Prayer Requests:

1. Wisdom in our lives
2. Continued language study
3. Salvation of souls
4. Co-workers' furlough

Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
April 2016



Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

Hello from the far north! The past weeks have been eventful and surprising for our family with Loretta's unexpected surgery and gradual recovery. God has strongly reminded us of the brevity of life, the weakness of our flesh, and His faithfulness through all things. Thank you for praying for Loretta's health. She is making a good recovery and just recently has felt some of her stamina return. She still has months of recovery to go, but we praise the LORD for His healing.

God saw fit to provide us with visits from my (Paul's) sister for a couple of weeks, and then from Loretta's mother for another two weeks. Their combined help has made a big difference for our family as Loretta recovers. We have enjoyed the fellowship with family that we have not seen in a long while.

Our children are steadily growing and we are reminded of the great importance of these formative years in their lives. Please pray for them that they would continue to have soft hearts to God's truth and that we as parents would reflect Christ to them, and accurately disciple them in His truth.

Other news of interest is that our co-workers will be leaving for furlough next month and we will again be alone at the helm of the ministry here. Please pray for the Peacocks as they make final travel preparations.

With the start of the New Year, we began having a once-a-month special "Church Family Night." God has blessed the special services and we've seen great attendance each time we have had it. We also had a large turnout for our Resurrection Sunday service; many stayed for a meal right after the service and visited for a long time. We pray that God will nurture a hunger for His Word and a desire for Godly fellowship. Please pray with us for the families and individuals that we are visiting, befriending, and teaching. It has been nearly seven years since our family left for Nunavut and the things we have seen the LORD accomplish recently sure seemed impossible to the young couple who left for the arctic with two little children years ago.

Please note that the name of our mission agency has been changed and all support checks should be made out to All Points Baptist Mission. There is essentially no change going on here as All Points has been the sister ministry of Points North for many years, operating out of the same office and church. The two names are amalgamating. Bro. Gary Forney is remaining as the executive director of the combined agencies.

Christ's for the Arctic,

Paul J., Loretta, Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, and Elaina Hitz

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

Emmanuel Independent
Baptist Church
Pastor Frank Herndon
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BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE
Iqaluit: March 31, '16
-12 F (-24 C)

Sunrise 5:55 a.m.
Sunset 7:21 p.m.

Praises:

1. Loretta's continued recovery from surgery
2. Additional help from family
3. Visitors to church and special services

Prayer Requests:

1. Loretta's full recovery
2. Continued language study
3. Salvation of souls
4. Training of our 7 children
5. Co-workers' furlough plans

Baffin Island

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Hitz Family
January 2016



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BAFFIN BITS:

ARCTIC ATMOSPHERE

Iqaluit: Jan. 21, '16
-15 F (-26 C)
Windchill -40
Sunrise 8:44 a.m.
Sunset 2:46 p.m.

Praises:

1. Good Christmas time ministry opportunities
2. A healthy family

Prayer Requests:

1. Continued language study
2. Local people to respond to God's conviction
3. Safety through winter

Dear Supporting Churches and Friends,

It is a new year! In looking back on 2015, we see much to be thankful for:

In the beginning of the year, we were in the States on furlough and enjoying some time with family during the holidays. In February, we received our long-awaited Canadian permanent residence! Shortly after that, Paul had a burst appendix with near septic conditions and spent five days in the hospital in South Carolina. God provided through this difficult times with the help of old friends and the forming of new.

After returning to Baffin Island in April, we soon got busy with working to complete the church building, catching up with local friends, planning for a summer intern, and getting back into the full scope of the ministry of the Iqaluit church plant.

In May we had a summer intern, Gage Gilbert, with us for two months. His internship included going to a small neighboring community, Paul teaching a two-month Inuktitut beginners' course, and many other profitable and enjoyable ventures.

In June, Loretta's Grandfather died. God worked in a sudden and miraculous way for Loretta to get a "free" air miles ticket off of the island and she was able to attend the funeral. This part of Loretta's family are Old-Order Amish. God worked it out that ALL the children and grandchildren of Loretta's Grandpa were able to come to the funeral; this large effort made by the non-Amish cousins greatly impacted our many unsaved relatives.

In August our co-workers' parents, Pastor Don and Debbie Barth, visited when Emily was due to deliver Isaac. Pastor Barth was a great help for Thad and I to finish up some work on the church property.

In October, our third daughter, Elaina Leetia, was born! A good friend, Jennifer Hempen, flew up and was a great help to us for several weeks surrounding Elaina's birth.

In November we had the much-anticipated Grand Opening of Iqaluit Baptist Church's building. The building was packed out and the Gospel was preached. God used the Grand Opening to give us new contacts and ministry opportunities.

In December we had a Christmas candlelight carol-sing service which brought out several first-time visitors. Having the church building has provided a lot of new opportunities such as this.

We are very thankful for each of you, individuals and churches, who have supported us throughout the past year. May the LORD bless you for your faithfulness! Planting a church in the far north is a slow process but be assured that God is working.

Christ's for the Arctic,

Paul J., Loretta, Paul Jon, Kenny, Micah, Josiah, Julia, MaryBeth, and Elaina Hitz

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