

April 2025 • Vol XIV • No. 4

Dr. George Zarris, Director
Barbara Zarris, Editor

"declaring God's glory..." (Psalm 19:1)

Missionary Michael Forss

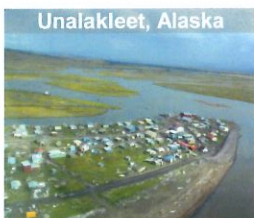
A FAR-FLUNG PLACE

The Inupiaq village of Unalakleet on the coast of Norton Sound at the mouth of the Unalakleet River in western Alaska is about as remote a place as one can find. Four hundred miles from the nearest road and a \$500 plane ticket (one way) from Anchorage, Unalakleet is not a casual, drop-by-for-a-visit, tourist destination despite its rustic setting. Although the village is a "hub" between Nome, Bethel, and Dillingham and a stop along the Iditarod Race, the 768 inhabitants have very little opportunities for work. They survive on a subsistence level by hunting, fishing and crabbing.

Despite its small size, Unalakleet has some modern amenities—a small airport, a clinic, a dentist, and two convenience stores (think 7 Eleven). Be prepared! Eggs are \$12 per dozen; a gallon of milk is \$15; and beef—no one knows. The villagers don't buy beef because they can provide 600 pounds of meat for their family needs by killing a moose once a year. Fish, salmon, and an occasional caribou round out

their diet. Chicken, fruit, vegetables, and ALL other staples must be special-ordered and flown in.

Twenty years ago, Missionary Pat McCoy established the Lighthouse Baptist Church in this very close-knit community and had the foresight to build a Christian radio station (*KLIU 89.9 FM—Bering Light Radio*) for this cold, isolated outpost. When he resigned in 2021, Michael Forss, who had assisted in the village work, assumed the pastorate of about forty people. Saved at age thirteen at the Independent Baptist Church in Anchorage, Alaska, and trained under Pastors Stan Roach and Terry McGovern, Michael is uniquely qualified to serve in the indigenous communities because he endured adversity through a difficult childhood. Resilience, perseverance, and ingenuity coupled with the survival skills of hunting, fishing, and construction have helped Michael, his wife Amanda, and their six children to endure the difficulty of living in the Far North without modern conveniences. Exhausting tasks such as preparing food,



WE'RE REACHING THE WORLD!

collecting driftwood, and transporting water are exacerbated in winter by the nineteen hours of darkness and subzero temperatures. Burnout is a real possibility. The family looks forward to flying to the road system once a year (at the cost of \$7,000) in order to stock up on supplies and reconnect with family.

In November 2024, CRI co-director Gene Sharp traveled to Unalakleet to replace *Bering Light Radio's* antiquated equipment with state-of-the-art technology provided by *VCY America Radio Network*, a Christian media ministry. Climbing the tower was treacherous in the balmy -7° degrees Fahrenheit with an accompanying 40 miles-per-hour wind.

"Why would anyone choose to serve in such a remote and difficult area?" someone asked Gene.

"Are there people there?" Gene replied. "When God said 'all the world' he meant it!"

"Isn't a radio station a large expense for such a small area?" another queried.

"I believe my job is to find the right man—a faithful man—and use the tools in his sandbox to carve out opportunities to build his work. No work is too small, and no place is too insignificant. A faithful man in a far-flung place is priceless!"



Missionary Randy DeMerville

PHILIPPINES, *Dumaguete*

Testimony from Missionary Randy DeMerville

We have seen more than 5,600 souls saved on our various outreaches with a total of 655 public professions of faith in our church service and 266 baptized for the year. The radio ministry continues to grow since our FM station reaches the entire area. Every Saturday evening, we use our station to gather our people around their radios and devices for a prayer time to which they can send their requests. We have seen many answers to prayer as our people labor on Saturday morning to share the gospel and invite people to church. Then on Saturday night we ask the Holy Spirit to magnify our efforts and save people on Sunday.



Missionary Paul Dudka (on right)

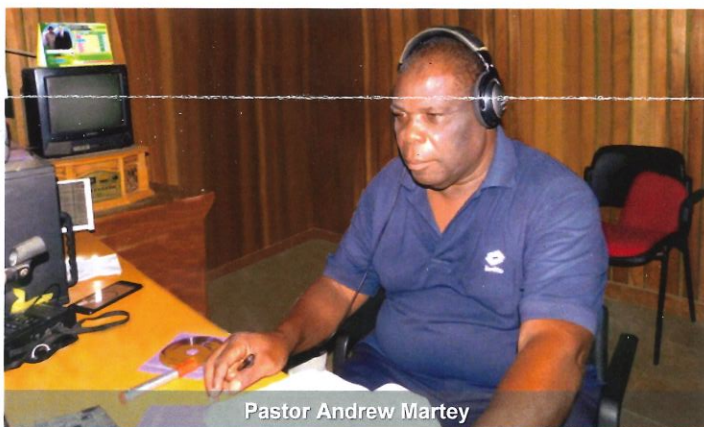
UKRAINE, *Vizhnytsia*

Testimony by Missionary Paul Dudka

The local government asked me to help a soldier who fought in the East and lost his health. He had returned home to his disabled wife, but they had no food. I took them two food packages and gave them the gospel of Jesus. The man listened with tears in his eyes, and said, "I know you because I've seen that you're a popular pastor. I've listened to your sermons on social media. It is an honor to have you at my doorstep."

To my friends at CRI: Thank you for supporting us in Ukraine during this war. We would have imploded without your prayers. We would have starved without your gifts. I am truly grateful! Please pray for us! We need peace!

Editor's note: Paul was very sick for seventeen days with a virus and infection so severe he almost died. God has raised him up, and he continues to hold meetings almost daily in the villages. The hopelessness of the war continues to take its toll mentally and physically. Please pray for the war to end and for the Ukrainian people not to end up in Russian bondage.



Pastor Andrew Martey

NIGERIA, *Minna* Pastor Andrew Martey

Our radio ministry is faithfully doing its job. Muslims are saved every month because of the radio program on the local Muslim station. Please pray for the station manager who has been listening and asking questions.

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