

Survivorman: An Intern's First Winter in the Bush

By Andrew Wolff

A humorous glimpse into the life of InterAct intern, Andrew Wolff. Andrew, who visited Huslia during Summer Impact '08, is currently serving the Lord alongside the Ernsts in this remote Alaskan village – and it's been a steep learning curve!

Missionary life in Alaska includes its fun and games.

But there's serious work, too. Like pulling kids around in sleds behind your snow-machine and then running back home to grab your .22 rifle after you drive through a covey of ptarmigan.



And then there are the boys who drop by often to play on the computer, perform avant-garde compositions on the guitar, and stuff their faces with candy.

Did I mention all the free meal events I *have* to attend—like birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, potlatches, the village picnic ... there is just no end to the labor of Alaska missionaries!

Now that I am halfway through my six-month experience in Huslia, I see evidence that God's hand is with me. The kids who hang out at my house are some of the toughest kids in the village—but they are the ones who need the most love. And they are coming to church now and asking really deep questions.

If you were to meet me in person, you would find a shy young man who lacks social confidence. But the Lord says, "My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Despite my character flaws, I am excited that my relationships with these kids have steadily deepened. I'm also going to start teaching guitar lessons, which will connect me with the junior and senior high students.

But just like the winter sun which reaches its climax and is then swallowed up by an Alaskan night, I fear that this great time of growth will soon be threatened. A professor of mine said that you know that you are playing the game well when you are experiencing resistance. I have begun to see some resistance creeping into my ministry and suspect more opposition is on its way.

So in the words of Paul, "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should." (Eph 6:19-20).