



Seeking Treasures for **W-A-G**

Holston's Summertime Hands-on Mission Project for Children

Great as a VBS Mission Project!

Willow – Anvik – Grayling **Alaska Missionary Conference** **Children's Ministry**

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

MATT. 6:21

5 Easy Steps for children to serve children

1. Pray for W-A-G – the Willow Anvik Grayling children's ministry in Alaska.
2. Collect supplies – each Holston district has its own supply list. See page 2.
3. Put supplies in 2-gallon zip-lock bags – stuff them full!
4. Attach \$5 in an envelope to the outside of each zip-lock bag for transportation to Alaska.
5. Drop-off collected supplies with \$5 attached to each bag at designated district location (see page 2)
by August 1.

Meet W-A-G Missionary Fran Lynch

Deaconess and missionary Fran Lynch has served as a church and community worker for the Alaska Missionary Conference since 1996. Deaconesses are laywomen who have made a lifetime commitment to serve the church wherever they are needed. The Deaconess' motto: *"What do I wish? I wish to serve. Whom do I wish to serve? The Lord in his poor and needy ones. And what is my reward? I do not serve either for reward or for thanks, but out of gratitude and love: my reward is that I may do this!"*

Fran lives and works in Willow, Alaska, dogsled capitol of the world. Her main responsibility is Christian education but she also helps with community needs, such as food, clothes, medical care, and shelter. At the request of tribal councils, Fran also serves the bush villages of Anvik and Grayling, small villages reachable only by plane or dogsled. Fran visits once a month as weather permits and leads several days of Sunday school in a Bible school type setting. The children eagerly await her visits and always ask when she'll be coming back. As most families are unchurched, the children are taking the message of God's love back to their families and adult Sunday school is beginning in Willow.

Easter egg hunts in the snow; nativity sets that include bear, seals, wolves, Eskimos, and igloos; Sunday school classes held once a month in good weather; flying in an airplane to summer camp; three hours to the grocery store; long, dark winters with over ten feet of snow! This is a glimpse of life in rural Alaska.

Excerpt from UM Children's Fund for Christian Mission – GBOD.

W-A-G Hands-on Collection

Collect your supplies anytime during the summer before August 1.
Consider collecting them during VBS.

District	Items to Collect	Drop-off Location on August 1
Abingdon	Folders and notebook paper	Pleasant View UMC
Big Stone Gap	Spiral Notebooks and pencils	District Office
Chattanooga	Toothpaste and toothbrushes	District Office
Cleveland	Soap, shampoo, and lotion	First UMC, Cleveland
Johnson City	Pants – children’s sizes 6 – 16	District Office
Kingsport	Children’s underwear and socks	First Broad Street UMC
Knoxville	Individually packaged snack items – crackers, candy bars, and cereal bars	First UMC, Knoxville
Maryville	Individually packaged snack items – Nuts, granola bars, sugar-free kool-aid	Fairview UMC
Morristown	Shirts – children’s sizes 6 - 18	District Office
Oak Ridge	Individually packaged snack items – Microwave popcorn and dried fruit	District Office
Tazewell	Markers and colored pencils	District Office
Wytheville	Erasers, rulers, and pens	Hillsville, Dublin, and Mt. Pleasant UMCs

No crayons, thank you.

***Questions? Call Anita Henderlight or Bill Daugherty
Toll Free at 866/690-4080 or locally at 865/690-4080***



Mission Exploration

- List on a large piece of newsprint or posterboard everything your children’s group knows about Alaska.
- Each time the children gather during the project dates, encourage each child to add something new to the list. Watch the list grow as children learn more about Alaska.
- Discuss what is different and what is similar about life in Alaska and life where you live.
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:27, “Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.” Talk about the meaning of this scripture and how your group is connected to the children in Alaska.

Alaska is the 49th state



Bonus Activity!

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In addition to the supplies collection, some kids may want to do more for **W-A-G**! Use this guide to encourage greater stewardship of giving for the children in Alaska. Be sure to check out the "Fun Facts" on the back of this page to learn more about **W-A-G**.

"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously."
ROMANS 12:8

49 Days and Ways to Help **W-A-G**

- Day 1 For every member of your family who has ever been dogsledding, give \$1 .
- Day 2 For every water faucet in your home, give 2¢.
- Day 3 For every time school was cancelled for a snow day last year, give 10¢.
- Day 4 For every glove at your house, give 5¢.
- Day 5 If you have ever ridden a school bus, give 25¢.
- Day 6 If you have ever seen a moose in a zoo or in the wild, give 50¢.
- Day 7 If you have ever ridden a snow mobile or 4-wheeler ATV, give 7¢.
- Day 8 If you or a family member have ever flown in an airplane, give 15¢.
- Day 9 For every mile you travel to Sunday School, give 3¢.
- Day 10 If you have ever eaten moose soup, give 5¢.
- Day 11 If you have ever eaten fish or salmon, give 15¢.
- Day 12 If you have a garden at your house, give 50¢.
- Day 13 If you have ever picked berries (any kind), give 25¢.
- Day 14 If you have ever gone to summer camp, give 40¢.
- Day 15 If you have ever played basketball, give 10¢.
- Day 16 If you have ever played softball, give 10¢.
- Day 17 If you have ever played volleyball, give 10¢.
- Day 18 If you have ever played ice hockey, give 10¢.
- Day 19 If you have ever sewn, stitched, or knitted anything, give 40¢.
- Day 20 For every pencil you find in your house (or classroom), give 2¢.
- Day 21 Say a prayer for Fran.
- Day 22 For every bar of soap you find in your house, give 5¢.
- Day 23 For every bathroom in your house, give 25¢.
- Day 24 If you sing in a church choir, give 50¢.
- Day 25 If you ring handbells in a church choir, give 50¢.
- Day 26 If you acolyte at church, give 50¢.
- Day 27 If you help collect the offering in worship, Sunday School, or VBS, give 50¢.
- Day 28 If you have ever visited a Native American village, give 75¢.
- Day 29 For each VBS you have attended in your lifetime, give 5¢.
- Day 30 For every member of your family whose name begins with the letter "A," give 10¢.
- Day 31 If you have ever eaten dried fruit, give 3¢.
- Day 32 If you have ever been to Alaska, give \$1.
- Day 33 If you did not make your bed this morning, give 15¢.
- Day 34 If you have not washed dishes or helped in your kitchen this week, give 20¢.
- Day 35 If you have ever seen a polar bear in a zoo or in the wild, give 50¢.
- Day 36 If you have ever made a snowman, give 2¢.
- Day 37 If you have ever made a snow angle, give 2¢.
- Day 38 If you have ever helped at a food pantry, give 5¢.
- Day 39 Pray for the children in Willow, Anvik, and Grayling.
- Day 40 If your birthday is in February, like Fran's, give 10¢. (Fran's birthday is February 2.)
- Day 41 For every storybook about dogs that you can think of, give 1¢.
- Day 42 For every friend you have taken to VBS or Sunday School, give 15¢.
- Day 43 If you have ever been fishing, give 5¢.
- Day 44 If you have ever been camping in a tent, give 3¢.
- Day 45 If you have ever been ice skating, give 10¢.
- Day 46 If you have ever been in a boat, give 5¢.
- Day 47 For every ball at your house, give 1¢.
- Day 48 For every tube of toothpaste at your house, give 30¢.
- Day 49 If you have ever met a missionary, give 50¢.



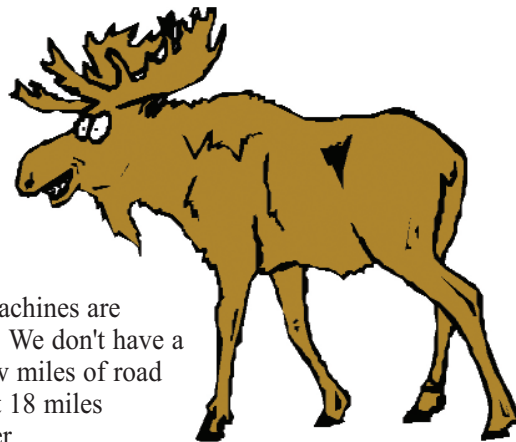
FUN FACTS about **W-A-G**

Written by Fran and her young Alaskan friends

Fran writes, "I hope these fun facts are helpful. I wrote them with the help of the kids in the bush villages. (Anvik and Grayling.) Some of the facts apply to all three locations in which I serve - Willow, Anvik, and Grayling. Other facts are specific to either Willow or the two bush villages."

1. We get about 10 feet of snow a year. We have about 4 hours of daylight in winter and about 4 hours of darkness in the summer.
2. School is not closed if it snows. It closes if the electricity or water goes off or if it rains on top of the snow. The snow turns to ice and makes it difficult to walk or drive.
3. At -20°F we still go outside for recess. If it is -21°F the children can stay inside. It is important to go outside when the sun is out. Sunlight makes us all feel better. I give away a lot of gloves and hats.
4. In Willow, the children can ride a bus to school. The bus drivers are always on the lookout for moose. It is not a good idea for boys and girls to get off the bus with moose nearby. The moose could get mad and stomp them. You can outrun a moose and hide behind a tree. The moose will generally go away; it is too stupid to remember seeing you or to find out where you are. You cannot outrun a bear and you do not run when you see one. Stand up tall and raise your arms in the air to look taller. Do not scream, but talk in a normal voice and decide if you can back away slowly.

In Anvik and Grayling, children walk or ride snow machines or 4-wheelers. (Snow machines are what you call snowmobiles. For kids in Holston, a snow machine is for making snow. We don't have a need for machines that make snow.) There is no road between the villages. Only a few miles of road exist within the villages. We use the Yukon Rive like a road. During summer, we boat 18 miles between the two villages. In the winter, we ride our snow machines on the frozen river.



5. Many children in Willow have parents who are pilots and have their own planes. The planes work on land; on ice when the river is frozen; and on water as float planes.
6. There are no roads to Anvik and Grayling. We have to fly, boat the Yukon River, or dog sled to get there. I fly in small planes each month during the school year to go lead Sunday School. There is only one road in and out of Willow.
7. About 2,000 people live in Willow. We have about 16 children and youth, ages one to seventeen, in our Willow United Methodist Church. The kids go to Willow Elementary School. When they get to 7th grade, they have to go north to Su Valley or south to Houston for school. Some of the kids ride a bus for 1 hour before they arrive at school.
8. There are approximately 125 people in Anvik. About 20 children come to Sunday School and attend the Anvik School. It offers Kindergarten through 12th grades. Most of the high school kids go by plane to a boarding school. They only come home on holidays and during the summer. About 250 people live in Grayling. Approximately 60 kids go to the school which offers Kindergarten through 12th grades. About 20 kids come to Sunday School each month when I offer it.
9. Many children will tell you that their favorite foods are moose soup and fish ice cream. We eat a lot of moose and a lot of fish. We also grow great berries and giant cabbages.
10. Many of the children attend Birchwood United Methodist Camp in the summer. The kids from Anvik and Grayling fly in small 4-6 passenger planes to the airstrip in Willow the weekend before camp. We play at the lake and on the Willow Elementary School playgrounds. There are no playgrounds in Anvik and Grayling.
11. We do many of the same sports that you do in Holston - basketball, softball, and volleyball. But we also do a lot of ice hockey and very little soccer or football. We have lots of dog sledding as a sport. The kids learn to do bead work and skin-sewing with furs and moose hide.
12. The kids always get Christmas presents from me. When school starts each year, I give them new school supplies. I always make sure the nurse and teachers at the school contact me if there are children who do not have the supplies or clothes they need. Also, I make sure the nurse has soap, shampoo, towels, and other things the children need to shower at school each week. Many of them live in houses that do not have running water.
13. In Anvik and Grayling, Sunday School may last over an hour. Since we have it after school, we have more time than on a traditional Sunday morning. In Willow, Sunday School is just the hour before worship. The kids in Willow serve in the worship service by ringing the bell, lighting candles and collecting offering. The kids in Anvik and Grayling do not have worship services. They have only Sunday School because there are no active churches in the villages.