

The Chile Chico

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"It's a Toyota Tundra, four door and it will have the keys in the ash try," Cheryl informed me over the weak cell phone connection. Cheryl and her husband Rod are good friends living in a remote area 90 miles outside of Nome, Alaska. She was leaving her truck at the airport for our group to use during our adventure in Alaska. We arrived in Nome without incident, found the truck, loaded our gear and headed to the nearest restaurant for breakfast. I checked the glove compartment for the owners card of the truck. It had a different name but I assumed the truck was owned by one of Cheryl's many relatives living in Nome. I received a call from Steve, Cheryl's nephew, informing me I had the wrong truck!! Grand theft auto! Just great for Tumpline Ministries resume!!! Cheryl's son had forgotten to leave the truck at the airport. Well...we returned the *stolen* truck to the airport and Steve delivered the correct truck.

After breakfast and a trip to the local grocery store to pick up some supplies, we were off to Quartz Creek airstrip 84 miles outside of Nome in the 'authorized' vehicle! From this place we hiked 46 miles north to Serpentine Hot Springs, our final destination. I should mention they were 46 wet, boggy, slippery, and difficult miles! An unusual rain storm had flooded the tundra several days before and made hiking very challenging. Along the way, we stopped at Cheryl's home. She prepared a feast of moose, sourdough bread, and dare I say....homemade beer! Even more wonderful than the meal was the delight in visiting Cheryl and Rod. They opened their home to us and demonstrated a hospitality from which all Christians should take lessons! We could have spent days with them, hearing stories of frontier life in Alaska. Cheryl's grandfather came over the famous Chilkoot Pass.

It took us five days to make it to Serpentine Hot Springs, including our visit to Cheryl and Rods home. Serpentine Hot Springs is like no other place in the world. Obviously a hot springs, as the name mentions, Serpentine Hot Springs is



Group shot near Serpentine Hot Springs

located above the tree line just south of the Arctic Circle. Local miners built a cabin at the site in the early 1900's during the gold mining heyday. Now in 2012, the National Park service maintains the site for visitors who fly into the site for a soak in the hot springs. Most visitors arrive via the dirt airstrip but Cheryl said we are the only outside visitors who have hiked there in recent memory.

The adventure was one of the best to date. The eight of us had a great time. Dave led us in a study of 1 Timothy which set the spiritual tone for the trip. I can't think of a better place to study God's revealed word in this spectacular place He created!

I will post some more pictures on the Tumpline website in a few days

Dan and Jan

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