

Baby Boxes for Barrow

This holiday season we are reminded of the birth of Jesus in a manger filled with hay, when there was no room in the inn. In the Alaska Native village of Barrow, new mothers also face bringing their newborns into crowded living spaces with up to 15 people occupying a one or two room home. These tight living conditions leave no room for a nursery or crib and often the newborn sleeps in the same bed as the mother. These environments lead to the highest rates of Sudden Infant Death and accidental suffocation mortality in the United States.

To mitigate these heartbreaking trends, our Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) team in Barrow has initiated a “baby box” program. The ministry provides a sturdy box with a small mattress for the newborn to sleep in its own undisturbed space. Each new parent also receives safe sleep training and parenting resources.

Today’s offering is for Arctic Mission Adventure, a 100% donor supported ministry of the Alaska Conference. The goal of AMA is to place mission workers in villages to live and integrate into village life. They build relationships through spiritual connection and ministries that meet the needs of both old and young, like the new mothers in Barrow.

Currently, AMA has mission workers living in eight communities at an annual cost of \$30,000 per village. These workers provide area-specific ministries which encompass day camps, Bible studies, food pantries, leadership development and specific outreach for the Native people of Alaska. There has been significant growth within AMA, and we praise God for this, yet in many ways the work has just begun as there are still over 200 villages with no AMA presence! Today’s offering will be used to keep Alaska Bible workers in these communities and Adventist parsonages and churches open. Please pray that the work will continue to move forward in faith and bear witness to the Bush Alaska Native communities.

To learn more about AMA go to: www.arcticmissionadventure.org