



June 30, 2005

To our friends and family:

Karl and Kristan Thieme are sending warm wishes to you from the state of Washington. Currently, Kristan has just finished her first year teaching special education in the middle school setting. This past school year has been both challenging and exciting. Kristan is 9-quarter credit hours away from her Master's Degree in special education. Karl is in his tenth year working for Intel. He enjoys designing and debugging designs for server systems in the Root-Cause Engineering group in Dupont, WA.

As many of you know we have a heart for missions. This sounds vague and frankly, it has been. We both enjoyed working with orphans and village children in Romania. We have been listening and praying with anticipation as we hear updates from humanitarian work in China that our church has been a part of. Helping visiting missionaries with the use of our car has also been a pleasure of ours. We have enjoyed all of these opportunities and now the time has come for something more concrete.

Over the past three years, we have been involved with Voice For Christ Ministries (VFCM) www.vfcm.org through our local church. VFCM is a ministry that broadcasts Christian radio specifically targeted to rural and native Alaskans. Familiar radio programs such as Unshackled, Money Matters, Focus on the Family, and Insight for Living are transmitted in multiple locations across the vast state of Alaska, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you are interested in more information about VFCM, we can make available a professionally produced DVD that clearly explains the work of this ministry.

When Karl was eligible for a two month sabbatical from Intel in 2003, we jumped at the chance to go to Alaska. Taking the ferry on the way up and driving our truck back, we went to help with the radio station computers and explore the ministry for ourselves. Almost instantly, Karl saw numerous opportunities to serve. His skills, formal education, and interests were all tapped to do things such as sound editing, mechanical repairs, and engineering work. Karl has been working with sound equipment since he was 14 years old and hoped to be a radio engineer when he was in high school. For Karl, this ministry was a dream come true. After a week of working on computers with Karl, Kristan was ready to move on to a new challenge. Following an intense six days of training and practice, Kristan was ready to try radio announcing. Kristan enjoys the challenge of "ON-AIR" radio announcing because improvements can always be made. Together we recognized the fit between our skills, desires, and the type of mission work to be done. God has formed our personalities and experiences to prepare us to serve with VFCM.

Alaska is different. Many of our friends and family voiced concerns about harsh weather during the winter season. The thought of regular winter temperatures in the -40s made us shiver, but we wanted firsthand experience. We have returned for two weeks each winter since our initial visit. The first winter was at the northern station in Nenana, AK where we experienced -35 degrees and 4 hours of daylight. Our second winter visit was to the new station in Houston, AK. The temperatures were milder in Houston measuring -10 degrees. We were surprised at just how much can be done outdoors when you are prepared for these types of winter weather conditions.

Together we see that God is calling us to leave our lives, as we have comfortably known them and go to Alaska to serve with VFCM. This decision was not made flippantly. We realize that this will be a big change for us and we are preparing for a lot of challenging, hard work. We also know that God is working through this ministry to bring the Alaskan people to Him, and has called us to be a part of it.

Our plan is to move to Houston, AK to be stationed at KAGV 1110AM (the new radio station). We will be making the transition after Kristan completes her degree at the end of May 2006. Currently we are planning to purchase land and build a home near the station.

As many of you know we both have very independent personality types. This has its advantages when facing big challenges such as this, but it also has drawbacks. This independence makes it hard for us to put our trust in anyone or anything other than ourselves. This is wrong. We must trust in the Lord. He has called us to do something beyond our own ability, He will provide and the glory will be His not ours.

We have decided, after much struggle with our own desire for independence, to seek to go to the mission field fully financially supported. Our desire is to work together and truly the two of us together are greater than the sum of our own contributions as individuals. As fully supported missionaries we would be able to serve VFCM in a larger capacity than if

we depended on external income. In addition, we can continue to serve with the ministry if and when children become part of our family. We realized that anything short of seeking full support would be hindering God's work in our lives.

You may be asking yourself why you are receiving this letter from us. We are asking for your help. As stated earlier, we will need the help of many people to maximize our serving potential. Our needs are listed in the following order:

1. **Prayer Support** – Constant prayer will be necessary as we seek to serve God to the best of our ability with the ultimate goal of helping more people know Jesus and grow in their own Christian walk. This transition is a big challenge for us and we need our Lord's help to be successful.
2. **Church Ambassadors** – Prayer and financial support are critical. Would your church be interested in supporting us and the work of VFCM? We would gladly provide you with information and materials for you to pose the question. Our desire is to develop relationships with churches willing to support our work with VFCM.
3. **Monthly Financial Support** - As career missionaries, we will be trusting God to work in the hearts of His people to meet our monthly financial needs.

We hope that this letter finds all of you and yours in good physical and spiritual health.

Sincerely,

Karl and Kristan Thieme

If you would like to support us, please tear off the bottom, mark your preferences, and return it to us in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

Tear off here

Name (s): _____

Street Address (including zip code):

Telephone Number (including area code):

Email Address: _____

- I (We) would like to pray for Karl and Kristan. I (We) commit to praying _____ times per month.
- I (We) would like to inquire at my (our) church to see if the church would be willing to support Karl and Kristan.
Please send me more information about Voice For Christ Ministries.
- I (We) would like more information on how to support Karl and Kristan by contributing financially.
- I (We) would like to receive email newsletters from Karl and Kristan instead of newsletters on paper.