



Karl, Kristan and Kristofer Thiemes

Tundra Transmitter



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Special Newsletter

We believe we need to take an aside in this edition of our newsletter to go into some detail on our support. For “up to the week” news and pictures please visit our website, you won't be bored or let down for visual stimulation there.



Missionary Support SAY WHAT?

In this newsletter we feel we need to explain a little bit of the mechanics about how God provides for us through you. Exactly how this works for missionaries was a bit of a mystery to us before we came to be missionaries. We hope the information we give here will help both those who may be considering a career in missions and those who the Lord leads to provide for our needs. Things certainly vary from mission organization to mission organization, the information we are sharing is from our experience and your mileage may vary applying these concepts to other organizations.

DESIGNATED GIVING

First off, we use the word support for many things that folks do, partnering with us, that allow us to keep serving in our role as missionaries. For the purpose of this conversation we are

referring to finances. These are the finances given to the mission organization that allow us to serve. From this support all sorts of things are taken out before we see our “paycheck”. As a missionary you are **required to raise support** to pay for the costs specific to your employment. This includes expenses that in many other situations would be paid by your employer. In the case of VFCM, gifts given to the “General Fund” are used for keeping the radio ministry going and growing so that we have the tools we need to minister through this radio outreach. “General Fund” giving does not directly support VFCM missionaries. From the support God provides **designated in our name**, the ministry pays the costs of employing us first, things such as **employer's federal tax**, employee federal income tax, social security taxes, Medicare taxes and so on.

OUR PAYCHECK

At this point we get a paycheck from the remaining funds. Out of this paycheck there still are expenses that we pay that many employers would have included as benefits (although we know more and more of these things are coming out of pocket for folks with “real” jobs too these days). These costs that we have to pay out of the money we get in our paycheck include our full health insurance cost, contributions to a retirement plan and the costs associated with fundraising such as travel, printing

and postage. We want to be clear, this is not a complaint in the remotest sense, the mission organization owes the missionary nothing but opportunities, guidance and encouragement. It is very clear to us that missionaries are responsible to seek out the Lord's provision for the costs of serving in this way.

GOAL LIMITS

The single most powerful tool we have for communicating our financial needs is our support goal. Our minimum goal is 100% in this ministry. On our graph this minimum requirement is indicated by the red line on the chart. According to current VFCM policy a missionary is no longer qualified to be on the mission field if their support drops below this **100% minimum requirement**. Initially when we prepared to come to Alaska as missionaries we found that ~120% was required to fund a personal budget that would balance for us. The largest amount that can be used from the gifts designated to our account is our **135% maximum goal**. This maximum goal is indicated on the chart with a blue line. These goals represent the money taken out of funds designated for us, to pay all of the monthly costs associated with our employment in a particular month. In months when more is given than mission policy allows to be used, the additional funds remain designated and then can be used in months when less money is designated for our service.



Tear Off Here

Name(s): _____ Telephone Number: (____) _____

Street Address (including zip code): _____

Email Address: _____

- I(We) commit to praying _____ times per month.
- I(We) would like to contribute \$ _____ per month
- I(We) would like to receive email newsletters instead of paper.
- I(We) am(are) sending this one time gift of \$ _____
- I(We) would like my(our) church to support the Thiemes, please send me(us) more information.

GOAL CHANGES

You can see that our goals have increased over the time of our service. There are two factors that have changed our support goals. One is our **length of service**. This adjustment is not based on an analysis of cost of living variations but simply comes as a small increase at each anniversary of our service. The other increase you'll see in the chart is the **addition of Kristofer** (November '07) to our family. It corresponds to an additional amount of support required each month to offset the needs that he brings with him. Another increase like this will occur in the coming months as Kristofer's **new brother** officially joins us. Coming from a background of competitive market analysis and performance evaluation, these methods are a little foreign to us but the nature of our service now is dramatically different than the jobs we had in our previous life and it is quite natural that the associated incomes would be as well.



OBSERVATIONS

We hope that this chart helps you understand more about the nature of the way God has been providing for us to serve with VFCM. If you are a chart junkie or have served as a missionary there is virtually no end to the trends that can be observed and journeys you can see that we've been through from looking at this chart. Our Lord is faithful and we appreciate the role you have had in that. We'd like to point out four specific observations from this chart. **One trend** is that our support isn't a constant, reserves from previously designated funds usually are able to keep our paycheck somewhat stable but as reserves are drawn down this instability shows up in our paycheck as well. **Another trend** is that individual supporters are the primary source God is using for most of our support. The **third trend** we'd like to point out is that our support has been dropping in the current US economic situation while our support goals are increasing and will increase again after our next child is born. The **final observation** we'd like to point out is the bounty of our Lord. Integrating across this chart shows that, during our years of service here, our Awesome Lord has provided a mind blowing \$171,895.43 through you our supporters. It makes no earthly sense to us but he has provided and we thank you for your faithful service with us.

WRAP UP ALREADY!

Each month we try to put out our newsletter with our support level and goals included. These snapshots

sometimes don't tell the whole story. We hope that all this explanation hasn't **bored you to sleep** or offended you. We want to responsibly communicate what our needs are. The way our support finances work is not obvious so we hope this has been a useful explanation and that the data in this chart can effectively communicate the situations we face and have faced to better allow you to partner with us in prayer and financial support.

Monthly Support Goals

	Finance	Prayer Partners	Number of Prayers
Goals	\$3366	50	150
Current	\$2649 (79%)	55 (110%)	416 (277%)
Needed	21% needed	Goal Met	Goal Met

Contact Information

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Please send and make out all tax deductible financial support checks to the following address:

Voice For Christ Ministries
P.O. Box 474
Nenana, AK 99760

Thieme Family Missionary Support

