

February 21, 2022

Week 1

Dear Family and Friends,

As you know we are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One evening a few months ago, Ray asked me if I would go on a mission with him for the church. I love my Savior Jesus Christ and love sharing my testimony with others. We decided to submit an application to serve a mission.

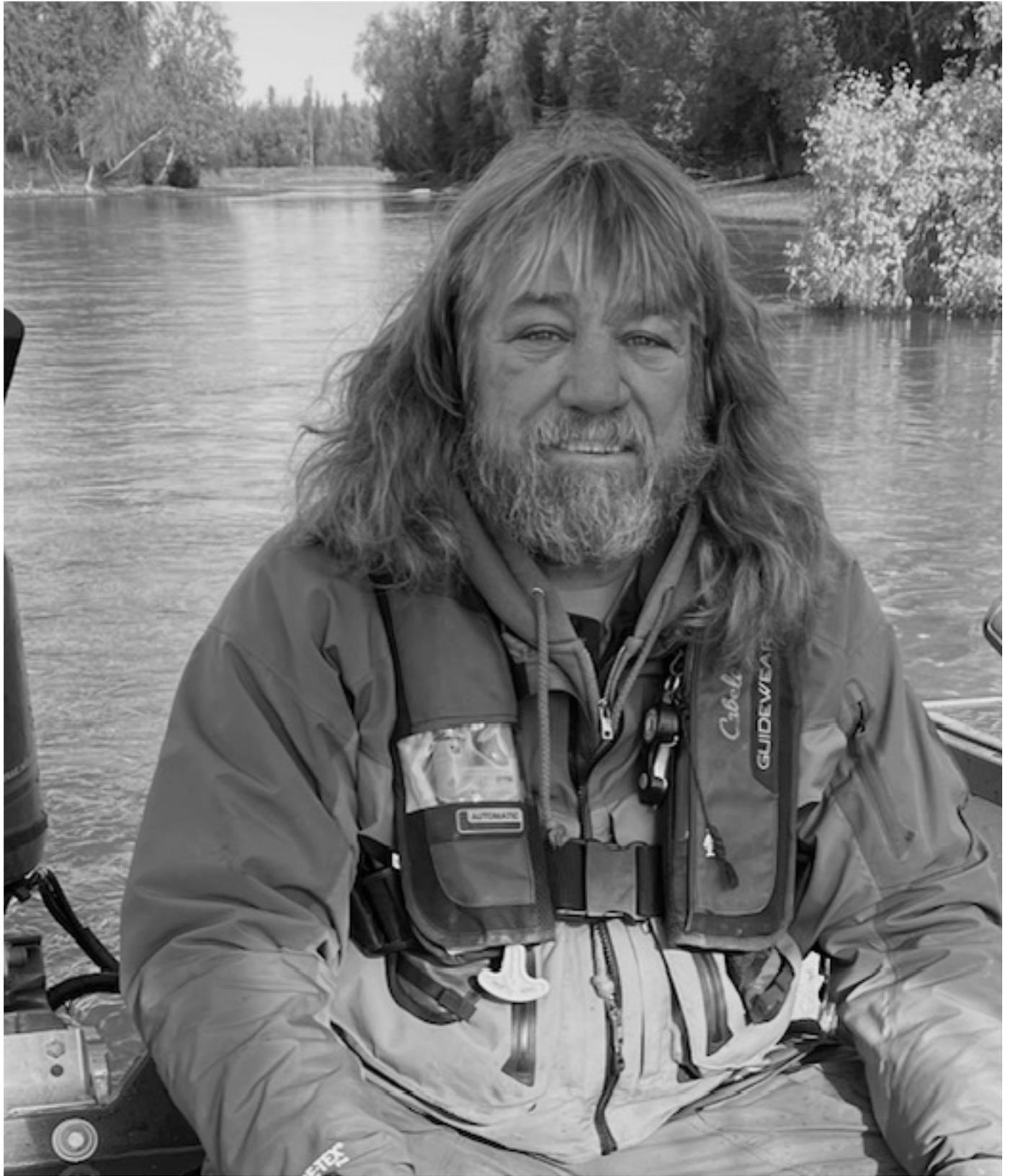
There are many kinds of missions that senior missionaries can serve. There are proselytizing missions, where you teach people about Jesus and purpose of life. There are temple missions, where you serve in one of the temples throughout the world. I love the temple. There are humanitarian missions, where you could work with charities or serve in any country in the world to relieve suffering among the people. There are farmland missions. We believe in being self-reliant and the church has many farms and ranches throughout the world and a wonderful welfare program.

Ray and I were called to be “Construction Specialists” for the Ashby Farmland Reserve Mission in Nebraska. We are serving a mission for 6 months. Ray has extensive knowledge of building. I have very few construction skills...lol but I will help as much as I can and I’m sure Heavenly Father will have something else for me to do.

We were assigned to leave on May 2nd, but after Ray visited the mission last week and spoke to our leader, it was decided that we should start our mission immediately. I was excited about the change! Other than the gospel of Jesus Christ and my family, there are three things I love...

1. Ray's hair
2. Trees
3. Salmon season

This is a before and after missionary haircut...





Next trees... This is the Farmland Reserve Mission where we will be living for the next 6 months.



And when our departure date was May 2nd, we would miss the entire salmon season in Alaska.

However... God always gives us tender mercies! Our departure date was changed as well as our return date, so the Salmon fishing in September is back on!

I wasn't ready to leave so soon. We have scrambled a bit this week to get ready. We also got to participate in a missionary online training. It was wonderful. We met online with other missionary couples and talked about the different ways we would

be serving. For most of them, they will be teaching people about the Savior. They will serve in other missions.

Ray got his tool trailer loaded. I was packing. I didn't have much time to really think about going. I will miss my sweet family. I love them very much. I have such beautiful grandchildren. I will really miss my daughter in laws and daughters. I will miss helping the boys on the Destash and New Stash.

We spoke in church on Sunday and said good-bye to our ward. My talk was on what I have learned about sorrow and how the atonement of Jesus Christ can lift us from sorrow. (My talk is available if anyone wants to read it)

I am happy to be able to serve a mission. I don't know exactly what Heavenly Father will have me do on a cattle ranch while Ray's knowledge of construction will be used, but I do know for sure that Heavenly Father knows exactly where we are in the world and if we are willing, He will use us to bless the lives of others.

Love to you all,
Sister Tippetts