DONALD HAROLD BINEK

Name: Donald Harold Binek  
Birth Date: 8 Apr 1931  
Birth City: Valdez  
State Registered: Alaska  
Death Date: 30 Jun 1952  
Death Country: Korea  
Death Description: Died of Wounds  
War: Korean War  
Title: CORPORAL, U.S. Marine Corps  
Rank: Corporal  
Service: U.S. Marine Corps  
Service ID: 1193432  

Notes:  
Corporal Binek was a member of Company G, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was seriously wounded while fighting the enemy in Korea and died of those wounds on June 30, 1952. Corporal Binek was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Data Source: Korean War Veterans Honor Roll  
Someone once said, "Ordinary people, who make simple spiritual commitment to the Lordship of Christ, can make an extraordinary impact in their world." Tommy and Sade Thompson are an example of this.

Sadie was the daughter of good-living religious parents. Shortly after being married she trusted Christ as Savior. This brought Tommy into deep conviction of sin. One evening, sitting beside his young wife in the balcony of a Belfast church, God saved him.

To prepare them for a neglected village in Alaska, God first moved them to South Africa. There they learned something of being guided by the Word of God. With others, they saw souls saved and gathered unto the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Challenged by elderly William Rae to help in neglected Alaska, they responded, and commended by seven assemblies, sailed for America. July 2, 1954, found them standing on a dock in New York with their two boys, Brian and Billy. Tommy was 29. Sadie was 25. Their earthly possessions were in a few cases. No one else but God knew that between them they had $6.00! And 6000 miles still to go!

David Zuidema met them and he and his wife graciously cared for them, as they had for so many others. After receiving a gift from the saints meeting in Midland Park, they traveled on the Pacemaker to Chicago, arriving with $20.00. Awaiting them was a letter from William Rae, the man God had used to direct their footsteps. Enclosed was $200.00 to purchase a car. Even in 1954, $200.00 didn't buy much. Some laughed, imagining what he might get! Finally, in a rusty 1948 station wagon, they headed up the Alaska highway. Gravel and large rocks could be seen passing underneath, through holes in the floorboards where thick dust rolled in.

Forty miles off the main road was Chitina. God had designs of grace towards this village. They drove in the dark over logs laid in mud to reach the dilapidated place. It looked like a ghost town with skeletons painted on some buildings. Their first stop was at a dump store where the men were drunk. However, they assisted them to kindly Mrs. McLellan's bunkhouse, even pushing them out of a mud hole. They spent their first night in the place to which God had called them.

And what a place! No spot for a lazy man. Endless chopping and splitting. Water was carried in buckets from the river. At times the temperature dipped as low as -70F. After a few months in a bunkhouse that was impossible to heat, Tommy built a cabin. That meant cutting trees four miles down river and dragging them home on the ice behind his old '48. Scattered about the village he found an old staircase, old windows, an old bath tub (mind you, everything in Chitina was old), rubber hose for plumbing and other bits and pieces. He only had to buy flooring, roofing, tar paper, and nails. With no tools, he built the cabin using his boys "Handy Andy" tool kit. The project cost $110.00. It must have been encouraging one evening when some came with fish and berries and meat. "We are glad you came to live with us," they said in their quiet way.

But the Thompson's were not in Chitina just to cut logs and carry water. He soon started gospel meetings in an old church, often preaching every night. Almost everybody attended, except for some hardened alcoholics. One by one, the Lord saved some of the worst. Tom and his son Pat were both drunkards. When the Lord saved Pat, Tom saw such a change in his son, he was soon saved. Another drunk, Johnny Billum and his wife Mollie, Henry and Etta Bell, George Brickle, Pete Ewan, John and Fanny Stanfield, Thomas Pete, Alex Ring, and others were reached.

By October 1955, after a little more than a year, 18 had been baptized in the place to which God had called them. 2, 1954, found them standing on a dock in New York with their two boys, Brian and Billy. Tommy was 29. Sadie was 25. Their earthly possessions were in a few cases. No one else but God knew that between them they had $6.00! And 6000 miles still to go!

But there were struggles. The school teacher opposed. A man from a nearby town passed underneath, through holes in the floorboards where thick dust rolled in. Tom saw such a change in his son, he was soon saved. Another drunk, Johnny Billum and his wife Mollie, Henry and Etta Bell, George Brickle, Pete Ewan, John and Fanny Stanfield, Thomas Pete, Alex Ring, and others were reached.

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Two years later the Lord graciously brought Marjorie Curran to be his wife. She has joined with him as they continue to minister God's grace to the people of Alaska. Just ordinary people, the Thompsons made a simple spiritual commitment to the Lordship of Christ, and an extraordinary impact in Alaska.