

THE NATE SHAVER FAMILY to the people of Iceland

“Winter in Iceland”

We landed in Iceland the morning of December 18 and had just a few hours of daylight to take advantage of with a 6-hour drive ahead of us. The cost of big vans forced us to get two cars to pack everybody and everything in. It was definitely a long and arduous drive through the mountains and snow, but we safely made it to our first place of lodging in the small town of Ólafsfjörður in Northern Iceland where we spent our first month. The town is situated right on the ocean surrounded by mountains with the only access through a one-way tunnel.

Ólafsfjörður is a beautiful place, and a unique first experience in Iceland. One of the errors we want to avoid as missionaries is to live in our own bubble and never adapt to the country and culture here. Our goal with this trip is to focus on getting a head start on language acquisition while also learning the culture and what it takes to live here. We got a ton of the latter and not much of the former during our first month. After a month in Ólafsfjörður, we moved our lodging to the “Northern capital” of the island – Akureyri. Being in the big city has given us ample opportunities to learn words and phrases, and practice what we are learning. As most of you are aware, we have spent much time in preparation for learning the language with the goal of speaking like a national. This goal is a long way away, but the process has everything to do with spending as much time around the people as possible, and a willingness to embarrass oneself while butchering the language. We have learned that we are good at that. The Lord has brought some wonderful people across our paths who have been huge helps in our language studies.

We have 6 more weeks in country. It is clear that the Lord’s providential hand has been keeping us safe as we navigate sub-arctic winter, and we are grateful for His care. Please keep us in prayer as we still have some sizable drives ahead of us. We will be headed to southern Iceland on February 13 where we will spend the remainder of our time. If you would like to pray for us in a more knowledgeable way, feel free to join our WhatsApp group by using the “QR Code” on the right.



“2025 plans”

Rachel and I have both successfully submitted our applications for university. We need at least one of us to get accepted to be able to move here this summer. Please pray to this end. This is something we have been diligently working towards. We should find out in May whether we are accepted (we have no reason to believe they won’t accept us), and then we can submit our immigration paperwork. We are tentatively planning for an August move.

When we get back to the states this spring, we will hit the road for some meetings for a few months. We are excited about the open doors the Lord continues to give us. We are trusting that the Lord’s hand is in all of this, and we are excited for the busy year ahead of us.

“Prayer...”

- University acceptance (Our applications are completed and submitted)
- Favor with those we meet here as we try to pick up some of the language.
- Safety while navigating Iceland

...and Praise”

- Our time here has been extremely profitable
- Favor and Safety while travelling here

“Conclusion”

We take our goal of communicating with Icelanders very seriously. Communicating the gospel message **clearly**, is worth the work that it takes to learn Icelandic, and to speak it properly. When Christ came to earth, he spoke clearly to the people He was ministering to. His message was in their language. When believers were scattered abroad during the early church persecution, the Holy Spirit supernaturally empowered them to speak to the hearers in their own language! We are thankful for a God who seeks a personal relationship with all of humanity. We want to tell the Icelanders of a Heavenly Father who desires for them to be reconciled to Himself.

To Iceland for Christ,

Nate and Rachel Shaver

Sephora, Myles, Delbert, Cornelius, Theodore, Cecelia, and Jack

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