

RHEA

Rhea is a Native Alaska student from Allakaket AK. She gave her life to Christ at a village summer camp when she was a kid. Rhea's village is off the road system, and is made up of 200 people. It has no running water, no cell service, and the winter stays at about -50 degrees. If she stays for all 4 years, she would be the first to graduate from her village. When she moved to UAF, it was quite the culture shock. She felt lonely, stressed, and out of place. Her contact was given to me (Anna) and that night I invited her to a game night. She came with me, and that began a very awesome friendship. She joined my small group and began coming to everything with me. Not only did she hang out with me, but she started hanging out with tons of XA girls. She was truly apart of the family. Rhea was very quiet at first though, and so I never quite knew where she was at with God. One day I asked Rhea what God was doing in her life, and she said she didn't want to talk about it. I gave her space, but asked that question every so often and she never answered. One night she randomly called me in tears and finally explained it all. She told me she was angry with God, she hated reading the Bible, and she felt like she had no relationship with Him. I began to just pray with her, and share my testimony. We had many conversations like this, but I truly believed God would show up for her, and He did! A couple weeks later she came to me jumping and said that randomly she decided to pick up her Bible. She read one verse in psalms and it felt like she was just filled with this surreal joy. She told me that was the first time she has ever felt that. Although life was not easy for her right after that moment she began trusting God and going to Him more. She actually wanted to drop out of school because it was too hard and different, but a group of XA girls began to just meet with her, help her, and get her through the semester. Not only that but she began to come to me with questions about the Bible and the nature of God. We would just talk for hours. What really left me in awe was in the last week of the semester

she told me she wanted to take her role in God's mission more seriously. So, she decided to enroll in a fulltime discipleship training school. She just graduated a couple weeks ago and is now going back to her village to put it into action! This girl is a going to be a weapon for the Lord. She loves people so well, and she is willing to do whatever whenever, but I would have never thought that when I first met her. God has truly moved in her and has used multiple girls in her life to come alongside her and support her. Its beautiful to watch.