
MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

Family Update

Another grandchild is on the way!

Our daughter in law Holly is due to deliver her second child in the spring and Steven Jr will be a daddy for the second time. This will be our 5th grandchild. Please pray with us for health and safety for both mother and child!

The Jones' in Rankin Inlet, NU are doing great!

Angie is on track to graduate from Bible college in May of 2015 thus earning her degree as an English Major in 3 1/2 years!

Attendance spike

The Tuktoyaktuk Baptist Church has seen attendances in the low 20's recently!

Consistency in attendance is encouraging. Thank you for praying with us for the souls in Tuktoyaktuk!

December holds great potential to Honour CHRIST in the far North

Dear Praying friends,

By the time the hard copy of this minus40 report reaches most of you, CHRISTmas will be fast approaching. December in northern communities affords great opportunity to declare the name of Christ. For many years now I have been an outspoken advocate for CHRISTmas. Obviously, I am well versed in the arguments against “celebrating” CHRISTmas, but have set them aside on purpose - not through ignorance - and have chosen to honour Christ. It is not my intent to challenge your convictions about CHRISTmas, rather I want to report how we honour Christ in December. (Yes, I know He wasn't born in December)

The first way is by always capitalizing Christ in CHRISTmas. Maybe this is a small thing to some, but one very meaningful to me. It is the antithesis of replacing Christ with an “X”. It takes effort and makes me think about Christ every time I write it or type it. Also it is an outright challenge to the politically correct movement that disallows the word CHRISTmas and replaces it with “happy holidays” or “season's greetings.”



The Sun is gone now and will return around Jan 6



Steve & Lois Donley

Steve and Lois Donley began serving The Lord in the Arctic in 1989. Their grown children are all serving The Lord. The Donley's ministry has been mainly in the Western Canadian Arctic with considerable time in Alaska.

Psalm 147:17 He casteth forth his
ice like morsels: who can stand
before his cold?

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Also, I have written several CHRISTmas plays designed for our small church. These are not your average “away in the manger” children’s pageants, but meaningful stories with a crystal clear witness. Hours of time and effort were put into one or two scene sets on the platform and mostly adult actors who speak out clearly and with purpose. Communities in the north have great interest in CHRISTmas events, so with purpose and conviction I have always used this opportunity to deliver the truth of Jesus Christ to a soft and interested congregation. Our CHRISTmas services are often standing room only and folks who normally never darken the door of the church, attend and come early for a good seat!

One year at -30 degrees or so we staged a living nativity - outdoors! The whole town came out to see it and Inuvik had a traffic jam like never before! (No, there were no wise men)

That was then and this is now, Tuktoyaktuk is not Inuvik and CHRISTmas this year is going to be as challenging as I’ve ever experienced. The CHRISTmas play I’m writing is a two person play with one set and three scenes. A young adult from the Inuvik congregation will be the other actor and the set will be simple yet outstanding. I’m not an actor, not even a bad actor, I’m terrible! But who else is going to do it? If I’m not willing to risk embarrassment for Christ in a CHRISTmas play, then you would be safe to surmise that I’d be unwilling to stand for Christ at other times too.

This CHRISTmas, like the many previous CHRISTmases we have spent in the Arctic, Lois and I want you to know that we are going all out for the Lord. We “press toward the mark” in December with time sensitive fervency. A common phrase heard this time of year is something like, “CHRISTmas is for the kids”, or “It’s all about the kids”.

Around the Canadian Western Arctic, and specifically Tuktoyaktuk, you can be assured that CHRISTmas is for Christ. *John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

This CHRISTmas like others past, we are lifting up The Christ who was lifted up for us,

Steve and Lois Donley