
MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

Email address reminder

Changes to the MINUS40 REPORT

Currently the MINUS 40 REPORT is transitioning from traditional snail mail to email and internet distribution. Please be patient and give me some grace as I build valid email address lists and manage the few supporters who require a hard copy mailed to them.

Please do not jump to conclusions if you do not receive a report. If possible check pnbm.org or iceroadpreacher.ca if you think I missed you.

Thank you to those who have sent emails confirming a valid email address to receive the MINUS40 REPORT. If you haven't done so, please do and help reduce the expense of international mailing. Thank you for your understanding and patience!

It's a good thing...

It's a good thing missionaries aren't allowed to be depressed. I'd be in trouble if it were allowed. We are in the dark season of the year and daylight is all but gone and temperatures have plummeted. As a young man the cold was a nuisance that had to be dealt with. The darkness was never considered to be a difficult time of year, rather just part of the overall arctic experience. But at 55 if it were allowed I might get a bit depressed these days. Lois loves this time of year because beautiful CHRISTmas lights adorn many houses and the town puts up lighted decorations. Me? I love CHRISTmas, but a string of lights don't compare to the sun or actual BTU's. The power and heat bills skyrocket in the dead of winter too. But no worries, missionaries aren't allowed to be depressed.

It's a good thing we aren't allowed to be discouraged either. Man, I'm thousands of miles from family and the friends of our pre-field life. CHRISTmas can be a discouraging time for a foreign missionary, but like I said, missionaries aren't allowed to be discouraged.

By now some of you are scratching your heads and wondering what Bro. Steve is thinking. The cold has finally froze his brain beyond repair! I've been a bit deceitful on purpose to grab your attention. First, please understand that your missionaries do go through seasons of discouragement, depression but that kind of stuff never makes the newsletter. Oh sure, experience and God's grace allows veteran missionaries to turn coping into overcoming and eventual victory. But think of the newer missionaries this CHRISTmas and New Years. They are experiencing some trying emotions. Without doubt they love being servants of the Most High and love the work God has called them to. They love the people who are now "their people" and are learning to adapt to the interesting aspects of the culture in which they are immersed. No, they are not about to quit, and no they are not angry. They just hurt. They miss people. They miss familiar voices, sights and comfort of their home church.



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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Lastly, and this may surprise you, but the very best thing you can do is pray specifically about this for your missionaries, and especially first term servants. Trust me, there is no help like divine help on the mission field. CHRISTmas cards might arrive late, but intercessory prayer is instant. E-cards are faster and cuter, but intercessory prayer has power. FaceTime, Skype, phone calls, texts and all similar communications are great, but intercessory prayer doesn't stop helping like a call that ends. It's not that those things aren't appreciated, conversely they are greatly appreciated! But nothing, I mean nothing beats the peace that God delivers to a hurting missionary.

Please pray for your missionaries this CHRISTmas, especially the first term servants.

Old prayer requests and follow up reports

*Our oldest daughter Becky Jones is with child. (#4) Pray for health for mom and baby. SO FAR SO GOOD! DOC SAYS ITS A BOY!

*Lois has had a few more days of poor health recently. Pray for God's help. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING. LOIS RECENTLY WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL TO SEE HER AILING SISTER IN COLUMBUS OHIO.

*Souls in Tuk to have a spiritual ear to hear the truth faithfully presented. THE CHURCH SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE WELL ATTENDED AND I SEE GOD WORKING.

*The church folk in Inuvik to grow and be prepared to receive the servant the Lord sends into His harvest here. THE LORD HAS BEEN WORKING IN INUVIK, AND THE CHURCH IS GROWING EVEN IN THIS TRANSITIONAL TIME

*Canada had a national election on October 19. GOOGLE IT. :(

*Local young men in the north who are filling responsibilities in the ministries need prayer support. These men are trail breakers and face opposition. They are quality guys. Pray for God's hand to be upon them. THEY ARE STEPPING UP AND GROWING IN THE LORD WITH EVERY CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

Thank you so much for your love and faithful support, Merry CHRISTmas!

Steve and Lois Donley