# MINUS40 REPORT

#### Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

### Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

## **Health Concerns**

Lois will have an MIBI test. March 24-25 Lois and I will travel to Edmonton, Alberta for a two day heart test. It is a follow up to a stress test which showed a few red flags.

I'm doing ok except for borderline hypertension. There seems to be no reoccurrences of skin cancer, praise The Lord! Lois and I both appreciate your prayers for good health!

#### **Attendance woes**

Every missionary experiences some services with low attendance.

After experiencing attendance in the 20's, reality kicked me last month and we had 4 and 5 in a couple of services. Satan is not pleased with an active Tuktoyaktuk Baptist Church. Our counter attack... Faithfulness and hard work.

# "God"

A little boy around four or five approached me after a service in Tuk. He talked as he approached me and I heard the word, "God" followed by something about the baked goods his mom brought for the coffee and tea fellowship following the church service. Typical of many adults, I just answered the lad concerning the part I had heard, saying something about how yummy his mom's baking was.

His dad came up to me with a huge smile on his face and asked me if his boy had called me "God"?

"I did hear him say "God" but I didn't clearly hear all of what he said", I replied.

The father then went to his son and pointed to me and asked the boy, "Who is that?"

"God." He responded confidently.

Aside from the obvious, please allow yourself to think of the influence missionaries have. A missionary goes on your behalf to places you cannot go. So in a sense I stand there representing you and a little boy thinks we are "God"!

I'm not making light of the matter. I'm dead serious. Sure he will be taught the truth and corrected with love and tenderness, but what happened - happened and your impact by supporting missions is bigger than either you or I can imagine. Our conjoined responsibility is monumental.

# The ice road is too rough for Lois

Lois only made two ice road trips this winter and sadly they will be the only trips she will make. The roughness of the road brings on symptoms of vertigo and other general discomforts and the



## **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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recuperation from those trips are difficult. I'm not entirely sure what this means in the long term so please pray with us for divine leadership.



Currently contractors are building an all season, overland road between Inuvik and Tuk. It is estimated to be finished by 2016.

## Our RV goes to Tuk this month

We will stay in our RV as often as possible while renovations on the apartment in the church are made. Other housing possibilities are scarce and financially unwise. So using our RV for warm weather housing while I chip away at renovations may be one of the crazier things you've ever heard of but this way we can keep our head above water financially and remain faithful to our goals.

## The forgotten part of missionary life

There are no pre-field courses that prepare you for aging parents, offspring graduating college, degrading personal health, balancing ministry with homeownership, citizenship and long distance family relationships. Yet Lois and I find ourselves smack dab in the middle of these and other conundrums. This summer we need to continue renovations in Tuk, minister in Tuk, paint our house, re-rig the boat used for ministry, cut lumber with the sawmill obtained a few years ago, work at the Delta Bible Camp and advance it toward its first camping season. Be a mom, dad, husband, wife, friend, neighbour and counsellor. While we may think the answers are in a bale of money, two more months of summer and more labourers, we know probably none of those things are going to happen. What are we to do? *Psalm 61:2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I*.

Thank you so much for your love and faithful support,

Steve and Lois Donley