
MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

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I found a cigarette on the floor of the church building near the coat rack. I was tidying up after church when I saw it lying there. It quickly became one of those moments where a person thinks crystal clear at 90 MPH. I thought how scandalous this would have been in many churches. That thought was quickly replaced with how wonderful it was to be serving the Lord where it is so needed. The Lord immediately reminded me of the criticism He received when He ate with publicans and sinners. I was warmed by the love I felt for the folks who attended the Tuk Baptist Church. Many are struggling with incredibly difficult situations in life and are wrestling with unspeakable sin. Yet they attend the church services and soak up every drop of hope the Holy Spirit delivers through God's Word. As my thoughts slowed, I was humbled to think that God would entrust me with the job of being a conduit of His love to the ones He loves and sent His Son to die for.



My speeding thoughts now slowed to a crawl, and stalled on the reality that few, very few care about the souls in the far north. I am blessed with caring and giving supporters, but you are however an extremely rare and a relatively small group.

The indigenous people groups in the USA and Canada are not necessarily a forgotten people but rather ignored. What I mean is that society has maintained a passionate interest in things related to indigenous people, but limit their efforts to government social programs and token politically correct causes. But that is not my passion or calling. Souls are the High calling of the Lord God.

As a hunter decreases the magnification on a variable power scope, the field of view increases. At 9 the magnification is 9 times above normal vision, but the trade off is seeing only a small percentage of what is actually surrounding the object being viewed. But as a hunter twists the magnification down to 3 times above normal vision he sees the target as a bit smaller but can see quite a bit of what is surrounding the object being viewed.

I think we are looking at the indigenous people in North America with the scope on 3 power. We see the political issues, the social issues, and we see the historical perspective and romanticize it all into a false concept. I want us to crank the scope to 9 power and stop looking at the surrounding issues and see the true single need. The need is salvation by the blood of Jesus Christ. I contend that it all starts there.

Yes, it is hard for a hungry body to receive spiritual food and a warm coat is better than a lecture. I'm not saying the social need is not great. What I'm saying dear reader is that you and I and our churches need to zero in on the soul that is lost and dying and heading to hell. Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

The generation that is stepping into national, corporate and religious leadership is gifted and capable when the scope is at 3 power, but at 9 power the target becomes clearer and those gifts and capabilities can do more than my generation ever could hope to accomplish. The crosshairs just need be on souls. Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Dear friends we are not wrong for pursuing souls, we are not uncaring when we deliver the good news of Jesus Christ to the socially needy. We are not negligent of our social responsibility when we gather to worship and invite others to join us at church. Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

The local church is at her best when she is passionate about souls. Of all the changes that have recently been thrown at our churches, the most dangerous are the ones that direct our passions away from those things that God loves. John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

May God give us a renewed passion for souls. May we have discernment, and the courage to invite the Lord to search our hearts and disclose the need to focus on and zero in on souls.

Thank you for your faithful support, love and prayer throughout the years.

Steve and Lois Donley

