
MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

December 2018

Dear Praying friends,

The changing health conditions of several family members have led Lois and I to extend our time caring for Lois's dad. Our efforts during this unplanned, yet necessary trip has been successful on many different levels. Spending time with an ailing elderly loved one is always a good decision to make. It does, however, shift the ministry workload to others who are covering for your absence. I very much appreciate Pastor Reilly Featherstone and the men of his congregation in Inuvik for handling the Tuk ministry since I have been away. Our trip to return to the arctic will commence right after the New Year with our expected arrival in the arctic 10 to 12 days later. In the interim, we have spent quality time with Lois's dad and sister, and I have spent time with my parents, our son and family, and my brother who is the go to guy for my parents. One wonderful event is Saturday breakfast at one of the area's greasy spoons. It's funny, of all the things I don't get to do with family because I'm a missionary, Saturday breakfast with Pop is one of the things I miss most. I'll be heading north soon enough and these opportunities will cease, but it's been nice to get to go a few times recently.

I want to thank each one of our supporters for their understanding and patience during this absence from the mission field. I assure you we are only in the USA temporarily and are returning to Tuktoyaktuk and continuing the Lord's work there. The Stelzig family is on track to arrive in the spring or summer and we will work together in Tuk, showing Brother Roy and his dear wife Justine the ropes of arctic life and ministry. Our current situation here in the USA is assuredly temporary and we look forward to more years in the arctic. The details of our arctic residence and ministry are: July of 1989-1994 and after raising support, began in 1997 - today and is continuing!

Back home, the harsh arctic winter has set in and darkness covers the land until early January. The weeks of darkness between now and then can be trying, but the promise of the sun returning makes living in hope possible. The Son, (Jesus) is returning someday soon and we live in hope because of His promise to come again! To the surprise of many, wintertime usually brings good attendance and increased involvement in church services and events. We are excited to return and capitalize on the excitement winter brings.

The CHRISTmas season is upon us and Lois has decorated her dad's house in a tasteful, festive way. As she set up the CHRISTmas trees, we enjoyed them a bit more than usual. We couldn't put our finger on why we were drawn to them until it suddenly hit us. These trees were fairly short, and skinny with sparse

boughs. They were very much like northern trees that are stunted by the severe arctic weather. We decided they are some of the nicest CHRISTmas trees we've ever decorated! Everything we do during CHRISTmas is done so in an effort to honour Christ. From capitalizing His name to the simple joy of decorations, they all are done on purpose to redirect our hearts toward the Saviour. Some good folks don't see it that way, and we do not wish to offend them, but our heart truly is fixed on the Saviour and His honour.

Please pray for safe travels starting January 3 and continuing for the next 12 days or so. Blizzards can throw a monkey wrench into the best plans, so please pray for good weather too.

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

Merry CHRISTmas, and a blessed New Year.

Steve and Lois Donley