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# MINUS40 REPORT

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Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

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Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

## Summer 2019

Dear Praying friends,

So much has happened, I don't know where to begin. So let me do the absurd and begin at the end. And the end is that you won't be getting another prayer letter until the summer has slipped into fall. Our busy summer has been in full swing for a few weeks now and we won't slow down until the beautiful arctic autumn arrives.

Roy and Justine Stelzig are on the field in Tuktoyaktuk. They received an unheard of 4 year work visa at the Canadian border! Their arrival last week was a great day and it is exciting to think that Tuk found Grace in the eyes of God as He sent yet another preacher to deliver the Gospel to the Inuit people of this Arctic, costal community.

June 9, Lois and I celebrated a milestone. We arrived in the Arctic on June 9, 1989. 30 years later, we are still here. So the Tuk Baptist Church hosted a potluck to welcome the Stelzigs and recognize 30 years in the arctic for us. The potluck had local delicacies like boiled lake trout, caribou soup, goose soup, and a stuffed caribou heart prepared by yours truly. Other less ethnic, yet equally yummy treats filled the serving table. 40 people attended the potluck and most stayed for church after. Some of the folks from Inuvik drove the 2+ hours on gravel to attend and celebrate with us. As well, our daughter Becky and her son Wesley came from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut to be with us on that special day. Our daughter Angie, husband Norman and daughter, Graelynn was there too. Yah, you guessed it, we were in grandparent glory!

The renovations in the apartment in Tuk are nearly complete. Complete enough for Lois and I to live there for blocks of nearly 2 weeks at a time until we have to come to Inuvik and take care of business here. The bathroom is fully functional, and a kitchenette is more than sufficient for the two of us. We want to be on site as much as possible to advance the cause of Christ in Tuk and be a help and support to the Stelzigs as they settle into a different country, house, community and culture. I have the utmost confidence in Roy and Justine, but want to leave no stone unturned and help them succeed in the high arctic.

Pastor Reilly Featherstone and the First Bible Baptist Church of Inuvik are engaged in the project of building a multi purpose building for a Bible Camp in the bush of the Mackenzie River Delta. I had been like David in that I gathered much material to build the building, but never was able to complete it.

Under Pastor Featherstone's leadership, the building went up this week. Sort of like how Solomon finished building the temple that David had gathered the much material for. I told Lois, "Hummph, I must be too much of a man of war!" [1Ch 28:3 *But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.*]

On the health front, Lois is on track for a hip replacement this fall or winter. She suffers with arthritis pain every day, and her mobility is greatly decreased. But her love of the Lord and faithfulness to serve Him with all she has, keeps her pressing toward the mark. She is by far the best part of the Donley missionary family.

I'm gimping around with a bad knee, eating high priced rabbit food, trying to keep the weight off and blood pressure down. With further testing, it has been determined I DO have polycystic kidney disease after all. The end game is dialysis and eventually kidney failure, but at 58 and no decrease in kidney function, something else will probably kill me before the kidneys do. I tell Lois, "If I live long enough it might kill me.!"

Thank you for your love and support.

Steve and Lois Donley



June 9, 2019

Under the midnight sun, Tuktoyaktuk, NWT

30 years in the Arctic