
MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

November 2019 NEW INFORMATION EDITION

Dear praying friends,

The move to Tuktoyaktuk is complete. Here is our contact information:

Steve and Lois Donley
PO Box 154
Tuktoyaktuk, NT X0E1C0
Canada
Steve's cell: 1-403-763-0258
Lois' cell: 1-867-688-0282

I need to do a bit of maintenance on the contact information I have for you. Through the years email addresses, phone numbers change and sometimes I don't find out until long after the fact, if ever. So I have set up a specific email account that can assist me in organizing my records. Please email me with the correct mailing address, specifically the email address you want your minus40 report sent to, and any other pertinent information such as pastoral changes, church name changes, telephone number, etc. The email address to send this to is:

minus40@protonmail.com

The Tuk Baptist Church is doing well these days, with attendance consistently over 20. The Stelzig family continues to settle in and navigate the culture and curveballs arctic life is throwing at them. I remember those days well and am thankful that way back when Brother Gary Forney was there to keep me out of trouble. Well, mostly out of trouble anyway...

Lois and I now live in an apartment in the Tuk Baptist Church building. It's 437 sq. ft. of coziness on an oceanfront setting! Arctic Ocean mind you, but none the less oceanfront. (Our first home in the arctic in 1989 was 512 sq. ft.) We have more than we need and are very happy with God's provision.

On the health front, Lois is on the waitlist to get a hip replacement and the best guess given us for surgery is April 2020. Daily she endures a great amount of pain. Not much helps, so she really gets no relief. Please pray for her for pain relief and a shorter wait time. Me? I'm fine.

Thanksgiving, CHRISTmas and New Years are wonderful holidays that afford extra opportunity to present the Lord to folks. The Tuk Baptist Church has plans for services on both CHRISTmas and New Years Eve. The holidays are often ruined by alcohol and we boldly stand during these times to present Jesus Christ and His salvation and the true freedom He brings in breaking the chains of addiction and substance abuse.

The Back Page...

The “Back Page” is dedicated to the journey Lois and I are traveling that eventually will lead us to “life after Tuk”. This is the 2nd entry of this journey.

Our home in Inuvik has been sold and this eliminates one huge hurdle to our eventual relocation.

Wherever we end up, I desire to not only have a local impact but an international one as well. That’s tall talk I know, but raising awareness as to the spiritual need in the north and among indigenous people is a job that must be done. I am still not sure as to where the Lord will direct us geographically. The 2018 census lists 8,447 indigenous souls in the Yukon. And there is one church of like faith and practice in all of the Yukon. Yes, only one. Obviously the Yukon has our attention.

Alberta as well has 258,640 indigenous souls according to a 2016 census. Alberta hosts 45 First Nations in three treaty areas. She is home to 140 reserves on 812,771 hectares of reserve land. (over 2 million acres) There are only a handful of outreaches designated to Alberta’s First Nations.

I remember driving 9 hours in Manitoba with my son as he took his turn filling the pulpit in a church plant. Every 40 minutes to an hour we drove through a small town. I kept asking him, “Is there a church in this town?” This one? How about this one?” He answered with one word. “Nope.” There was no gospel preaching church the entire trip.

However, in total transparency, Lois and I need to consider the physical toll living in the arctic for 30+ years has taken. As well, health care is a concern for folks our age. We would love to stay in the high arctic. We love the far north! But honesty must prevail over the dreams of an old man. We need to be wise and in order to continue to be watchmen for Indigenous souls, we need to serve in a place conducive to a gimpy old couple with a lot of hard miles on them.

Would you pray for us as we seek God’s will? Would you ask God on our behalf to show us where we are to finish strong? Where to use the last drop of gas in our tanks for the Lord’s work among indigenous souls? Would you ask that the change of location would not result in loss of support?

Thank you!