
MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

October 2020

Dear praying friends,

Since July, the ministry of Northern Light Baptist Church has continued to solidify and faithfulness is building amongst the core believers. Our mission is to “Point Northern Souls to The True Light in the land of Northern Lights.” It is our passion to reach the Inuit, First Nations and Métis. The last census counted 4,683 indigenous souls (2018). The 3,300 souls in Inuvik kept me busy for decades, so I figure I’ve got enough work here in the Yukon to last till the rapture or I kick the bucket!

Sunday church is in a meeting room in a downtown hotel. This is working well and have no plans to make changes any time soon. Our mid-week meeting is another story. When the weather was warm we utilized an unheated space in a closed café in an RV park. It was graciously offered to us at no charge! However with cold weather upon us, we are looking at other, warmer options. Most other options are first of all expensive, and our young church is not financially capable of paying commercial rental fees. As well, we want to stay in the downtown area to allow walk in and public transit users to attend.

Our search for personal housing is over and we closed on a home October 16th. There are no stairs to negotiate and it is designed to be comfortable to grow old(er) in. I’ve regularly teased the church folk by telling them now all I have to do is live to 120 to pay for it!

Lois began the long process of hip replacement again with an x-ray earlier this month. It has been 2 years since the original X-ray in the NWT that revealed the hip joint issue. The process starts all over again here in the Yukon and the wait time and such all reset to the beginning. Overall she is doing better here, but the issue is not going to improve without surgery. She is scheduled for physiotherapy in November. We will see how that goes and proceed accordingly.

Our support has miraculously remained solid through the Covid fiasco and we have only experienced a couple months of shortfall. With regularity, we thank the Lord for our faithful supporters and appreciate the sacrifice and dedication you have to the Lord that has benefitted us. I never take for granted the sacrificial giving of retirees on fixed incomes, the struggling families, the children, the hard working people and the mission minded and dedicated churches. Your love for the Lord is inspiring and challenges me to remain faithful and diligent. It is no small thing that you do, therefore I cannot be small in my commitment to the Lord and my missionary service.

Please have a look at the new focus on the back page called, “The Man in the Pew.”

Thank you for your love and support through the years. We truly are partners in ministry.

Steve and Lois Donley

The Man in the Pew...

The “Man in the Pew” is dedicated to the unsung heroes that facilitate the sending of missionaries, and faithfully perform the logistics of keeping missionaries on the field.

Recently while discussing the propriety of a missionary being active in missions giving, a statement was used that stopped me cold and has lit a fire in my heart to give honour where honour is due. A giant of arctic missions told me, “When it comes right down to it, all missionary work happens because of the man in the pew.”

Immediately my mind went back to deputation and the faces of folks in the pews that listened to our presentation and agreed to partner with us in prayer and finances to reach the North for Christ. Folks who were not wearing high end clothes and drove old cars to church. Folks who came to mid week service after a 10 hour workday. Moms who were frazzled with motherhood and retirees sacrificially giving from their government pension. Families who can’t afford vacation and live in modest, low income housing, that give till it hurt. And yes, I know when they give they are giving to the Lord. They will be the first ones to say it’s God’s money, but from my perspective, I see its origin coming from the man in the pew.

I thought of the faces of our families that said goodbye to a son and a daughter and grandchildren. Siblings said goodbye, cousins parted and the entire weight of caring for aging parents handed to the brothers and sisters staying home. Through every decade the weight gets heavier and our aging siblings carry it all. They are the man in the pew.

Yet missionaries get all the press. They are honoured and prayed for. They get revered on special days, sometimes embarrassingly so. But the missionary would be dead in the water without the man in the pew. One month from disaster is how we live. Yet for over 30 years, every month we do God’s bidding, because of the man in the pew.

2 Corinthians 8:11-15. 11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. 12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. 13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: 14 **But by an equality**, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: **that there may be equality**: 15 As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.