MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

December 2021

Dear praying friends,

Lois and I were able to attend two mission conferences in October and I went to one alone in November. We decided against the trip to Ohio to see family this fall/winter. Although the Canadian/US border is officially open, both ways, there are still a few hurdles we are not comfortable with. We will reconsider in the spring or early summer and Lord willing see our family in 2022.

Northern Light Baptist Church continues to reach indigenous souls with the truth of Jesus Christ. Often contact is at first casual. Then as the individual gains confidence and believes we are trustworthy, the invitation to attend church seems less risky to them. Often supporting churches and pastors ask if the souls we minister to are receptive to the Gospel. The answer is, "Not at first, then maybe." After we pass the test of trust, the first visit to a church service is a test as well. It is less worship to the visitor and more on the lines of a test run. The information gathered will answer questions like, "Are they going to embarrass me or single me out? Do they sing church songs I know? Do I feel like I'm genuinely welcome? Are my family's clothes ok and do we fit in? Is the preacher racist in his sermon, or demeanour? Does the preacher act superior, and is he approachable? Does he preach so I can understand? Are kids welcome? Is the invitation a trap that will end in an embarrassing, emotional scene?"

If we fail the test, the visitor will not return. To this point, nearly every indigenous visitor has returned more than once and often several times. So in full transparency, I feel as though we are doing our job and doing it in the right way. Would you please pray for #1 the Holy Spirit to move in a powerful way and those souls be drawn to the Saviour. #2 That we could see an increase in faithfulness. And #3 for further inroads into the lives of indigenous families.

Covid Situation in The Yukon: Covid is breaking records in the Yukon and restrictions ebb and flow with outbreaks and state of emergency declarations. In all honesty sometimes we pressed on and skirted around the restrictions, and other times we operated low key, but we have not missed a Sunday so far. I'm praising the Lord we have not had an outbreak in the church and made it a matter of serious prayer when other churches did. Lois and I have remained healthy and give God the glory for such a blessing as good health.

Family news: Lois and I have 9 grandchildren now. 3 boys and 6 girls. Hayleigh Jones is the eldest at 16 and Kittrick Snow is 3 months. In between are Alayna, Teryn and Wesley Jones. Eve, JJ and Gracie Donley, and Graelynn Snow. They're spread between the Eastern arctic to Indiana and to The Yukon.

My parents are in Ohio in close proximity to my brother. (My only sibling) Lois has a brother in Texas, and a sister and brother in Ohio. I must say, although we sorely miss our family, the family of Christ provides us with great comfort, fellowship and love. We so appreciate the family of God! Things difficult transition into victory as our brothers and sisters in the Lord pray for us, fellowship with us and encourage us. Thank You!

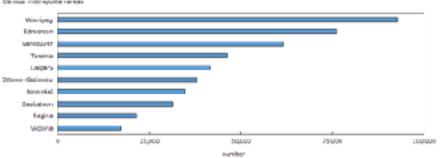
Steve and Lois Donley

Did you know?

Canada's population is 38 million.

- 1,673,785 people 4.9% of the national population are indigenous
- 42,986 people live in The Yukon
- 24,000 people live in Whitehorse
- 8,195 people in the Yukon are indigenous
- 4,683 indigenous souls live in Whitehorse

Chart 1 Indigenous population size for selected census metropolitan areas, 2016



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While some missionaries need boats, planes, printing presses, warehouses, medical equipment and such, for years now we have needed one ministry tool. A solid, heavy duty truck. We have a 2011 F-350 Super duty, diesel pickup. The years in the arctic were hard on it but all along I have been repairing it and keeping it in good shape. For example, last fall I put over \$4,000 into rebuilding the front end. The Dempster Highway and ice roads had taken a huge toll on the ball joints, tie rod ends, shocks, u-joints and oil seals. So the suspension is now good to go.

However, even though I regularly maintained the transmission, I'm beginning to get indicators of impending trouble.

This truck's value is still quite high, so Lois and I want to rebuild the major drive train components as needed and Lord willing the vehicle will last the rest of our active ministry.

Would you pray for us to have wisdom on this? If you are in the heavy duty pickup truck business or in the engine and transmission rebuild and repair industry, do you have any input?

Comparable new trucks of this caliber... you can buy a small house for the same amount. Not an option for us!

We will let you know how the Lord leads us and make available ways to help.