
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

