
MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

April 2022

Dear praying friends,

Spring renews many things. The freshness of nature, buds and leaves, baby animals, and different weather. With cautious optimism, spring seems to be bringing back a country and world with less intrusion upon freedom. What we experienced in the past couple of years will be seen again, and ultimately these eroded freedoms will dovetail with the antichrist and the tribulation. These realizations have been used of the Lord to stir my heart to remember, *"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."* (Luke 21:28)

My report concerning NLBC church plant is boiled down to; "steady as she goes." Patching together Romans 5:3-5 to highlight hope, I have hope because, *"knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed"*. Unfortunately, "patience" isn't one of my strengths. However, everything that has bogged down NLBC's start up, can indeed reveal hope. Our attendance is so, so. Faithfulness has wained in tune with restrictions. We had a few visitors, but the inconsistency with our meeting place was our nemesis therewith. Our percentage of indigenous compared to others in attendance has stayed at 50% to 60%. Unfortunately, some find watching online better than in-person church meetings. This has created a conundrum in my pea brain. Why offer an alternative that is substandard, but reaches and introduces NLBC to a substantially larger local indigenous audience? To be honest I don't know if I have the constitution to watch people struggle with what should be such an easy decision. I'd pull the plug on our online presentations in a New York second if it weren't for the success we have in reaching a surprising number of indigenous souls far and wide.

Our plans to visit our families seem to change every week. We think we have a plan to begin implementing and something happens causing us to slam on the brakes. We adjust accordingly and yet another curveball comes hurling at us. Such as the current price of diesel fuel.

Health report: Just this week Lois had an appointment with the surgeon concerning her hip replacement. The saga is long and frustrating. But it boils down to Lois assessing herself and when she is ready to proceed the Doc will put her in the queue. But it must be within a year or she goes back to square one. She wants to compare this summer's mobility to last and go from there. Just a heads up, since we will be managing this life changing surgery within the next year and rehab in the months and months to follow, we want to go and see our family, visit a few supporting churches and meet a few new churches this fall. Let's be honest, once Lois is in the surgery queue, travel will be a no go until after the long, long rehab and recovery is finished. So, since the restrictions are easing until the next pandemic gets cranked up, we better get while the getting is good. Diesel prices are horrendous, but it might be several years before travel is possible. We will use our camper as accommodations and probably call this our last furlough. Maybe.

My physical health is what it is. But the transition from an arctic missionary to a city preacher has been a struggle mentally. It's tough at 61 to retrain yourself using experience along with new things that don't fit together. I feel like I'm trying to put a puzzle together with pieces from two different boxes. "But God!"

I delayed this newsletter until after Resurrection Sunday so I could share the results. We hit a record attendance of 35! The breakdown was 19 Indigenous and 16 non-indigenous, 9 of whom were visitors!

In an earlier Minus40 Report, I mentioned we are going to make some major repairs and bring our vehicle up to a standard that will last a substantial number of years. My home church pitched in a large portion and we are well on the way to being able to afford the installation of a new or rebuilt transmission. We won't stop there, because ultimately we want to go for an engine rebuild. While this expense is my responsibility, I understand that the Lord might be leading you to be a part of the solution that takes an arctic abused vehicle back to its proper standard. The arctic is hard on vehicles. Real hard. I went through 3 super duty diesel trucks in 20 years. The 3rd is the one I'm working on now. When finished it should last the rest of my active ministry. The option of upgrading to a newer truck was briefly explored. The sticker shock about killed me and then I almost died laughing. It's dangerous to shop for new vehicles!

Thank you for your faithful support in prayer and financially. We truly are blessed to have many long term supporters. Through the years it seems like we've crossed a threshold with many of you in that a long distance friendship has developed. In these troublesome times, the security and blessing of friendship is a sustaining gift from God. Thanks friends.

In His easy yoke,

Steve&Lois

Resurrection Sunday

