
MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

November 2022

Dear praying friends,

We're so excited to be back in the Yukon serving the Saviour! The time spent in the states was profitable in that I visited quite a bit with my parents and brother. Lois spent precious time with her sister Donna, who peacefully went to glory on November 2nd. Thank you to those who prayed for Donna through the years. She is healed in the arms of the Lord now! We saw our son and family in Indiana on a couple of occasions and of lesser concern is that the truck is fixed up top notch and should provide us years of use.

Our reunion with NLBC was sweet and our first service back was well attended with 50% of the attendees indigenous souls. The sub heading of this Minus40 Report is, "Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North". That has been on nearly every newsletter for a couple of decades. Our commitment has not slid, wavered or changed. It is our earnest hope and prayer that the Lord will bring revival to Canada's First Peoples. If I can be brutally honest, hearts of stone occupy many non-indigenous Canadians. Of course the exceptions are solid, Bible believing Christians. The gods of environment, perversion, socialism, entertainment and those who seek to oppress Judaeo-Christian ethics and morals, rule the country. Secular citizens worship these gods with ballots and bombastic, open support. Few are seeking truth, right and change. On the contrary, Canada's First Peoples are seeking change. They are investigating self government. They are seeking opportunity to advance people at the local level. Although spiritual curiosity can lead to ancient tribal religion, as always, the result leaves emptiness and dissatisfaction. When indigenous souls find the Saviour's love, they become the most faithful, loyal and powerful christians I've ever known. If God would move and a revival break out in Canada among her First Peoples, a revival would sweep the nation. We can reach Canada by reaching the nations within Canada.

The recession has caused everyone to struggle. I know the government and economic "experts" are only warning a recession "might" come, but one trip to the gas pumps and grocery shelves, silences such balderdash. Recession is here. In preparation I'm asking the Lord to give us 3 new supporters; one US church, one Canadian church and one personal supporter. This combination will help us with stability as we traverse the rocky road ahead. As well, we are praying for a helper here. No one is on the horizon, I can't offer a salary or housing. We only have 20 people in church. I don't have a piano player, piano or church building. We're not a very appealing ministry to come and team up with. But God... If it is His will, can send us a Timothy. Pray for that guy to have on holy, rose coloured glasses and think he's coming to the world's greatest ministry!

Lois is officially on the list for hip replacement surgery. 9-12 months wait. 🙏 For my own soul, I'll not comment further. 😞

I want to thank the people, pastors and churches who helped us along the way on our travels. The love offerings helped to sustain us. Please see the back page about the "Man in the pew".

Another tribute to “The man in the pew”

Our trip was nearly 5,000 miles each way. It was worth every mile in reconnecting with family, our sending church and some local pastors in the area. The trip was challenging on many fronts. “Expensive” would be an understatement. But time and time again, God’s people came to the rescue and met the need. An Alberta pastor sent us a significant amount to offset the extreme expenses incurred. I called him to thank him and he made it clear his liberty to do so was initiated by the man in the pew. A Manitoban pastor filled my diesel truck up gave me a prepaid gas card to boot. When thanking him, he indicated his church men, the man in the pew, loved missionaries and they enjoyed the pastor acting on their behalf in meeting such needs. And I’m not just talking about financial needs. In Ohio we stayed in our RV with full hookup and it was the man in the pew who provided the luxury camping spot on his own land, a few hundred yards from the farm where I grew up. When my truck broke down, twice, I called church guys, men in the pew to rescue us. I needed rides to and from the repair shops, again, the man in the pew came to the rescue. I ruined my trailer hitch and towing setup, and it was the man in the pew who championed my trouble and gave me a higher quality one that he had sitting in his barn. He gave it to me free of charge. My dad, a church man in his 90’s let me use his car while my truck was in the shop. My brother, a church man, cared for things with my parents while I did the Lord’s work on furlough and he has done so for decades during my tenure in the north. On and on I could go.

Oh dear church man, please never think of missions as just a money thing. It should first be prayer thing. Yes, giving is essential. But there are many ways you can help if you are in tune with the missionary’s life. I remember a “tools I need” list many years ago. I developed it at the request of a church. I put a circular saw on it, torque wrench, variable speed drill, welder, etc. Churches really took it to heart and met several big needs. One pastor told me of a guy who was hesitant to involve himself deeply in church. He took great interest in that list and his overall involvement took off after meeting a practical need on the list.

Church man, you men in the pew; you were our heroes this trip. You always have been, but this time it was public. And I publicly want to thank you. God knows your heart and sees your service..

In His easy yoke,

Steve&Lois