
MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

March 2023

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)

Question. What’s better than three new supporting churches? **Answer:** Several long-time supporting churches increasing their support, totaling more than three new ones! Our current supporters know us, trust us, and figure we are a solid way to invest in treasures in heaven. We are honoured by that, and it encourages and challenges us to operate with even more integrity.

It’s still late winter in the far north, even though it’s early spring for most of you. Winter wears on you, and the older I get, the more winter goads me into negative thinking. Can I let off a little steam? I hate the devil. I hate the devil for being a "potential squelcher." Quite a few years ago, in a national meeting, after I preached, testimonies went on for almost a half hour, with multiple people confessing they felt “called to the north.” None that I know of ever came. I hate the devil for it. In 1988, I saw the Aklavik Baptist Church with snow piling up to the roof at the entry door, and I was moved to answer God’s call to the arctic. When I got back to the north the next year, I traveled to Aklavik one time a week for services for many years, waiting for someone to come and be a full-time pastor to that precious group of indigenous souls. God blessed us with two different families who came and went over the years. Yet here we are, 30 plus years later, and the same scenario is happening all over again. Pastor Featherstone, from Inuvik, travels to Aklavik once a week to preach the gospel there. I hate the devil for despising that ministry and trying to kill it every decade since its founding. I hate the devil for his hatred of indigenous souls in the far north. Suicide rates are higher in the indigenous communities in the circumpolar arctic than anywhere else on earth. I hate the devil for normalizing alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine. These wicked, soul-stealing substances wash away the concern for one's own soul as people chained to addiction live, just waiting to die. I hate the devil for minimizing indigenous ministry as an oddity and questionable pursuit. The indigenous population represents 5% or 1.8 million souls. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_in_Canada#cite_note-population2021-1] The indigenous population is growing at four times the national rate compared to others. We should be proactive and have indigenous ministries up and running now, rather than scrambling in the future and playing catch-up. Yes, I hate the devil, but I pray the Lord helps me to love Jesus with as much passion.

We are still praying for Lois to get her hip replacement surgery in God’s timing and not just according to a number in the orthopaedic surgeon’s queue. Her condition is neither improving nor stabilizing. As her difficulties increase, she manages each downgrade with amazing grace and enviable strength. I am extremely thankful you are praying for her.

Thank you for your faithful support. Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for sticking with us through all these years.

In His easy yoke,

Steve&Lois