
MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

February 2024

The New Year brought us a visit and relapse of the nasty respiratory virus that is hitting everyone. It was a slow climb back to relative normalcy. Lois is doing excellent with her recovery from this summer's surgeries and has found herself feeling better than she has for years and years. Your prayers have certainly been effectual! Thank you!

Northern Light Baptist Church had its third anniversary this past July. We have set a few simple public goals for this year and I have a few personal goals for the church as well. This year we want to further organize the church and by adding a deacon we come closer to that goal. As well, we want to support another missionary (we currently support three) and hold special meetings such as a mission's conference and revival services. We would appreciate your prayers regarding those goals.

I want to continue to beat the drum concerning reaching indigenous souls. I've learned this emphasis is sometimes unappreciated, but that doesn't discourage me at all. It may seem odd to say a 63 year old, worn out missionary is cutting edge, but we are ahead of the curve in understanding the need and what is in the future if the Lord tarries His coming. Statistics Canada says on their website, "Over multiple decades, census data have revealed that the Indigenous population has grown quickly, at a pace far surpassing that of the non-Indigenous population." The drum I beat is a reminder that the opportunity and need to reach indigenous souls increases every year. The beat also says the Biblical references to "Nations" can properly be understood as people groups and not always political boundaries on a wonky map. And before I quit pounding the drum, let me toss in the fact that indigenous ministry it is slow, often frustrating and as referenced above, easily misunderstood. Oh that God would send young families to invest their lives to reach indigenous souls in North America!

I'm sitting at my desk perusing the variety of items on it. I have prayer cards, (you always have them when you don't need them but never have them when you do). There's O'Keeffe's Working Hands hand cream, some hand sanitizer left over from the Covid era, a Diaper, (for my grandson, not me) a Wednesday church prayer list, a pile of my book, Northwest Adventures, enough electronic charging wires to boost the battery of a semi truck, cough drops and a book my pastor wrote. There's more, but I'll stop there. All of that reminds us that a missionary is usually involved in much more than just the academics associated with preaching. They're sons and daughters, amateur historians for the country or people they are missionaries to, mechanics, graphic designers, writers, moms and dads. The work they report in a newsletter is but a snippet of the burden they carry each day. Please pray for the whole missionary, not just the prayer letter information. It is a blessing to be prayed for!

Thank you, *Steve and Lois Donley*