
MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

April 2025

The transition from late winter to early spring brings excitement in the far north. Here in the Yukon, we have had a mild winter, and spring has been teasing us for a while. Often folks tell us that they don't know how northerners handle the cold. I simply tell them that we make adjustments just like people in extremely hot climates handle their discomforts. They start their vehicles and let them run a few minutes to cool the interior before they drive away. We in the extremely cold climates run ours to heat them up. In hot climates, people go from air-conditioned space to air-conditioned space, and we in cold climates go from heat source to heat source. It is very doable and should not be a reason to tell the Lord, "No," when it comes to a call to serve the Lord in the far north. But if you're only going to consider easy fields to serve the Lord, you might as well scratch the Arctic and far north off your list; even with the cold climate difficulties debunked, you're probably not a good fit if ease and comfort is your first priority.

Around the globe, missionaries are facing an anti-American sentiment. Your duty in holding the ropes is certainly inclusive of fervent prayer. The wise missionary uses great caution so as not to ruin his witness because of politics. Yet even with great effort to focus on souls and avoid politics, people know where you're from. Along with that knowledge are wild assumptions and false conclusions. Who would have thought that Canadian and American relations could have ever deteriorated to the state they are in currently? Nevertheless, 1 Corinthians 9:22 remains our *modus operandi*. To the weak I became as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Lois has carpal tunnel surgery on both hands that are scheduled for April 16 and June 11. Thank you in advance for praying for her on those days. The surgeries are quite common anymore and are going to be done here in Whitehorse. Please pray for her recovery and the physical therapy that follows the surgeries.

Every week we see something encouraging in our services. It might be a first-time visitor or a returning visitor. Maybe a long-time prospect that finally comes to church. Or possibly it is a discussion about the message or someone who seeks spiritual help after church. Sometimes it's a person who is down and out but finally comes to church, and the relief on their face is priceless. Finally they have hope again. I email the audio of my messages, and occasionally some encouraging feedback comes in. It all tells me that the Lord is pleased with our missionary service here in the Yukon.

Steve and Lois Donley