



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

February 2021

Dear praying friends,

As a teenager I learned how to tie a bowline knot with one hand. It was said this was useful in case you ever had to hang onto a rope while dangling off cliff and tie a rope around your waist with the free hand. Having never found myself in such a situation, I forgot how to tie it. A few months ago I remembered the idea but had forgotten how to tie the knot and had to relearn it. As well, I had forgotten a few things about northern ministry since planting NLBC and had to relearn them too.

I forgot that a congregation's average age often mirrors the pastor's age. Healthy churches have every age group represented in the congregation. NLBC in the Yukon is general a slightly older congregation, because their pastor is not a spring chicken. Would you pray with us that the Lord will bring all ages to our church? I would love to have a young man in place learning beside me to replace me in the years to come.

I also had to relearn that it takes a long time to earn trust. I was settled into the NWT ministries in the Western Arctic for decades, and trust was a diminishing problem. I had known some young adults when they were kids, and they grew up trusting me as their pastor. But here in the Yukon I'm just another guy who transitioned in and people don't know me from Adam. I have to earn trust and that takes time, especially in the indigenous community. Would you pray that the Lord would part the Red Sea of distrust and fast track the trust issue? A truth about success in indigenous ministry is that folks usually must trust you and have a relationship with you before they will listen to your witness and trust your Jesus. I don't have decades left in ministry to build that trust. Remember Psalms 75:6-7? *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.* Let's pray together for God's help based on this truth!

I forgot that I'm not 35 anymore. Like a child who's eyes are bigger than their stomach, I often find myself short on energy and gumption to be a vibrant church planter. As well, I catch myself asking Lois to carry a burden she can't hold up under. We are more plodders than buzz saw missionaries these days. Would you pray we would be blessed with health, energy and strength to finish strong in this final leg of our race here on earth?

I forgot in the ease of decades of non-persecution that a pastor must lead his church with strong, spiritual wisdom, as he protects the flock. Routine and ease brings shortsightedness. Would you pray that I might be a lionlike protector of the sheep in my charge in these days of persecution?

Thank you for your love and support through the years. We truly are partners in ministry.

Steve and Lois Donley

Please have a look at the continuing focus on the back page called, "The Man in the Pew."



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the 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.

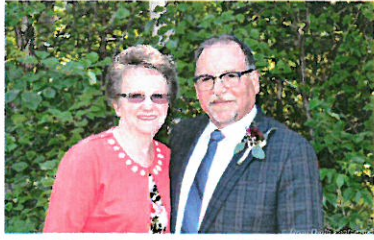
The recession has caused everyone to struggle. I know the government and economic "experts" are only warning a recession "might" come, but one trip to the gas pumps and grocery shelves, silences such balderdash. Recession is here. In preparation I'm asking the Lord to give us 3 new supporters; one US 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".



Steve & Lois Donley



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Psalm 147:17 He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?

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Pastor Jeff Jamieson

Assisted through: All Points Baptist Mission. 330-339-1035

Support address: PO Box 977
New Philadelphia OH 44663 USA
allpointsbaptist.com

Field address: 45-71 Aksala Dr
Whitehorse YT Y1A0M5 Canada
403-763-0258 (cell)

steveandloisdonley@gmail.com

iceroadpreacher.ca

Facebook pages:

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- ◆ [Northern Light Baptist Church](#)

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



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the 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!



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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





MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

February 2022

Dear praying friends,

The new year started out with the Yukon Government grasping for straws and repeating the same old failed approach in dealing with the Omicron variant of Covid. They once again chose to use a state of emergency to unleash unlimited and unchecked power of unelected officials to choke freedoms and require worship leaders to check covid vaccine documentation. If someone does not have or is unwilling to show their proof of vaccination, I would have to turn them away from entering the place of worship. I would have to deny someone the opportunity to learn of the creator God, His Son and His provision for eternal salvation and to quench the Holy Spirit who literally indwells a believer. I would have to turn them away from hearing the eternal, preserved Word of God and send them off without ever hearing of the final authority and absolute truth of the Bible. Furthermore this is a backdoor racial and social attack against Indigenous peoples and minimizing at risk people who are struggling with addictions. These souls at risk often live on the streets and frequent homeless shelters or engage risky housing arrangements. These groups are notoriously under vaccinated and that issue, according to the Yukon Government, stops them from accessing real hope. That hope is the hope of Jesus Christ. Honestly, I do not care if someone is vaccinated, unvaccinated, boosted or trying unconventional methods to stay healthy. I'm here to preach the Bible. The words, "all" and "whosoever" and "every" hold powerful meaning to a Bible believer, and therein lies my stubbornness on this issue. Don't tell me I can't preach; don't tell me who I can and cannot preach to. Jesus didn't say, "Come unto me ye vaccinated and I will give you rest".

So we have for the time being lost our meeting space. I know, this sounds like an "Oh poor me" newsletter, but real is real and you can't make this stuff up. Our testimony in the hotel where we rented a meeting room was impressive enough that when I declared I wouldn't check vaccine passports the manager said she wouldn't open up Sunday bookings to anyone else, but save the spot for us. I guess if you're looking for a praise, that would register pretty high.

As well, the alternative we have decided to use while we ride this thing out has proved to be pretty effective. We are online on Facebook Live thru Northern Light Baptist Church's page. The reach has been far and wide. Our indigenous audience is seriously strong and I don't mean hits or clicks, but solid full viewing with encouraging comments. We reach out to folks as best as possible and God is doing something strong even with a cranky old missionary in front of the camera.

Lois and I face some health speed bumps with regularity these days, but nothing we can't handle with the Lord's upholding hand. To date, our difficulties have not been too serious, just frustrating and annoying. I understand this and have experience in this department. It is par for the course as we age.

In the midst of these trying times we remain encouraged. We are maintaining a singular focus on indigenous souls and God is blessing us within that endeavour and adding folks with other heritages as well. God has given me inroads to those entangled in the web of substance abuse. It's slow, seemingly futile work. But accompanying the faithfulness He requires, is the gift of hope. And where there is hope, there is potential victory.



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You might notice in this letter a bit of annoyance coming through. A twinge of irritation topped by frustration. When these types of newsletters develop, (usually in the middle of winter), I would always send them off to Brother Gary Forney to get his opinion. He would sometimes encourage me to go ahead and be raw, but other times he would infer I needed to tone it down. I counted on Brother Forney to help me make it as a missionary. Even after 30 plus years on the mission field, I still need him to help me.

But God in His infinite mercy, impeccability, and unfathomable wisdom, chose to call Brother Gary Forney home just before CHRISTmas. I was handling things well, until I started to write this newsletter. I thought about how I always sent these flame thrower newsletters to him first. As I sit weeping before my computer screen, I cannot describe this experience adequately. I feel so utterly alone in a way. He and I shared the burden for indigenous souls and arctic ministry alone for many, many years. Before PNBM, APBM and before there were any PNBM missionaries in Iqaluit, Norway, Rankin Inlet, Newfoundland, Siberia or Greenland, we were alone together in the Western Arctic of the NWT. It was just Gary and Steve. I was nobody from nowhere and he took a chance on me and invested his time and effort into training me for arctic ministry. I was probably a terrible student, but Gary never gave up on me. He was always wanting me to do things I knew I couldn't do. To handle things I thought were too big for me. To do things I didn't have enough faith for. Many PNBM and APBM missionaries picked up the gates of our cities and carried them up Hebron's hill with Bro Forney cheering us on. Backcountry kids and unspectacular city boys became Samsons under his influence. Closed countries are now open to the gospel and Gary Forney was the one who handed them a battering ram. Faithfulness ran deep in Gary Forney's veins. He expected nothing less from us. Loyalty was expected to run from our pores mingled with the sweat of commitment. He didn't spoon feed us a 1,2,3 plan to build these qualities, he just expected us to man up and find it within ourselves, or move on. Yet in all his "face to the wind" way of challenging me, was a man that had more compassion in his little finger than I had in my whole body. Many times we wept together as he wondered why no one cared for the indigenous souls of the north. In honesty, he wept for them and I suppose I wept because he was crying. I was so inept and in over my head with it all. I was struggling to keep my head above water with the next message, a wonderful yet difficult culture to navigate and the issues of a young family. He wept for a world of northerners going to Hell and I was simply so overwhelmed, I didn't get it at first. Then, miraculously, almost unknowingly, bit by bit, he transferred that burden to me and attempted to do so in other PNBM and later into APBM missionaries.

He was simultaneously a commanding general and a sergeant who kept me from getting my head blown off in spiritual warfare. Also, he could be a jokester and cut up buddy in a fox hole in missionary battle. Gary Forney. I love that guy.



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

December 2021



Dear praying friends,

Lois and I were able to attend two mission conferences in October and I went to one alone in November. We decided against the trip to Ohio to see family this fall/winter. Although the Canadian/US border is officially open, both ways, there are still a few hurdles we are not comfortable with. We will reconsider in the spring or early summer and Lord willing see our family in 2022.

Northern Light Baptist Church continues to reach indigenous souls with the truth of Jesus Christ. Often contact is at first casual. Then as the individual gains confidence and believes we are trustworthy, the invitation to attend church seems less risky to them. Often supporting churches and pastors ask if the souls we minister to are receptive to the Gospel. The answer is, "Not at first, then maybe." After we pass the test of trust, the first visit to a church service is a test as well. It is less worship to the visitor and more on the lines of a test run. The information gathered will answer questions like, "Are they going to embarrass me or single me out? Do they sing church songs I know? Do I feel like I'm genuinely welcome? Are my family's clothes ok and do we fit in? Is the preacher racist in his sermon, or demeanour? Does the preacher act superior, and is he approachable? Does he preach so I can understand? Are kids welcome? Is the invitation a trap that will end in an embarrassing emotional scene?"

If we fail the test, the visitor will not return. To this point, nearly every indigenous visitor has returned more than once and often several times. So in full transparency, I feel as though we are doing our job and doing it in the right way. Would you please pray for #1 the Holy Spirit to move in a powerful way and those souls be drawn to the Saviour. #2 That we could see an increase in faithfulness. And #3 for further inroads into the lives of indigenous families.

For USA Churches only

 I want to share a situation with my supporters in the USA that will not appear in my Canadian prayer letter. Usually they are identical except for support addresses and such, but this time I need to share my heart and do not want to draw undue attention to myself with Canadian churches and my Pastor friends this side of the border. Covid is breaking records in the Yukon and restrictions are tightening. At one point the restrictions required me, as the event organizer, (government speak for Pastor of the Church) to check the vaccination status of any and all attendees to our event. (church meeting). I didn't do it. I cannot turn someone away from coming to hear the Word of God. I am not a government enforcing agent and will not be conscripted into such a role. You as an American are probably ok with that decision. The fines were listed at \$5,000 and or possible jail time. I was never called to fight the government, nor did you send me to do that. I am called to preach the gospel to indigenous souls. That line has been easily distinguishable, but in the new world order of Covid, the line is blurred. I just wanted you to know, as my supporters that this is what I was faced with and that I didn't capitulate. The restrictions have since changed, but I have no doubt we will face them again. When it happens, I will proceed with holding open worship services and reject no one from hearing the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. 

Steve and Lois Donley



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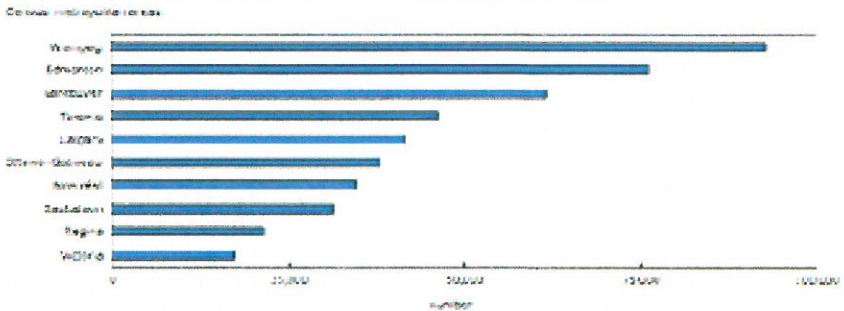
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Did you know?...

Canada's population is 38 million. (California has 39 million)
 1,673,785 people 4.9% of the national population are indigenous
 42,986 people live in The Yukon
 24,000 people live in Whitehorse
 8,195 people in the Yukon are indigenous
 4,683 indigenous souls live in Whitehorse

Chart 1 Indigenous population size for selected census metropolitan areas, 2016



Note: While the universe for this article is restricted to those living off reserve, both on and off reserve numbers are used in the calculations for this chart.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

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While some missionaries need boats, planes, printing presses, warehouses, medical equipment and such, for years now we have needed one ministry tool. A solid, heavy duty truck. We have a 2011 F-350 Super duty, diesel pickup. The years in the arctic were hard on it but all along I have been repairing it and keeping it in good shape. For example, last fall I put over \$4,000 into rebuilding the front end. The Dempster Highway and ice roads had taken a huge toll on the ball joints, tie rod ends, shocks, u-joints and oil seals. So the suspension is now good to go.

However, even though I regularly maintained the transmission, I'm beginning to get indicators of impending trouble.

This truck's value is still quite high, so Lois and I want to rebuild the major drive train components as needed and Lord willing the vehicle will last the rest of our active ministry.

Would you pray for us to have wisdom on this? If you are in the heavy duty pickup truck business or in the engine and transmission rebuild and repair industry, do you have any input? Comparable new trucks of this caliber... you can buy a small house for the same amount. Not an option for us!

We will let you know how the Lord leads us and make available ways to help.



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

May 2021

Dear praying friends,

Resurrection Sunday, we had 26 souls in church with a 7:3 ratio of Indigenous to non Indigenous attendees. In the midst of restrictions here in Canada, this was a great day and told me a lot about the strength of the nucleus of our infant church. We meet in our home on Wednesday, and see faithful souls week in and week out. Lois and I are honoured to be entrusted with these souls. Especially through these trying times. I sense people are seeking stability while the world churns in turmoil. Sometimes I do not feel very stable, but compared to what is happening in the news and the weird online world, I'm trying to be a stable reflector. Reflecting Jesus unto scared, confused, betrayed and vulnerable souls. Just when I am about to explode on the wackos of government and it's propaganda machine of national media, I rememberer that I'm an ambassador of Jesus. He who said not a word against his accusers, but lived and died and rose again with an eternal voice.

In case you didn't notice, I'm not on social media anymore. It was a cancer to me. A rotting of my soul was ongoing and there was no way to survive but amputation. It was a selfish decision that I would make again with no hesitation. I pop on our ministry page, "Iceroadpreacher and the Minus40Report" and "Northern Light Baptist Church" page once in a while under Lois' name. I say, "Steve here..." But that's just to keep you informed of stuff that you might find interesting. I feel I must limit myself to that level of presence. However, I want you to feel free to contact me through a phone call, email, text or through a non-google based app called "Signal".

By the way, January 1, I became the General Director of Points North Baptist Mission. It is a Canadian missionary agency that has a focus on Arctic and indigenous souls. We work in coordination with All Points Baptist Mission and facilitate missionary helps on the Canadian side of the border. There are 14 families on our roster in northern and indigenous ministry. From Greenland, Siberia, Norway and Canada, our circumpolar vision continues on since PNBM's birth in 1996.

Lois and I are well. Our biggest difficulty is not physical, but in heart. We long to see our families. We grieve at not seeing my parents. We painfully miss our children and grandchildren. It all makes me think of how magnificent the missionaries of old were. Crossing the world and in many cases never seeing family again. They were giants. I stand in awe of the pioneers of yesteryear, and we thus press on in the trail they blazed.

Thank you for your love and support through the years. We truly are partners in ministry.

Steve and Lois Donley

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Northern Light Baptist Church

The Man in the Pew...

The "Man in the Pew" is dedicated to the unsung heroes that facilitate the sending of missionaries, and faithfully perform the logistics of keeping missionaries on the field.

Recently while discussing the propriety of a missionary being active in missions giving, a statement was used that stopped me cold and has lit a fire in my heart to give honour where honour is due. A giant of arctic missions told me, "When it comes right down to it, all missionary work happens because of the man in the pew."

The "man in the pew" this time is dedicated to the champions who are "Prayer Warriors". I'm not speaking of folk who generally pray for missionaries, but those unnamed and often secret souls who have a passion for missionary prayer. They often humble us when we show up at churches. "How is so and so" they ask? "I've been praying for them since you told us about them a couple of years ago in your prayer letter." Or they ask about an ailment that was reported a long time ago. They ask us questions in detail and have a genuine interest in every snippet in the answer. But the throat gripping engagements are when a dear saint of God looks you in the eye as they tenderly grasp your hand. With moist eyes they declare, "I pray for you every day."

Who knows the true value of a prayer warrior but the king to whom the requests were delivered? I shudder to think of my missionary career without the proactive and protective hand of God as moved by the intercession of prayer warriors.

*2 Corinthians 8:11-15. 11 Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. 12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. 13 For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: 14 **But by an equality**, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: **that there may be equality**: 15 As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.*



Steve & Lois Donley



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New Philadelphia OH 44663 USA
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Field address: 45-71 Aksala Dr
Whitehorse YT Y1A 0M5 Canada
403-763-0258 (cell)

steveandloisdonley@gmail.com

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Northern Light Baptist Church

The Man in the Pew...

The “Man in the Pew” is dedicated to the unsung heroes that facilitate the sending of missionaries, and faithfully perform the logistics of keeping missionaries on the field.

Recently while discussing the propriety of a missionary being active in missions giving, a statement was used that stopped me cold and has lit a fire in my heart to give honour where honour is due. A giant of arctic missions told me, “When it comes right down to it, all missionary work happens because of the man in the pew.”

The “man in the pew” this time is dedicated to reminding us of the champions that our siblings (and or other family members) are in staying at home and caring for family issues while we serve far from home. Missionaries are sons and daughters. The responsibility to honour our parents is a permanent command. Honour includes care. Lois and I are blessed with great siblings who have taken the responsibility of caring for our parents. Lois has lost both her parents and in the times leading to their passing, her siblings handled things and our permanence on the mission field has been consistent. My parents are currently being cared for by my brother. He and his wife work tirelessly in honouring my parents and their sacrificial care of mom and pop is as important as anything ministry wise that I do. On this side of Glory, the sibling’s role in worldwide evangelization will never be rewarded properly. Someday we will all stand before Christ and finally understand in full disclosure the equality mentioned in 2 Corinthians chapter 8. The rewards will fulfill the requirement to give honour to whom honour is due.

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MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the North

October 2020

Dear praying friends,

Since July, the ministry of Northern Light Baptist Church has continued to solidify and faithfulness is building amongst the core believers. Our mission is to "Point Northern Souls to The True Light in the land of Northern Lights." It is our passion to reach the Inuit, First Nations and Métis. The last census counted 4,683 indigenous souls (2018). The 3,300 souls in Inuvik kept me busy for decades, so I figure I've got enough work here in the Yukon to last till the rapture or I kick the bucket!

Sunday church is in a meeting room in a downtown hotel. This is working well and have no plans to make changes any time soon. Our mid-week meeting is another story. When the weather was warm we utilized an unheated space in a closed café in an RV park. It was graciously offered to us at no charge! However with cold weather upon us, we are looking at other, warmer options. Most other options are first of all expensive, and our young church is not financially capable of paying commercial rental fees. As well, we want to stay in the downtown area to allow walk in and public transit users to attend.

Our search for personal housing is over and we closed on a home October 16th. There are no stairs to negotiate and it is designed to be comfortable to grow old(er) in. I've regularly teased the church folk by telling them now all I have to do is live to 120 to pay for it!

Lois began the long process of hip replacement again with an x-ray earlier this month. It has been 2 years since the original X-ray in the NWT that revealed the hip joint issue. The process starts all over again here in the Yukon and the wait time and such all reset to the beginning. Overall she is doing better here, but the issue is not going to improve without surgery. She is scheduled for physiotherapy in November. We will see how that goes and proceed accordingly.

Our support has miraculously remained solid through the Covid fiasco and we have only experienced a couple months of shortfall. With regularity, we thank the Lord for our faithful supporters and appreciate the sacrifice and dedication you have to the Lord that has benefitted us. I never take for granted the sacrificial giving of retirees on fixed incomes, the struggling families, the children, the hard working people and the mission minded and dedicated churches. Your love for the Lord is inspiring and challenges me to remain faithful and diligent. It is no small thing that you do, therefore I cannot be small in my commitment to the Lord and my missionary service.

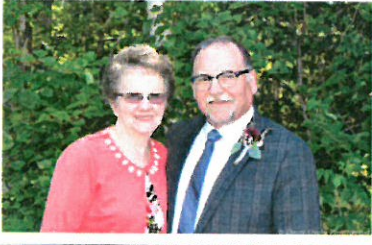
Please have a look at the new focus on the back page called, "The Man in the Pew."

Thank you for your love and support through the years. We truly are partners in ministry.

Steve and Lois Donley



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Field address: PO Box 30191
Whitehorse YT Y1A 5M2 Canada
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Northern Light Baptist Church

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Recently while discussing the propriety of a missionary being active in missions giving, a statement was used that stopped me cold and has lit a fire in my heart to give honour where honour is due. A giant of arctic missions told me, "When it comes right down to it, all missionary work happens because of the man in the pew."

Immediately my mind went back to deputation and the faces of folks in the pews that listened to our presentation and agreed to partner with us in prayer and finances to reach the North for Christ. Folks who were not wearing high end clothes and drove old cars to church. Folks who came to mid week service after a 10 hour workday. Moms who were frazzled with motherhood and retirees sacrificially giving from their government pension. Families who can't afford vacation and live in modest, low income housing, that give till it hurt. And yes, I know when they give they are giving to the Lord. They will be the first ones to say it's God's money, but from my perspective, I see its origin coming from the man in the pew.

I thought of the faces of our families that said goodbye to a son and a daughter and grandchildren. Siblings said goodbye, cousins parted and the entire weight of caring for aging parents handed to the brothers and sisters staying home. Through every decade the weight gets heavier and our aging siblings carry it all. They are the man in the pew.

Yet missionaries get all the press. They are honoured and prayed for. They get revered on special days, sometimes embarrassingly so. But the missionary would be dead in the water without the man in the pew. One month from disaster is how we live. Yet for over 30 years, every month we do God's bidding, because of the man in the pew.

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MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

May 2020

Dear praying friends,

I miss church. I miss freedom.

My past few months has been just like yours.

You might ask, "What have you been doing to earn your support money, Donley?"

Well, you probably deserve a rebate. But here's a report:

I preached a few times online, then turned it over to Roy to handle. It will be his full time responsibility very soon anyway. (spoiler alert!)

I did a month's worth of 5 minute daily video devotionals and put them online. Numerically the response was stunning, but local, personal responses of how God touched lives, way outweighed "views", "clicks" and "reach".

I studied and built messages to preach even with no schedule to preach them.

I rebuilt a beat up .270 rifle.

I refinished a table and countertop.

I baked a batch of home-made dog treats.

I added some to a book I'm writing about ministering to Indigenous Peoples.

I shopped and did mail runs for a family in a required 14 day self quarantine.

I encouraged a friend from Tuk who was detained in Inuvik and forced to remain in quarantine for 14 days after a vehicle trade, in the Yukon, near the NWT border.

I made myself visible around Tuk as much as possible. Waves, smiles and conversations at the store were welcomed contact during the lockdown. (Which at the time of this writing is still in full effect)

I learned what "zoom meetings" were and took part in quite a few.

Lois and I nightly solved the world's and Christianity's problems. Just ask us, we got it all figured out!

(I must confess, we also watched home renovation shows and complained about how spoiled and picky people are these days.)

But the most productive thing that I did was to hear from the Lord as He increased my burden for arctic ministry and love for indigenous souls. I wept after viewing a high quality video showcasing Greenland, Canada and Alaska as the far north and needing the Gospel. Yet this video never showed one clip, one picture or one quote of an indigenous person. Not one. Alaska has a population of 731,000 souls, and over 100,000 are indigenous. Greenland has 56,000 souls and 50,000 of them are indigenous. Canada has 37 million souls and 1.6 million are indigenous people. After I wept, I stewed, and then I surrendered. It is time to put up or shut up as the old schoolyard challenge goes, so check out the "back page" on the back page and see how God has led me.



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The Back Page...

The "Back Page" is dedicated to the journey Lois and I are traveling that eventually will lead us to "life after Tuk". This is the 4th entry of this journey.

As soon as the travel restrictions the NWT and Yukon are currently under are lifted, Lois and I will relocate to the Yukon and reach indigenous souls from there. The Yukon has a population of 8,400 indigenous peoples with well over half of that number in the Whitehorse area alone.

The move consists of simply our pickup and a 16 foot utility trailer. It will be about an 18 hour trip pulling a loaded trailer, but split up into 2 days, we will manage just fine. When we get to the Yukon, we will live in our RV and secure housing before winter hits.

As well, after Lois has her hip replacement surgery, rehabbing in Yukon's capital city will be exponentially better than attempting recovery in Tuk. Also, the dietary restrictions I follow will be way more affordable and of unbelievable variety.

In the Yukon, the roads are paved. Several small communities are reachable within a 2 hour drive and the bumpy, gravel roads and ice roads of the high arctic will be left for younger men to tame.

I'm excited to see what the Lord does among indigenous souls. I'm excited to watch God open doors so I can raise awareness of the need to reach the indigenous peoples of Canada and the rest of the circumpolar arctic. Being in the Yukon allows us a true northern base to reach out from. We will be in a strategic spot to be of great assistance to the high arctic churches that have been a part of our lives for over 30 years.

Your generosity in this difficult time is so encouraging. Our support has been strong and every need has been met. We've always felt secure and this pandemic was not a test run but an actual situation where things could have broken down fast. It didn't. Thank you for your faithfulness and we are encouraged to be faithful by your example.

Thank you,

Steve & Lois



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

February 2020

Dear praying friends,

February is one of the hardest newsletters to write every year. The dark days, the bitter cold, the wind, snow, and overall stress of an arctic winter is not conducive to an enthralling report. I have tried to be transparent and brutally honest in my letters to be sure you have a proper understanding of missionary life. That being said, there is a fine line between the truth and complaining. Missionary life is wonderful, fulfilling and most veteran missionaries wouldn't trade it for anything. But it is a hard life. I say that with full understanding that some may think I've crossed the line of truth into the territory of complaining. Reality and honesty will only help you, as a prayer warrior and engaged supporter, obtain victory in intercessory prayer.

*Holiday loneliness. I remember years ago enjoying holiday church fellowships and being struck with a bolt of loneliness for family.

*The difficulty of winter. Bundling up for the cold, Frozen water, sewer, and vehicle problems. Especially the ultra high cost of heating a home in the winter.

*Unreasonable food prices. Crazy prices for fresh fruit and vegetables that are poor, poor quality.

*Darkness 24 hours a day.

*An increase in wickedness and demonic oppression. It is hard to describe, but scripture says, "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Gambling, sexual deviance, substance abuse, and rejection of spiritual truth.

*Domestic and foreign political season. The ungodly march of humanism churns turmoil every political season at local through international levels.

*Absence from every family birthday, anniversary, sickness, party and get together. Elderly family member's health fails as the years pass. Family guilt is awful.

*Missing your home church services, preacher and fellowship. This diminishes and all but disappears in time. But it is quite strong until a few trips home proves the church has moved on without you.

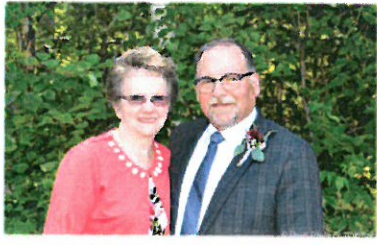
*A new phenomenon; Friends, family, and acquaintances publicly embarrassing themselves, ruining their testimony and advancing inappropriate humor on social media.

*The never-ending demand to report spiritual victory to satisfy supporters and therefore earn and keep our support. Online publication of our newsletters demands a milky, non-specific, yet positive report. In real life, you win some and you lose some. Sometimes you get the bear and sometimes the bear gets you. Unrealistic demands are grievous, and the pressure is quite burdensome.

Lest you think I am complaining, I'll stop. But ask you to read between the lines to see what your missionaries are saying that they are not allowed to say.



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The Back Page...

The "Back Page" is dedicated to the journey Lois and I are traveling that eventually will lead us to "life after Tuk". This is the 3rd entry of this journey.

A requirement for the implementation of "life after Tuk" is Canadian permanent residence for the Stelzig family and thus a reasonable assumption that uninterrupted leadership of the Tuk Baptist Church will continue. Legal immigration and permanent residence is an expensive and exhaustive process. We come into foreign missionary work understanding that and financially prepare for it, but that does not diminish the size of this deal breaking obstacle. Brother Stelzig needs bulldogged tenacity to see victory in this area. I ask you to pray for him as he tackles the immigration monster.

Pastors from several Canadian Provinces have contacted me and reminded me of the need to bring the gospel to the First Nations People in their area. They are right. There is a need. Every pastor who reminded me of the need in their home area, is being 100% truthful. I can personally only go to one place, but my future MUST include the raising of awareness of the need for indigenous ministry and (in a sense), recruit faithful men to advance the cause of Christ far beyond anything I can do alone.

In all honesty, life after Tuk scares me to death. Arctic ministry is what I know. It is our life. It is where we feel comfortable. We are experienced in managing life here and do not do well in other scenarios. But it would be selfish of me to endanger the long term health of the northern ministries I have been associated with by sticking around, simply because it is my comfort zone. At 59 I better be willing to step outside my comfort zone and respond to my heavenly Father with a convincing "Yes sir", with as much conviction as I did at 28.

Pray for us as we seek the center of God's will and finish strong!

Thank you!

Steve & Lois



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

November 2019 NEW INFORMATION EDITION

Dear praying friends,

The move to Tuktoyaktuk is complete. Here is our contact information:

Steve and Lois Donley
PO Box 154
Tuktoyaktuk, NT X0E1C0
Canada
Steve's cell: 1-403-763-0258
Lois' cell: 1-867-688-0282

I need to do a bit of maintenance on the contact information I have for you. Through the years email addresses, phone numbers change and sometimes I don't find out until long after the fact, if ever. So I have set up a specific email account that can assist me in organizing my records. Please email me with the correct mailing address, specifically the email address you want your minus40 report sent to, and any other pertinent information such as pastoral changes, church name changes, telephone number, etc. The email address to send this to is:

minus40@protonmail.com

The Tuk Baptist Church is doing well these days, with attendance consistently over 20. The Stelzig family continues to settle in and navigate the culture and curveballs arctic life is throwing at them. I remember those days well and am thankful that way back when Brother Gary Forney was there to keep me out of trouble. Well, mostly out of trouble anyway...

Lois and I now live in an apartment in the Tuk Baptist Church building. It's 437 sq. ft. of coziness on an oceanfront setting! Arctic Ocean mind you, but none the less oceanfront. (Our first home in the arctic in 1989 was 512 sq. ft.) We have more than we need and are very happy with God's provision.

On the health front, Lois is on the waitlist to get a hip replacement and the best guess given us for surgery is April 2020. Daily she endures a great amount of pain. Not much helps, so she really gets no relief. Please pray for her for pain relief and a shorter wait time. Me? I'm fine.

Thanksgiving, CHRISTmas and New Years are wonderful holidays that afford extra opportunity to present the Lord to folks. The Tuk Baptist Church has plans for services on both CHRISTmas and New Years Eve. The holidays are often ruined by alcohol and we boldly stand during these times to present Jesus Christ and His salvation and the true freedom He brings in breaking the chains of addiction and substance abuse.



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Our home in Inuvik has been sold and this eliminates one huge hurdle to our eventual relocation.

Wherever we end up, I desire to not only have a local impact but an international one as well. That's tall talk I know, but raising awareness as to the spiritual need in the north and among indigenous people is a job that must be done. I am still not sure as to where the Lord will direct us geographically. The 2018 census lists 8,447 indigenous souls in the Yukon. And there is one church of like faith and practice in all of the Yukon. Yes, only one. Obviously the Yukon has our attention.

Alberta as well has 258,640 indigenous souls according to a 2016 census. Alberta hosts 45 First Nations in three treaty areas. She is home to 140 reserves on 812,771 hectares of reserve land. (over 2 million acres) There are only a handful of outreaches designated to Alberta's First Nations.

I remember driving 9 hours in Manitoba with my son as he took his turn filling the pulpit in a church plant. Every 40 minutes to an hour we drove through a small town. I kept asking him, "Is there a church in this town?" This one? How about this one?" He answered with one word. "Nope." There was no gospel preaching church the entire trip.

However, in total transparency, Lois and I need to consider the physical toll living in the arctic for 30+ years has taken. As well, health care is a concern for folks our age. We would love to stay in the high arctic. We love the far north! But honesty must prevail over the dreams of an old man. We need to be wise and in order to continue to be watchmen for Indigenous souls, we need to serve in a place conducive to a gimpy old couple with a lot of hard miles on them.

Would you pray for us as we seek God's will? Would you ask God on our behalf to show us where we are to finish strong? Where to use the last drop of gas in our tanks for the Lord's work among indigenous souls? Would you ask that the change of location would not result in loss of support?

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MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

September 2019

Dear praying friends,

Tuktoyaktuk is so far north, the compass is +20.81° off. It's called the "Magnetic Degree of Declination." I first learned about this in 1989 while flying in a small plane with Bro Gary Forney. Currently, he is the executive director of All Points Baptist Mission, but back then he was the veteran missionary that taught me the ins and outs of arctic missions. Our relationship has developed into a wonderful friendship and we can bore you to tears with missionary war stories and inside jokes. Recently at APBM's training week, he and I had the opportunity to team teach a course on "Arctic Ministry." There were 4 families that attended this course of 2 hours in cumulative length. What a joy it was to be able to teach alongside Bro Forney and help younger missionaries understand that arctic missions is a little off the flight path of typical ministry in the USA. Just like the degree of declination requires slight adjustment for a successful arrival, so do adjustments need to be made for successful arctic missions. Obviously I'm not speaking of doctrine or error in any way but of philosophy and patience and preparation.

In June, I was able to preach at Rock Crossing Bible Camp in Alaska. It was 2 wonderful weeks unplugged from the world and refreshment in the isolation of a wilderness, Bible camp. A secret about Bible camp is that it is supposed to be for the youth, but in reality, I am usually the one benefitted most and God does powerful things for the camp staff as well. The youth who attend have a mind clear of social media pressures and can focus on eternal things rather than likes and emojis. After I close my preaching time with prayer, I do not stay during the invitations at camp, I don't want the response or lack thereof to influence me. The only real knowledge of any results comes at the closing campfire. Often gratitude is expressed for a particular message and God using the preaching to direct someone's path. This year it was no different and one young lady, with tears of joy, declared she had gotten saved that very night. Others testified as to the Lord calling them to serve Him. At a Bible camp, I surrendered my life to serve the Lord at the ripe old age of 14. After 30 years on the mission field, I'm still working off of that same general calling! So I know the value of summer Bible camp, and want to be a part of youth Bible camp until they kick me out for being too old!

A new minus40 report feature "[The Back Page](#)" is... on the back page! I encourage you to follow us as we share with you the decisions and journey of a veteran missionary couple wanting to give every ounce of ourselves for the Lord and remain faithful for the Lord until God stops us. The transition of ministry is often a fuzzy, grey area to most church folk, but we want to open our lives to those interested and allow you to see first hand how God is leading us.

Thank you for your love, prayers and support through all these years. - *Steve and Lois Donley*



Steve & Lois Donley



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Psalm 147:17 He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?

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Pastor Jeff Jamieson

Assisted through: All Points Baptist Mission. 330-339-1035

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allpointsbaptist.com

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867-777-2580 (h)
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iceroadpreacher.ca

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In the meantime, we will take a minuscule amount of "stuff" with us and live in the one room apartment in the Tuk church building. As you might remember, I am renovating the living space there to include hot, running water and a working, bathroom. We will work side by side with the Stelzigs and help them as much as is needed and seek to see the Tuk Baptist Church strengthened.

As far as WHEN the Lord may lead us to leave Tuk; we assume 18-24 months. But don't hold us to that figure. God can do what He wants to do, when He wants to do it. I'm just giving you a ballpark guesstimation.

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MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Far North

September 2019

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MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

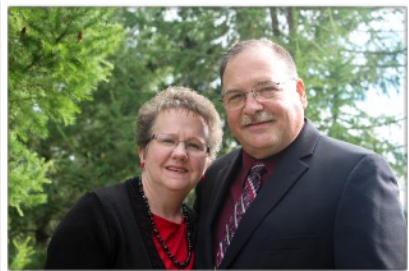
March 2019

Dear Praying friends,

Our journeys totaled 13,570 miles. We left our family in the US and arrived home to the Arctic in January and hit the ground running! We resumed the responsibility of the Tuk Baptist Church and jumped back into the work with excitement. Our hopes are soaring due to a meeting with the Stelzigs which we planned for their arrival in the Arctic this summer. However, along with the exciting spiritual things, goes the routine, mundane responsibilities. I shoveled a lot of snow that had accumulated in our absence, sorted an inordinate amount of mail, and generally caught up on correspondence. One week after we arrived home I went to Yellowknife for a medical followup on my heart. I had an echocardiogram and stress test. The results showed I do have a heart in spite of popular opinion, and it is not diseased either. In February I was sent to Edmonton for an MRI on my kidneys. Those results have not returned yet. The good news just keeps rolling in, as Lois is in the process of scheduling a hip replacement most likely this fall! (Did I ever say that getting old ain't for sissies?)

Through it all we are still amazed that the Lord has used us for His glory. Our 30th anniversary in missions is approaching in June, and we are striving to finish well in Tuk. Lois and I are asking God for one more assignment after Tuk as we transition to a subarctic climate to serve in a place with less isolation for health reasons. Would you pray with us about that? I want to earn my support and not coast in my last divine assignment. Lois and I want to finish strong.

You may remember quite a few years ago I was raising funds for a sawmill. The plan was to harvest driftwood from the Mackenzie River, cut the wood into rough sawn lumber and build a Bible camp in the Mackenzie River Delta. Well, it's been a long time, but the funds came in for the sawmill, we harvested logs, eventually cut them into dimensional lumber, and stockpiled material for transportation to the Bible camp building site. Just this week, a decade long dream took a huge jump toward reality. The picture following this paragraph is one of something like 13 loads that went to the Bible camp on a 37 plus mile, single lane ice road. I probably won't see the Bible camp completed, because I've passed the torch to Pastor Featherstone. But your sacrificial giving so long ago is not forgotten. Someday God's man will direct a Bible youth camp in the Mackenzie River Delta, it won't be me or you, but we all can say we had a part in advancing the cause of Christ in the Arctic.



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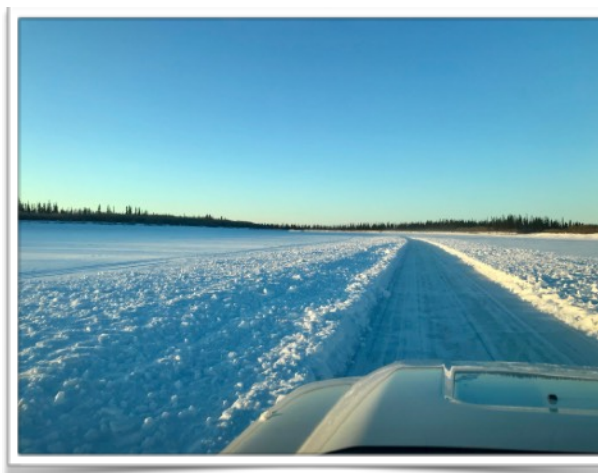
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The picture is my vehicle pulling a flatbed trailer loaded with 2 inch lumber of 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 inches in width. These boards were mostly 12 feet in length and some of the wider boards would probably cost over \$100 each if bought at a local lumber yard. It is sitting on the Government maintained ice road, ready to turn onto the church's private, single lane ice road, built by the men of the First Bible Baptist Church of Inuvik.



This is the single lane ice road that leads to the Delta Bible camp.

Thank you for your support, prayers, friendship, love and understanding as we press on in the Arctic.

Steve and Lois Donley



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

September 2018

Missionaries see victory in strange ways. What is not a big deal to the average Joe, is a huge blessing to a missionary. My oddball blessing is revealed by two words... "sewage tank." Among the various summer maintenance efforts both personal and ministry related, was the completion of a sewage tank in Tuk. I'd show a picture, but as you know, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. You probably wouldn't be impressed. At any rate, this allows the building renovations in Tuk proceed with an end in sight. We will eventually have a washroom with a shower and finish the apartment with a sink and hot running water! Good times!

The Stelzig family, our future co-labourers, continue their deputation, but with the end in sight. The goal of April 2019 has been set! A second survey trip is set for January 2019 to secure housing and make final preparations, and we are thrilled to see them progress in this all so quickly. Please continue to pray for them!

"Honour thy father and thy mother." This simple phrase is repeated 10 times in God's Word. It is a lifetime commandment. The need has arisen for Lois and I to take a couple of months to care for Lois' 92 year old father. Her brother and sister-in-law who normally does the in home care is leaving the responsibility for a while to be with their daughter who is fighting another round with cancer. (If you wish to bring her before the Lord, her name is Jennifer). On September, 27, Lois will fly to Ohio to begin caring for her dad and I will follow by vehicle in a few days. Our home church, Columbiana Baptist Church and Pastor Jeff Jamieson, and my dear friends at Harvest Baptist Church with Pastor Ron Laughlin, immediately came to our aid with humbling love offerings to help with the travel expenses. Thank you all very, very much!

Temporary care of Tuk Baptist Church is left in the capable hands of the First Bible Baptist Church of Inuvik and Pastor Reilly Featherstone.

Lois and I continue to adjust to new normals concerning our health. Overall things have improved with me, and Lois is stable but just isn't handling travel on the rough northern roads well. We envision our continued mission efforts to reach indigenous northerners with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, contingent upon God allowing us, in the not so distant future, to transition to a place where travel is less extreme.

Thank you for your faithful support, love and prayer throughout the years.

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I ask your forgiveness for the hurried nature of this letter. I am trying to get it out and in your hands so as prayer warriors you can bring this all before The Father.

If you need to ask me or my pastor or mission director about this situation, please feel free to contact them. The contact information is in the sidebar on this page.



Sorry, I just couldn't help it!

Our sewage tank in Tuk!



MINUS40 REPORT

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

June 2018

Three days in April changed my life forever.

A medical Doctor with little tact asked me how my diabetes was coming along? The words weren't coming out my mouth but in my mind verbiage was rapid fire and curt. "What do you mean? I don't have diabetes. Did you even look at my medical records?" After some unintelligible noise and grunts I think I denied I was diabetic. With zero tact he argued like a fifth grade kid and said, "Yes you do!" Before the visit was over I was was the new owner of a type 2 diabetes diagnosis and high blood pressure and high cholesterol and need to have an ECG to see if any of those issues had damaged my heart. Three days later, the nurse operating the ECG machine ripped off the heartbeat printout and announced she'd be right back. After a couple puzzling minutes, the same Doctor from three days ago popped in and blurted out, "So when did you have a heart attack?" My response was wordless head wagging. I finally managed to speak actual words and denied I ever had a heart attack. Doctor Fifth Grade said, "Yes you did. It was what we call a silent heart attack."

Thus began the lifestyle changes. Lois and I discussed and prayed and decided with confidence to cancel our summer traveling ministry plans. For the first time in around 10 years we were staying home and working in our Arctic ministry right here. No Bible Camp, no Mission Camp, no Mission Candidate School, no visiting our family in the US, but just stay on the mission field and adjust to our new normal. As of this letter I am down over 30 pounds and have gotten control of the diabetes and cholesterol thing with medication and a complete dietary overhaul and exercise. The heart issue is the only thing outstanding, and I am expecting Cardiologist appointment before June ends.

The ITH, (Inuvik - Tuktoyaktuk Highway), was closed for several weeks this spring. The mud was extremely thick and made the road impassible. Since its opening the gravel road has many soft spots and travel is rough and slow. But we navigate the road and drive over two hours one way for weekly church services. Attendance varies but most weeks there are usually a couple of visitors. Lois is not doing well traveling the road since it had become torn up by the spring thaw. Her neurological issues are triggered by the bouncy, rough road. She still tries to come as often as possible. As always there are maintenance issues to be dealt with on the building and church grounds and I am addressing them every trip.

On June 9th Lois and I hosted a small private fellowship at our house. The celebration was to commemorate a milestone of sorts. On that particular day, Lois and I had officially spent 1/2 our lives in the Arctic! It was a typical Arctic day as well. It sleeted, snowed, rained, and then got sunny and nice for a while!



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It the risk of overloading you with too much personal news, please allow me to announce another milestone that will come along on September first. Lois and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary!

I'm announcing September news, because as usual, this will be my last newsletter until mid to late September. The short summer is upon us and the we are extremely busy with ministry and various maintenance opportunities that can only be done in the summer. So I have my nose to the grindstone and going non-stop until the weather slows us down. You can keep up with us by our personal Facebook pages or the Tuktoyaktuk Baptist Church Facebook page. Emails are always welcome as are texts and the ancient form of communication known as a "phone call."



1989-2018

Pastor Featherstone and Darrel Nasogaluak at our "1/2 our lives in the Arctic fellowship"



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Steve and Lois Donley



MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

April 2018

I found myself dismantling an old oscillating fan and saving some parts from it. I put them in a ziplock baggie and labeled them with a permanent marker as, “fan parts”. I found a suitable place to stash them and threw away the rest of the fan. I had repaired, oiled, cleaned and babied this fan for quite a few years. Finally, it quit working and this time I couldn’t repair it. So as I said, I tore it apart and saved the valuable parts.

My first observation is that I have become my father.

Secondly, this reveals a mindset that has helped us stay on the mission field since 1989. Be frugal, don’t buy junk, and don’t waste anything. A little used part, labeled and stored comes in handy when something breaks. Sure, the part is only worth \$1 but the whole fan is worth \$20.

That leads to these final thoughts: Old things could be quite valuable. They might not be good as new, but they are too valuable to just throw away when a part breaks. The world we live in today is a throwaway world. This affects our theology and ministry philosophy. Christians give up on a church that struggles rather than try to be part of the solution to fix what is broken. Marriages are considered to be disposable after damage occurs, rather than work and accept the challenge of restoration. Missionaries who have spent their youth and health on the mission field will be categorized as obsolete rather than encouraged and helped across the finish line. Secondly, Bible doctrine, methodology, morals and church polity that doesn’t fit the politically correct world in which we live is thrown out as divisive, unrealistic and irrelevant to millennials. But this same Bible doctrine, methodology, morals and polity salvaged many souls from the music and sexual revolution of the 60’s and 70’s. The 20 and 30 something adults from the 80’s and 90’s who waded through the drug and hard rock era came to Christ with the same Bible, the same fiery preaching and the same new birth as every era before Y2K. Finally, there is a line of thinking that says, “New is better so cost is irrelevant if new is obtained.” Some things are just too expensive in the world I live in. That’s old fashioned - I know. And the old fashioned approach to my faith keeps me from compromising away the foundations of my fellowship with Christ. New format Q&A sessions which replace the preaching of the cross cost us which are saved the power of God, (see 1 Corinthians 1:18). New music standards cost a church significant movement away from time tested and proven classic song services and leave us wading in a pretty shallow pool of true worship. The whole idea of reinventing “Church” so that no one ever feels uncomfortable or “preached at” costs Holy Spirit conviction. That’s just too expensive in my book.



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Our ministry report is fairly simple. We have been faithful to preach the Word of God in Tuktoyaktuk to a congregation of 15 or so folks on a weekly basis. Lives are being changed as people yield themselves to the Lord. Slow but steady progress.

We installed a new furnace in the Tuk building and added a direct vent, high efficiency heater in the auditorium. Our fuel consumption will decrease greatly and the upgrade will be safer as well. We have purchased new flooring to install on the apartment side of the building and have gathered some plumbing equipment. I hope to have running water by next winter. It will eventually be a comfortable place for us to stay while we work with the Stelzig family when they arrive. (They currently are just above 50% of their required support.)

FBBC in Inuvik is doing fine and I have filled in for Pastor Featherstone a couple of times recently when he was traveling. The opportunity to encourage and occasionally help Pastor Featherstone is truly an easy yoke and light burden.

Our health report is fair to middling. I've been diagnosed with Diverticulosis, and recently had a CT scan which confirmed that I have dodged a bullet concerning a hereditary kidney disease. I struggle with high blood pressure and a couple of other boring health issues. Lois recently received good news from a couple of tests to which we are very thankful for. Her overall health has been consistent for a while now and we thank you for praying and thank the Lord for answering those prayers with God's favor of good health. It all reminds me of a pastor friend who had this message on his old school, land line answering machine. "Hi, you've reached _____. We are either too busy or too sick, too tired or too deaf to answer the phone. Leave a message at the beep and we will call you back... if we don't forget."

Thank you for your faithful support, love and prayer throughout the years. Lois and I consider our supporting churches and friends as the most consistent, dedicated and knowledgeable supporters that we missionaries could ever have.

Steve and Lois Donley



MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

February 2018

I found a cigarette on the floor of the church building near the coat rack. I was tidying up after church when I saw it lying there. It quickly became one of those moments where a person thinks crystal clear at 90 MPH. I thought how scandalous this would have been in many churches. That thought was quickly replaced with how wonderful it was to be serving the Lord where it is so needed. The Lord immediately reminded me of the criticism He received when He ate with publicans and sinners. I was warmed by the love I felt for the folks who attended the Tuk Baptist Church. Many are struggling with incredibly difficult situations in life and are wrestling with unspeakable sin. Yet they attend the church services and soak up every drop of hope the Holy Spirit delivers through God's Word. As my thoughts slowed, I was humbled to think that God would entrust me with the job of being a conduit of His love to the ones He loves and sent His Son to die for.



My speeding thoughts now slowed to a crawl, and stalled on the reality that few, very few care about the souls in the far north. I am blessed with caring and giving supporters, but you are however an extremely rare and a relatively small group.

The indigenous people groups in the USA and Canada are not necessarily a forgotten people but rather ignored. What I mean is that society has maintained a passionate interest in things related to indigenous people, but limit their efforts to government social programs and token politically correct causes. But that is not my passion or calling. Souls are the High calling of the Lord God.

As a hunter decreases the magnification on a variable power scope, the field of view increases. At 9 the magnification is 9 times above normal vision, but the trade off is seeing only a small percentage of what is actually surrounding the object being viewed. But as a hunter twists the magnification down to 3 times above normal vision he sees the target as a bit smaller but can see quite a bit of what is surrounding the object being viewed.

I think we are looking at the indigenous people in North America with the scope on 3 power. We see the political issues, the social issues, and we see the historical perspective and romanticize it all into a false concept. I want us to crank the scope to 9 power and stop looking at the surrounding issues and see the true single need. The need is salvation by the blood of Jesus Christ. I contend that it all starts there.



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Yes, it is hard for a hungry body to receive spiritual food and a warm coat is better than a lecture. I'm not saying the social need is not great. What I'm saying dear reader is that you and I and our churches need to zero in on the soul that is lost and dying and heading to hell. Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

The generation that is stepping into national, corporate and religious leadership is gifted and capable when the scope is at 3 power, but at 9 power the target becomes clearer and those gifts and capabilities can do more than my generation ever could hope to accomplish. The crosshairs just need be on souls. Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Dear friends we are not wrong for pursuing souls, we are not uncaring when we deliver the good news of Jesus Christ to the socially needy. We are not negligent of our social responsibility when we gather to worship and invite others to join us at church. Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

The local church is at her best when she is passionate about souls. Of all the changes that have recently been thrown at our churches, the most dangerous are the ones that direct our passions away from those things that God loves. John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

May God give us a renewed passion for souls. May we have discernment, and the courage to invite the Lord to search our hearts and disclose the need to focus on and zero in on souls.

Thank you for your faithful support, love and prayer throughout the years.

Steve and Lois Donley



MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

November 2017

On November 15th, Lois and I along with a couple of friends, drove the long awaited Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, overland, all weather highway. That means no more ice road to drive to Tuk to minister there. It was a long time in coming, but the 140 kilometre gravel highway connects Canada from “sea to sea to sea.” Some look at the road as the ultimate North American tourist drive, local politicians have referred to it as a road to resources, other as a road that will lead to lower prices and better shopping options. Some see the road as access to drugs and alcohol. But I personally call it, “a Road to Souls.”

In 2016 the population of Tuk was 898 souls. Souls that will live somewhere forever. As you may know, prior to this new “Road to Souls”, community access was by air or a winter ice road. The approximately 180 kilometre “road” was simply the frozen Mackenzie River and Arctic Ocean that had been snow plowed and posted with a few reflective markers and signs. It lasted from mid December to late April. Before and after that, small commercial aircraft provided access to the 898 souls the called Tuk home. The expense and stress level was very high and difficult to deal with at times. The “Road to Souls” won’t solve those issues completely, but has already made a huge difference in Lois’ and my life - even after just one trip! The photo below was taken on our first voyage on the new road and show a “Pingo” on the left side of the picture.



The older Lois and I get, the more difficult Arctic ministry has become. This road had reversed that trend and has made reaching the 898 souls in Tuk easier than it ever has. There will be closures due to weather, road maintenance and such, but overall it is a huge benefit to us.

When Roy and Justine Stelzig move to the Arctic to work with us, and bringing their youth, energy and health as well as their personal belongings, they will benefit by being able to drive to their mission field, Tuktoyaktuk, on the shores of the Arctic Ocean! Please continue to pray for them as they continue deputation.

On October 25, our 8th grandchild came into this world! Gracie Emma Rose Donley was born. This is Steven Jr and Holly’s 3rd child. She is healthy and doing well and mommy is recovering a bit slower this



time. Please remember Holly’s recovery in prayer. Thank you.



Steve & Lois Donley

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Psalm 147:17 He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?

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Assisted through: All Points Baptist Mission. 330-339-1035

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New Philadelphia OH 44663 USA
www.allpointsbaptist.com

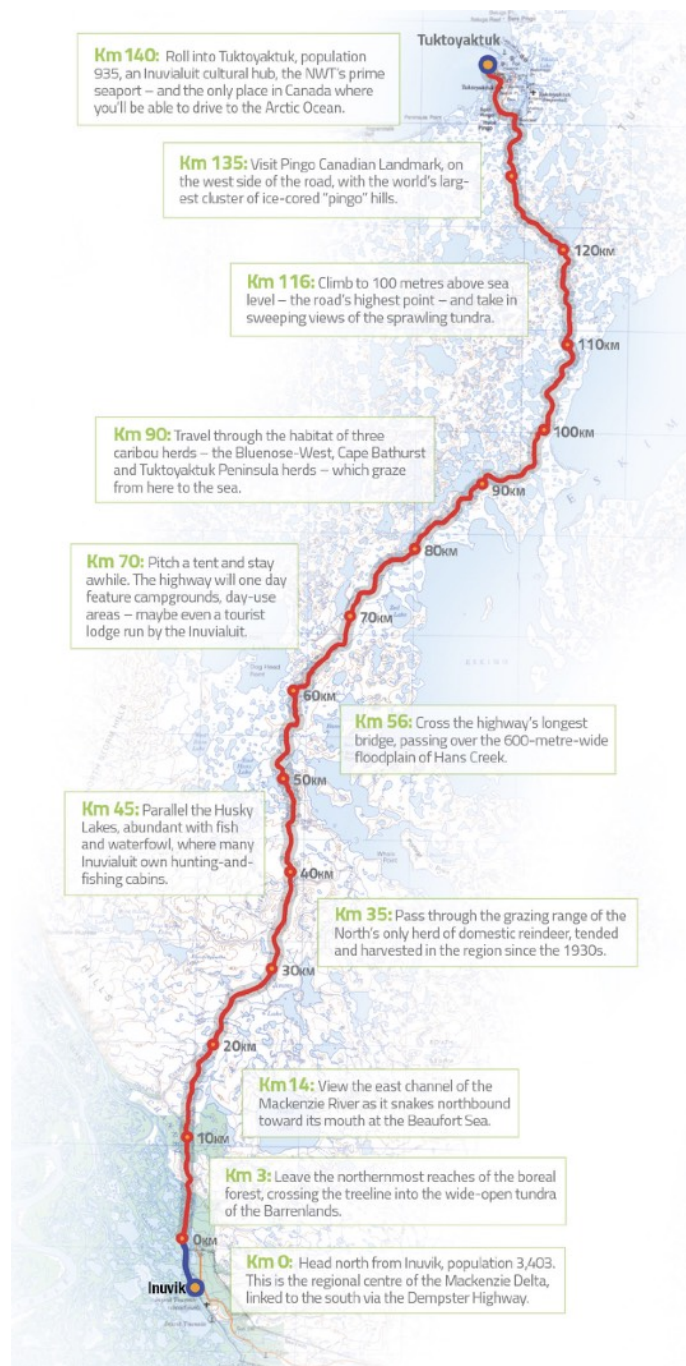
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Inuvik NT X0E 0T0 Canada
867-777-2580 (h)
403-763-0258 (cell)

steveandloisdonley@gmail.com

iceroadpreacher.ca

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The Inuvik - Tuktoyaktuk Highway



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Summer 2017

April 23, Lois and I pulled out of Inuvik to begin our summer ministry of youth camps, family camps, retreats and to attend a couple of special family events. The first event already happened. May 7th our son Steven Jr graduated from Bible college. God was gracious and all three of our kids attended with their families! We enjoyed several wonderful get together's before everyone went their separate ways.

This summer we are continuing our involvement with All Points Baptist Mission by participating in the Advanced Missionary and Chaplain Training held in Ohio in early August and preaching a couple of meetings where we will continue to raise awareness of the need to reach the far north and take the gospel to the Inuit, First Nations and Metis.

The news from Inuvik and Pastor Featherstone is good and we praise the Lord for FBBC and her obedience to the Bible. We feel our absence this summer will help the church and Pastor Featherstone bond without us unknowingly interfering.

In November of this year, the Tuktoyaktuk-Inuvik Highway will open and driving to Tuk will be possible year round! The gravel highway will make it much easier to minister to the Inuvialuit and continue upgrades to the church building. I heard rumblings about this road in 1989 when our family first came north. It is finally finished and will finally benefit from it after all these years. I am concerned though, the ease of travel will also bring in more unwanted alcohol and drugs. The gospel is needed here now more than ever.

Joining us in Tuk, as soon as their deputation is complete, is All Points Baptist Mission missionaries, Roy and Justine Stelzig. We hosted them in Inuvik this winter and agreed to enter into an on-field training relationship in Tuk. This will help them, us and the people of Tuk! Pray for Roy and Justine for a successful, timely deputation.

Thank you for your patience, support, love and faithful prayers,

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Proverbs 17:6

Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.



The whole clan at Steven's college graduation.

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The Last Snip

This newsletter is late on purpose. Yes, you read that right, it is late for a reason. I wanted to wait until the process of calling a pastor to the First Bible Baptist Church of Inuvik, NWT, was complete. I wanted you to know immediately so we can rejoice together.

Sunday, February 12, The First Bible Baptist Church called Bro. Reilly Featherstone to be their pastor. This was the last snip of the mission umbilical cord, and makes FBBC a fully autonomous, self supporting, indigenous, New Testament, Independent Baptist Church.

I have truly and finally worked myself right out of a job in Inuvik. I will remain a confidant, support and advisor to Bro. Featherstone, as I continue to work the ministry in Tuktoyaktuk and advocate for far north missions throughout Canada and the US. But Bro. Reilly is now the pastor and holds full responsibility of the leadership of FBBC.

Brother Featherstone and his bride Danica, become part of an exciting church with a strong world mission emphasis and local ministries reaching various age groups. There are Bible college graduates in several key roles to support him as he leads, and he will be receiving a good wage suited for northern expenses. FBBC immediately bonded with the Featherstone's and God's hand was in it all right from the start.

It has been a long, perilous journey that brought us to this point. We, the supporting churches and the missionaries who planted, watered and served here, have all endured many long years of fighting impossible odds to see an autonomous and indigenous native church come to maturity. Thank you for your faithfulness and patience. Thank you for your prayers and support. I cannot name another autonomous, native Independent Baptist Church in North America that is totally self supporting, free from all mission support, pastored by a man paid from the tithes and offerings collected from the congregation he pastors. Maybe I'm wrong, but every time I hear of one, there is always a catch. The mission umbilical chord is still attached in some financial or controlling way. I assure you, FBBC is a newborn, eating and breathing on her own, learning, enduring and as vulnerable as any infant. But she has a perfect Father and a Perfect Book full of promises to guide her.

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Steve and Lois Donley with Reilly and Danica Featherstone

January 04, 2017

Subject: info and prayer

Greetings men,

For those who pray for the far north and the ministry here in Inuvik, NT, I'm asking you to pray for us as we host a young preacher from Ontario and his wife Jan 6th -16th. He is called to the north and we have invited them to visit for a mutual meet and greet. This is one step before candidacy. If you want further details, please email me personally.

We continue to press toward a fully self supporting, autonomous, and indigenous church as directed by scripture. The calling of a full time pastor and thus severing the mission support chord is the last remaining challenge to see this come to fruition.

By the way, it was -2C as I drove the ice road on the Arctic Ocean going to Tuktoyaktuk yesterday! If "global warming" continues I may have coveted beach front property in Tuk someday! Vancouver North!

In His easy yoke,

Steve Donley

steveandloisdonley@gmail.com

403.763.0258 cell=

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The name change from PNBM to APBM allows missionaries who agree with the Biblical directives and mission philosophies that made PNBM a strong local church agency, can now be enjoyed by missionaries going to all points of the compass. An arctic emphasis is still woven into the fiber of APBM and is still the heartbeat of the executive director, Gary Forney, the general director, Robbie Morrison, and Pastor Don Snow of Calvary Baptist Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

2016 Winter Report

"He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?" Psalm 147:16-17

The first snow came in early October this year and has covered the ground since then. Our temperatures have been somewhat mild so far, yet it has not hampered the formation of ice on the rivers and lakes. Already skidoos are ripping around and travel is unimpeded.

Tuktoyaktuk ministry update

Summer was hit and miss for the Tuk ministry. My summer Bible camp responsibilities kept me busy and consistency in the Tuk ministry suffered. It has been good to get back to Tuk and preach the gospel there again and see the church excited about the things of the Lord. We have had good attendance and several visitors have come and returned the next service.

We purchased a new furnace for the building and it is getting installed in early November. The efficiency rating is much higher and the old one was labouring to maintain a comfortable temperature on the coldest days.

Inuvik ministry update

November 27, 4 adult ladies followed the Lord in believer's baptism. Their ages spanned 4 different decades. Each conversion was a picture of beauty for ashes. One baptism was a mature believer who wanted to be scripturally baptized, the other three were fairly recent converts.

In January FBBC will host a young preacher from London, Ontario. He and his wife will visit the ministry and as he gets to know us, we will get to know him. Should God lead both parties, we may invite him to return and candidate for the pastorate of FBBC. If you are interested in praying about this, please do so. The dates he and his wife visit are January 6-16, 2017.



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All of the logs that were collected for lumber have all been sawn and rough cut lumber now sits in various stages of drying, waiting for transport to the future site of "Delta Bible Camp." Johnny Lennie from our church in Inuvik worked steadily over two summers to see the lumber sawn. Missionary Todd Holland from the Sahtu region of the NWT cut a few years ago and recently came back and worked at the wood lot a several days helping us succeed before winter set in.

Medical update

In late September, NWT Health Care - medical travel sent me to Yellowknife for a consultation with a bone doctor about my back. In mid October I was sent to Edmonton for a bone scan and the next day to a pain clinic. I received an injection of cortisone in my back at the precise location of the damaged area. So far, the shot has not been all that effective and not anything to write home and tell mom about. The list of things I can't do is growing and arctic ministry is changing, for me at least, as I adjust to preserve the health I currently possess.

Lois is doing great and other than typical 50+ precautionary medical testing, she has been avoiding the Dr. successfully.

CHRISTmas Greetings

By the time you get this newsletter, CHRISTmas will be almost here. I ask you to pray for safety on CHRISTmas Eve. I will conduct a CHRISTmas Eve service in Inuvik at 7PM and immediately drive to Tuk on the ice road for a midnight service there. I will get home around 3 AM CHRISTmas day, and of course later that day hold church service in Inuvik, since CHRISTmas is on a Sunday this year.



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Summer “2016” report

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”
Jeremiah 8:20

I would love to write this newsletter and fluff it up with a report about the busy, short arctic summer. About the odd jobs completed, the annual maintenance, the repair jobs and preventative maintenance I preformed, but that would be avoiding a burdensome fact.

That fact is that far too many Inuit, First Nations, and Métis are still, “not saved.”

This summer I was constantly reminded and troubled by the lack of ministry directed toward native souls in North America. (and around the world as far as that is concerned) But here in our country we ignore the native nations and turn a blind eye to the desperate need of Jesus Christ in the far north, first nations reserves, and especially the inner cities.

As the ministry of The First Bible Baptist Church of Inuvik trudges toward autonomy and my ministry changes by default, I’m asking God to use me to address the glaring need in reaching the indigenous people groups in our cities and communities.

In the years I have left of viable missionary service I desire to see more preachers exposed to the need of the far north, Inuit, First nations and Métis. One man reaching one city is less than 10 men reaching 10 cities. If you would like to have myself or a representative of All Points Baptist Mission come to your church and stir the embers of compassion and need, please contact us and we will make arrangements to come as soon as possible.

Graelynn Charlotte Rosalie Snow is grandchild #7

Our youngest daughter Angie delivered a healthy baby girl on July 30th. Mother, father and baby are doing fine and daddy Norman and Angie are very active in the church in Inuvik. Norman preaches on Sunday



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evenings and some Wednesdays in Inuvik when I am out of town.

Birthdays and Anniversary

Lois and I got another year older on August 2nd and 3rd respectively. We really didn't do anything special for our birthdays, but we celebrated our 38th wedding anniversary on September 1st with a trip to the Anchorage



Alaska area. What a beautiful creation God has allowed us to enjoy!

This, that, and the other

Lois' health seems to be stabilized for the time being. My blood pressure was up and I had to change meds to get it under control. A couple of suspect spots on my back were tested for skin cancer and came back negative.

Our yearly supply shopping in Alaska was successful and the savings were outstanding. This was completed after my Bible camp opportunities so the trip was dual purpose and added to the savings.

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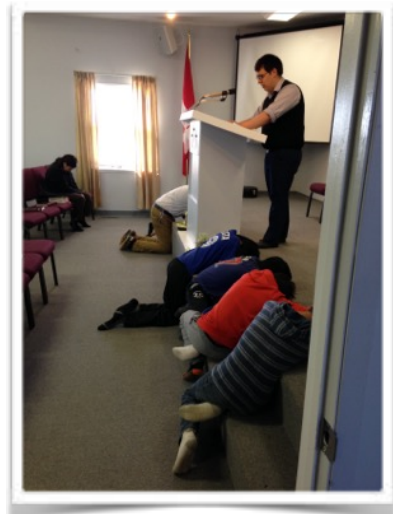
Time rewound 15 years

15 years ago, I was 40 years old. That was the last time I did the Tuktoyaktuk - Inuvik - Aklavik preaching circuit. My friend and fellow missionary, Larry Noland who serves in Aklavik NWT went on a short furlough to marry off a son and visit his other kids. I have been traveling to Aklavik on Thursday, Tuk on Mondays, and preach in Inuvik Sunday morning, evening and Wednesday. Friday I am involved in our homemade addictions program. It was easier back then. I don't remember it being this hard at 40. I still don't like to fly, but Tuk and Aklavik are accessibly in a practical way only by flying. I'm not complaining, it's much better than being put on the shelf and someone else doing my job.

As always we are actively praying for and contacting men interested in the far north. I've telephone interviewed a young man this past month and have answered many emails coming from men who are curious about northern ministry. A combination of two scripture portions sums up most of the interest. The field is white already harvest, and the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Jn 4:35 & Mt 26:41)

Boys becoming God fearing men

Wednesday night is bible study and prayer time in Inuvik. After the bible study, the congregation shares their prayer requests and one of the churchmen leads the congregation in prayer. An announcement is made that the altar is open and folks are welcome to come forward and pray. Usually a couple of men come forward to kneel at the altar and pray, but along with





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them, 4 or 5 pre-teen boys humble themselves at the altar to approach the Throne of Grace. I always sneak a peek and take in the wonderful sight of another generation learning the discipline and power of prayer. Wednesday, May 18 I snuck a picture before I bowed my knee and joined them.

The sawmill has been in operation a couple of years now

Several years ago I raised funds for the purchase of a sawmill. The rough cut lumber is going to be used to build a bible camp in the Mackenzie delta. A couple of guys have been involved in the 'logs to lumber' process, but one man from our church has championed the cause. Johnny has become quite familiar with the equipment and has seen the lumber pile grow and the log pile shrink.



Our Last Report until September

The summer dictates ministry adjustments and this year is no exception. We are very busy with summer maintenance and warm weather jobs. We must resolve some in depth plumbing issues this year in our home and those repairs will force changes to our heating system. I can do some of the work myself but a fair amount will require a professional.

Soon we will travel to Alaska and in June and July. Lois and I will be involved in 3 weeks of bible camps. We will also tackle our annual grocery and dry goods restocking. We save thousands of dollars by buying in Alaska. However buying for a whole year takes careful planning.



Thank you for your faithful support through the years. As Lois and I look over the monthly donor's report we thank the Lord for each gift and giver and are humbled at your generosity.

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Twice in 17 Years

The community of Tsiigehtchic, formerly known as Arctic Red River, has had two gospel messages preached there in an organized setting in 17 years. 1999 and again in March of this year. I preached them both. Both were funerals. Before 1999, I know some individuals were involved in personal evangelism, but I am not in knowledge of any organized service ever happening there.

Funerals in small arctic communities are big events. Over a hundred people gather in a school gymnasium, which is probably one of the only spaces in the community big enough to accommodate such a large gathering.

Responsibility pressed heavily upon me as I delivered the pure message of hope in Jesus Christ to the mourning audience. Understanding that my words might be the only time some would ever hear a clear Gospel presentation, I tactfully delivered the truth with love and thoroughness. While no one professed salvation we believe the scripture which says, *“Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”*

Spring has sprung

The darkness of winter has passed and the long days of spring are here. Soon the midnight sun of summer will be here. Spring is a great time of year in the arctic. Travel by ice road is coming to a close, but is still available until April 15. Hoards of mosquitoes do not arrive until early June, and the deep freeze of winter fades into pleasant, sunny days requiring only what most people consider a winter coat and not a heavy parka. Soon snow geese will be heard, then seen and other hearty critters will migrate north.

One interesting thing about spring is that it is CHRISTmas like in that you get surprises. In your yard. Through out the winter if you lose something like a wrench, ax, bolt, key, can, tool, cord or change... It gets



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covered by a couple feet of snow. But as spring comes, lo and behold; there are your lost treasures, waiting to be salvaged.

Souls are waiting to be salvaged as well. Covered and hidden, only by faithfulness and staying on the job through the rough seasons, will the opportunity come to salvage souls. I hope to encourage others to be faithful, for will reap if we faint not.

Prayer and Praise

Our daughter Becky delivered a keeper of a boy if there ever was one in February, and Wesley Jones is prince of the Jones castle in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Momma had a rough delivery, but she is improving steadily.

Angie is doing better with morning sickness, and she delivers in late July.

Steven continues to press toward college graduation while serving in a local church in Manitoba. He and Holly along with their daughter Eve and son JJ are already making plans to serve the Lord as missionaries after completing bible college next year.

My mom's back surgery was a complete success and the pain reduction has helped her greatly. Thank you for the prayer.

The report on my back is that there is damage between the 2nd and 3rd vertebrae. Bottom line; no more heavy lifting, or pounding rides in boats, skidoos, or trucks. This is a huge adjustment. I'm still wading through this requirement and figuring out how to stay viable for the Lord in the demanding arctic with such limitations. Mom always said, "Getting old is not for sissies."

Ministry wise, we are still looking for a Pastor for FBBC in Inuvik. We have had a couple of near misses, but now have a young prospect to follow up on in the coming months. I travel to Tuktoyaktuk on Mondays and the Lord continues to bless us with visitors to the church services and some progress with building improvements.

Thank you for your faithful and generous support. We are humbled every month as the donor report comes to us. Some of you have been supporting us for a very long time and your faithfulness is a major encouragement to us. Remember, Philippians 4:7 reveals that spiritual fruit produced by this ministry abounds to your account. We truly are partners serving our Lord together.

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One more reminder

Changes to the MINUS40 REPORT

The transition to a paperless Minus40 Report is going smoother than expected. However, if I have unintentionally made a mistake and deleted you or entered an address wrong, please let me know the error and I will correct it ASAP.

The savings in paper, postage, printer ink and envelopes are substantial and the time investment can be allocated toward the letter's substance and not production.

That being said, I am happy to continue to send a hard copy through the mail if you want to receive the Minus40 Report that way. If however you can receive it via email or you are satisfied viewing it or printing it off iceroadpreacher.ca it would help us significantly.

Thank you for understanding.

9:38 AM & PM

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

What I'm calling the "Matthew 9:38 prayer initiative" was introduced into my thinking by a missionary friend in Malawi, John Fullford. At 9:38 AM & PM myself and the membership of the First Bible Baptist church in Inuvik, NT takes time to do what the Lord told us to do. We pray the Lord would "send" labourers into "His" harvest. Of course we are asking God to send a man to pastor here in Inuvik, but that the Lord would send labourers into the world's harvest fields as well.

It's neat to be around believers when the phone alarm rings at 9:38 and we pause to pray. I might add that the variety of alarms and ring tones are interesting as well. Ducks. Ducks quacking are the weirdest I've heard.

Would you be interested in praying at 9:38 AM and PM with us? Maybe for a week, a month or longer? Please pray specifically for FBBC in Inuvik, but for the world as well.

Unpolished but Powerful

Probably where you live when testimony time happens, there are beautiful flowing testimonies laced with the christian language and churchy catch phrases. Heard and repeated over and over again, sometime you have to hunt for the original intent of the testifier. I'm not being critical, just factual. This past year in Tuk, I've had the privilege to hear a new believer attempting to witness without the polish of learned phrases and rehearsed lines. It was beautiful! "Everything's different. I don't even think like I did."

On New Year's Eve when I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to ask for testimonies in Tuk, several spoke up and testified with the usual correct, christian terminology. In the back I saw a hand hesitantly raised to testify. The words were choppy and emotionally delivered. There was more crying than speaking, and the words were detached, didn't flow



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Psalm 147:17 He casteth forth his
ice like morsels: who can stand
before his cold?

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US address: PO Box 977 New
Philadelphia OH 44663 USA
www.pnbm.org
Canadian support address: 163
Pine Valley Dr. Unit 16 London
ON N6J 4R1 Canada

Field address: PO Box 1707
Inuvik NT X0E 0T0 Canada
867-777-2580 (h)
403-763-0258 (cell)

minus40@northwestel.net

iceroadpreacher.ca

Facebook: Tuktoyaktuk Baptist
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Twitter: @iceroadpreacher

well, and were sometimes incomplete, but they were powerful and clearly honoured the Lord.

Driving back late that night on the ice road, I tried to take back every complaint I ever uttered to the Lord about the difficulty of arctic ministry.

Prayer and Praise

Please remember our daughters in prayer. They are both going to have babies. Becky in mid February and Angie in July. Becky is managing gestational diabetes and Angie is suffering with the worst case of prolonged, all day, morning sickness I've ever seen.

I will be going to Rankin Inlet this month so Hayleigh, Alayna and Teryn can watch over me while their mom and dad are in Winnipeg bringing a baby brother into the world! On February 29, Lois and I will pass in the sky as she goes to Rankin Inlet for Grandma duty helping with the new baby and assisting Becky until she is up and about. Please pray for our travels and everybody's good health.

The young men of the First Bible Baptist Church of Inuvik will be handling the church services while I am in Rankin Inlet. Please pray for the Lord's hand to be upon "the guys" as they stand in the gap.

Please pray for my mom, she had back surgery in early February and at the time of this writing is recovering in a rehabilitation facility near her home. By all indications the surgery was a complete success!

Lois' health has been manageable recently and we praise the Lord for that. I have been following up on continual lower back issues. I recently have had an x-ray, CT scan and endure weekly physiotherapy. More will be said about this in future editions of the Minus40 Report as information comes in.

Thank you for all of the thoughtful and precious gifts, cards, notes and love you expressed over the CHRISTmas season. Lois and I certainly feel loved and remembered! As well, we feel humbled at your generosity.

Steve and Lois Donley

MINUS40 REPORT

Newsletter of Steve and Lois Donley

Missionaries to the indigenous people of the Arctic

Email address reminder

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Please do not jump to conclusions if you do not receive a report. If possible check pnbm.org or iceroadpreacher.ca if you think I missed you.

Thank you to those who have sent emails confirming a valid email address to receive the MINUS40 REPORT. If you haven't done so, please do and help reduce the expense of international mailing. Thank you for your understanding and patience!

It's a good thing...

It's a good thing missionaries aren't allowed to be depressed. I'd be in trouble if it were allowed. We are in the dark season of the year and daylight is all but gone and temperatures have plummeted. As a young man the cold was a nuisance that had to be dealt with. The darkness was never considered to be a difficult time of year, rather just part of the overall arctic experience. But at 55 if it were allowed I might get a bit depressed these days. Lois loves this time of year because beautiful CHRISTmas lights adorn many houses and the town puts up lighted decorations. Me? I love CHRISTmas, but a string of lights don't compare to the sun or actual BTU's. The power and heat bills skyrocket in the dead of winter too. But no worries, missionaries aren't allowed to be depressed.

It's a good thing we aren't allowed to be discouraged either. Man, I'm thousands of miles from family and the friends of our pre-field life. CHRISTmas can be a discouraging time for a foreign missionary, but like I said, missionaries aren't allowed to be discouraged.

By now some of you are scratching your heads and wondering what Bro. Steve is thinking. The cold has finally froze his brain beyond repair! I've been a bit deceitful on purpose to grab your attention. First, please understand that your missionaries do go through seasons of discouragement, depression but that kind of stuff never makes the newsletter. Oh sure, experience and God's grace allows veteran missionaries to turn coping into overcoming and eventual victory. But think of the newer missionaries this CHRISTmas and New Years. They are experiencing some trying emotions. Without doubt they love being servants of the Most High and love the work God has called them to. They love the people who are now "their people" and are learning to adapt to the interesting aspects of the culture in which they are immersed. No, they are not about to quit, and no they are not angry. They just hurt. They miss people. They miss familiar voices, sights and comfort of their home church.



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Lastly, and this may surprise you, but the very best thing you can do is pray specifically about this for your missionaries, and especially first term servants. Trust me, there is no help like divine help on the mission field. CHRISTmas cards might arrive late, but intercessory prayer is instant. E-cards are faster and cuter, but intercessory prayer has power. FaceTime, Skype, phone calls, texts and all similar communications are great, but intercessory prayer doesn't stop helping like a call that ends. It's not that those things aren't appreciated, conversely they are greatly appreciated! But nothing, I mean nothing beats the peace that God delivers to a hurting missionary.

Please pray for your missionaries this CHRISTmas, especially the first term servants.

Old prayer requests and follow up reports

*Our oldest daughter Becky Jones is with child. (#4) Pray for health for mom and baby. SO FAR SO GOOD! DOC SAYS ITS A BOY!

*Lois has had a few more days of poor health recently. Pray for God's help. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING. LOIS RECENTLY WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL TO SEE HER AILING SISTER IN COLUMBUS OHIO.

*Souls in Tuk to have a spiritual ear to hear the truth faithfully presented. THE CHURCH SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE WELL ATTENDED AND I SEE GOD WORKING.

*The church folk in Inuvik to grow and be prepared to receive the servant the Lord sends into His harvest here. THE LORD HAS BEEN WORKING IN INUVIK, AND THE CHURCH IS GROWING EVEN IN THIS TRANSITIONAL TIME

*Canada had a national election on October 19. GOOGLE IT. :(

*Local young men in the north who are filling responsibilities in the ministries need prayer support. These men are trail breakers and face opposition. They are quality guys. Pray for God's hand to be upon them. THEY ARE STEPPING UP AND GROWING IN THE LORD WITH EVERY CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.

Thank you so much for your love and faithful support, Merry CHRISTmas!

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MINUS40 REPORT

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Goodbye snail mail

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If you would be so kind as to email me at minus40@northwestel.net FROM the email account you want the letters to be sent to, it would help me wade through this e-technical jungle. Thanks for your understanding.

Statistics show just over 60% of emailed newsletters ever get read or opened. Sad eh?

Keeping it simple

Record keeping in Tuk is pretty simple. On the pulpit I have a 4x6 note pad of 75 pages I guess. The top sheet has 6 columns divided into two halves. In those columns I write the song page numbers and the scripture songs we sing each week as well as the sermon text. At the bottom of each weekly entry I record the attendance. I'm not a numbers guy, I never have been and I really can't be as a far North missionary. But I confess that I often scan the attendance record and smile and grimace according to the entry.

On August 3 I scrawled "47" on the attendance line and still grin confidently at that record. Beside it a "12" stares at me and I stare back emotionless. After several weeks of mediocre attendance, missed services due to poor weather and flight cancellations, I recorded a "7" on Labour Day's entry and glance at it with a scowl and quickly look away.

Looking back at the pages filled out in the same manner from a year ago, the numbers look very similar. Up and down. Hunting seasons, whaling time, vacation times, and simple holidays on nice days always take a toll on me, who by the way, am not a numbers guy.

As the weather turns from chilly summer to a Fall that lasts only a couple of weeks and then to frigid, dark winter, the numbers stabilize and regularly 20ish people attend the services in Tuk. Although not a numbers guy, (did I mention that already?) I am thankful that every time the doors of the Tuktoyaktuk Baptist Church are open that the Word of God is preached and Jesus Christ is exalted as Lord and Savior. I don't have a cumulative record of how many have heard the truth over the years, but who's counting anyways. I'm not a numbers guy.

Grizzly Troubles

Since arriving in the Arctic in 1989, we have experienced a lot of unique things. But the summer of 2015 for us with the recorded a first grizzly bear visitation of a raiding the garbage cans





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along our street. The proper authorities were informed and we hosted a special lawn ornament for several weeks. A humane cage trap yielded nothing but a few flies attracted to the bear bait inside.



Back to an early 2000's schedule

Due to the need for an interim Pastor in Inuvik, I'm repeating the same schedule as I kept many years ago. I'm preaching all the services in Inuvik, and traveling to Tuktoyaktuk on Mondays. Please pray for a Pastor to surrender and come to Inuvik. We have a man visiting this Fall to see the ministry and see what the Lord does in the hearts of all interested parties. The First Bible Baptist Church of Inuvik stands ready to support a pastor and take the final step to autonomy.

Prayer requests at a glance

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