



TUKTOYAKTUK UPDATE (Surviving Covid-19!) ---- My latest and newest Missionary steps!! ~ Fay

God is always calling his people. God speaks today...

What does this mean for the Inuvialuit people of the Western Arctic?

An elder in his 60's said to me recently: "When I was a boy, we had no days of the week, and no concept of weeks, nor did we know of 12 months in a year. We had only seasons: winter, with 24 hour darkness; spring, with animals birthing and geese flying; summer, the time of fishing and getting your annual whale for food; and fall, when you stored up your food for winter."

The Inuvialuit had no word for 'God' or 'Creator', so where does *meaning* come from? In the Arctic, the meaning of life was *survival* in a harsh and unforgiving climate. 'The Land' was your place for peace and healing and learning. **Your home was your pleasure and your team for survival.**

Now there is Covid-19. Schools and churches and offices are closed and visiting is not allowed.

Then, on 15 May 2020 it was announced in the NWT that, although churches could not yet open, a household could have up to 5 visitors. We could work with the new possibility of having 5 visitors. This was a sign of hope!

What if your 5 visitors were of your extended family who didn't live too far away?

What if you invited these 5 other family members to come to your house on a Sunday?

You could be a 'Family Church'!

The home is the first church. I began to speak to the elders about this and got a very positive response. We could establish family church in extended family groupings, up to 10 persons in a group.

I could make up a bag of 'helps for prayer' (Sunday missal, booklet on how to say the rosary, some rosaries, our ordinary lay service booklet, and a mask!)

The **preferences** of each group can be different:

- ✚ faith sharing around a Gospel passage
- ✚ the lay lead service book used by the group
- ✚ the Rosary
- ✚ faith building through a Picture Bible where there are children and no one is baptised
- ✚ a live-streamed mass

Guess what! We are on our way with 4 family groupings started and some more in the wings. We are not calling them house churches since this is New Testament language which could be confusing. For now let God make it what is good for us. AND please keep us in your prayers.