Labrador is an obscure and a spiritually dark corner of Canada. In 1792 William Carey, the Father of Modern Missions, bemoaned the lack of Baptist missionaries who would preach the Gospel around the world. He said, “Have not the (Catholic) missionaries surmounted all those difficulties which we have generally thought to be insuperable? Have not the…Moravian Brethren, encountered…the frozen climes of Greenland, and Labrador, their difficult languages, and savage manners?” He went on to plead for Baptist missionaries to take the Gospel to the regions beyond.

As far as I know, for over 200 years following that plea for missionaries, there has been a sad lack of independent Baptist missionaries taking the Gospel to Labrador. In 1995 BIMI missionaries Steve and Kathy Stone moved to Labrador to start a church. They spent eight years serving in Western Labrador and organized a church there. Unfortunately, that church no longer exists. Since 2003, Labrador has once again been without an independent Baptist church. Oh yes, they have Catholics, Pentecostals, and Jehovah’s Witnesses, but no one has been another independent Baptist church established in Labrador.

God has called us, Nate and Christy Minion, to take the light of the Gospel to Labrador. Several years ago while I was in Bible college, God gave me a burden for the people of Labrador. Labrador has relatively few people compared to the great cities of Canada, but the people of Labrador cannot be ignored. Too long they have waited for the light of God’s Word. Too long they have waited for someone to give them the truth of the Gospel.

Together with Newfoundland, Labrador makes up the easternmost province of Canada. Newfoundland is a large island and Labrador is the mainland part of the province. Labrador is a remote area. It contains tundra, forests, mountains, glaciers, and countless lakes and rivers. Central Labrador has a sub-arctic climate. Temperatures range from 70ºF to -30ºF. The average snowfall is 12–15 feet. The climate in Labrador is a cold, harsh climate. More importantly, the spiritual climate in Labrador is cold and harsh. There are six good independent Baptist churches in Newfoundland but there are no established independent Baptist churches in Labrador.

Labrador City and Wabush are two large mining towns on the west side of Labrador. These areas do not have independent Baptist churches or missionaries. There are twenty-two small fishing villages scattered up and down the rugged coastline, and none of these villages have independent Baptist churches either. Happy Valley-Goose Bay is the largest town in Labrador. Because Goose Bay is a large military airbase, it is the transportation center for Labrador. We will initially be working in the Goose Bay area.

Labrador also has a First Nations group. Sheshatshiu, an Innu town, lies only thirty minutes away from Goose Bay. The Innu are a smaller people group related to the Inuit (Eskimo). The Innu are scattered across Labrador and northern Quebec. One of our goals is to start a work with the Innu people. The young people there know some English, but the middle-aged and older people have little knowledge of the English language. Christy and I are planning to learn the Innu-Aimun language so we can try to reach the Innu people with the Gospel.

The work in Labrador will have to be a long-term, patient work. These smaller towns are very tight-knit communities and the people are slow to accept outsiders. It will take time to build relationships and gain their trust. When they are faced with the difficulties of life, many of the people in Labrador turn to alcohol, drugs, and suicide. They are without hope. They don’t have the solutions for their problems. The false religions don’t have the answers. Labradorians must hear the Gospel!

In 2013 the Dinsmores, a Canadian family from Ontario, moved to Labrador. They are trying to organize an independent Baptist church in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. So far, they have seen three individuals trust Christ as Savior. When we arrive in Labrador, we will be helping the Dinsmores get that church established.

After helping to establish an independent Baptist church in Goose Bay, our long-term goals are to plant independent Baptist churches in other parts of Labrador, reach the Innu with the Gospel, and evangelize the remote fishing villages on the coast.

Please pray for us as we continue deputation. Our goal is to arrive in Labrador in April 2016. For more information, please visit our website at www.light2labrador.com.