

Did you know that we, at TLC, have enjoyed a bountiful relationship with Rod and Donna Koop that spans more than 20 years?

The founders/directors of North of Hope ([northofhope.com](http://northofhope.com))—a mission dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Native Alaskans in and around Anchor Point, Alaska--Rod and Donna reside smack-dab on the center of the southern border of the Last Frontier. For the past 15 years, TLC has helped sponsor the missionary couple's work and service.

Literally "straight out of Compton," (that's where Rod was born in California), Rod's roots are actually in Alaska, having been first brought up in the Peters Creek community northwest of Anchorage; and graduating from high school in the coastal town of Seward; and then happily falling victim to love at first sight the day he met Donna on Potters Marsh Boardwalk in Anchorage. Together, Rod and Donna have served more than 30 years in the Foursquare Church, emphasizing authentic biblical faith, simplicity, and the enabling of people to make an abiding impact on God's Kingdom.

Their service-career has taken them from circumstances of structured denominational leadership to grassroots callings. Rod details these adventures in his book *Uncharted Waters: The Search for Authentic Faith in the Seas of Organized Religion*, which encourages the embracement of genuine discipleship. Donna has given in numerous ministries, including teaching, leading prayer teams, and care-pastoring at a women's homeless shelter. She is the heart of the welcoming-hospitality of North of Hope, and vital to its objective of empowering indigenous Alaskans, through practical assistance, food provision, and outreach programs. (*Ask a TLC staff member how you can be involved in the North of Hope mission*)

With a doctorate in Transformational Leadership focused on economic development in marginalized communities, Rod's widespread career has been one of influential church-planting expertise. Unquestionably, one of his most significant endeavors was. . .*wait for it!*. . .his role in helping plant True Life Center, Cedar City, USA! In the beginnings of TLC, circa 2003, Rod was the Director of Church Multiplication for Foursquare Church--a position from which he championed TLC's vision to the Foursquare Board of Directors. As liaison, Rod was key in the establishment of our church-home, TLC.

Parents of five children and grandparents to nine grandchildren, Rod and Donna recently collaborated on *The Fifth Pivot: Finding Life, Love and Purpose after 50*, which offers hope and practical guidance for midlife renewal. It is perhaps, a timely manuscript, foregoing another exciting detail on the thriving relationship between TLC and the Koops—that is, in the Fall, the couple will be embarking upon the *Next Last Frontier*, as they will be moving to Cedar City, permanently, and returning to their ol' church-plant now new home-church family. . .all of us here at TLC!