

ARCTIC HOPE - THE TIME IS NOW!

How many times have you missed a crucial opportunity because you were waiting for "just the right time"? Each of us must admit there have been times when we felt we had to have everything in place before we could proceed with an action, only to realize that by the time we are ready, it's too late.

That's exactly what I have felt in my spirit all summer. I have been anxiously awaiting the completion of the building in Repulse Bay, Nunavut, so that we can implement the healing and equipping centre for promising young Inuit leaders. As unavoidable construction delays happened, I was frustrated, and almost became resigned to the fact that we must wait another season to get the program started. Then I received a report that another eleven-year-old had committed suicide in the north. My heart was broken and deeply stirred. As I brought my concerns to the Lord, I sensed Him saying, "Do not wait any longer. The time is NOW!"

Our workers Michael & Darlene Clark, are making amazing inroads in the lives of the Inuit of Repulse Bay, as they minister to the congregation and reach out to the community with Christ's love. They have instituted youth services, children's meetings and Bible studies for adults. As they mentor and walk in unity with the local leadership, it is encouraging to see them arising to their God-given potential. They are as anxious as I am to see the building completed so that they can expand what the Lord has already begun.

Meanwhile, problems like suicide, addiction and despair continue to escalate throughout the Arctic. Young people desperately need HOPE for the future, free from the pain and trauma of the past, so that they can move forward in wholeness. We have waited long enough! We must begin reaching them NOW!

As I sought the Lord about this pressing need, He reminded me about a young couple who have been in our lives for a number of years. Steven & Becky Carleton are a dynamic young Christian couple with a deep love for Canada's Inuit. Becky has worked in executive positions in the federal government, while Steven has been integrally involved in government-sponsored youth programs for Inuit. He is Inuit and has a unique understanding of both youth issues and the needs of Inuit.

Steven spent an entire summer traveling across this nation with Kenny Blacksmith and his ministry of healing and reconciliation for Canada's First Peoples. He represented the Inuit as the lead native dancer at the opening ceremonies of the Vancouver Winter Olympics, and has a passion to see young Inuit delivered from bondage and set free to lead their generation forward in wholeness.

I am pleased to tell you that Steven and Becky have joined our team and will oversee the establishment of this program that we have named ARCTIC HOPE. They will immediately begin meeting with Nunavut government leaders, community leaders and pastors, and will coordinate the ministries, courses and logistics so that we can begin ARCTIC HOPE as soon as possible.



Steven & Becky Carleton

Although this is a major financial undertaking, we cannot delay any longer. Many young Inuit lives are hanging in the balance. Government leaders have told me that, in spite of the millions of dollars they have invested in youth initiatives, addiction counseling and other social programs, the problems persist. They have concluded that the missing component is in addressing their spiritual needs. With Steve and Becky on board, we can begin establishing

ARCTIC HOPE immediately. In addition to coordinating the people, courses and logistics, they will also minister corporately and one-on-one to the young people who will be accepted into the program.

Your Partnership is Crucial

Just think — by sowing a sacrificial seed into ARCTIC HOPE, you are sowing into the destiny of Inuit young men and women. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." I believe that declaration will become reality in their lives as we teach them and demonstrate what the delivering, empowering anointing of the Spirit can accomplish. God has a meaningful future for them, and wants to fill their hearts with hope!

Will you partner with us today to see ARCTIC HOPE established? The seed you sow will surely reap a bountiful harvest of transformed Inuit lives and a renewed generation of young leaders in Canada's north!

Yours in Christ,

Bill Prankard

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