



BILL PRANKARD EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

HOPE FOR NUNAVUT

March 2014

Hopelessness – it is one of the saddest words in the English language. Imagine waking up every morning of your life with the overwhelming sense that, no matter how hard you try, no matter what you do, you cannot change your circumstances or look toward a better future.

Sadly, many Inuit youth in the Canadian Arctic experience this sense of hopelessness every day. In Nunavut, Canada's newest territory, the suicide rate is upwards of twenty times the national average. Sexual abuse rates are over eight times higher than elsewhere in Canada for children and youth between the ages of eleven and seventeen.



Approximately fifty percent of Nunavut's total population is under the age of 24. Alcoholism and drug abuse are rampant, and high rates of unemployment leave young people feeling lost and depressed as they search to fill long, idle hours each day. It is little wonder then, that suicide is the leading cause of preventable deaths in Nunavut.

Government leaders, educators and social workers have worked tirelessly to provide programs and initiatives to address these problems and offer hope. But some have come to recognize that they also need a spiritual component mixed with their practical efforts to cause hope to arise in the hearts of the younger generation.

For over forty years, we have extended our evangelistic ministry to include Canada's northern aboriginal people, declaring the Good News, establishing churches, mentoring leaders and

encouraging believers in their faith. While Bible-believing native churches can be found in the majority of communities dotted throughout the vast Arctic tundra, and mature believers continue to serve the Lord faithfully, Nunavut youth are often conspicuously absent from their services. Many have either drifted away from Lord or have not yet been introduced to the life-changing Gospel of Christ. They find themselves caught in the grip of alcohol or drug addiction, destructive lifestyles and, more likely than not, trapped in hopelessness and despair. Too many have turned to suicide to escape such overwhelming trauma and personal pain. My heart broke as I witnessed this pervasive sense of hopelessness repeated in one community after another, and I sought the Lord to show me how to reach the youth and see this vicious cycle broken. Out of this time of seeking, the Arctic Hope Project was born.

The Arctic Hope Project is a groundbreaking, faith-based program designed to address many of the root issues that Inuit youth face in Nunavut. Steven Carleton, our Arctic Hope Project Director, is uniquely qualified to lead this effort. He is Inuit, a dynamic Spirit-filled leader, and has several years' experience working in government-sponsored initiatives for Inuit young people. Steven and I will work in conjunction with local community leaders, social agencies and government overseers to coordinate our efforts.

As the Lord directs us to specific youth in each community who demonstrate a willingness to participate, a highly qualified Christian team will minister to them as a group and one-on-one. Dr. Grant Mullen, who specializes in emotional healing, will help them identify and deal with the trauma of their past, as the Holy Spirit brings deep healing to their souls.

Reepa Evic-Carleton, also Inuit and an expert cultural counselor and dedicated believer, will help them apply the principles they learn, in the context of their Inuit culture. Tagak Curley, an Inuit elder who had the original vision and led the negotiations with the government to establish Nunavut as their own territory, will teach the young people how to focus on the future, and dream big dreams.

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In Jeremiah 29:11, the Holy Spirit spoke God's words to us through the prophet saying, ***"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."*** That is the message in a nutshell that we endeavour to instill in the hearts of Canada's Inuit youth: God is constantly thinking of them; He longs to replace the evil bondages in their lives with His peace.



And He has set before them a glorious future, filled with hope! With this new-found peace and hope, we will then connect them with local public leaders and pastors, and help them find a place of practical service within their own communities. They desperately need a sense of purpose – something worthwhile in which to invest their time, effort and new-found faith. We will continue long-term one-on-one follow-up with them, to equip and encourage them and to help them stay on the path of becoming effective, spiritually and emotionally whole leaders to their generation.

The pilot program of the Arctic Hope Project is set to begin in Cape Dorset, NU in early April, 2015, and our long term goal is to provide the Arctic Hope Project in each region of Nunavut by 2025.

We also continue to prepare for the summer, when we will finish erecting the Repulse Bay building which you, our partners, have

helped make possible. Once completed, it will serve as the local congregation's church, and will also be the facility out of which the Arctic Hope Project will be conducted.



Nothing is more worthy of your generous investment than these precious young souls. The Arctic Hope Project targets Nunavut's most valuable asset – its youth. As they discover new life in Christ, receive healing for their hurts, and find purpose for the future, Nunavut has the potential of becoming a shining example of hope for our nation.

God bless you as you partner with us to see the vision of the Arctic Hope Project become a reality, and as the Holy Spirit's fire ignites in hearts across the vast expanse of Canada's Arctic!

Yours in Him,

Bill Prankard

UPCOMING EVENTS

Edmonton AB - March 7, 2015

www.liveresurgence.com

Stony Plain, AB - March 8, 2015

Lighthouse Pentecostal Church

www.lhpc.biz

Lethbridge, AB - March 11, 2015

Third Day Worship Centre

www.dickandjoan.com

Kitimat, BC - March 13, 2015

The Harvest Centre | www.theharvest.ca

Nanaimo, BC - March 15, 2015

Nanimo Full Gospel Assembly

www.nanaimofullgospel.com

Guelph, ON - March 22, 2015

Word of Life Regional Church

www.wolrc.org

Sarnia, ON - March 27, 2015

Rock Family Church 519-331-0975

ARCTIC HOPE PROJECT

April 19-29, 2015

Cape Dorset, NU

Stony Plain, AB

June 11-13, 2015

Conference (details TBA)

Lethbridge, AB

June 29 - July 1, 2015

Canada Day Conference

www.dickandjoan.com

Mount Zion Bible Camp

July 3-5, 2015

www.mountzionretreatcentre.com

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