

A MILLION LITTLE MIRACLES - DECEMBER / 2022

The worship group Maverick City sing a powerful song entitled, "A Million Little Miracles" that describes how God is constantly touching people's lives with unexpected blessings. Often we don't recognize them because our eyes are on the problems instead of God's goodness. Our *Champions of Hope* team, who recently arrived home from their first mission to Canada's Arctic, had the joy of experiencing "a million little miracles" in spite of very trying and unexpected circumstances.

For months we have been preparing for this new initiative for teams to minister to the Inuit in a more meaningful and effective way. While we thank God for past successes and the lives transformed through our many outreaches, Champions of Hope teams were formed to make a lasting impact, not only on those we reach but on the future of the communities wherever the teams go. The plan - to evangelize, engage and equip the people each team member encounters. Once a meaningful connection is made each team member commits to regular online mentorship of these individuals for a full year as well as a return in-person visit within the year. Our goal to raise up leaders in each community who are spiritually healthy and strong in their faith and well prepared to lead others to Jesus.

We chose Cape Dorset (Kinngait), NU as the focus of the first Champions of Hope team. The Lord gave us an amazing "A-team" of mature believers who were passionate about the mission, have received specific training and are committed to on going ministry to those they would connect with. On October 26th, after an evening of fellowship and prayer together in

Ottawa the team set out in the morning, arriving in Iqaluit where they would connect to the Canadian North flight into Cape Dorset. However, winter storms changed all that.



Bill & Jacob anointing and sending off our first Champions of Hope team

Canadian North cancelled the flight to Cape Dorset due to the severe weather conditions, and by the following morning the blizzard had arrived in Iqaluit, cancelling that day's flight as well. With no Canadian North flights available for the rest of the week, we explored other possibilities, including charters but every day the storm conditions persisted. The Pentecostal Church in Iqaluit graciously opened their facilities to the team to sleep and establish as their temporary base as they awaited better weather. In the meantime, they decided to "redeem the time" and spent each day reaching out to the residents of Iqaluit, winning souls for Jesus and preparing their hearts for every opportunity that came their way.



By the end of the week the blizzard refused to abate and the team reluctantly made the decision to return south without being able to reach Cape Dorset. In spite of this unexpected turn of events they thanked God for every life in Iqaluit that they had been able to impact and for each little miracle along the way. As the capital of Nunavut, Iqaluit is a vital hub in the north and needs Jesus just as much as any other community. But God wasn't finished with the Cape Dorset mission yet!



Champions of Hope team in Iqaluit during the blizzard

As the return flight landed in Ottawa one of the team members, Rob, a youth pastor from Stratford, ON checked his news feed on his phone and learned that a group of twelve Inuit young people from Cape Dorset had been in Stratford for a student exchange program and were in Ottawa where they would overnight before catching their flight back home. This was much more than a coincidence! It was another of the million little miracles God had orchestrated!

As Rob studied the photos in the news article about the Cape Dorset students, he felt particularly drawn to one of the young men in the picture. The Lord miraculously helped him find out where the students were staying in Ottawa and quickly arranged to meet the group. For several hours he shared the Gospel with them, led some to Christ and made

arrangements for them to connect with other team members for continuing mentoring. The young man Rob felt particularly drawn to was also intrigued with Rob and the two struck up a friendship. Rob has taken the young man under his wing and will be mentoring him on a regular basis. Another student confessed that she used to attend church regularly in Cape Dorset and felt the need to return. The team will connect with these young people to arrange mentoring of those who show a desire for it. All in all, it was an awesome God-encounter that will reap eternal dividends!



Rob Miller in Ottawa with youth from Kingait

Cancelled flights due to blizzards, being stranded and separated from loved ones for days on end and missing work responsibilities are the kind of challenges residents of the Arctic face constantly. One of our team's leaders, Travis Annett, made this statement: "We didn't get to Kinngait (Cape Dorset) to see our friends, but we did get to know a little more about the hardships of the north. This leaves you asking, "Is the north worth it?" The answer is, as long as there are people, YES 100% YES! I have not lost hope in Canada's Arctic and I know God still has a great plan for Canada through the Inuit people. This has only strengthened our team and given us a greater desire to see our friends in Kinngait. Thank you to everyone who sowed, kept us in your prayers and never lost hope for Canada's Arctic."

We are still in awe of God and the "million little miracles" He performed in spite of the unexpected change in plans. Our ways are not His ways. His ways are higher than ours - and they are better! With this "chance" encounter that Rob had with the group of Inuit students, we believe the groundwork has been laid for future ministry in Cape Dorset where the majority of residents are under 25 years of age.

Jacob, Rob and some of the other team members are arranging to make another trip to Cape Dorset as quickly as possible to make up for the cancelled trip. They will reconnect with the students and minister to as many as possible in the community, and then they will pair them up with the rest of the team to receive one-on-one mentoring. We are believing that out of the ministry of the Champions of Hope team, Cape Dorset will come alive in Jesus and experience a mighty Holy Ghost outpouring that will bring transformation and healing to many. We must not quit when the going gets

tough! We must see suicide eradicated, addictions broken and lives set free to impact the entire north for Jesus!

While this first team focuses on Cape Dorset, we are making preparations for our next Champions of Hope team to visit Naujaat, NU, where we built a wonderful church/conference centre a few years ago. As you are receiving this Newsletter, Jacob and a mature Christian leader, Todd, are in Naujaat meeting with the local pastor and community leaders to pave the way for a second Champions outreach. They will hold services while they are there, pouring into as many lives as they can, and preparing them for the outreach next year. I will then join Jacob in Rankin Inlet, where I will be ministering with Kayy Gordon at her Glad Tidings conference. Please continue to pray for them and for us as we forge ahead with the lifechanging Good News in one of the most challenging regions of the world. We will press on in spite of blizzards, remoteness and the extreme cost of reaching "the ends of the earth". But we need YOU to stand with us!

Our team ministering to the pastors in Igaluit



The second trip that Jacob and the Champions of Hope team members are taking to Cape Dorset to make up for the cancelled mission was both unexpected and unplanned, but absolutely necessary. It was not in our missions budget so I am putting my trust in the Lord's provision and the faithfulness of our partners to sow a special Champions offering to help us with the outreach. Will you ask the Lord what He would have you do to help us? God bless you, and I believe we will continue to see "a million more little miracles" in Cape Dorset and in each Arctic community where Champions of Hope teams minister!

Christmastime is fast approaching and Gwen and I pray that in this season you and those you love will experience a "million little miracles" too. May His presence fill your home as you celebrate the greatest miracle of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection power!

Su Grandons

Bill Prankard President & Founder BPEA



LOOKING FOR CHAMPIONS of HOPE

If you have a passion for Arctic missions, we invite you to apply to become a team member for one of our Arctic Hope Missions in communities across the north. You will be fully trained and equipped for the outreach and as a follow-up mentor to the people you will be reaching. To apply, go to:

https://bpea.com/champions-of-hope-application



Canada Is Being Saved!