



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

This is our first newsletter, not just of 2019, but also for me (Steven) as the new President of BPEA. To say it's been a humbling and amazing journey would be an understatement. Both Becky and I are so overwhelmed by the faithfulness of God, the love and wisdom of Bill & Gwen and the support of you, our partners! We wanted to take some time to share our heart given this monumental transition and also the vision of where we feel we're headed.

In the book of Genesis, chapter 12, we find a familiar passage where God is calling Abraham (Abram) to a land that He will show him, which was later revealed to be the land of Canaan. What's interesting about this portion of Scripture is if you go back a few verses in chapter 11, you discover that this journey actually began years earlier while Abraham was still living with his father, brothers and extended family in the land of Ur. Commentators collectively agree that the original call from the Lord to Abraham actually came 5 years earlier and as a family, they not only believed God's word to Abraham, but actively began to journey together to Canaan, although they didn't know that was to be their final destination at the time. In Acts 7: 2-4 it reads, "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he lived in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran, and said to him: **Leave your country and relatives and come to the land that I will show you.** Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. From there his father died; God had him move to this land in which you are now living."

Both in Acts 7:2-4 and Genesis 11:31 we learn that about halfway to Canaan, they stopped in a place

called Haran and settled there. According to commentators, it is believed that Abraham's father, Terah, likely needed time to rest due to fatigue and health issues but planned to complete the remainder of the journey once he regained his strength. In the end, he was not able to continue on as planned and died there five years later. It was after this transition that the Lord spoke to Abraham a second time in Genesis 12:1 . "The Lord said to Abram: **Go out from your land, your relatives and your father's house to the land that I will show you.**"

One of the things that really spoke to me about this passage was that Abraham didn't start his journey to the promised land alone, but in step beside his father, Terah. There came a time where God called Abraham aside and separated him for his own journey, but his foundation started with a father who believed in him and was willing to pay a price to see his son obey and fulfill the word that God had spoken over his life. And yet even in the midst of that journey, Abraham's first priority was to honour and serve his father. Half way to Canaan, his father needed time to rest and Abraham made the choice not to continue on and leave him behind, but to stay and serve him. I think in some ways it was a test for Abraham and a powerful lesson for us as the next generation, that it is just as important to honour the sacrifice of those who have gone before us, as it is to reach the destination of our purpose or our "Canaan".



This model of walking together has been at the heart of our relationship with Bill and Gwen from the very beginning and it's something we are fully committed to continuing. We feel so strongly that this isn't a new journey altogether, but the continuation of a multi-generational partnership to see the Kingdom of God established both here in Canada, Nunavut and in Arctic Russia. The mission has not changed, it's just been given young legs and we are fully committed to not only stewarding the inheritance that has been given to us, but also multiplying it. Abraham was called to continue the journey even after his father had passed on, but it was the same vision, the same promised land and the same heart response to the call of God. If you are living and breathing on this earth, you're still on that journey and you still have a purpose that God is working in and through your life. And not only that, but He's given you and will continue to give you pivotal relationships that are going to be critical in fulfilling that purpose. There is an African Proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." And we think that captures the heart of this next season beautifully. What God is building in you, in us and in the body of Christ is a new level of maturity of what it means to walk together as a family, with every generation being represented, honoured and valued. Because what God is building includes all of us, and we're not competing against each other, but we're connected together in an eternal relay race. Our goal is to not only run our race well but ensure that we both receive and release our baton at the appointed time.

Looking back over 2018, I can honestly say I am incredibly proud of all we accomplished in the span of the last twelve months! We started off the year with a word from the Lord that we needed to visit every community in Nunavut with a high school and bring this message of hope not only to as many young people as possible, but also to the local churches and their pastors. This was already going to be quite an undertaking as we had twenty-five communities to reach between February and December, but once we also factored in the unpredictable nature of arctic weather, flights,

limited accommodations and the sheer cost of such a tour, we knew nothing short of the grace of God was going to get us to the finish line. By the end of the year we made it to twenty-one of the twenty-five communities, with attempts made to each of the remaining four. We will be revisiting each of the four communities we weren't able to make it to very soon.

We also hosted our very first Arctic Hope Leaders' Conference in Iqaluit that brought together fifty to sixty youth, pastors and elders from eighteen communities where they were not only able to start a conversation about the future of their territory, but also the opportunity to be poured into and encouraged by our leadership team as well. God showed up during our time together in such a powerful way and by the end of the conference, you could feel hope beginning to rise amongst the leaders and their young people. We were in awe at the faithfulness of God and marvelled that not a single flight was cancelled! Everyone made it in from all three regions and that by definition alone was a miracle!

Our ministry in Arctic Russia also continued this year, with Igor making a few trips up to communities in the far north, delivering not only the Good News of the Gospel, but also a large shipment of food, clothing and other resources for the local people.





We then closed out 2018 with our Succession Celebration, where we celebrated and honoured the transition of leadership from Bill and Gwen to Becky and myself. It was truly an extraordinary night, one that will mark Becky and myself for the rest of our lives. We were so overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support that came not only from those who attended, but also from our partners and the leaders who sent their love via video. There was such a grace and ease throughout the entire evening and it was such a privilege to be there to honour the transition in a lifelong journey for Bill & Gwen. We knew this night was coming for a few years now, but it was another experience all together to actually step into the shoes of the ones who we have been serving. We feel so expectant for the plans that the Lord has in store not only for this coming year, but also for the ones to follow and having you partner with us is what enables us to carry on!

Coming into 2019, we felt the Lord gave us three priorities to focus on this year, the first being to choose a core group of Inuit young people from those whom we've been working with in Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung, ones who have shown real promise during the first phases of the Arctic Hope Program and begin intensive training to prepare them as future leaders. In response to this, I will be making a

number of trips to each community to help facilitate leadership training, as well as find ways to bridge relationships between both core groups in Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung. We will be partnering not only with the local churches in these communities, but also pastors and churches in our PAOC district in order to find ways to continue building relationship and providing additional resources. Secondly, we will be hosting another Arctic Hope Leaders' Conference which will be held in our Arctic Hope Building in Nauyasat. We would like to make these conferences an annual occurrence as we continue to build relationship with one another and pour into those who are serving on the frontlines of their communities. And thirdly, Igor has plans to make another four trips up to Arctic Russia this year and we are fully committed to seeing those completed.

We are believing God for unprecedented breakthrough in the North this year and we can't do it without you! Our goal is to partner with 100 new donors, either through a one-time generous gift, or a monthly pledge of \$30 per month or more. If you are already a partner, we would ask you to consider increasing your partnership by \$10 a month.

We declare in this season that you are going to receive every relationship, miracle and breakthrough you need to continue the journey that God has laid out before you.

And as we walk together, we believe we are going to see Nunavut, Canada and Arctic Russia transformed!

May He have dominion, from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth.

Yours in Him,

Steven & Becky Carleton



2019 is a very significant year for me personally and for the Bill Prankard Evangelistic Association. After walking side-by-side in ministry with Steven Carleton for nearly five years and sharing the same heart and vision for Canada, I am turning the reins of leadership as President over to him. I can think of no other person who is more ready, more dedicated and more spiritually equipped to take on this role than Steven. Gwen and I are excited about the future and the new heights that he and Becky will climb as they follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

What does this change of leadership mean for Gwen and me? For one thing, it frees us up from all the responsibilities that go along with directing the day-to-day affairs of the ministry. Secondly it allows us to focus on preaching the Word, seeing lives transformed and bodies healed, and pressing in to see an outpouring of God's Spirit sweep the nation with Holy Ghost fire as I travel throughout the nation. To see where I will be ministering in the near future, you can go to our website, www.bpea.com.

One of my greatest joys over the years is getting to know and pray for many of our faithful partners across the nation, to hear the countless testimonies of people who have given their lives to Christ, received a miracle or whose passion for God has been renewed as the Lord used me to minister to them. I am even more thrilled to see that you embrace and support Steven and the great work he has been doing among Canada's Inuit and as he has shared ministry with me in cities and towns across the nation.

It would be such an encouragement to me and to Steven if you would prayerfully consider increasing your financial commitment for 2019, whether by monthly support or one-time giving. Let's partner together to see God do greater things than ever before as we give Him dominion "from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth!"

Upcoming

Hall Beach & Qikitarjuaq, NU (Steven)

Feb 1 - 9
Arctic Hope Tour

Ottawa ON (Bill)
Peace Tower Church
Feb 15-17
Dominion Conference

**Cape Dorset, NU
(Steven)**
March 4-11
Leadership Development

**Hamilton ON (Steven &
Bill)**
Kingdom Worship Centre
March 22-23
Canadian Oil Tour

Grand Prairie AB (Bill)
Victory Church on the Rock
April 4-7
Canadian Oil Tour

Pangnirtung, NU (Steven)
April 13-19
Leadership Development

Barrie ON (Bill)
Barrie Victory Centre
April 10-13

Canada Shall Be Saved!