

REKINDLING LIVES WITH FRESH HOPE



Spring 2020

## **Back to the Start A Season of Returning to Our First Love**

It's amazing how a season of crisis has a way of quickly resetting our focus and reorganizing our priorities. Amid the busyness of our normal day-to-day, it can often feel harder to distinguish between what is important and what feels urgent. As the world has been confronted on a global scale by the sudden interruption of COVID-19, it seems as though overnight we have been confined to our homes without many of the distractions that would usually demand our attention. We are left with the rare gift of silence to see the true state of our families, our hearts and our relationship with Jesus.

This season has had a beautiful way of simplifying our lives and bringing us face-to-face with who or what we have been depending on as our true source of provision, peace and security. I have been confronted personally with such a deep sense of needing to return to the beginning of my journey with Jesus. The days when I first fell in love with Him and everything in my life revolved around just wanting to be with Him. I'm sure we can all remember a time when there was that new sense of discovery, wonder and awe at how close He felt. Over time it's easy to unknowingly drift and become so good at doing all the right things, that we slowly neglect

ministering to the heart of the One who captivated us at the start.

In Revelation 2:4 it says, "But this is what I have against you: you don't love me now as you did at first." In this passage, Jesus had sent a letter to the church of Ephesus encouraging them with how well they were standing for truth, weeding out any false doctrine in their midst, providing ministry and evangelism in their city, all while having a zero tolerance for sin. And yet, after all of that, after doing everything we would think would be the hallmark of an exceptional Christian life, there was still one thing that grieved His heart more. They had lost the depth and the intimacy of their first love with Him.

Robert E. Murray puts it this way, "No amount of activity in the King's service will make up for the neglect of the King Himself." His heart longs more for the full attention of our hearts than He does for all the things we can do for Him. It's not that those things are bad or not important, but they were never meant to take first place.

BOX 7007 STN V | OTTAWA, ON | K1L 8E2 | CANADA

[www.bpea.com](http://www.bpea.com) | [info@bpea.com](mailto:info@bpea.com) | 1.888.344.6333



arctic hope

So, my encouragement to you in this season is not to feel discouraged or condemned, but to simply look upon His face again and allow His presence to woo your heart back into the depths of His love for you. He longs to carry the weight that has been weighing heavy on your shoulders, but He can't if He doesn't have first place in your heart. Take time to ask Him what that looks like for you in this season and remember it's not about your performance, but rather relearning how to simply enjoy being with Him.

In Psalm 91:14-16 TPT it says, "Because you have delighted in me as my great lover, I will greatly protect you. I will set you in a high place, safe and secure before my face. I will answer your cry for help every time you pray, and you

will feel my presence even in your time of pressure and trouble. I will be your glorious hero and give you a feast. You will be satisfied with a full life and all that I do for you. For you will enjoy the fullness of my salvation."

What a beautiful promise that is! How incredible is it that the only thing He asks of us is to first love Him! That is the epitome of our hope in this season, it's HIM! It isn't an allusive feeling or a measuring stick of how much faith we feel we have on a given day, but simply allowing Jesus, HOPE itself, to love on us. It's from that place that we in turn can pour that love back onto Him. He will never ask something of you that He won't first give you, so ask Him again today!



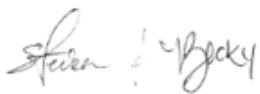
*Steven in Cape Dorset in June 2019. We will be working with 2 key leaders in Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset who will carry the DNA of BPEA in their communities!*

## Ministry Updates

I had initially planned to travel to three Nunavut communities in the coming week, Iqaluit, Cape Dorset and Pangnirtung but given the new restrictions with COVID-19, we have been able to temporarily shift our focus to developing the Champions of Hope program primarily online for the time being. We have successfully identified 4 leaders between both Pangnirtung and Cape Dorset and I have already been and will continue to work intensively to disciple them as we continue to lay the foundational groundwork for training more young leaders in the months ahead. We are incredibly excited for this program! This is something that has never been done before in the history of Nunavut, so the process of designing and implementing holds infinite possibilities in the shaping of its emerging young leaders! At the beginning of 2020, the Lord spoke to me, and impressed upon my heart that this program holds the capacity for the entire territory to be changed in 10 years! This word, along with the vision He gave me of Nunavut experiencing transformational revival, continues to burn within our hearts as we continue to build.

We know we can't do this without you, our incredible partners, so please continue to pray for us as we work diligently to see this dream made manifest both with excellence and wisdom.

With fresh hope,



Steven & Becky Carleton



*A couple girls from Pangnirtung who will be a part of our Champions of Hope*



*Some of the young people in Pangnirtung who have come through our Arctic Hope Program!*



A MESSAGE FROM BILL AND GWEN



**God is Not Surprised**

God's perspective is very different than ours. We usually look at what's happening around us and take it at face value, but God sees the big picture. He is not surprised by the COVID-19 virus, a physical attack that is taking place around the world. While He cares and will protect and minister to every person who calls out to Him, we need to understand that He is doing a far greater work on the inside of us.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (from the Message Version) puts it this way: *"So we are not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without His unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever."*

The virus has given rise to a lot of conjecture and even forewarning that it is the beginning of end-time events. I don't pretend to fully understand or see the big picture, but I do know this: God is doing a deep work in the hearts of individuals worldwide. Many who are fearful or who have never considered their spiritual condition before are turning to God for help and peace. The present situation in the world is a perfect setting for a global move of His Spirit like never before!

Pastors of congregations that have not been able to gather together to worship are finding new and innovative ways to broadcast the Good News, which now has the potential of reaching millions globally. Steven and I are using the internet extensively to spread our message of Hope and Healing through the power of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to go to [www.bpea.com](http://www.bpea.com) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram to receive our daily communications and prayer for God's anointing, protection and healing in your life.

Although my travel schedule is curtailed during this unprecedented time, we continue to make plans for future services when I will have the privilege of seeing our precious partners face-to-face and laying hands on those who need God's supernatural touch. In the meantime, please know that I pray for you and your needs every day and thank Him for the blessing of our partnership with you. We are also looking to Him, our great Provider, as the needs of the ministry continue. Thank you for faithfully praying for us and standing with us financially. As the Apostle Paul said, these challenging times are "small potatoes" compared to the amazing things the Lord has prepared for us!

Yours in Him,

Bill Prankard  
President & Founder BPEA

**Canada Shall Be Saved!**