

HE HAS RISEN



IAM NEWLETTER -APRIL, 2023

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

By Emily Rosenthal

The IAM Listening Way Listeners (LWLs) have been identifying problems in their villages that could be resolved by communication between community organizations and individuals. This is what the program is designed to do. The LWLs may suggest a possible solution, and name the organizations and people who should be involved in figuring out how to move forward.

For example, Listeners have found expressions of depression, anxiety, and talk of suicide, along with fear of asking for help or not knowing how or who to ask for help. For the young people, one suggestion is to have mental health professionals and pastors periodically go to the schools and discuss answers to these questions. They suggest including the mental health department and pastors in addressing these conditions.

Listeners find that some communities are lacking spaces for teenagers and others to get together and socialize, especially at night. Suggestions were made for keeping school gyms open at night, having someplace separate from school or city buildings, having someplace other than a gym. They suggest including village officials and school administrators in resolving this problem.

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Collective Impact

A New Beginners Easter

IAM Healing and Renewal

A Kaktovik Easter

The Value of Sharing

Problems related to alcohol and drugs are reported, including their availability, exacerbated violence in the home, and people asking for help in quitting and staying sober. It is suggested that communication with the public safety department could make a positive difference in availability. Secure “safe spaces” have also been requested. People would like to hear from pastors, the health department, and mental health professionals about how to get treatment for substance abuse, as well as follow-up support within the village or the borough.

We will highlight some of the LWLs’ findings in the newsletters. Each village is different of course, but some of the issues will be familiar to all. If you have a problem or suggestion, you can talk to the Listening Way Listeners in your village, send it to _____ or submit it by scanning the code below for a form on your smartphone.



New Beginners Easter

By David Matthews

What a wonderful Easter Sunday. As you can see by the pictures we were blessed to have children attend our Easter Sunday services. But we didn't stop there. We began Easter revival services on Sunday evening that went all week. We baptized 20 people during our Easter revival. It was a wonderful time as we celebrated our Lord and Savior's resurrection. It is so wonderful to see how God is using those who are a part of the IAM Corporation throughout the North Slope Borough. We were spread throughout the North Slope bringing God's Love and Hope to our people. I know many lives were touched by God's presence and we are forever grateful. We give God all the Glory, Honor and Praise. So thankful for our Listening Way Leaders who are holding Sunday School classes, facilitating food banks, reaching out to the hurting and being a listening ear to those who need to be heard. Together we are truly making a difference. Quyanaqpak everyone!! Keep up the Good work.

Scriptures:

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

IAM Healing and Renewal

By Dorothy Bekoalok

We currently have Arnold and Jojo Brower, David Matthews ready to take Elijah House Healing Ministry class 201...and Tna Matthews ready to Take 202. 202 class covers topics such as sexual abuse, addictions, how addictions affect the family, suicide, domestic violence to name a few of the topics.

Lucinda Eliot has completed 202 and will be doing the facilitator training, along with Dorothy Bekoalok. Once the facilitator training begins...we will be ready to offer anyone else the chance to be trained as Healing Prayer ministers at a reduced price.



The plan is to continue training until all 8 villages in the North Slope area are trained to deal with these issues through prayer for healing others suffering from these issues.

People from other villages have expressed interest and want to be able to be taught...so the Healing will continue to grow as we take our places.

It is exciting to be able to offer these classes soon so that more people will be raised up to teach and train others as they become healed from there issues. This is certainly an answer to prayer for the Healing of our people...God is good, and we look forward to advance God's plan for the healing of our people!

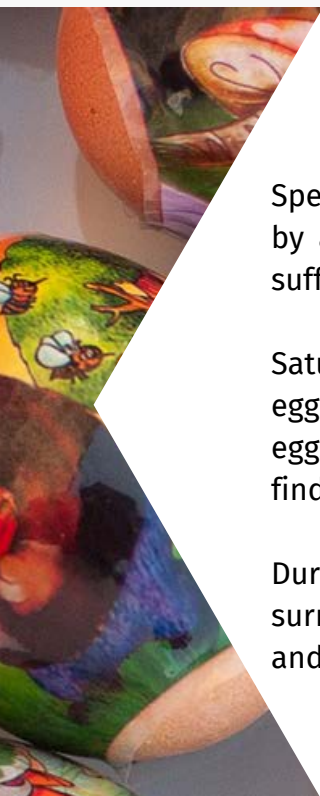
A Kaktovik Easter

By Charles Brower

Spending tail end of Holy week in Kaktovik is a joy! Good Friday worship service was attended by approximately 50 residents. We retold the events leading to the hanging on the cross suffered by our Savior for our sins and shared some of His last words.

Saturday was a day of restoration and preparation for Easter Sunday. A surprise was the adult egg hunt on the ice covering the lagoon which began at midnight with flashlights to find the eggs hidden by the City of Kaktovik volunteers. The constant wind blew the eggs around so finding and collecting the eggs was a challenge.

During the Easter morning worship, we baptized four children and youth with the community surrounding the youth and families. At the evening worship, we baptized another 14 children and youth, and celebrated Holy Communion with approximately 60 congregants.





THE VALUE OF SHARING

By Curtis Karns

Another Way to Lift Up the Value of Sharing

IAM now has staff members in all eight villages of the North Slope Borough, and both villages on St. Lawrence Island. Over the course of the past year, they have reported on hundreds of conversations they have had with residents of those communities where people described important concerns that need to be addressed for personal and community health. At the end of this article, I will list some of the concerns that we hear about the most.

One particular concern that we hear about, however, is that the many issues in our communities feel so overwhelming. People seem to fear that the magnitude of our troubles are so big that there is nothing we can do about them.

This, of course is not new. We see that same anxiety already in the Old Testament in this scripture passage:

1 Kings 18:13-18

Then there came a voice to him (God's voice) that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword.

I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place...Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Though Elijah is often remembered as greatest and most effective of the Old Testament prophets, clearly he also felt overwhelmed by the issues of his day. Indeed, after doing great things for God and for God's people, the queen of the kingdom sent soldiers to hunt him down. It was at that point, when Elijah was hiding in the wilderness, that he had the conversation with God described in the scripture, above.

Some Community Issues Commonly Reported

by IAM Staff

Mental Health Issues

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Talk of Suicide
- Fear of wanting help, but not knowing how to ask

Organizing Issues

- Lack of public space for teenagers to socialize, especially at night

Prevalence of Alcohol and Drugs

- Including their availability,
- How they exacerbate violence
- And guidance needed on how to quit and stay sober

Suggestions from Residents

- Bring mental health professionals and pastors
- to schools for discussion, and for questions
- Include both mental health and pastors
- In addressing the problems
- Keep school gyms open at night.
- Also have other spaces available.
- Perhaps villages officials can help with this.
- Communication with public safety department
- Including health, mental health, and pastors

