

VOL. 5 JANUARY 2023

# WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Official Newsletter of Intergenerational Arctic Ministries



## IAM Healing and Renewal Event

BY DOROTHY BEKOALOK

I enjoyed traveling with Healthy Communities, Muriel Brower, Ruby Donovan and Marian Valenzuela starting in the fall September and October. My first trip was to Kaktovik, along with Curt Karns, IAM Co-Executive Director. Our goal at Kaktovik was to lead the Church Service as well as to hire a listening leader. I worked with the team giving positive affirmations and talks with the children.

Muriel Brower and her team did hands on artwork with the school children. My favorite part was observing the Iļisauri, work with her children!

Brandon Mayo and I traveled to Anaktuvuk Pass with Healthy Communities team, meeting with people that needed prayers, and visiting in their homes. Met the Listening Leaders, and conducted a Church Service which was well attended and finished with praying for attendees and their concerns. We also traveled to Nuiqsut and met Listening Leader Katt Napageak who directed us to people experiencing grief and hurts in their life.

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## IAM Healing and Renewal Event

We prayed with them for healing. We also visited the Clinic and prayed with the teams there.

I began signing up people to attend the Elijah House school of ministry classes, and had 2 people finish 201 with excellent reviews. We have 5 people from Barrow signed up to take classes 201 and 202. They will become facilitators with the goal of raising up teachers who can minister effectively to others using Inner Healing Prayer ministry up and down the North Slope area. Gambell and Savoonga women will also be taking the classes. Looking forward to see what the Lord does!

Last was the Listening Leader Training as well as the Healing and Renewal event. I taught on Intergenerational trauma that our People experienced as we moved from our Inupiat Culture into today's culture. This covered pre contact to life to boarding schools and changes within the family systems.

Unmet needs of children who were now living in institutions that were handed down to the next generation and the breakdown of the family structure.

Sandra Selmer Kersten, a teacher from New Zealand, also taught on the devastation of unmet needs and the changes to the site of the brain that holds the memory of hurt and pain. She prayed corporately to release lies that people bought into as they experienced trauma, inner hurt and pain. As she interacted with attendees via zoom, people received their healing from traumatic events that caused fear and pain. Her teaching and experience as a healer helped people gain knowledge of healing that is provided through the word of God.

As IAM moves forward, and teachers are raised up to deal with such topics as sexual abuse, addictions, domestic violence, unmet needs, how addictions affect the family, power in the cross to deal with these issues, my hope is to raise up leaders who can begin moving towards opening a treatment center using faith in Jesus as the healer of these issues'. Quyanna to our funders NSB, and ASRC as well as our Board who oversee this work!





## About Relationships that Matter

**Remember the  
Sabbath day,  
and keep it holy.**

EXODUS 20:8

Although common sense probably tells us that healthy relationships are important for anyone's wellbeing, many do not know that the lack of healthy relationships, or the failure to maintain and care for those relationships, are consistent factors contributing to addiction, depression, and violence in the home and community. Evidence shows that people who are well grounded in their culture, and people who are consistent in practicing their faith with others, do better in dealing with all these problems. We at IAM therefore wish to emphasize the importance how both the wisdom of Iñupiaq and St. Lawrence Island Yupik culture, and involvement in a church community both guide us to healthier relationships, and to healthier personal lives.

**And let us consider how to  
provoke one another to love  
and good deeds,  
not neglecting to meet  
together, as is the habit of  
some,  
but encouraging one another,  
and all the more as you see  
the Day approach**

HEBREWS 10:24-25





So many of the Iñupiaq values upheld by arctic people are all about healthy relationships. Some are specifically about healthy relationships:

- Paaḷaktautaiññiq (avoidance of conflict),
- Nagliktuutiqaḡniq (compassion),
- Paammaaḡigñiq (cooperation),
- Iḷaḡiigñiq (family and kinship),
- Piqpakkutiqaḡniq sulī Qiksirsrautiqaḡniq Utuqqanaanun Allanullu (love and respect for our elders and for one another), and
- Aviktuaqatigiigñiq (sharing)

Yet, though the others may not be as obvious in their connection to healthy relationships, they really make more sense when seen in that light.

- Qiñuiññiq (humility)
- Quvianḡuniq (humor)
- Aḡuniallaniq (hunting traditions)
- Iñupiuraallaniq (knowledge of our language)
- Qiksirsrautiqaḡniq Iñuuniagvigmun (respect for nature)
- Ukpiaḡutiqaḡniq (spirituality)

These are about finding ourselves through our relationship with God, through one's culture, and through our relationship the rest of God's creation. It is all about relationships.



One of the key places for building on these relationships is through the church. The Bible consistently calls us to build our relationship with God, both personally and as a part of a worshiping people. Although I only listed two scriptures, above, the Bible consistently teaches us to bring our worship and our prayers to God, to pray for one another, to organize and act together in loving service to help those in need, and to build one another up.





## About Relationships that Matter

Recent studies have shown that Americans are increasingly backing away from participating in the cooperative worship and work of the church. Those areas of the country that show the greatest decline in church participation also show the greatest increase in depression, suicide, violence, and addiction. The church is not perfect, and will always need improving. But there is something about people coming together in the service of our loving God that helps. We are connecting to our Creating/Saving/Sustaining God and, in so doing, we are also connecting to each other in meaningful ways. This is especially true as we deepen our relationship with God, and discover how God connects us to one another for the mission of building up our communities in the light of God's healing and love.

Last month, many communities celebrated their first public Christmas Feast since the pandemic began. New Years' continued the celebration. For those able to travel to Utqiagvik (or join digitally through livestreaming), Kivgiq will be another wonderful gathering of people to celebrate their cultural and spiritual identity. After the forced isolation of the pandemic, we truly are enjoying an unusual season of connection and celebration.

However, we at IAM also want to encourage you to reconnect with your church on a regular basis. We believe (and the evidence indicates) that this is good for you. Beyond your own wellbeing, however, it is clear that everyone's participation builds up others. You may not be the one who experiences the help on any given day, but the gathering of the people has an impact on the whole community.

Help build up the churches in your community. Rededicate yourself to God and to God's people. "Do not neglect meeting together, as is the habit of some." It makes a huge difference.

## Opportunities

1. IAM will be hosting the worship service at Kivgiq on Wednesday, February 1. We will meet at the Ipalook Elementary School at 7 p.m. Dorothy Bekoalok, IAM's Healing and Renewal Program leader will begin with a special healing and renewal service beginning at 7 p.m. A Singspiration will follow
2. Dorothy Bekoalok will be leading Healing and Renewal services in Gambell February 10-13. St. Lawrence Island people should watch for local announcements of times and places.
3. IAM is contacting churches that do not have a regular preacher. Our staff includes several pastors. We are willing to make one of them available as a worship leader on a quarterly basis if asked.

# Listening Way Program Supervisors Report

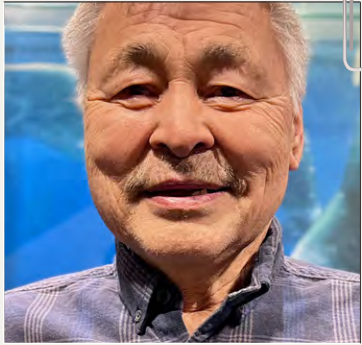
BY BISHOP DAVID MATTHEWS

Our 3rd Annual Listening Way Leaders Conference held from January 9-14, 2023 was a great success. We had Listening Way Leaders from every village throughout the North Slope and 2 LWL's from Savoonga. The week started out with worship and communion together which set the tone for the unity we seen throughout the rest of our conference. We had over 40 hours of training and ministry set up for our LWL's. We had a wonderful line up of great teachers who poured in to our LWL's the entire week. We were so thankful for our instructors this year which included Pastor Arnold Brower from Cornerstone Community Church in Barrow, Pastor Darryl Serino from Calvary Baptist Church in Barrow, Evangelist Dorothy Bekoalak, Lucinda Elliott our 12-Step women's Supervisor for IAM, Billy Kenton our 12-Step men's Supervisor for IAM, Charles Brower IAM's CoExecutive, Curt Karns, IAM's CoExecutive, Muriel Brower, Director NSB Health Department and her staff, Patuk Glenn, Arctic Slope Community Foundation Executive Director, Shelbi Matthews Arctic Slope Community Foundation Executive Assistant, Sandra Kersten from Elijah House, and Stanley Williams IAM's Data Collection and staff. We held classes on "Why We Listen", "How We Do What We Do", "God Cures- We Care", "Grief", "Prayer Ministry", and more. It was a packed week of learning together, crying together, laughing together and eating together.





# Get to know the IAM Staff, Listening Way Leaders and Volunteers



**Arnold Brower**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



**Billy W. Kenton**  
CO - EXECUTIVE



**Charles D. Brower**  
CO - EXECUTIVE



**Cathianne Rosenthal**  
HEALING & RENEWAL VOLUNTEER



**Curt Karns**  
CO - EXECUTIVE



**Cora I. Akpik**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



**David Matthews**  
LISTENING WAY SUPERVISOR



**Dorothy Bekoalok**  
BOARD SECRETARY



**Fenton Rexford**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



# Get to know the IAM Staff, Listening Way Leaders and Volunteers



**Flossie Kanayurak**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



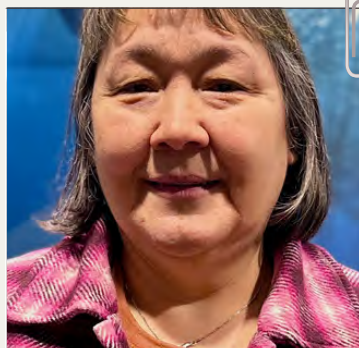
**Gail Gallahorn**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



**Frank Payuk Damiano**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



**Ida Olemaun**  
BOARD MEMBER



**JoJo Brower**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



**Kathleen Napageak**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



**Lillian Lane**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER



**Madeline Hickman**  
LISTENING WAY LISTENER





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email to [admin@iam.gives](mailto:admin@iam.gives).

**Listening Way Program  
invites  
Far-Flung Tin Can  
To the Arctic  
March 3rd- 11th  
Please look for upcoming  
announcements and details  
within the village  
community calendar**

We are very thankful that the Holy Spirit was present the entire week and that deep healing took place within many of our LWL's. It's been said the "hurting people hurt people", that's why I'm so thankful for the healing that took place during our conference because "healed people heal people". We want to welcome our new LWL's from Kaktovik Fenton Rexford, Katherine Edwards from Anaktuvuk Pass, and in Utqiagvik Pastor Arnold and JoJo Brower. Our LWL's have more tools from the teachings they received to go back to their communities across the North Slope and Savoonga to be better LWL's as they reach out to help others. We ended the week with encouragement from our IAM President Molly Pederson and our Vice President Ida Olemaun during our Certificate ceremony Friday evening followed by a wonderful meal together. We were truly blessed to be together all week and share with one another from our hearts. There's a unity there within our LWL's after this past conference. God's love was shed abroad within our hearts by the Holy Spirit one for another and the result was unity. We realized that none of us are alone but we have one another. Very thankful for our LWL's family. In closing I want give a special thanks all our instructors and for Mayor Harry Brower who stopped by to visit with us and for ASRC for hosting us and taking such good care of us. Thank you all for making this possible. Happy Blessed and Prosperous New Year to you all. Qyanaqpak!!!





## IAM 12-Step Facilitation Program

IAM's 12-Step Facilitation program offers help to people facing crises in their lives. Though these crises may be caused by addiction, there are also many other situations that lead to crisis. IAM's 12-Step Facilitation recognizes that these crises can injure us and others, and that healing from those injuries requires an honest reliance on God, a commitment to honesty in the way we portray ourselves to others, and the establishment of healthy and honest relationships with at least some key people.

All are welcome to IAM's 12-Step program. IAM's 12-Step Facilitation program is grounded in the Christian faith, in a step-by-step approach to spiritual growth, and to grounding one's self in culture.

Anyone interested may attend 12-Step Facilitation meetings in two ways.

- Those living in Utqiagvik may attend at the Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church. We meet upstairs in the 12-Step Facilitation Room; just watch for the signs pointing the way.
- For those living in outlying villages, you can join through your phone, or through Zoom video, as follows:



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85359560356>

Meeting ID: 853 5956 0356

Dial by your location

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 360 209 5623 US

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

If you are a person needing God's healing because of crisis—past, or present—we look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings. Our meeting times are as follows:

- Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays 2:00pm (beginning March 4th)