

Arctic Mission Adventure 2008

The Need

In a feature article in the Washington Post magazine*, reporter, Gene Weingarten noted. "Suicide, we would learn has reached epidemic proportions among the young people of Savoonga. They have been taking their lives in violent ways and in breathtaking, heartbreaking numbers for some time now, and there is little agreement in the village on precisely how to stop it." *Washington Post, May 1, 2005, "Snowbound, Life in Savoonga, Alaska" by Gene Weingarten.



Savoonga is just one of many Alaskan villages that are being ravaged by suicide. Our goal at the Alaska Conference is to try and make a difference in these communities. Are you?? For those who are missionary minded, have a spirit of sacrifice and want to make a difference, the Arctic Mission Adventure may be just the thing. In Alaska, we need such leadership in the villages. While the living may be a challenge, the needs are a far greater challenge. In a number of villages in Alaska, we need young and old, willing leaders that would give a year or two of their time and energy to make a difference. Are you that person? That great pioneer of personal sacrifice, Stephen Haskell once said "It is when sacrifices that cost something are called for that the heart is tested."

The Goal

We will place volunteers in a village with the goal to integrate into the village life and establish relationships. The Alaska Conference hopes to make a difference in villages through a holistic approach encompassing the four key elements of the human being. The team would then begin to build programs designed to meet the spiritual, emotional, physical, social and mental needs of young people in the village. The couple would coordinate all programming to facilitate suicide prevention education and life-style alternatives.

The Villages

The conference is targeting the following villages under its Arctic Mission Adventure. The chosen villages either currently have some Adventist presence in its community or at one time, Adventists have worked in the community. All the villages are sorely in need of leadership. Click on the village name below and you will find information on life in the village, Adventist work (past and present), evangelistic efforts and how you can help.

AMBLER	BETHEL	GAMBELL	SAVOONGA
SELAWIK	SHUNGNAK	TOGI AK	

Verity & Warren Downs, the Bi-Vocational Pastoral Couple working in Selawik, have begun a blogspot to report the work in the AMA villages. To read about life in the villages or to report your own story, visit <http://alaska4jesus.blogspot.com/>.

Donations can be made to any Alaska Conference mission opportunity by clicking [here](#).