

InterAct Ministries, Inc. Board Meeting

Lazy Mountain Bible Church
Palmer, Alaska
August 1, 2011

Present: David Perry (Chairman), Andy Baxter (Vice Chairman), Chuck Schaap (Treasurer), Loren Leman (Secretary), Gerry Breshears, Huron Claus, Doug Prins, Ray Prigodich, Sheldon Penner, Dale Smith.

Absent: None

Others Present: David Joseph (Alaska Field Director), Roy Martin (staff), and Carol Smith (in and out with arrangements); and Thomas Slawson (Russia Field Director) and Dan Mayerle (Canada Field Director) by teleconference.

Call to Order

Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 8:49 am.

Devotional

David Joseph led us in a devotional from Nehemiah, looking at the obstacles he faced. David applied this to obstacles we face and asked what motivates us as a mission and as individuals. Is it survival? Comfort? He suggested that the Alaska team is motivated more by survival because of the obstacles it faces and invited the Board to join it in survival. We spent time in prayer.

Announcements re schedule and housekeeping matters

We acknowledged the previously announced practice of stopping the meeting if someone needed to take a cell phone call, but decided not to enforce that. However, we asked that members respect each others' time. Chairman Perry also suggested that we stop and pray during the meeting if any one of us feels led to do so.

Approval of previous minutes

Breshears moved and Prigodich seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

REPORTS

Executive Director

Dale Smith presented highlights of his written report included in the Board packet.

He reminded us of the "Four P's," he previously presented--his four areas of focus and growth for InterAct. They are **P**rayer, **P**artnerships, **P**eople and **P**ublic Presence. To this *group* he added a fifth--**P**erspective as a new paradigm from the book *The Facilitator Era*, where we may also be working with other organizations rather than just our own. Dale emphasized these are core values we must pursue.

Beyond the report, he gave special thanks to Dave Perry, Loren Leman and Chuck Schaap for their service over the last six years.

Chairman Perry reminded us that maximizing the autonomy of the fields is at the front of our direction to the mission. This means decentralizing the decisionmaking apparatus of the mission.

Andy Baxter prayed for Dale and Carol and the key points of his report.

Alaska Field Director

David Joseph presented highlights from his written report that was included in Board members' packets.

He reviewed elements from *The Facilitator Era* by Tom Steffen, applying it to InterAct. In the era we are in, the need for mission agencies is diminished because the church is often the sending agency, and a motivator for mobilizing short-term task oriented teams. David believes Alaska is at the very beginning of Era 4. There is still a need for pioneer missions because of the large number of unreached villages and low numbers of indigenous leaders. He encourages partnerships with groups like Kokrine Hills Bible Camp, Tanalian Bible Camp, Solid Rock Bible Camp, Alaska Freedom Journey, Lance Kramer's ministry – Workers in the Harvest, SEND, Alaska Bible College, Alaska Christian College, Native New Life, Victory Ministries, MARC, Kako, Arctic Barnabas, and others. He has some reservations about partnerships with organizations like Family Wellness Warriors Initiative (Catherine Gottlieb, president of Southcentral Foundation), which is government funded and therefore by design less Christ-centered and also noted significant doctrinal differences with several church organizations. We may need to be careful how we establish friendships that fall somewhat short of "partnerships" with some of these organizations.

A key question is where does the Native leadership occur here? In Alaska we have a shortage of younger missionaries, very few young indigenous believers/leaders, and no real youth movement on the horizon. If this baton gets dropped, it may not get picked up again. InterAct must be proactive in developing youth leaders.

David feels hamstrung. For example he believed funds were lacking for the Genesis Project rewrite or for vision trips. He would like to have seen InterAct be able to move more quickly to incorporate the Ministry Center as a facility other ministries can rent. Some organizations that approached us needed to move more quickly so they went to another place.

Board members noted the budget could easily include funds used at the field's discretion. Huron Claus noted that the tyranny of the urgent is a reality too. Just because something is urgent doesn't mean it's wise. Breshears noted there is a spectrum from investing in people to investing in a plan. David agreed that he and many Native folk are toward the people side of the spectrum.

Gerry Breshears prayed for David Joseph and the Alaska team.

Russia Field Director

We switched the order of the next two reports to accommodate Thomas Slawson's time difference in Saint Petersburg. Thomas Slawson presented highlights from his written report.

Slawson is very encouraged by the progress in micro-business as well as the Tuvan Bible being displayed prominently in about 350 centers throughout the Tuvan region. He noted the difficulty of getting Slavs to minister to non-Slavs. Racism is a horrid problem among many in Russia.

Loren Leman prayed for Thomas and the Russia team. Dale Smith offered thanks for lunch and prayed for Joel Richardson and his special health need. We broke briefly to get lunches and then resumed our meeting.

Canada Field Director

Dan Mayerle presented his report, which also had been submitted in writing.

He updated the five roads--Community Impact, Holistic Discipleship using a road to the wound, Culturally Relevant Gatherings (vs. churches), Youth and Young Adults Ministries, and Leadership Development. Worldview, culture and language acquisition are big issues behind these roads. Urban ministry is the growing area of need as First Nations people move to the cities.

He noted that he's not feeling micro-managed. His experience has been on the side of being middle management responsible for top level decisions!

Huron Claus prayed for Dan and the Canada team.

Nominating and Review Committee (Penner, Baxter, Claus, Prigodich, Prins)

Chairman Penner presented the report (see attached minutes). The committee has reviewed some very good people for potential Board membership.

Finance and Audit Committee (Schaap, Perry, Breshears, Martin, Smith)

Chairman Schaap presented the committee's report (see attached minutes). The committee report was approved without objection, thereby accepting the auditor's report and the other recommendations of the committee. These were approving Byers & Hurlbert as auditors, setting the clergy housing allowance as \$24,000, and approving a \$10,000 gift to Alaska Freedom Journey to encourage its new ministry. That amount comes from a fund developed by a now resigned missionary who raised \$18,000 for Alaska ministry development.

Executive Director Relations Committee report (Perry, Baxter, Dale & Carol Smith)

Chairman Perry presented the committee's report. Dale and Carol have a good relationship and are enjoying their assignment. They purposely take a rest day on Sunday. Their support is up to 67% (from 30%), although this has slipped to 55% during the past six months. Carol reminded us to pray for them.

NEW BUSINESS

Funds for Alaska Ministry

David's proposal for keeping funds developed in Alaska in Alaska is moot if there are discretionary funds for the Alaska field in the budget. We clarified that the Alaska field has authority to control the suggested donation for the Alaska facilities such as the Ministry Center and the Anchorage properties. We also encouraged Dale and Roy to work with David about how to use funds that are available through the budget. Roy noted that there is over \$9,000 in the current budget which can be used for Genesis Project development in the current budget year.

Schaap moved, Claus seconded that a \$30,000 line item be added to the current budget from the Board discretionary fund for Alaska Staff Office to support its work. That is in addition to the

\$30,000 for administrative support approved at the Board meeting in February. We had considerable discussion and then the motion passed without objection.

New Secondment Policy

Breshears moved, Penner seconded to accept the proposed secondment policy (included in the Board packet). Existing secondment agreements may be honored indefinitely at the discretion of management. The motion passed without objection.

Election of Officers

Doug Prins moved, Chuck Schaap seconded to accept this slate of officers:

Chairman: Gerry Breshears

Vice Chairman: Huron Claus

Treasurer: Andy Baxter

Secretary: Ray Prigodich

The motion passed without objection.

Adjusted Assessment Parameters

Claus moved and Schaap seconded to keep the 5% assessment, eliminate the \$62.50 minimum assessment for retirees, and give management discretion on implementation of the \$125/month minimum assessment for full members. We have approximately ten missionary units who are not retired but with income so low it is unrealistic to assess them \$125/month. If the current policy were to be applied without discretion, those with zero or very little income would just build up a continually rising debt or else step away from an otherwise beneficial relationship with our organization. The motion passed without objection.

Committee to review and consolidate Board policies

Leman moved, Prigodich seconded to appoint a committee comprised of the executive director, finance director, Leman, Penner and Baxter to review, consolidate and update current Board policies for further Board action. The motion passed without objection.

Committee Appointments

Claus moved, Schaap seconded to appoint these committees and chairs:

Nominating and Review: (**Penner**, Claus, Breshears, Prigodich, Prins)

Finance and Audit: (**Baxter**, Breshears, Van Diest, Martin, Smith)

Baxter moved, Prins seconded an amendment to this motion to add:

Executive Director Relations: (**Breshears**, Baxter, Claus, Dale & Carol Smith)

The amendment and the main motion both passed without objection.

Future Meetings

Prigodich moved, Schaap seconded that our meeting schedule for next year be February 2-4 and August 6, 2012. We discussed a proposal to have the next winter meeting in Canada, and then rotate winter meetings between Portland and a location in Canada. We covered cost, schedule and staff support and concluded this was doable. The February 2012 meeting will be in the Calgary area. The 2012 summer meeting will be in Alaska at a location to be determined. The motion passed without objection.

Meeting evaluation

- How did our meeting go today? We agreed it was productive. The interaction with and support for David Joseph and the Alaska team was particularly helpful.
- What can we do better next time? We need to accommodate Thomas Slawson's involvement through scheduling. Although distance participation by both Slawson and Mayerle was good, it would be excellent to have field directors personally present if possible.

Board Member Comments

- Board members expressed appreciation for the involvement of Chuck, Loren, and Dave over the past six years.
- All three departing members spoke about the impact of service on the InterAct Board to them—and the friendships developed with others on the Board. Loren spoke of his family's involvement in the mission over most of its history. He reminded us that we need another Alaska Native on the Board. He believes we would do well to have women on the Board and commends that action to future Boards. He really likes the partnership core value and encourages us to make that happen as we go forward.

Adjournment

Dale Smith closed in prayer and Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 3:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren Leman, Secretary
Anchorage, Alaska
August 8, 2011