

InterAct Ministries JMAC Meeting

CHIEF, Phoenix, Arizona
February 8, 2013

Present: Andy Baxter, Gerry Breshears, Huron Claus, Hugh Grant, Rick Green, Alan MacKenzie, Mike Matthews, Sheldon Penner, Dave Perry, Ray Prigodich, Doug Prins, Dale Smith, Jack Teeter, Bill Twichell, and Gale Van Diest.

Absent: Daryl Kroeker.

Others Present: Roy Martin (staff) and David Joseph (Alaska Field Director).

Call to Order and Welcome

Dale Smith called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Video

A short promotional video giving an overview of InterAct's various ministries, finalized earlier today by Thomas Slawson, was shown.

Devotional and Prayer

Gale Van Diest led the group in a devotional time, based on Exodus 34:6: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. . . ." Rick Green then led in prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Gerry Breshears moved and Huron Claus seconded his motion to approve the minutes from February 4, 2012, as corrected. (Under "Others Present," the spelling of Dan Mayerle's last name was corrected.) The **minutes** were **approved** without any objection.

Report of the Executive Assistant of the JMAC

Roy Martin reported that, based on the amount of money contributed by each toward joint ministry expenses, the voting percentage would be InterAct Canada 34% and InterAct Ministries, Inc. (USA), 66%.

Report of the Executive Director

Dale Smith read his report to the board.

In connection with the section on "ensuring appropriate risk management," Dave Perry asked for more details about InterAct Ministries' insurance coverage. Roy Martin promised to make more detailed information available to all board members.

Dave Perry also asked for an assessment of the current morale among InterAct's missionaries. Dale asked David Joseph to speak to this issue on behalf of the Alaska field. David's assessment was that morale among the older missionaries is still rather low, since they would like to see

changes come more rapidly. David believes, however, that as more new missionaries with new ideas begin to arrive on the field, morale will begin to improve quite dramatically. Dale's assessment of morale on the Canada field was that it is quite high.

Field Directors' Reports

These reports were received earlier today during the Joint Board Dialogue.

Executive Director Relations Committee Report

Dale Smith, Roy Martin, and David Joseph left the room so that the JMAC members could discuss the committee's findings in executive session.

Speaking on behalf of Gerry Breshears and Jack Teeter, Andy Baxter reported on the committee's meeting earlier today with Dale and Carol Smith. The committee's assessment is that Dale and Carol are handling their ministry responsibilities well and are not experiencing a great amount of stress. They are physically healthy, and their personal financial situation is solid. Dale and Carol discussed with the committee their concern for their aging parents, as well as their felt need for adequate time with their grandchildren, and the committee encouraged them not to neglect the carrying out of these family responsibilities.

There was some discussion of the heavy load that Dale and Carol are carrying. The question was asked: Are they doing too much? It was noted, however, that Dale has always put in long hours in whatever job he has had. It would seem, therefore, that the amount of time he is currently devoting to his responsibilities as Executive Director is not unreasonable. (Dale had reported that he devotes an average of 60 hours a week to his job, while Carol devotes about 40 hours a week to the carrying out of her responsibilities.)

NEW BUSINESS

JMA Budget

Dave Perry moved and Mike Matthews seconded his motion to recommend to the two boards that the budget be accepted as presented. The **motion** was **approved** without any objection.

Reminder of Board Roles in the JMAC

Dale Smith reminded the participants that, unlike the Inc. and Canada boards, JMAC is not involved in governance. Its role is more consultative in nature, as it provides informal input on management issues.

Discussion about Development

Dale Smith requested that the members of the board help spread the word about InterAct Ministries in their churches and personal spheres of influence.

Executive Director Relations Committee Appointment

Andy Baxter nominated Jack Teeter to continue serving as the third member of this committee, and Bill Twichell seconded his **motion**, which was **approved** without any objection.

Vision/Purpose Discussion

Dale Smith asked Gerry Breshears to moderate further discussion of proposed changes to InterAct Ministries' statement of vision/purpose. (This topic was also discussed at length during the joint board dialogue earlier today.)

Gerry began by reviewing the most recent draft of the proposed new vision/purpose statement that emerged from the Joint Board Dialogue earlier today: ***“InterAct Ministries exists to glorify God by making disciples among least reached peoples in cooperation with churches and likeminded organizations.”***

Discussion followed regarding the meaning and use of the term “least reached peoples.” It was asked: Do North American native peoples really belong in the category of “unreached” peoples, or is the real issue simply that they have they been largely unresponsive to the Gospel? Furthermore, is InterAct’s intended focus exclusively on native peoples? What about the Muslims and Sikhs among whom InterAct has also been ministering in Western Canada? Should that focus continue, or should it begin to be phased out? On the other hand, are there other people groups on which InterAct ought also to focus? Indeed, should InterAct be open at least to the possibility of working with any people group at all?

Although it had been anticipated that by the end of today’s meeting the members of JMAC would be able to agree on a proposal to be presented tomorrow to both the Inc. and Canada boards, it became increasingly clear that this was not going to happen. Consensus has not yet been reached regarding 1) the use of the term “least reached peoples” or 2) the inclusion or exclusion of any explicit reference to the local church in the vision/purpose statement.

Dale suggested that the committee that crafted the originally-proposed wording should be assigned the task of revisiting this issue and coming up with a fresh proposal, taking into consideration the input given at both the August 2012 board meetings and at today’s Joint Board Dialogue and JMAC meeting. That committee was made up of three board members (Gerry Breshears, Huron Claus, and Andy Baxter), the three field directors (David Joseph, Dan Mayerle, and Thomas Slawson), and the Executive Director (Dale Smith), with Mike Matthews serving as facilitator.

Next Meeting Date

To be determined by the two boards tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Prigodich, Secretary
Oswego, Illinois
February 19, 2013