

## InterAct Ministries Joint Board Dialogue

Camp Berachah, Auburn, Washington  
February 6, 2015

**Present:** Huron Claus, Hugh Grant, Randy Jackson, Keith Klippenstein, Daryl Kroeker, Alan MacKenzie, Mike Matthews, Sheldon Penner, Dave Perry, Ray Prigodich, Chuck Schaap, Dale Smith, Al Strawn, Jack Teeter, Bill Twichell, and Gale Van Diest.

**Others Present:** Roy Martin (staff), Darris Arnold (Alaska Field Director), Dan Mayerle (Canada Field Director), and Lucas Orner (Russia Field Director, via Skype).

### **Welcome**

Dale Smith began the meeting at 8:45 AM by welcoming the participants and, for the benefit of new board members, asking each one to introduce himself briefly. Eight wives also joined us for the first part of the meeting and introduced themselves briefly. Carol Smith then went over a few housekeeping details.

### **Devotional and Prayer**

Randy Jackson presented some devotional thoughts, first from 1 Peter 3:8-12 and then from Psalm 34, from which Peter quotes. Randy noted that David wrote this Psalm after pretending to be insane before Abimelech (cf. 1 Samuel 21). Like David, we sometimes put ourselves into precarious situations by failing to trust in God sufficiently. Having learned his lesson, David wrote in this Psalm about how the Lord protects and delivers those who trust in him. Following Randy's devotional, Keith Klippenstein led the group in prayer.

### **Russia Field Report**

Lucas Orner went through his written report, adding a number of comments along the way. Dale Smith also gave a brief update on how the Gilberts are doing, as they continue working through the issues that led to their departure from Russia. He reported that Scott and Vanessa have experienced a significant degree of emotional healing in recent days. Mike Matthews led in prayer for Lucas and his family, as well as for InterAct's ministry in Russia.

After the Skype connection with Lucas was concluded, Dale gave some additional details about the corruption and other sensitive issues that made it impossible for the Gilberts to continue ministering in Russia. This led to a lengthy discussion about 1) the dynamics of doing business in non-Western environments, 2) the need for a clear exit strategy should it become necessary for our remaining personnel in Russia to leave the country on short notice, and 3) the need to enhance what InterAct is doing in the area of member care.

### **Canada Field Report**

Dan Mayerle went through his written report, commenting on a number of details and answering a few questions. A lengthy time of discussion followed on the thorny issue of burnout among missionaries.

### **Alaska Field Report**

Darris Arnold began his report by sharing some thoughts in an informal way. He joyfully reported how the members of his congregation in Bend have rallied around him during this time of transition, expressing their eagerness to be involved in sending him into his new ministry. He showed a brief video recorded during his recent visit to Ruby, illustrating the continuing impact of Darris' father's ministry in Ruby decades ago. He also mentioned several times how confident he is that the Lord has clearly led him into this new phase of life and how excited he is to be stepping into his new role.

After breaking for lunch at noon, the group reconvened at 1:10 PM. Darris distributed a handout entitled "The Church Is!" listing six metaphors of the church found in the New Testament: a bride, a body, a building, branches, a priesthood, and a flock. He noted that not all of these metaphors necessarily resonate with native peoples. Don Shugak recently told him, for example, that he thinks of the church especially as a family. And indeed, Darris said, we *must* look at the church as the community of God's people.

Darris then elaborated on some of the items in his written report and answered a few questions.

Jack Teeter led in prayer for Dan Mayerle and for InterAct's ministry in Canada. Gale Van Diest then led in prayer for Darris and for InterAct's ministry in Alaska.

The meeting concluded at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Prigodich, Recording Secretary  
Crossville, Tennessee  
February 9, 2015