

## InterAct Ministries Joint Board Dialogue

Black Diamond Camps, Auburn, Washington  
February 3, 2017

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

**Absent:** Keith Klippenstein.

**Others Present:** Dan Mayerle (Canada Field Director) and Lucas Orner (Russia Field Director).

### Welcome

Dale Smith began the meeting at 9:00 AM by welcoming the participants. Eight wives also joined us for the first part of the meeting, and their husbands introduced them briefly. Dale then made several announcements.

### Devotional and Prayer

Gale Van Diest reminded us that God is *sovereign*, that he *loves* us, and that we can therefore *trust* him. Following his devotional, several prayer concerns were shared:

- Dale Smith asked us to pray for Keith Klippenstein, who was unable to be with us because his 94-year-old father was in the hospital with pneumonia.
- Dave Perry requested prayer for Compassion International, whose sponsorship of 180,000 children in India is in jeopardy, due to a new law forbidding foreign funding of such activities.
- Bill Twichell asked that we pray for his daughter-in-law, who was in the hospital for pancreatitis and other issues.
- Huron Claus requested prayer for CHIEF's Native Christian Leadership Conference, which will take place in Bemidji, Minnesota, July 20-22.
- Jack Teeter asked us to pray for the Franklin Graham crusade scheduled to take place next month in Vancouver.
- Hugh Grant asked for prayer for his 50-year-old son Joe, who has long been struggling with alcohol.
- Al Strawn requested prayer for Lazy Mountain Bible Church in Palmer, where a search is underway for a new senior pastor in the midst of growing division within the church body.

### Discussion of Board Responsibilities and Roles

Because of time constraints, Dale announced that we wouldn't be looking at "The Governance/Support Model for Nonprofit Boards," an article included in the board packet. He encouraged us to review the article on our own.

### **Russia Field Report**

Lucas Orner read his written report, which was included in the board packet, after which he answered a number of questions:

- He informed us that there are about 40 unreached people groups in Siberia and over 10,000 individual municipalities, the vast majority of which have no gospel witness.
- Given the severe opposition the Gilberts faced, there are no plans at present to launch any new development-type ministries in Tuva.
- Efforts to partner with Slavic churches in the U.S. for the recruitment and support of missionaries to Russia have so far failed to produce any fruit. Thomas Slawson attempted to connect with Slavic churches in the Portland area for this purpose, but little interest was evident. These immigrant churches are happy to receive reports about missionary efforts in Russia but seem to lack passion for sending their own members back there as missionaries. Ray Prigodich noted that the Sacramento-based Pacific Coast Slavic Baptist Association now has its own Mission Ministry Department, and he observed that Russian-speaking believers in the U.S. are often wary of partnering with American organizations, preferring to engage in outreach under the auspices of their own sending agencies.
- Although some younger Russians are attempting to use social media for evangelistic outreach, Lucas questions the effectiveness of such efforts in the Russian context.
- The Orners' support account is doing well.
- Potential candidates for service in Siberia are made aware that they'll probably have to learn another language in addition to Russian.

Dale Smith said that, with his great vision for the expansion of InterAct's ministry in Siberia, Lucas is a real gift of God to InterAct and is greatly appreciated. He and Mike Matthews then prayed for the Orners and their ministry.

### **Canada Field Report**

Dan Mayerle highlighted a number of items from his written report, which was included in the board packet. He then answered a number of questions:

- With the Midway merger, there are now several InterAct Canada missionaries under the age of 30.
- Dan doesn't directly supervise every missionary. Intermediate levels of leadership are being developed.
- Bible study materials that are tailored specifically for the First Nations cultural context, directly addressing First Nations issues, are virtually non-existent.
- It is difficult for staff members in administrative roles to raise financial support. Because they have some other sources of income, Dan and Bev are doing all right, but Wes Schellenberg and Greg Hamilton's support is being supplemented.
- As InterAct Canada continues to expand, there's a growing need for someone to serve in the area of member care. In the meantime, staff members are helping one another in this area. The training some have received in biblical counseling has been very beneficial in this regard. Dale is keeping his eyes open for someone who could assume this role full time. It was suggested that perhaps some retired pastors would be willing to take responsibility for mentoring five or six missionaries in their area.

- Dan noted that the majority of new missionary candidates sense a call to a specific ministry and are resistant to being placed where most needed.

Dale said that Dan is an amazing gift of God to InterAct, having played a very significant role in the success InterAct has experienced in Canada. Dan requested prayer for his two sons, Luke and Levi, both of whom are wandering (spiritually) “in the wilderness.” Daryl Kroeker and Jack Teeter then prayed for Dan, his family, and his ministry.

**Alaska Field Report**

Because of time constraints, this report was postponed until the JMAC meeting later in the day.

The meeting concluded at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Prigodich, Recording Secretary  
Crossville, Tennessee  
February 7, 2017