

InterAct Ministries Joint Board Dialogue

Menucha Retreat & Conference Center, Corbett, Oregon
February 2, 2018

Present: Huron Claus, Hugh Grant, Rick Green, Randy Jackson, Keith Klippenstein, Daryl Kroeker, Sheldon Penner, Dave Perry, Ray Prigodich, Chuck Schaap, Dale Smith, Jack Teeter, and Bill Twichell.

Absent: Dave Bedford.

Others Present: Steve Horsman, Alaska Assistant Field Director (electronically); Dan Mayerle, Canada Field Director; and Lucas Orner, Russia Field Director (electronically).

Welcome

Dale Smith began the meeting at 9:05 AM by welcoming both the participants and the six wives, who joined us for the first part of the meeting, after which he and Carol made several announcements.

Prayer

Under the direction of Jack Teeter, we shared some praises and prayer requests, after which there was a time of corporate prayer, which was brought to a conclusion by Daryl Kroeker.

Devotional

We listened to a portion of a recorded sermon on “Idols of the Heart” by Brad Bigney, the senior pastor of Grace Fellowship Evangelical Free Church in Florence, Kentucky. Following are some highlights of what we heard:

- A quote from David Powlison: “The relevance of massive chunks of scripture rests on our understanding of idolatry.”
- We need to say “yes” to God and “no” to idols.
- 1 John 5:21: “Guard yourself from idols.”
- Has something or someone besides Jesus Christ taken hold of the title deed of your heart? He owns it, but are we allowing squatters to take control of it?
- We confess that Jesus is Lord, but are we living out his lordship practically in our everyday lives?
- Idolatry leads to misery and chaos every time.
- God is a jealous God; he won’t share his glory with another.
- God didn’t give us his word so we could feel better about ourselves; its function is often that of smelling salts.
- Our relationship with God should be a lifestyle, not a showdown.

- We need to be changing and growing, increasingly being conformed to the image of Christ.
- Behavior is rooted in the heart.
- Because Christians are involved in spiritual warfare, we're going to be continually engaged in hand-to-hand combat for the rest of our lives.
- James 4:1-3: "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."
- God wants to conform us to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ.
- Idolatry flies in the face of God. We must have no other gods before him.
- We tend to think that we don't have a problem with idolatry in America—but we do.
- According to Os Guinness, idolatry is the biggest problem dealt with in the Bible.
- An idol is anything or anyone who begins to capture our minds, hearts, and affections more than God.

Note: Each Board member was given a copy of Bigney's book, *Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols*, which goes further into this topic.

Russia Field Report

Lucas Orner read his written report, which was included in the Board packet, after which he answered some questions and gave some additional details regarding the proposed translation of the Bible into the Buryat language. Ray Prigodich then led us in prayer for the Orners.

Canada Field Report

Dan Mayerle read the first three pages of his written report, which was included in the Board packet. He then answered a number of questions.

- Daryl Kroeker encouraged Dan to work with the people he supervises to sharpen their understanding of exactly what constitutes disciple-making, adding that, for him (Daryl), in a sense, every relationship is a disciple-making relationship, since he wants everyone to move toward a deeper relationship with Christ.
- Daryl also asked how the need for a member care person to serve the Canadian staff is being addressed. Dale responded to this question, saying that he has been putting out a number of feelers but that no one has been identified as yet. In the meantime, however, a number of staff members have been stepping up to help meet the need for member care.
- Dan mentioned that just a couple of weeks ago he was told by a representative of the insurance company used by InterAct Canada that "if you don't have a social media policy, you have no liability coverage." Since no social media policy is currently in place, Dan is working to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. The primary issue that needs to be addressed is contact by InterAct personnel with underage people.

- In response to a question, Dan explained more about the nature and purpose of *EnGage!* He also noted that this program has been helping with recruitment. All seven members of the Urban Fire team, example, first participated in *EnGage!*

Alaska Field Report

Steve Horsman, Assistant Field Director, read the first five pages of his written report, which was included in the Board packet. He then answered several questions.

- He gave some additional information about Ryan and Rachel Smith, who have begun the application process.
- He said that there seems to be a good sense of unity among the Alaska missionaries.

Dale reported that he has run the idea of Steve becoming Alaska Field Director past the other staff members in Alaska—and that there hasn't been a single negative response.

The meeting concluded at 11:55 AM, with Dale Smith closing in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Prigodich, Recorder
Crossville, Tennessee
February 6, 2018