

## InterAct Ministries Joint Board Dialogue

Menucha Retreat & Conference Center, Corbett, Oregon  
January 31, 2020

**Present:** Dave Bedford, Huron Claus, Rick Green, Keith Klippenstein, Daryl Kroeker, Mike Matthews, Sheldon Penner, Ray Prigodich, John Russell, Chuck Schaap, Dale Smith, Jack Teeter, and Gale Van Diest.

**Others Present:** Steve Horsman, Alaska Field Director; Dan Mayerle, Canada Field Director; and Lucas Orner, Russia Field Director (electronically, for the first part of the meeting).

### **Welcome**

Dale Smith began the meeting at 9:00 AM by welcoming the participants. He and Carol then made several announcements. Several wives also joined us for the first part of the meeting.

### **Devotional**

Rick Green shared some devotional thoughts from Psalm 31. There are times, he said, when life seems out of control, as was true for David. In the 31<sup>st</sup> Psalm, as David reflected on the dangers and problems surrounding him, he sought refuge from the Lord. In the midst of his distress, he entrusted his spirit to the Lord, confident that his future was in God's hands.

### **Corporate Prayer**

- Dan Mayerle led us in prayer, as we began this part of our meeting.
- Sheldon Penner requested continued prayer for his health. He has lost 60 pounds over the last year, and his energy level is low. Huron Claus led us in prayer for him.
- Jack Teeter requested prayer for Carolyn's 16-year-old grandnephew, Journey, who is now living with them, as he struggles to get his life together. Daryl Kroeker led us in prayer for him.
- John Russell requested prayer for his son, Dave, who is struggling with addiction. Keith Klippenstein led us in prayer for him.
- Ray Prigodich requested prayer for his son, Mike, who is going through a divorce. Mike is far from the Lord and has been unwilling to acknowledge the degree to which his wrongdoing led to the breakup of his marriage. Carol Smith led us in prayer for Mike, his wife Karen, and their two teenage children, Anneka and Adric.
- Keith Klippenstein requested prayer for a couple in his church, Tyrone and Ginger. After Keith had mentored Tyrone for a number of years, he was added to the church staff a year ago to serve the First Nations community, but soon afterwards marriage problems surfaced, and they've not yet been resolved. In the meantime, after another couple moved to the area and became part of the church, it quickly became evident that the husband, Wayne,

was ideally suited for this role, and now he is about to be added to the church staff. Jack Teeter led us in prayer for Tyrone, Ginger, and Wayne.

- Huron Claus led us in prayer to conclude this part of our meeting.

### **Russia Field Report**

Lucas Orner briefly highlighted a few items in his written report, which was included in the board packet. He then answered a few questions:

- There are currently no plans to send any foreign workers to Yakutia, since the local believers there are quite competently carrying on the work.
- His children have become fluent in Russian, have integrated well into the culture, and have a number of good Russian friends.
- Two years ago they bought a *dacha* outside the city, so that they can periodically “escape” from city life. The size of their little “shack” is 80 square feet.
- In Kyzyl, the capital of the Tuvan Republic, there is now a church led by a Tuvan pastor, with services conducted in the Tuvan language. A number of Tuvan unbelievers have recently visited the church and have come to Christ. The church is also making use of some chronological Bible teaching materials in the Tuvan language that were developed by a New Tribes missionary serving in the area.

Jack Teeter led us in prayer for the Orners.

### **Canada Field Report**

Dan Mayerle highlighted a few items in his written report, which was included in the board packet. Among the issues he touched on were the following:

- He shared the reasons why the Chinns are pursuing a change in ministry.
  - Andy has been discouraged about the results of his ministry.
  - He has also come to the realization that he’s really an urban person and isn’t a good fit for ministry in a rural setting.
  - And he and Jesi believe that the needs of their children would better met in a more urban setting.
- He reported that Cohle Bergen is suffering from burnout and has had to step down, at least temporarily, from leadership. Since he’s the leader of the team in his area, the big projects there are on hold for now.
- He expressed concern about the lack of new candidates in the pipeline.
- He said that following the departure of the three dissenting couples who left the mission about a year ago, there is now a greater level of peace, particularly at the leadership level.

Daryl Kroeker asked if we’re perhaps creating anxiety among our missionaries by given them the impression that we’re expecting results for which they’re not gifted—by evaluating them on the basis of performance rather than grace. The consensus was that we are indeed guilty of this.

Daryl led us in prayer for the Mayerles.

### **Alaska Field Report**

Rather than going through the details of his written report, which was included in the board packet, Steve began by saying that the important thing is to determine what God wants us to do in Alaska in the future. It's interesting, he said, that some of the things InterAct used to do in Alaska seem to be coming to the forefront once again—the possibility, for example, of getting involved in high school education. He also said that:

- Five graduates of the LEaD program are now serving in ministry.
- His plate is overly full.
- The Tramms resigned due to health issues that were likely brought on by stress.

Gale Van Diest led us in prayer for the Horsmans.

The meeting concluded at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Prigodich, Recorder  
January 31, 2020