

Canada Field Report  
Board meeting  
August 2011  
Submitted by Dan Mayerle

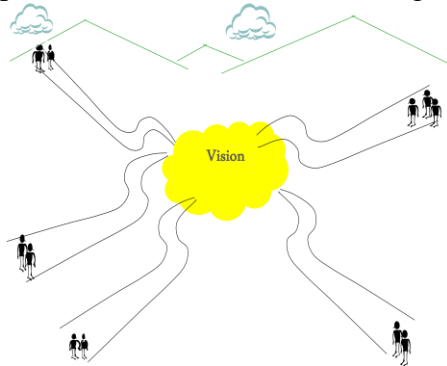
The report I submitted in February was quite comprehensive. Therefore this report is going to highlight changes and developments on the Canada field. Kingdom work continues to be done across the Canada field and I am encouraged with the direction ministry is moving.

**VISION**

Over the last three years, InterAct Canada has had a significant focus on training and equipping staff to give them tools to move ahead in effective ministry. Three weeklong workshop sessions on worldview, consultations onsite with local missionaries, addictions training through the Genesis Process, and the addition of a training day to our annual conference agenda have been, by people's own testimony, a huge help in equipping our staff for effective ministry.

I do not believe missionaries can ever stop learning and sharpening their ability to minister but at the same time, I have had a sense that it is time to regroup. It seems best to give the staff some time so they implement the things they have learned and really use the tools they have picked up. As well it feels like field leadership needs to step back and look over the landscape to determine the course for the next stage of the ministry journey in western Canada.

The Canada Leadership Team (CLT) is developing a draft MAP (strategic plan) which will allow us to re-focus, refine our sense of direction, and chart a course for the next stage. To date our planning has moved us toward identifying five or six areas which will become our focus for the next few years. We are calling these areas 'roads'. These roads will give leadership the framework for giving direction, setting strategy, training, and recruiting. In the process of determining the roads we are also refining the overall vision statement to better fit the Canada field context. This graphic is the model we are working with in this process:



By the time this report is read at the board meeting I should, Lord willing, be able to present a draft of the roads and the vision the CLT has identified. This draft will also be presented to the missionaries at the August field conference for discussion and input. Then in September the CLT (with their spouses and Dale & Carol) will be together for a 48 hour prayer and planning retreat to incorporate field input and, with the continued leading of the Spirit, develop a plan that will give direction to local ministries and field leadership as we move forward.

Given the direction this draft MAP'ing process has gone it is unlikely anything totally new will emerge requiring a significant shift in ministry resources however one idea that has surfaced a few times could significantly expand our urban ministry. Broadening InterAct's Muslim and Sikh ministries to an immigrant ministry focus may be a logical step given the cosmopolitan

nature of Canada's urban centers. It is too early to say how this may or may not develop so suffice it to say that Dale will be a part of ongoing discussion and the board will be kept informed if anything more solid begins to emerge.

### **Native Ministries**

One more of the Anchored Warriors team has become a member of InterAct. Amy Sell, who was under the First Nations Alliance Churches of Canada, has gone through the membership application process and is now working, raising support, and doing leadership development with Anchored Warriors. Tristan and Lesley Lefthand are in the process of filling out the application paper work.

Centre Street Church (CSC), the largest church in Calgary, has approached Anchored Warriors, and thus InterAct, to encourage Anchored Warriors to consider applying to become a recognized ministry of CSC. If this happens CSC would include Anchored Warriors in their annual missions budget and view this partnership as CSC's involvement in First Nations ministry.

Another partnership opportunity is being discussed with Youth For Christ Saskatchewan. YFC is opening a teen boys group home in North Battleford where Paul and Joanne Janzen serve. Ron Browning (former InterAct missionary) has been hired as the house manager. Ron would like to re-initiate his membership with InterAct and direct his donors to give to InterAct who would then direct the money to YFC as part of Ron's salary package. This partnership could be mutually beneficial to both organizations since the clientele at the house is 80% aboriginal. However this is new ground for YFC so the partnership may not materialize.

Facilitating Native church development is another area of ministry that appears to be opening up. Dan Woodard and I spent a week-end MAP'ing with the Native leaders of the Loon Lake Fellowship (InterAct missionaries Dick & Ruth Browning). While it was invigorating we were reminded again how much relationship is going to be necessary for effective facilitation among First Nation people. Dan is uniquely gifted for this ministry of helping native leaders to set direction for their local church.

The Chilcotin team (Horsman & Gillaspie) is continuing to struggle to develop a strong working team relationship. CARES, a ministry specializing in counselling for Christian workers, has been working with the team. As well I have taken an interim team leader role to take that pressure off Steve. A mid-October evaluation date has been set. If appropriate steps have not been taken towards improvement by then some significant decisions will need to be made.

InterAct staff continue to advise the Intertribal Christian Ministries board (ICM) as they lay the foundations necessary to give an official purchase proposal to North American Indigenous Ministries for the Gladstone property in southern Alberta. There are still several hurdles to overcome so it is hard to say whether the ICM will succeed. In the meantime NAIM has graciously rented the property to the Camp Gladstone ministry and a summer of camping ministry is being conducted again. With many volunteer staff coming and going in this ministry this summer Wes has had his work cut out for him to ensure the new child protection policy is complied with.

### **East Indian Ministries**

Ministry among the Sikhs of the Lower Mainland continues. One of my desires is to see the existing Indo-Canadian churches reaching beyond their communities to the growing number of Punjabi communities outside of the Lower Mainland and Calgary. Some seeds have been

planted and it would be great if InterAct could partner with these ethnic churches in reaching out and planting daughter churches.

### **Muslim Ministry**

A dialogue has been started with Salaam Ministries (formerly Frontiers Canada) about how our two organizations can collaborate. Salaam, as a newly formed organization is in transition from being in relationship with Frontiers Inc. to becoming a stand-alone Canadian ministry. The issue driving the parting of ways is contextualization. Salaam is currently developing a strategy for reaching Muslims living in Canada.

The Canadian Network for Muslim Ministries (CNMM) Calgary chapter is a group of people passionate about reaching Muslims for Christ. Marlene Nelson and Wes Schellenberg are significant influencers in this group. There appears to be a growing desire among Canadian believers to know more about reaching their Muslim neighbours and co-workers with the Gospel message. InterAct is positioned well to become part of the solution to meeting this desire and assisting in mobilizing believers.

### **Recruitment**

This summer InterAct Canada hosted one young family as interns from Moody Bible College. Brock and Anna Jamieson spent their summer being mentored by Dan and Barb Kees and Dianne Voth in Lethbridge, AB.

After four days of planning meetings, EnGage, InterAct's re-vamped summer ministry recruitment program, lead by Jim & Becky Hamilton, is well on its way to becoming a reality in 2012. The experience Jim brings to this program increases the potential for growth and effectiveness exponentially. Jim and Jerry Crosby plan to implement this program in Canada among our First Nation ministries and then once it is established to make it available to the other people groups and fields of InterAct Ministries.

### **Administration**

The administration of the Canada field continues to function smoothly. The ongoing discussion about a field office move has lead to the realization that a move is imperative. Our current office space is graciously provided but to add at least three more work stations in our existing office space is not realistic. Jim, the business owner, would like to work at accommodating us but that may be a stretch as his business is growing as well and we do not want to impose too much. Added to that is the distance Dale currently is from the office and the distance the Hamilton's will be if their desired moving plans come through. So options for office facilities continue to be explored.

The most likely location at this point is Crossfield, AB. The Crossfield Baptist Church has a double wide modular on their property that served as a pastoral housing at one point. Now the church rents this housing unit. Since Crossfield Baptist is Dale's church he is exploring the options open to InterAct Canada doing some mild renovations and becoming long term tenants in this building.

I remain convinced that God is at work through InterAct Ministries. People are being discipled, believers are gathering, and communities are being impacted. The people of this organization are accomplishing His Kingdom work. I also remain convinced that the job is not anywhere near completion and we all need to continue to look for the ways and places where God is at work so we can join Him and be a part of His power at work through us multiplying our simple human

efforts. As God continues to bring us people with a passion that has been ignited by His Spirit InterAct will be a part of doing His will on earth, as it is done in Heaven.

Looking for His guiding hand,  
Dan Mayerle  
Canada field director