

Canada Field Report
Board meeting
August 2012
Submitted by Dan Mayerle

This report is going to highlight changes and developments on the Canada field as well as identify some of the realities and questions the Canada Leadership Team (CLT) and Dale are wrestling with as we move ahead with the Kingdom work God is asking InterAct to be involved in. His work continues to be done across the Canada field through faithful InterAct missionaries. I am encouraged with the direction ministry is moving.

Native Ministries

A few facts about InterAct's work among First Nation people across western Canada:

- 11 Native communities
 - 5 urban, 6 rural/reserve
- 27 member missionaries ministering in a Native community
 - 16 have a full-time role in Native ministry (this includes wives who may be home-makers but are participating in ministry as well)
 - 5 have a part-time role in Native ministry due to other employment or ministry roles
(Most of these people put 20-30 hrs/wk into Native ministry)
 - 6 have a volunteer role in Native ministry due to full-time employment elsewhere.
(I don't know any member missionary who puts in less than 10 hrs/wk.)
- 2 member missionaries ministering in the Native community at-large.
- At least 5 non-member volunteers putting significant energy into an InterAct ministry.

Anchored Warriors continues its history of change. Kim Kakakaway has resigned from her part-time employment with InterAct and works full-time in a 'secular' aboriginal multi-organizational pilot project. She has strong negative reaction to the "missionary/member of a mission agency" title. Kim continues to put a lot of volunteer time into the leadership and ministries of Anchored Warriors.

Question being wrestled with:

Is there something that needs to change within InterAct so that First Nation people can comfortably serve alongside us in ministry? Should we be pursuing those changes?

A Memorandum Of Understanding has been drawn up between the Christian & Missionary Alliance District office and InterAct Ministries regarding Amy Sell (Anchored Warriors). This MOU will allow Amy to utilize her roots in the C&MA for support raising. While she raises support Amy hopes to build awareness and encourage bridge building between local churches and local First Nation communities.

Another partnership opportunity is being developed between InterAct and Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Dan and Barb Kees have been developing a

relationship with NEFC missionaries, Simon and Sylvia Dennis who are moving to Lethbridge to work and be involved in the Native ministry there. An MOU will be drawn up once the Dennis' are settled in.

Steve and Jill Horsman have moved out of the Chilcotin ministry. They will be on Special Assignment for the next 10-12 months before moving to Alaska to begin their ministry there. This has been a difficult year for everyone involved in this transition but I am very thankful that God opened up a ministry opportunity that allowed Steve and Jill to continue with InterAct Ministries.

East Indian Ministries

A few facts about InterAct's work among East Indian people across western Canada:

- 2 Punjabi communities
 - both urban
- 4 member missionaries ministering in an Indo-Canadian community
 - 2 have a full-time role in East Indian ministry (this includes wives who may be home-makers but are participating in ministry as well)
 - 2 have a part-time role in East Indian ministry due to other employment

John and Tracey Tobin have been on a leave of absence since March 1. This leave was necessary for two reasons. John's bi-polar condition had become less controlled in late 2011 and early 2012 and he needed to take time to work with a medical team and stabilize. And John and Tracey's marriage had become less stable as well and they needed to spend time re-building their relationship. Jack Teeter has graciously stepped in as a 'case manager' for this situation and has put in a lot of time setting up accountability and working with John and Tracey. This leave will likely be extended through to the end of the year when Dale will need to make a decision on whether Tobins should continue in ministry with InterAct.

It seems that the divisiveness between the two pastors that Tobins and Paras' have worked with is being resolved as they are doing some joint ministry activity again. This is a very encouraging development.

Muslim Ministry

A few facts about InterAct's work among Muslim people across western Canada:

- 2 Muslim communities
 - both urban
- 6 member missionaries ministering in a Native community
 - 4 have a full-time role in Muslim ministry (this includes wives who may be home-makers but are participating in ministry as well)
 - 2 have a part-time role in Native ministry due to other employment or health issues

Dave and Alice DeHaan (Edmonton Turkish ministry) are planning to resign from InterAct and their career as supported missionaries by year end. Dave is looking for a part-time pastoral position in a church that is reaching out to immigrant and minority

people. Dave has been told by Arabic believers that Edmonton does not need more missionaries to Muslim people.

In the big picture of reaching Muslims in Canada there is positive momentum developing. A modular training centre at Prairie Bible College designed to give Muslim background believers a Biblical foundation for their faith has almost 30 students in its first year of operation. Also a six week Sunday School video curriculum, Truth Unlocked: Keys to Reaching Your Muslim Neighbors, has been designed and is being used to equip a growing number of lay believers who want to share the Gospel with their Muslim neighbours and co-workers.

Question being wrestled with:

What will InterAct's role in Muslim and Sikh ministry be in the coming years? Should we continue to recruit for these ministries or should we finish well with our current missionary force and phase out?

Recruitment

A few facts about InterAct Canada's recruitment:

- 2 member missionaries in a full-time role
 - Their focus is on recruiting out of selected Christian colleges in the USA.
 - One of the 2012 EnGage participants is considering a volunteer role in recruitment in the south-east states of the USA.
- 5 Canadian Christian schools are visited by Canadian staff once or twice per year
 - InterAct has very, very limited success in recruiting short-term Canadian participants

The EnGage short term ministry program directed by Jim Hamilton had 4 participants this summer. Two teams were placed in two First Nation communities. Each person was stretched and challenged with the task of building relationships and sharing the Gospel in a cross-cultural environment. The evaluation of this first summer of the full-blown EnGage program will determine where continued tweaking is needed so this short-term experience can be a personal development time, an effective ministry in the community, and a productive recruitment tool for InterAct. Obviously all of those outcomes will ultimately only be realized as the Spirit of God does His work in the lives of the EnGage participants.

Two church ministry teams (from the US) are serving in Canada under InterAct's umbrella this summer. Their primary focus is children's ministry but there is obvious impact in the larger community.

Administration and Support

A few facts about InterAct Canada's support infrastructure (leadership, admin, & member care):

- 3 member missionaries in a full-time role
 - Field director, administrative director, Assistant to the field director/human resources director.

- 4 member missionaries in a part-time role
 - The spouses of each person above have other areas of focus (part-time employment and/or home-making) but they all put significant time into serving InterAct missionaries as well.
 - Barb Gonzales has a ministry focusing primarily on prayer
- 2 member missionaries in a volunteer member care role

An office building has been purchased, renovations are underway, and the office will be moving there after the Canada field conference. Fundraising efforts are underway to replace the funds that are being used to purchase and renovate the building.

Vision

The Canada MAP continues to give a foundation for the Canada Leadership Team as we assess, evaluate, ask questions, and pray about present and future ministry opportunities. Out of these discussions and prayer a potential target is being identified.

“20 teams in 20 communities by 2020” is the target statement being considered. I recognize there is a significant level of “cheesy” to this statement and that most organizations who set these kind of goals don’t usually achieve them BUT it does define a target to aim for and focus on.

The realities:

- Currently InterAct Canada has 52 member missionaries and has ministry in 15 communities.
 - Of those 15 communities 3 are a team ministry.
 - Through partnership with other ministry organizations another 2 communities have team ministry
- Accounting only for attrition by retirement/age, by 2020 InterAct Canada would have 34 missionaries and be working in 12 communities if no further recruitment happened.
- If recruitment happened at the rate of the previous 8 years (14 new member missionaries) there would be 3 more missionaries on the field in 2020 than we have right now.
- To accomplish the target of **“20 in 20 by ‘20”** we would need to triple our recruitment momentum over the next 8 years.

Questions being wrestled with:

Are we aware of the shifts in the way the younger generation views missionary service?

Do they want more self-supporting/self-financing ministries as opposed to traditional support raising model?

Will their mindset allow for the long-term ministry commitment that is necessary to see mature disciples living as the local Body of Christ. Or will it take a succession of team members to ‘finish’ the work in a community?

Will continuing to emphasizing mission membership and official affiliation be a detriment to our recruitment efforts and ministry objectives?

Are we aware of the shifts in the way North American churches are viewing missions and ministry?

Will the church continue to grow in its desire to be active participants in the ministries they support, both locally and globally?

Will the church continue to put more of its resources into equipping and sending out their own short term and long term missionaries?

Are we, as an organization, shifting and adjusting to the changes that are being identified in the broader North American Christian community?

Enough questions ... for now. The CLT and Dale continue to process and work through these questions as we move ahead in profiling our present communities and identifying the 6 communities we will need to add if “20³” survives as a slogan and goal.

I remain convinced of the tremendous need for the transforming work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the First Nation, Punjabi, and Muslim communities of western Canada. I remain convinced of the need to get down on my knees and get marching orders from the King. I remain convinced that there is a role for ‘para-church’ ministry agencies in meeting the need. But there are also days when the “put the wheels on this thing and get ‘er done” guy in me wonders how we are ever going to get ‘er done.

When our hearts are overwhelmed, lead us to the Rock that is higher than us.

Grateful to serve, expecting to be led by Him,
Dan Mayerle