

InterAct Ministries
Canada Field Director's Report to the Board
August, 2014

This report highlights changes and developments in the ministries on the Canada field. God's work continues to be done across the Canada field through faithful InterAct missionaries. I am encouraged with the direction ministry is moving.

Staff Concerns and Highlights

Akmal and Sarah Erastus have developed an ESL ministry in partnership with two Winnipeg churches as an avenue to build relationship with Punjabi and Muslim people and, simultaneously, equip and empower local Canadian believers to reach out to other cultures living in their neighbourhoods. The response from both immigrant peoples and local churches has been tremendously encouraging. Two churches are currently hosting and staffing ESL outreaches and at least two more are asking for help in getting their programs started.

Joel and Amanda Sewell (Eden Valley, AB) have been approved and received their Permanent Resident status. They are currently on Special Assignment with the dual purpose of connecting with some of their support team and stepping back from ministry to recover from the beginnings of burn-out. During this SpA InterAct leadership will be working with the Sewells to see them become further equipped for thriving in ministry long term.

Ron and Taya Browning have resigned from Youth for Christ and are now half-time employees of InterAct. They have signed a one-year agreement and have a half-time focus on First Nation ministry in the North Battleford area and are working half-time to supplement their income. June 2015 will be an evaluation point and a decision made about a longer term ministry role.

As you see in the Canada board agenda, after reducing her ministry involvement and increasing her working hours **Dianne Voth** has decided to resign from a formal ministry role with InterAct. She will continue in relationship with First Nation friends she has made and continue in a new volunteer ministry role with Brazilian students at the University of Lethbridge.

Please continue to pray for a level of reconciliation between **Don and Kim Gillaspie** and Steve and Jill Horsman that will keep them moving ahead in their respective ministries rather than possibly hindering it.

It has become increasingly clear that our younger missionaries need input and care in order for them to thrive and do well with the demands of long term ministry. In October, as they finish up a four month SpA/sabbatical, **Paul and Joanne Janzen** plan to take on a role as 'Ministry and Life Coaches' for the younger missionaries on the Canada field. I trust this ministry will meet a large part of the need for input and care.

The staff retreat in April focused on giving missionaries time to share with each other, pray for each other, and learn more about caring for their own soul so they are able to minister from a

place of spiritual health and vitality. Dale wrapped up the time together by encouraging missionaries to be in the Word on a regular basis as a primary ingredient for soul health. The element of cultivating personal relationship with God is a crucial element to being a missionary that thrives instead of just surviving.

Vision and Strategy

In September the **Canada Leadership Team (CLT)** will meet again for our annual planning meeting. One of the primary foci will be refining and tweaking the Canada field vision statement and ministry MAP. I trust this will help the ministry focus on the Canada field to be in sync with the new vision statement of the overall organization. I also believe a refinement of the vision and MAP will give the leadership team a stronger grid to evaluate InterAct Canada's participation in potential ministry projects as partner with churches and like-minded organizations.

We continue to pursue strategic partnerships with local churches. One of our strongest existing **church partnerships** is with the Territorial Drive Alliance Church in North Battleford. It is thrilling to be in partnership with a church who strongly values the cross cultural experience and expertise that InterAct brings to the partnership table. We have a growing relationship of mutual respect and shared vision for the First Nation community in and around North Battleford that allows us to pull together.

Lord willing, in November there will be a meeting of all persons interested in having input or participation in the **urban ministries whole-life discipleship project**. Out of this meeting we hope to identify 4-6 people who sense God's leading to become part of the core team. The core team that emerges will meet again in about six months and begin developing this pilot project ministry model.

The documentary on First Nation Christian response to the residential school history and realities in Canada has turned into a potential partnership project with Rising Above – a Christian Native organization focused on helping their people overcome the effects of trauma and abuse. In the process the project has grown considerably and it is currently under review.

Training

Biblical counselling continues to become a greater focus in the ongoing equipping of missionaries. Our training day at conference in August will be led by a Biblical counselling instructor. Next winter some of the CLT will accompany Dale and Carol to a one week Biblical counselling seminar.

We are also looking forward to working with Mike Matthews to develop a tool that will allow new missionaries to gather the stories and narrative that make up the worldview of the people they are ministering among. This understanding will then shape and contextualize the presentation of God's message in His Word towards greater clarity, deeper understanding, and a deep-rooted shift to seeing life through a Biblical lens.

I am thankful that God continues to provide health and energy to both Bev and I as we serve the team of faithful missionaries who are committed to serving the communities God has called them to. I am thankful for the committed leadership team that God continues to raise up on the Canada field. May the name of Jesus be made famous in every one of those communities and may Jesus build His church.

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