

Canada Field Report
Canada Board Meeting, August 2016
Submitted by Dan Mayerle, field director

*Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power
and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You, ...*

Jer 32:17

This is a great and timeless truth. The arm of our God is not too short or too weak to accomplish His purposes. A great comfort and assurance as I strive to give leadership in the midst of human limitations.

Staff Updates

John and Tracey Tobin have struggled in their marriage again this spring. At the writing of this report the ship seems to be righting itself. Since John and Tracey have been at this juncture before, InterAct leadership (Dale, Jack and I) are pursuing a plan for marital growth with even stronger intentionality than in times past.

Paul and Joanne Janzen are in the midst of a significant trial related to Joanne's health. Since December of last year Joanne has been dealing with an undiagnosed sensory deficit issue. While they have been able to continue with local ministry, Joanne's health has significantly limited their capacity to travel and be involved with coaching the younger generation of InterAct ministry workers. Joanne is in the midst of medical testing and they are encouraged that there seem to be small gains being made.

Training

Stefan Dick and Andy & Jesi Chinn have completed their cross-cultural training at Center for Intercultural Training. The Chinns also completed the language acquisition track and are moving forward with learning the Carrier language still spoken by many Ulhk'acho people.

Roy and Laura Thiessen and Valen and Carol Straley are completing an online biblical counselling training course that Dale advertised and endorsed. It is encouraging that they both have a believer from their fellowship taking the course along with them.

The training day at the 2016 Canada staff conference will focus on disciple making movements and the elements it takes to have reproducing discipleship.

Administration

The office team (Greg, Wes, Dale and I) are taking steps toward hiring an office assistant as per the 2016 budget. At this point it looks like it would be a flex position of 12-18 hours per week. Our desire is to have the position filled by fall at the latest.

Merging Mid-Way Christian Leadership (MCL) into InterAct is primarily an administrative process at this point. The staff applications and interviews have been completed. Dale was on-site for the interviews which gave him a chance to see the camp facility and

connect with people. The MCL staff will become InterAct members and employees on September 1, 2016. All Mid-Way assets will begin to be transferred to InterAct ownership at that time. If all goes as planned MCL will cease to exist as a charity and an organization by December 31, 2016.

Recruitment

Three *EnGage!* participants are spending their summer of ministry in Winnipeg. Their focus is building relationships with Punjabi people out of the English as an Additional Language program (also known as ESL) that Akmal leads. Jim Hamilton continues to give good leadership to recruiting for and overseeing the *EnGage!* program.

EAL internships and experience seems to be an area of interest among college students. With our Muslim and Punjabi ministries, InterAct has the potential to tap into this potential by developing a stronger EAL internship program.

This is the first summer since Jim started recruiting for InterAct that we have no *EnGage!* participants in First Nation communities. Pray with us that this fall the Lord will lead Jim and the other recruiters to those who have keen interest in experiencing ministry among First Nation, Native Alaskans, and tribal people in Siberia.

All seven members of the urban ministry team are meeting in Crossfield, AB August 31 – September 4 for their third face-to-face meeting. The team has been doing research for each facet of the young-adult, whole-life discipleship ministry. They have also been meeting monthly via on-line video to discuss the things they are learning. This meeting will be a chance for them to spend time in Calgary and begin moving from conceptualizing ministry to making this ministry a reality. Stefan Dick is working towards completion of support raising by September 1 so that he can focus on laying the foundation for this ministry team.

Leadership Development

The Canada Leadership Team Plus meets September 12-14 for our annual prayer and leadership retreat. It is exciting to me to have two of our younger men, Roy Thiessen and Joel Sewell, participating for the first time. This is a beginning toward developing emerging leaders for the Canada field. Dale continues to be an invaluable mentor in this important area of leadership development.

Vision

In 2012, with Dale's persuasion/insistence 😊, we presented to the Canada staff a cheesy vision statement of "20 teams in 20 communities by 2020". I have continued to return to that statement and reflect on progress. On September 1 (after the merger is formally completed) InterAct will have ministry in 18 communities with one more very likely to happen as Morgan and Krista (of MCL) pray that the community of York Landing will extend an official invitation. Four years into an eight-year vision statement we have almost met one of the criteria ... by God's grace and outstretched arm!

The biggest lack is in the area of teams. Of the 18 communities, five can be solidly identified as having a ministry team working together. There are a few others where there are elements of teaming, collaborative effort and relationship but it would be a stretch to say they are working together toward an agreed upon ministry goal. Developing team between the missionary and local believers is something that the Canada leadership team is going to spend time thinking through and developing.

The Lord's outstretched arm will prevail and His name will be glorified!