

Canada Field Report
July 2022

Chaos is a term that is being discussed more often in our world as we see change happening in almost every quadrant of life. From the family to the government, to country conflicts, to the church, to ministry, there does not seem to be an area of life that is not being affected by upheaval and change. I have read several articles recently on 'leading in chaos'. One concept that continues to surface is the idea of *tension*. There is a place of unease between what has been and what is ahead. One recent conversation I had described it in this way, "The style of ministry that I moved towards during [Covid] became much smaller and personal. Now that new and larger opportunities are opening, those that had the small, personal ministry are fighting me in developing larger groups." I continue to see this tension taking place in all kinds of situations and even in giving leadership to this field that tension surfaces in looking at what has been and what is in front of us. The challenge for leadership is to remain focused on the vision and steady in moving towards those goals.

Recent highlights:

- Two major youth events took place this spring; Native Youth Conference (NYC) and Waymaker both were able to bring together native youth in an intentional discipleship weekend. Often the travel time between home and the camp become deep times of conversation and challenging teens in their spiritual walk
- Midway Bible Camp, Berge Lake Bible Camp and several others that staff are associated with are operating this month. Several young people took new steps in their faith during the training week at Midway. We celebrate the opportunity to see spiritual growth and commitment take place.
- Site 6 development; We have seen a steady stream of donations towards the new site. Morgan continues to see interest develop in the project and partners beginning to respond. Approximately \$60,000 has been raised towards the development of the new site.
- There is continued openness of staff to be involved in the communities. There is a lot of uncertainty of what ministry will look like, but momentum continues to build in most places.

Personnel:

- Morgan and Krista Serger have recently returned to Thompson, MB from the community of York Landing. Morgan is picking up the oversight for Midway Bible Camp and will serve as the supervisor for northern Manitoba. *Pray that they will be able to move their belongings out of the community as the 'summer ferry' was delayed in operating in a very short window of the year.*
- Jesse Stigile resigned from InterAct in May. Jesse felt that after the latest setbacks within the Urban Fire ministry that it was best to return to the USA and pursue further education.
- David and Vicky Sebald and Stefan and Kaitlyn Schulz have focused more intentionally around Restora and developing opportunities to disciple native youth through a business.
- Brooke Wortham joined Urban Fire last summer, in the transitions of the team, Brooke has begun to focus on new immigrants in Calgary. Initial involvement has come through teaching English classes that is opening doors to building relationships.
- Andy and Jesi Chinn have relocated into Calgary and continue to develop ministry team with Dan and Bev.

- Barbi Gonzales celebrated her 90th birthday. She continues to serve in a vital role of praying for our staff daily. Much was celebrated with her family and friends!

Hotspots

- Urban Fire has been put on 'pause' with the termination of the partnership with Youth for Christ. Jesse Stigile has resigned from InterAct; Sebald and Schulz shifted focus to Restora and Brooke is exploring immigrant ministry in Calgary. Urban ministry continues to be a difficult area to build consistent ministry among First Nations people.
- EnGage! our short-term summer ministry did not have any participants this summer. This is our third summer without this program. This has been one way of generating interest in InterAct as well as creating a pool of people who can be encouraged towards considering service with InterAct. The result for the Canada field is that there are no current recruits for Canada.
- Two conversations this past week have included discussions on the role of women in ministry and leadership within InterAct. There is an increasing ambiguity for both staff in the organization as well as those considering joining the organization as to where InterAct currently stands. Society's push to minimize the differences between male and female is being felt with greater intensity. Having further clarification around these issues will allow InterAct to move forward.

Future:

- Staff Conference will be August 15-19 in Piniwa, MB. Howard Jolly and Tim Nielsen will be our speakers this year. There are several staff that will not be in attendance due to health, age, and extended family needs.
- Development of the leadership team. Morgan Serger is stepping into a supervision role for northern Manitoba, Dan continues to carry supervisory responsibility, I need to continue to focus on developing a new circle of leaders that can carry supervision responsibilities.
- Field Vision: Biblical Counseling principles and Worldview level ministry principles are two areas that significantly inform the underlying foundations of our ministry. Out of those foundations come practices that help us to apply those principles. The communication piece that was completed last fall uses the tag line: Crossing Cultures – Discipling Relationally – Advancing Churches. I believe those define well the vision of the Canada Field to see disciplined gathered believers.
- Two pieces I would like to see the field implement is the discipling principles of Instruments in the Redeemers Hands (Paul D. Tripp) Love - Know – Speak – Do. As well as revisiting The Facilitator Era by Dr. Tom Steffen.
- Development of operations for Canada. The office needs an additional person to carry the administrative functions. It is my prayer that someone could join us this fall to be involved in this role.
- Josh Beutler will be leading a workshop on worldview level ministry (ANA) at staff conference. I would like to see a continuing conversation take place within the field to look at the implementation of this ministry approach.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Hamilton