

Canada Field Report
February 2013 Board Meeting
Submitted by Dan Mayerle

This report is a fairly comprehensive “state of the field” overview highlighting the latest developments that I am aware of in each ministry location and summarizing where we hope the ministry is headed.

Where We Are

Native Ministries

Ed and Glenna Houston (member/full-time employee - **Native Bible Centre**), have gotten some NBC courses online with the goal of putting all the courses online in time. Unfortunately Ed and Glenna have had to focus a lot of time and energy on health and personal family issues in the past few months. Health issues will likely be an ongoing concern and it is not clear what that will mean for the long term future of the ministry of NBC.

Anchored Warriors (**Amy Flater** {used to be Sell}– member/part-time employee, **Kim Kakakaway, Tristan & Lesley Lefthand, Josiah Atkins** – volunteers), at the initiative of field leadership, have added a third event to their annual calendar. *Leaders of Leaders* is a small group retreat in the fall focusing on prayer, strategizing, planning, and leadership development. In the fall of 2012, at the second Leaders of Leaders weekend, with 12 participants it was decided this should be an annual event. I have to keep reminding myself that organic networking ministry is, by nature, a lot more difficult to define or measure.

InterAct and the Western District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance have a Memorandum Of Understanding regarding Amy’s ministry which allows her to be an accredited worker with the C&MA and raise support in C&MA churches. Amy has a vision for increasing the understanding about First Nations culture and community among the C&MA churches while she raises support.

The Navajo/Hopi trip in the summer of 2012, as part of the ongoing mentoring and leadership development process, was a great opportunity for discipleship. This was truly a Short Term Ministry Learning Experience (per Brian Fikkert on short term ministries). Another trip of shorter distance and less expense is being planned for the summer of 2013.

Kamloops, BC (**Valen and Carol Straley** – member/full-time employee, **Ellis and Dottie Kasten** – member/part-time employee, **Byron and Danielle Sayer** – member/volunteer) hosted a team from northern CA that did children’s ministry and other activities in the Native fellowship. This team has made a commitment to return to Kamloops for at least the next two years. Momentum in the youth ministry of this church plant has really picked up since the Sayer family has gotten involved. Byron and Danielle have had a few support raising meetings but much more is needed if they are going to achieve their dream of doing ministry full-time.

Steve and Jill Horsman have moved out of the **Chilcotin** and are on SpA until spring 2013. As of January 1, 2013 they officially became employees of InterAct, Inc. and they are looking forward to beginning ministry in Alaska in the spring. I am hopeful this transition will be a ‘shot in the arm’ for the Alaska field. **Don and Kim Gillaspie** (member/full-time employee) are building relationships with like-minded ministry people

living in the Chilcotin community and moving ahead with the ministry at Redstone. In a partnership effort between three Chilcotin communities, a well-attended ladies retreat was held in November.

Jess Tanis (member/full-time employee) continues to visit Chilcotin and Shuswap people and participate in the Cariboo Community Church in **Williams Lake, BC**.

John and Anne Giesbrecht (member/volunteer) continue to hold Bible studies at Blueberry reserve. A young Mennonite couple who live close to the reserve are a big help to them. With the help of a few others they are planning to start church services for the Native community in **Fort St. John** very soon.

Barb Gonzales (member/part-time employee) is living in Rocky Mountain House, AB and continuing her prayer ministry as well as speaking at ladies' retreats occasionally.

Boris and Mirka Vyskocil (member/volunteer) continue their almost weekly ministry of planning services and preaching at the United Church on the Morley reserve. They are questioning the long term impact of this and considering other ministry options in this community.

Joel and Amanda Sewell (member/full-time employee) continue to work with a New Tribes coach as they move ahead in learning Stoney culture and language. Annual assessment with a NTM coach has helped them to keep focused and utilize tools for the language learning task. Their family camped on Eden Valley reserve for a few weeks this summer and had a very positive experience. They want to build a cabin on the reserve but need an invite from individuals and some affirmation from community leaders. This is hard to sort out and obtain from an indirect culture. Sewell's permanent resident immigration process is paused while they wait for the government to return their first application package

Roy and Laura Thiessen (member/full-time employee) continue to build relationships on the Blood reserve and in the community of Cardston. As part-time pastor of Cardston Baptist Church (half Native congregation) and missionary among the Blackfoot people Roy is very busy, sometimes too busy. Thankfully, after almost three years, they have been granted their Permanent Resident status. He continues "shoulder to shoulder" discipleship in activities from horses to house renovations.

Roy also continues to use Genesis Process material as an effective tool in discipleship and leadership development.

Dan and Barb Kees (member/part-time employee) had been teaming up with Simon and Sylvia Dennis, volunteer missionaries of Native Evangelical Fellowship (NEFC). Unfortunately the Dennises were not able to find adequate employment to stay long term in Lethbridge. Dan and Barb are on a 5-month SpA, ending June 1, to inform their supporters of decreasing support needs. Kees will be considered half-time employees when they return. **Dianne Voth** (member/part-time employee) is employed for 5-10 hrs/week with InterAct and works full-time as a nurse.

Paul and Joanne Janzen (member/full-time employee) in **North Battleford, SK** have shifted their focus for a multi-cultural team from Ed and Pat Bird to Pat's son Tyrone. Tyrone is leading a Bible study in conjunction with Paul, in town and on the Moosimin reserve. Joanne has resigned from her position at the Jedidiah House and is now working towards a degree in counseling at Briercrest Seminary.

Ron and Taya Browning (member/volunteer) continue their ministry with the Youth For Christ Jedidiah House project. As house manager, Ron has faced some difficult situations in the past six months. They value the encouragement and support they get from InterAct and plan to attend the staff retreat in April 2013.

Dick and Ruth Browning (member/full-time employee) are using Genesis Process in their discipleship relationships. The **Loon Lake, SK** church is becoming more active in their community. Dick and Ruth are dreaming about the possibility of working with some of their Native leaders to develop a holistic discipleship/life skills program via a discipleship house model.

Dan & Deanna Woodard (member/full-time employee) are on SpA until April as they seek to raise their support level. Dan is supervising InterAct's Saskatchewan missionaries, working with Native leaders, and developing PATH (formerly MDP). PATH has entered into a partnership agreement with Nipawin Bible College that will see training being offered on the NBC campus for both future missionaries and First Nation leaders by Worldview Resource Group (Mike Matthews) and PATH instructors.

Greg and Linda Snell (member/appointees raising support) have made very little progress in support raising. It is difficult to project their arrival on the field.

East Indian Ministries

John and Tracey Tobin (member/full-time employee) have been through some difficult health and marriage issues. We are praising the Lord that John's health has stabilized, at least for the time being, and that God seems to be intervening in their marriage relationship. The Leave of Absence that was extended to Dec. 31 ended with John returning to ministry among the Punjabi people of Abbotsford and area. John and Tracey will continue with ongoing accountability, biblical counsel regarding their marriage, and quarterly evaluations. Jack and Carolyn Teeter continue to manage this member care need for us.

Sam and Judy Paras (member/part-time employee) continue with their evangelism/discipleship relationships, birth coaching, East Indian music & arts scene, and a fellowship group (satsung) that meets weekly. NAAD, a centre for Punjabi music and arts, gave Sam the opportunity to put together a Punjabi Christmas music night with freedom to share the Christmas story. The venue was filled to standing room only with Punjabis, many of whom had likely never heard the Christmas story before. It was well received.

Muslim Ministry

David and Marlene Nelson (member/full-time employee) continue ministry to Muslims in **Calgary, AB** however David's deteriorating MS health condition continues to be, by necessity, a growing focus for both of them. Marlene continues to serve on the national committee of Canadian Network of Muslim Ministries and ministers through many relationships with Muslim women.

Dave and Alice DeHaan (member/part-time employee) have officially resigned as of Dec. 31, 2012. Dave is hoping to move to a part-time outreach pastor in an Edmonton church but nothing official has been offered at this point.

Fayez and Vivian Narooz (member/part-time employee) continue the Arabic church plant. The church is growing and developing. There are about 40 attending regularly and

several of those are new believers. Fayez also continues his doctoral studies and hopes to walk the stage in May. His long range desire is to teach in an Arabic seminary.

Administration

Although there are several days of finishing work to be done, the new office is functioning well. The final payment for the purchase of the building has been made. We will be looking for a couple volunteer teams this summer to shingle roofs on the office and garage and do some yard beautification projects. **Greg and Laura Hamilton** (member/full-time employee) just finished a four-month SpA in mid-January. It is a great help to have his critical thinking and administrative skills back in the office assisting in field leadership and taking care of personnel administration needs. **Wes and Carol Schellenberg** (member/full-time employee) continue to be the heart of administrating the Canada organization. Besides the regular workload Wes has been busy getting our new server and phone services up and running.

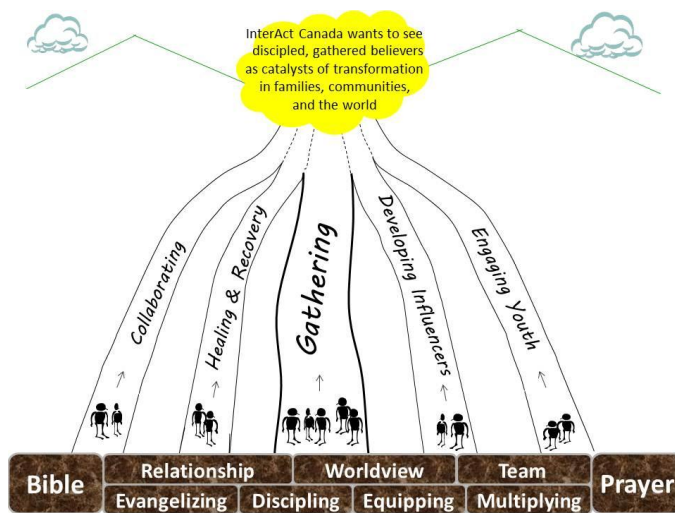
As requested at the August board meeting a plan is in place and being implemented for every missionary/ministry to be giving a monthly report to their direct supervisor. Those reports correlate to the ministry goals laid out by the missionaries and their supervisor.

Recruitment

Jim and Becky Hamilton (member/full-time employee) continue to travel, visit colleges, and recruit for all three InterAct fields. They are specifically focused on recruiting and planning for the 2013 Canadian *EnGage!* program. We would all love to see the *EnGage!* program triple in size in 2013. They do an amazing amount of travel for their age and seem to enjoy it but Jim continues to mention the need to be praying and planning for succession.

Where God Seems To Be Taking Us

Ministry Plan – 2013/2014



The following ministry plan summary is based on the 5 roads of the Canada field MAP above. This short-term plan sets direction for the next fiscal year and is part of a longer-term vision to see InterAct ministering in 20 communities by 2020. Much of this short-term plan centers around recruitment and getting more people involved in the ministry

God is calling us to. People are the primary means God has chosen to get His Kingdom work done on this planet. This ministry plan is tentative subject to board approval.

GATHERING

Goal: Have 10 communities identified as the focus of ministry and recruitment.

In September the Canada Leadership Team (CLT) identified five of the 20 communities we want to focus on. The Kootenay Nation spread through the Kootenay region of BC and Bonnyville, AB are the two communities chosen where we have no ministry currently. Eden Valley, AB, Kainai First Nation (Cardston, Lethbridge, Ft MacLeod), and Calgary Muslim are communities where InterAct has existing ministry but we believe it is important to strengthen those ministries and build stronger team.

Five communities will be added to the list every fall for the next three years until we have a list of 20 communities we are focusing on recruiting for and developing relationship and ministry with.

Action steps to accomplish:

- 1) Research
 - a) Outreach Canada
Do they have any data to offer or can we partner and offer them some data?
 - b) 14 trips to selected communities – for research & relational development
4 Communities /2 trips each /new community (new = no existing InterAct presence)
6 communities/1 trips each /existing ministry community
- 2) Relationship Development
 - a) People time – building relationship, understanding community dynamics, gaining a clear picture of community assets and needs
 - b) InterAct becoming a value-added partner for believers/community
- training/event scholarships, facilitating networking relationships, sponsoring events, partnering on projects, etc
- community resourcing (books, AV equipment, study materials, etc)
- 3) Recruitment
 - a) Field exposure trips for potential recruits
- 4 trips of 4 days each
 - b) Public Ministries trips to visit schools or potential recruits in their ‘home.’
- 3 flights, car rentals, recruitee meals
 - c) Field rep follow-up – third relational connection
- 2 trips by car, 1 flight

HEALING AND RECOVERY

Goal: A clear picture/plan of how to best do ‘healing and recovery’ in InterAct’s ministry context and from our ministry framework.

For many years missionaries and Native believers alike have struggled with followers of Christ who are ‘stuck’ in their spiritual growth. That ‘stuckness’ could involve behaviors that a person can never get victory over, negative/sinful attitudes that affect relationship with self and with others and with God, and emotionally immature responses to circumstances or events that keep a person a victim rather than an overcomer.

We believe the Bible and the Spirit of God have the answers and we believe our missionaries need to add tools that give them greater ability to apply Scriptural truth as a healing agent to people who have been downtrodden and

marginalized by many things. InterAct has continued work to do to define and refine tools that will help our missionaries move forward in this crucial area.

Most of the research and development done in this area will be applicable in our immigrant ministries as well.

Action steps to accomplish:

- 1) Research schools to recruit from
 - 2 trips
- 2) Recruit one counseling specialist
 - 2 trips of 3 days each to build relationship, expose to Canada realities, interview
- 3) 1 'counseling internship' focusing on researching Healing & Recovery models
 - 8 months room & board assistance
 - 2 onsite supervision visits, 2 offsite training sessions for cultural awareness
- 4) Develop/Facilitate a discipleship house pilot project
(the picture is a living situation somewhat removed from the reserve community where a couple/family can live in relatively close proximity to missionary mentors who could be whole-life disciplers speaking into multiple areas of life such as family life, marriage, finances, house and vehicle maintenance, work ethic, etc.)
 - a) Research
 - b) Grant funding for housing and resources

ENGAGING YOUTH

Goal: Continue facilitating the development of the Anchored Warriors network of ministries, place 2 interns in communities connected with AW and InterAct, and have one youth ministry specialist on the way to serving full-time on the Canada field.

As we all know 50% of the aboriginal population is under the age of 25 and that means the demographics of a gathering of Native believers should reflect that reality. This generation of Native people has some unique perspectives and a mix of animistic worldview and youth popular culture worldview. For increasingly effective discipleship to take happen in this age group we need ministry teams that include those focused on this group.

This is also true in our immigrant works where the younger generation are caught between the western culture that is all around them and their parents culture that is lived out in the home and some of the community life.

Action steps to accomplish:

- 1) Facilitate the ongoing development of Anchored Warriors
 - a) Leaders of Leaders prayer and networking retreat week-end
 - b) Resources for leaders
- 2) Complete two youth ministry internships
 - a) 16 months of room & board assistance (2 interns x 8 months each)
 - b) 2 onsite supervision visits per intern
 - c) 2 offsite training sessions for cultural awareness, etc
- 3) Recruit one full-time youth ministry specialist
 - 1 trip (3 days) to their 'home' for relationship, expose to Canada realities, interview
 - 1 on-field 5 day exposure trip

DEVELOPING INFLUENCERS

Goal: Enhance the encouragement and development of indigenous ministry leaders through relational and educational opportunities.

Developing leaders is a crucial piece to having sustainable churches who can thrive without eternal missionary involvement. InterAct does not envision becoming the ‘go-to’ organization for First Nation, Muslim or Sikh leadership development but we believe we have experience and relationship that is allowing us to facilitate and partner with others to improve this area that is so important to healthy churches.

Action steps to accomplish:

- 1) Host two ‘synergy’ events to provide relational ministry training for both InterAct missionaries and indigenous influencers who desire to make an impact.
 - a) Facility rental, Trainer travel, Student bursaries
- 2) Facilitate partnership(s) that will develop and promote relevant college-level Biblical training opportunities for First Nation leaders.
 - a) Identify one or two potential educational institution partners.

COLLABORATING

Goal: Facilitate a ‘seminar’ exposing and educating non-Native believers to First Nation realities (i.e., residential school).

It is hard to envision how this goal can be accomplished. However the political developments of recent days (mushrooming “Idle No More” movement, federal justice decision ruling that 600,000 Metis and non-status Indians are indeed “Indians” under the Constitution Act) makes informing/educating Canadian Christians even more urgent. The Caucasian church needs to respond in a way that will lift up the name of Christ among Native people across this nation or at least encourage the First Nation believers that dominant society believers want to walk with them. Unfortunately, rightly or wrongly, many First Nation people assume evangelical churches are guilty of ignorance and unrecognized racism towards the First Peoples of our country.

Action steps to accomplish:

- 1) Identify Native ministry partners
- 2) Facility rental
- 3) Speaker honorarium & travel
- 4) Advertising

The 5 P’s

Below is an attempt to relate the ministry plan outlined above to the focus InterAct leadership has on the five P’s.

Prayer:

The only way we will accomplish this ministry plan is by God’s work which we are called to petition through prayer. Having the finances available is only one part of seeing this ministry plan succeed. Doing the research, making the contacts, following up with the interns and recruits, and doing the training are all tasks that require personnel and wisdom. Most InterAct missionaries are strongly focused on their local ministry so it is not easy for them to put time into other ministry activity. Prayer support for this ministry plan needs to be cultivated at all levels of the organization. As an influencer in mid-level

management role my primary focus will be informing and encouraging ownership and the resulting prayer support from InterAct missionaries and their support teams.

Partnerships:

This ministry plan is going to need partnerships on several levels. Individuals, such as persons of peace who will prepare the way and open doors in new communities, groups of believers whom staff will be able to come alongside, communities (or at least community leaders) who see InterAct as adding value to their community, educational institutions, and other ministry organizations as well. Some new potential partnerships are already emerging like PATH and Nipawin Bible College. Several others are going to have to be identified and pursued. This is going to take personnel time and energy since many, if not all, these partnerships will be relational at their core. Once again prayer for God's multiplication of our limited efforts will be absolutely necessary.

People:

For this plan to succeed there will need to be 6 people moving towards full-time ministry and 3 interns who have completed their time of ministry by the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year. How is that possible? (rhetorical question).

One new applicant, a Canadian Moody Bible Institute (Chicago) student, Kelsey Quibel, is planning a nine-month internship starting this fall and is seriously considering full-time service with InterAct on the Canada field.

70% of Natives and almost 100% of immigrants live in Canadian cities but most of the people that InterAct seems to attract want to serve in small town/rural settings. In light of that several of us are conceptualizing an urban Native ministry pilot project. This project would include recruiting and forming a team of 4-6 missionary units (Native and non-Native). Each unit would raise enough funds to give them nine months of salary and expenses. During the initial nine months the team would get cross cultural training, develop a ministry strategy, and the majority would find work that would bring them into contact with First Nation people. At the end of nine months one missionary would focus on full-time ministry while the rest of the team would engage in ministry at their workplace and participate in the team's overall strategy leading to mature disciples gathering together. The 'working' units would commit to giving a percentage of their earnings to support the project (salaries or expenses). Together they would build a network of ministry that is moving towards gathered believers. An early target would be to see this team formed and raising support by summer of 2014.

Public Presence:

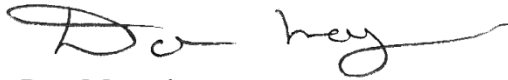
If we accomplish our goals for "Healing and Recovery" and "Developing Influencers" relationships will have developed with at least two educational facilities and InterAct will have a greater public presence. Also, as we come alongside indigenous believers in communities it is conceivable relationships with existing local churches will be developed. Even though it is in the 'dream' phase, hosting a seminar for non-Native Christians on First Nation realities would directly affect our public profile as well.

Perspective:

Much of this ministry plan moves InterAct's Canada field in the direction of facilitating as we work to come alongside believers and develop a 'value-added' characteristic for the communities we serve in or are going to serve in. The "When Helping Hurts" seminar

myself and several others recently attended continues to shape my thinking in this arena. I believe that facilitating – coming alongside – was always our goal as missionaries but it was often a mixed message of “how can we help?” and “we have the answer and we know how to fix you before you even answer” which confused the recipients and made it feel paternalistic. We need to keep growing in understanding the unspoken assumptions and core values that drive the people we minister among so our coming alongside is both perceived as helpful and really IS helpful.

May the Lord direct our steps and give us the direction and resources for whatever He is calling InterAct to as He does His work through the people who make up this organization. And may He give every InterActer the heart and passion to keep pressing on!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Mayerle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dan Mayerle
Canada Field Director