

Canada Field Report  
Board Meeting, August 2017  
Submitted by Dan Mayerle

*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, ...*

Jeremiah 32:17

“Would to God we had in the religion of these modern times a more potent infusion of this heroic faith in God. If we would venture more upon the naked promise of God, we should enter a world of wonders to which as yet we are strangers.”

Spurgeon; Morning & Evening

### Staff Updates

Andy and Jesi Chinn, at Anahim Lake, are doing very well as they build relationships and get connected in the community. God has provided them with friendships with two older couples. One couple are believers who want to grow spiritually and the other are not believers but he is definitely a man of peace in the community. I attribute some of this encouraging growth to the work the Chinns, alongside Joel Sewell’s coaching, have been doing to apply worldview discovery (Novel Approach) principles in their relationships and ministry.

Thomas and Nicole Olney are settled in Thompson, MB and actively involved in part-time ministry with the team up there. Thomas is just finishing his flight preparation and certifications and will be flying full-time for an airline flying to northern communities out of Thompson.

John Tobin continues to struggle with health issues as the doctors work to figure out a medication balance. He and Tracey also continue to struggle in their marriage relationship. Dale and I, in concert with Jack and Carolyn Teeter, are seeking to find the balance between applying motivating pressure and giving grace and time in the midst of the complexities of this situation.

Dan and Barb Kees are making plans for full retirement in the spring of 2018. They will continue to live in Lethbridge and be involved in relational ministry as they have time and health.

After years of faithful service both Jess Tanis and Leila Cross moved to their permanent residence. Both were remembered and honoured for their service as InterAct-ers at their memorial services.

### Training

Tentative plans are being formed for Novel Approach training for the six staff units in northern Manitoba. If there is a ‘thirst’ for training that is designed to help them understand their audience better and present a clearer gospel message, Mike Matthews and Joel Sewell will team teach the material this fall.

Roy Thiessen has started a Masters in Biblical Counselling degree at Faith Seminary (Lafayette, IN). Staff will continue to be encouraged to participate in Biblical counselling training events as part of their equipping in effective disciple making.

The training day at the 2017 Canada staff conference will focus on disciple making through mentoring and coaching. Plans are also in motion to bring in a trainer in 2018 who will address “4 Chair Discipling” as a pattern to follow in making disciples. Our goal continues to be reproducing disciple makers.

### Administration

The merger of Midway Christian Leadership (MCL) into InterAct is completely finished. There have been a lot of administrative details and a few surprises along the way but Wes has persevered and resolved the issues as they rose.

### Recruitment

Three EnGage! participants spent their summer of ministry in Winnipeg. Their focus was building relationships with Punjabi people out of the English as an Additional Language program (also known as ESL) that Akmal facilitates. Four other EnGage! participants lived at Eden Valley, AB for the summer.

Jim Hamilton continues to talk about passing on the baton for the leadership of EnGage!. I have had some preliminary conversations with Dale Kenyon about the possibility of he and Debbie taking on the leadership of EnGage! and a role in recruiting as well. Kenyons tentatively plan to finish their Bolivian church plant, end their secondment to SIM, and return to North America in early 2019. They would like to pick up a role with InterAct then.

All seven members of the urban ministry team are meeting/have met at Cedar Springs – Aug 11-14 – to continue planning for the launch of Urban Fire. Stefan Dick is very close to full support. Jesse Stigile and David and Vicki Sebald are currently raising support. They both hope to be on the field in early 2018.

Please pray for those in the recruitment pipeline, particularly Avery and Joy Radford as they seek clarity of God’s call to ministry. They have been praying about returning to Winnipeg to work alongside Akmal and Sarah.

InterAct’s Canada field is having a baby boom! In 2017 two new MKs have been added to the roster and another four are on the way.

### Partnership

C2C is a church planting facilitating network that is working to see churches established across Canada. Their roots are in the Mennonite Brethren denomination. They have grown beyond that in the last few years. C2C leaders have expressed interest in assisting in the establishment of a Punjabi church through monthly support for Akmal and networking with other ministry workers. Discussions are underway to develop a partnership agreement.

EMMC (Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference) has a mission body that oversees missions for the EMMC denomination. Since the Midway merger we have added a few

more EMMC missionaries to our staff. Wes Schellenberg's sending church belongs to the EMMC. At the EMMC Mission Director's request Wes has developed an Agency Agreement between EMMC and InterAct. This agreement opens the door for InterAct missionaries who are sent out from EMMC churches to be supported by individual churches and the denominational missions budget.

### Leadership Development

The Canada Leadership Team meets Sept 12-14 for our first face-to-face meeting as a consolidated team. I continue to work to spread out the leadership responsibilities among a few more people and expand the field leadership team.

### Vision

In the vision statement of "20 teams in 20 communities by 2020" there still needs to be a focus on team development. Since we are now officially in 19 communities, and continuing to survey a few others, we need to be seeking the Lord's direction regarding building healthy teams.

An ongoing desire and goal is to see our staff be lifelong learners in making disciples who make disciples.

Thank you again for your faithful ministry as board members in this small piece of God's Kingdom work. May we all move ahead with all diligence in our part and with increasingly great faith in our God so that we may enter a world of wonders to which we are yet strangers.

Dan Mayerle  
Canada Field Director

## CANADA STAFF LIST – 2017

### Native Ministries

**Cohle and Rebecca Bergen.** Full-time - Thompson, MB (Cree) – Midway Bible Camp

**Josh and Joylynn Beutler.** Full-time - Lethbridge, AB (Blood Tribe/Blackfoot)

**Dick and Ruth Browning.** Full-time - Loon Lake, SK (Cree)

**Andy and Jesi Chinn.** Full-time - Anahim Lake, BC (Carrier, Chilcotin, Bella Coola)

**Kelsey Comley.** Full-time - North Battleford, SK (Cree)

**Stefan Dick.** Full-time – Urban Fire - Calgary, AB (urban Native)

**Amy Flater.** Full-time – Anchored Warriors - Calgary, AB (urban Native), Eden Valley (Stoney)

**John and Anne Giesbrecht.** Volunteer, Part-time - Fort St. John, BC. (Beaver, Cree, others)

**Don and Kim Gillaspie.** Full-time - Redstone, BC (Chilcotin)

**Travis Harms.** Full-time - Thompson, MB (Cree) – Midway Builders

**Ed and Glenna Houston.** Full-time - Native Bible Centre, Bible studies and relationships

**Paul and Joanne Janzen.** Full-time - North Battleford, SK (Cree), Coaching younger missionaries

**Dottie Kasten.** Full-time - Kamloops, BC. (Urban Native)

**Dan and Barb Kees.** Part-time - Lethbridge, AB (Blood Tribe/Blackfoot)

**Daniel Maresty.** Part-time - Nelson House, MB (Cree)

**Thomas and Nicole Olney.** Part-time - Thompson, MB (Cree)

**Kyla Plett.** Full-time - Split Lake, MB (Cree)

**Byron and Danielle Sayer** Part-time – support raising to go back to ministry in Kamloops full-time.

**Morgan and Krista Serger.** Part-time - York Landing, MB (Cree)

**Joel and Amanda Sewell.** Full-time Eden Valley, AB (Stoney) – Worldview Discovery coaching

**Valen and Carol Straley.** Full-time - Kamloops, BC. (Urban Native)

**Roy and Laura Thiessen.** Full-time - Cardston, AB (Blood Tribe/Blackfoot)

**Boris and Mirka Vyskocil.** Volunteer, Part-time - Morley, AB (Stoney)

### **East Indian Ministries**

**Akmal and Sarah Erastus.** Full-time - Winnipeg, MB (Punjabi)

**Sam and Judy Paras.** Part-time - Surrey, BC (Punjabi)

**John and Tracey Tobin.** Full-time - Abbotsford, BC (Punjabi)

### **Muslim Ministries**

**Fayez and Vivian Narooz.** Part-time – Calgary

**David and Marlene Nelson.** Full-time – Calgary

### **Administration**

**Wes and Carol Schellenberg.** Full-time, Administration

**Greg and Laura Hamilton.** Full-time, Ass't Field Director, Human Resources, Supervision

**Barbi Gonzales.** Full-time, Prayer ministry for the Canada field