

# Eden Valley Community Ministry

## Project Evaluation

August, 2013

### Overview

Eden Valley is a community made up of about 400 Stoney people. Joel and Amanda Sewell, InterAct missionaries, have been ministering in this community for 5 years. Anchored Warriors has also been involved in youth ministry on an approximate once per month schedule. InterAct has also placed short term teams and six week EnGage missionaries in this community for the last two years.

The Sewells are following the ministry model and plan used by New Tribes Mission (NTM) among tribal groups around the world. This approach focuses on learning the heart language of the people and cataloguing cultural information which will be used to identify worldview assumptions that need to be brought to tension as the story of the Bible is taught chronologically in the heart language of the people.

In the fall of 2008 Sewells attended the NTM eight week module on Culture and Language Acquisition (CLA). NTM's entire training program is 18 months but this eight week module gave Joel and Amanda core training for using the CLA approach and software program. Since that time Joel (and Amanda as much as she can as the mom of a growing family) have focused much of their energy on building relationships with Stoney people that will move them forward in learning language and acquiring understanding of the culture. An NTM trainer has graciously given of his time to coach Joel and do the ongoing language checks that are part of the language learning process.

One of the Sewell family's greatest struggles in this endeavour has been the lack of living in context. Despite a multitude of efforts by many people no housing has become available that will enable Joel and his family to live closer than 28 km from the community. This reality has hindered the language learning process but Joel continues to persevere. As Joel has continued to build trusting relationships he has become more and more accepted into the community. He is now closer than ever before to having permission to build a cabin on reserve where he and his family can at the very least 'itinerate' for 3-4 days/week and they can live in the context with the community they have grown to love.

The Anchored Warriors youth ministry has involved a short term team of Native youth and semi-regular monthly youth activity nights and open-mike music nights as well. One Anchored Warriors team member, Tristan Lefthand, worked in the community for one year and was able to plan a few events bringing in Christian musicians.

The chart below outlines summary of the Eden Valley ministry to date. The outputs and outcomes columns report on what has been accomplished while the impacts are forward looking to project where this ministry is heading in the next 3-5 years.

GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	FUTURE IMPACTS
Statement of the overall purpose of the project	Specific statements of what the project sets out to accomplish	Specific tasks to complete through implementation of the project	Immediate results (direct products of project activities for the past year)	Intermediate results (direct products of project over past 1-3 years)	Long-term results (desired results in next 3-5 years)
<p><b>Vision:</b> To see Stoney believers making disciples as they live out faith in Christ alone.</p> <p><b>Mission:</b> To teach the Word of God to the Stoney people of Eden Valley in their heart language in a way that addresses unbiblical assumptions about life and produces mature followers of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>PRE-EVANGELISM</b></p> <p><b>To build trusting relationships.</b></p> <p><b>To speak the Stoney language at a proficiency level for teaching</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in community events</li> <li>• Participation in daily life</li> <li>• Serving and helping</li> <li>• Youth ministry activities</li> <li>• Short term ministries</li> <li>• Practice and preparation for time with language speakers</li> <li>• Working with language helpers to grow in competency</li> <li>• Be in context to grow in Stoney conversational skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AW youth nights have moved from primarily activities to a group prayer time</li> <li>• AW hosted a short-term team from a Calgary college</li> <li>• A spring break college team assisted in the on-reserve school</li> <li>• EnGage participants have lived in the community for the past two years</li> <li>• Joel continues to progress in language and culture acquisition checks</li> <li>• Joel is very close to approval for building a cabin on reserve that would allow him to live in context</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewells are now seen as a valued part of the community</li> <li>• AW has a good core of approx. a dozen youth who participate in youth events</li> <li>• There is now a sense of these teams bringing a ‘value added’ component with them</li> <li>• Relationships have been fostered with youth and adults</li> <li>• More cultural information has been gathered</li> <li>• Joel is known in the community as the “white man who speaks our language”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewells will be seen as spiritual counselors and trusted teachers of truth</li> <li>• Christ followers will emerge who will be a testimony in their community.</li> <li>• InterAct will be known and valued as a help in the community</li> <li>• Team mates will be recruited to work alongside Sewells in ministry</li> <li>• Youth ministry and discipleship will be advanced</li> <li>• Joel will be equipped to teach the Word in Stoney, the people will understand the tension between their belief system and the Gospel message, and</li> </ul>

	<b>To develop a clear understanding of Stoney worldview.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To gather cultural information and categorize it.</li> <li>• File entries in CLA software</li> </ul>			people will accept the Message and become committed Christ followers
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<p><b>Vision:</b> To see Stoney believers making disciples as they live out faith in Christ alone.</p> <p><b>Mission:</b> To teach the Word of God to the Stoney people of Eden Valley in their heart language in a way that addresses unbiblical assumptions about life and produces mature followers of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>EVANGELISM</b></p> <p><b>Stoney people accepting the Gospel as the one true way to relationship with God</b></p>	•	•	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As Gospel is shared out of an understanding of Stoney worldview the Gospel message will be accepted as the one and only truth</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Vision:</b></p> <p><b>Mission:</b></p>	<p><b>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wholistic leaders who serve their community</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Vision:</b> To see Stoney believers making disciples as they live out faith in Christ alone.</p>	<p><b>ESTABLISHING AND DEVELOPING CHURCHES</b></p> <p><b>To see the Stoney believers develop a model of gathering</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joel and Amanda do not fill the 'pastoral' role held by the previous missionary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initially there was some pushback from the few believers in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stoney believers will mature and speak into and</li> </ul>

<p><b>Mission:</b> To teach the Word of God to the Stoney people of Eden Valley in their heart language in a way that addresses unbiblical assumptions about life and produces mature followers of Jesus.</p>	<p><b>that is sustainable within their community</b></p>			<p>the community but now they understand and support the language learning focus</p>	<p>develop a culturally relevant church</p>
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