

Worldview Discovery – A Novel Approach
Project Evaluation
July 2021

Overview:

Presenting the gospel clearly, making disciples who make disciples, and facilitating gatherings of believers in another culture is greatly enhanced by understanding the host culture's core beliefs and assumptions about life. Over the past 14+ years there has been an intentional pursuit of training InterAct missionaries in worldview awareness and discovery.

In the first few years the training comprised several one-week training workshops covering the basics of worldview, animism, and church-planting. Some of those workshops were hosted in partnership with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission. George Walker and Mike Matthews were the two primary trainers. Since those first years there has been other more specific training sessions for InterAct staff as Mike refined a narrative based process for discovering the worldview of a community. As part of the refining process Mike published a book called [A Novel Approach](#).

As Mike has worked together with George Walker and others from Worldview Resource Group and Ethnos 360 a refined process has emerged. Mike now has 'A Novel Approach' (ANA) curriculum, software, and a consulting package that allows missionaries to move from the initial stages of gathering individual stories to developing a clear picture of the worldview lens that a group of people look at life through. As missionaries walk in relationship with their host community they gather stories, record them, categorize them, and then compile them into key stories and the grand story of that community. This process brings clarity to the missionary efforts of explaining the gospel and teaching disciples the Biblical worldview. These activities will bring tension between the host culture's worldview and God's perspective on life and, by God's grace, see people make a faith-filled commitment to following Christ.

Goals:

Vision:

To see select staff on the Canada field, who are serving in communities where worldview level ministry is important, utilizing the ANA tools and consultation package to assist them in presenting the gospel clearly and giving them great ability to teach the Word in a way that brings tension in disciples' lives between cultural core assumptions and the Biblical, God-centered worldview.

To see all staff aware of worldview issues as they minister cross-culturally and able to dialog with other InterAct staff who are pursuing deeper levels of worldview discovery.

Objectives & Outcomes:

- 1) Training staff
 - a. Overview training for the majority of field missionaries.
This would most likely have been done already if not for the COVID border restrictions.

- b. Focused training has been utilized in Alaska and will be available as the Canadian-USA border re-opens and there are other staff ready to use ANA in their ministry.

2) Identifying ministry contexts where ANA could be utilized.

- a. At this point two ministry communities are using ANA as a primary tool in ministry and another is at the beginning of the process. George Walker is coaching those that are actively using the ANA process.
 - i. Eden Valley, AB – Joel and Amanda Sewell.

Joel is the furthest down the road in using ANA on the Canada field. He has gained significant insights into the Stoney people's worldview and is very advanced in his use of the language as well. He is at the place where he is applying his understanding in relational evangelism and individual Bible studies.

NOTE: language acquisition is not always part of the ANA process.
 - ii. Lethbridge and Kainai First Nation, AB – Josh and Joylynn Beutler

Josh is focusing on gaining understanding of the Blackfoot worldview as he continues to expand relationships both in the city of Lethbridge and in Kainai.
 - iii. Calgary, AB – Dan and Bev Mayerle

As Dan and Bev transition out of leadership they plan to invest time in the ANA process with a focus on the younger generation of indigenous people. This will be a first for InterAct's use of ANA in an urban centre involving Native people from multiple communities and tribal/language groups.

3) Ongoing coaching for staff involved in ANA.

- a. George Walker is meeting weekly with Joel and Josh to coach and encourage them. This will continue to be the model going forward.
- b. Those who are further down the road with ANA and have been coached will become coaches for new staff getting started with ANA.