

OACI UPDATE

openaircampaigners.org

Reports from the frontline ministry of Open Air Campaigners International
Presenting Christ, by all means, everywhere, since 1892

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

This will be the last OACI UPDATE that I produce as the International President. Sometimes what a person says just before they die (not that I plan on dying any time soon) is profound. Sometimes, not so. Elvis Presley is reported to have said, "I'm going to the bathroom to read." Marie Antionette's last words, after stepping on the toe of her executioner, "Pardon, monsieur." Australia's famous bushranger (a roving country criminal), Ned Kelly, as he was about to be hanged, said, "Such is life".

Of far greater significance are the words of Paul the apostle. His last written words are the last chapter of his last letter, Second Timothy chapter 4. He begins: "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:" Wow, after a grand statement like that, what is coming next? "Preach the word." Of all the things he could have said, it is "Preach the word" - part of which is the Gospel! And just a few sentences later he says, "Do the work of an evangelist."



Ned Kelly was famous for wearing a square metal helmet and armour. He would stand in the street and confront the police with his guns. He was difficult to catch because there was a certain amount of England's Robin Hood about him. Some of his stolen loot he would pass on to the poor. No one would tell the police where he was hiding.

In our work with OAC we too confront folk, often in the street, with the Gospel, but in a more loving and engaging way than the bushranger! Our tried and tested methods have proven to be effective in many nations. As you read through these brief reports from the frontlines of evangelism around the world, I trust that you will be encouraged.



Rob George
OACI President

SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC



AUSTRALIA

In Queensland, new staff man, Andrew, spoke at length to Noor, a girl from Iraq who got off the bus at the wrong stop, right beside our open air meeting. She knew very little about Jesus, but on a later visit to talk more, trusted the Lord and now attends a church regularly. Seems it was the right bus stop!



AUSTRALIA



SAMOA

25 students at a School Of Evangelism enjoyed learning our methods. Soon we hope to plant an official work here with one of the students, Israel.



SAMOA



FIJI

The 8th School Of Evangelism training was held in Suva at the old Lilac Theatre, headquarters of All Nations Christian Fellowship. An evening format saw a record of 90 participants, including some pastors and ministry workers. Rob George from Australia, Jeremy Dempsey and Lew Meyer from New Zealand, took lectures and practical training on Reaching Children and Families, Open Air Evangelism, and Apologetics and Cults.



FIJI



NEW ZEALAND

OAC branches in 7 different centers are active in various ways throughout the country.



SINGAPORE



OTHER NATIONS

We also have regular outreach and training in other SE Asia Pacific nations, including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cook Islands, and Vanuatu.

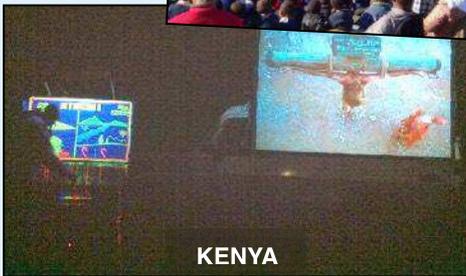
OAC International is an interdenominational ministry of evangelism committed to preaching the Gospel to the unreached through open air and other outreaches in partnership with the church

AFRICA



KENYA

The Lord of the harvest made it possible for us to proclaim the gospel in one week to over 10,000 in open air meetings and school assemblies. From the youngest child in elementary school to the oldest in high school, all listened intently as we preached the pure gospel in school after school with our OAC Kenya evangelists. After each message, many prayed to trust Christ as Lord and Savior. Only God knows whose names are written in the Book of Life. Soon other schools heard about our program and sent word for an assembly. We were unable to go to them all, so the pastor who arranged everything and came with us asked to be trained. He is now on OAC staff as an evangelist and reaching thousands. Night after night we held open air film meetings with crowds up to 1000 people. They stood for over 2 hours as they took in the gospel. We used the JESUS film in their language, and then preached using a sketch board and black light. People prayed out loud to receive Christ. It looked like scenes from the Book of Acts.



KENYA



RWANDA

We now have official registration with the Government of Rwanda. Praise God! The ministry opportunities in the schools and open airs in the rural areas and villages are wide open and very fruitful. Jean and Esther and a team of volunteers are making good progress.



RWANDA



D R CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo is situated in the heart of Africa, formerly known as Zaire. The suffering has been enormous over many years. More than five million people have lost their lives through wars, violence, starvation. Thousands of Christians and hundreds of missionaries were martyred in the Simba Rebellion of 1964. Many others have died in the conflicts from 1991 until today as tribal warfare continues. Ebola, a deadly disease, has claimed over 1000 lives in the North Kivu Province during the past year.



An Australian Christian, who knew a missionary in Zaire years ago that was brutally treated, offered to underwrite the opening of an OAC Branch. The Congo Government approved our application to register OAC DRC. Although the electricity and water were rarely available, this actually helped our ministry. Most people did not have TV, so gladly came to see our film. About 400 stood for 90 minutes in our first meeting to watch the JESUS film and hear the Gospel message preached with Fred translating. Many responded. Now Fred continues faithfully to hold open air outreaches with up to 1000 attending.

The median age of Congo is just under 17 years, due to war and disease (Aids, etc.), so it is very important that we also target the youth. At one place they combined both schools to give us 1000 students. The interest and attention were tremendous, as well as the response to Christ as Savior. The headmasters begged us to return. Truly God has led us to the Congo (DRC).



D R CONGO



UGANDA

We also have an active work in Uganda where our staff and their trained volunteers reach many 1,000's of school children every year.

NORTH AMERICA



USA

At the Baltimore Sketchboard Evangelism Training seminar, having been rained out the previous night from doing more children's outreach, we decided to go to a Latino community (Langley Park, MD) to get one last Kid's Club in before heading out for evening adult ministry. The 12 students and 4 staff of the Baltimore SET unloaded from the two vehicles and began kicking soccer balls with a couple of children. Soon many parents and children we had not seen before flooded the area. Many of the parents (Spanish speaking only) looked in wonder, who were these adults playing with their children? Fortunately for us, SET student Fernando translated the message that Mary presented. It was wonderful seeing over 50 children plus adults listen intently to every word. At the end of the message, Kara, using a mobile translation app disciplined a woman (inset picture) who trusted in Christ through repentance and faith as her Savior!



USA



CANADA

Staff are active in a number of places, in and around Ottawa, Toronto, and Calgary.



WYOMING



SWITZERLAND / WYOMING / ISRAEL

Long-term Swiss staff, Kurt and Shoshanah Schafli, have worked amongst native Americans for many years. At a "recovery celebration" in Hudson, many of the attendees are ex-convicts and drug addicts. At the end of the 90 day "Set Free" program they share how the Savior changed them. Many times Corrie ten Boom's statement: "There is no hole too deep for God's love not to be able to reach it." is seen in their life stories. We serve a wonderful God!

In recent years they have travelled annually to Israel. Pictured is an object lesson at the Baptist public school in Natzeret.



ISRAEL

CARIBBEAN



JAMAICA

For 30 years, OAC Jamaica has had a weekly ministry at the pre-natal clinic of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital in Kingston; the largest Maternity Hospital in the English-speaking Caribbean. Approximately 8,000 babies are delivered there annually.

Each Tuesday that we minister here, we reach approximately 50 expectant mothers, the majority of them being unwed. On a few occasions, a father would be present, supporting his child's mother.

One morning Keith Phillips was conducting the devotions and asked the group if any of them had seen him before, and if so, where? Around 5 ladies raised their hands. Keith pointed to one of them and she said that she knew him from a prominent Elementary School. Jokingly he asked her if she was a teacher there.

To Keith's surprise she laughed and said "Uncle Keith, I was a student there and you came to conduct devotions at my school and I trusted the Lord Jesus as my personal Saviour." Today, she is married and very active in her church. To God be the Glory!



HAITI

In 2015 Keith Phillips and a team travelled to Haiti to conduct a training seminar. A young man, Kender the translator, was fascinated by the method, and in 2017 came to Jamaica to gain first-hand exposure to our methods and to put into practice what he had learnt. In 2018, the OAC team returned to Haiti to train, with Kender's help, an additional 32 lay preachers and leaders. These latest trainees have been actively sharing the Gospel in schools, churches and in the open air. They, in turn, are teaching others. This is just as the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to do. (2 Tim 2:2)



OAC International Conference
Tue 5 - Tue 12 May, 2020
Kingston, JAMAICA



BAHAMAS

We also have a work amongst the islands of the Bahamas.

LATIN AMERICA



BRAZIL

We thank God for so many opportunities that we have to proclaim the Gospel in Brazil. Today, our biggest mission field is the public schools, from elementary through high school, where we have all freedom to preach the Good News. We also take outreaches in the open air in downtown plazas, at drug recovery homes, prisons, and some other places.

Another part of our ministry in Brazil is the mission trips. We promote mission trips with volunteers to reach some of the least evangelized groups of Brazil (indigenous and other ethnical groups) in very remote areas in partnership with local missionaries. We also receive volunteer teams from the United States, who help us a lot in the development of our work in Brazil.

Moreover, OAC Brazil provides training, helping people to reach their communities through our methods.



ECUADOR

Last year the Lord called David and Monica Proaño to work in the province of Chimborazo, in the city of Riobamba - in the Andes mountains - the fields are in great harvest. The Lord is opening wonderful opportunities in the Police Department, jail, factories, schools and especially in Indian communities. Near where they live there are 3.000 indigenous communities, only in 74 there are churches established, so the work of evangelism in this area is vast.

In one community even the Catholic priest came out to see an open air meeting. He was very touched by the word of God and the witnessing of our little son who had a good conversation with him about the scriptures and salvation!



PERU

In Peru, we have the blessing every year to participate in different medical campaigns around the country. These are wonderful and unique opportunities, since a large number of doctors from abroad come to offer free medical care and medicine in very poor areas. The ultimate purpose of their service is that these people hear the gospel. For us, it is a privilege as OAC Peru, to serve together with 'Volunteers in Medical Missions' and present Christ as the only one who has medicine that removes sin and not only that but gives eternal life in Jesus.

Jorge and Suani were excited to welcome their first child this year.



MEXICO

We also have a Branch in Mexico and the possibility of a new Branch in **COLOMBIA** in the near future. Additionally, Robert Siakimotu has worked recently in **CUBA**.





PARAGUAY

Through our OAC ministry we are reaching thousands of people for the glory of God. The Ministry in schools is going very well. What a joy we feel when we see the students and teachers raise their hands as a sign of receiving Christ into their lives. The doors are open in the educational Institutions! We are making the most of this opportunity, to the maximum! Glory to God for the thousands of souls won for Christ!



BOLIVIA

In recent years, the Bolivian public schools have completely dismissed religious teaching from their curriculum, arguing that matters concerning religious education of the students should be given by parents and families, not by public schools. Despite these obstacles, many principals and teachers have been opening the doors of their respective schools for OAC Bolivia to present the Gospel of Christ. This is an election year in Bolivia, and the current government has demonstrated on many occasions that its goal is to root out Christianity from the country. Keep praying, since we know that the gates of hell will never prevail against the Church of Christ.



EUROPE



NORWAY

One week every summer we gather some families and put up our tents at a regular camping site, Camp Lydhus, in the south of Norway. The owners of the camping site are Christians, but most camping guests are not. We put up a meeting tent, and then we invite children to come to our meetings. We sing Christian songs, teach them bible stories and arrange activities and games for them. In the evenings we gather the children around the campfire for marshmallows and popcorn, singing and devotion. This year we also managed to get into contact with some teens and youths, and had some really good conversations about faith. The last evening, we invited families to a gospel magic show and as much as 70 people turned up. God was really at work this week. Some children came to all our activities and the parents were very positive. This yearly outreach is a great opportunity to reach children, youths and adults with the gospel.



DENMARK

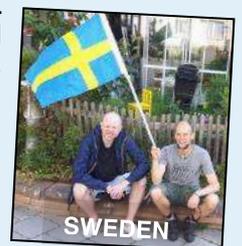
We are doing a number of outreaches every year to reach teenagers and children. Sometimes in churches and many times in parks, streets etc. This year we went to an area where people from many countries live very close to a church. We did a program outside the church using a few magic tricks and a Bible story. Great to see that the kids and some of their parents listened to the Gospel.



SWEDEN

Soon we may have an official OAC Branch in Sweden. Hartvig Kloster from Norway has been working there regularly. In Navestad the team were putting up our equipment in a park next to a large residential area. Almost immediately the children came running towards them. If Hartvig didn't know better, he would have thought we were in the Middle East or Africa, because there were children from all over the world.

Hartvig used some Gospel magic while preaching the gospel to them. The children paid attention and asked questions. Some adults stopped and a Somali mother wanted to start a conversation. She was open to the Gospel and had a long talk with a lady in our team. She received a New Testament in Somali. Then another Somali lady interfered in the conversation and told her not to receive the New Testament. The mother gave it back, but when the other lady left, she said she would like to have it. She stuck it under her Muslim clothes and told us that she had to hide it from her husband, too.



GERMANY & HUNGARY



We as OAC don't build our own churches, but instead, we support other organizations that have church planting as a goal. In the last few years, multiple Gypsy Home churches have been established in Hungary with the help and support of OAC Germany. Recently, a baptism ceremony by one of these churches, took place in Kiskunhalas. Our Gypsy Christians usually let these baptisms happen right on the front lawns of their houses, so that by doing this they can also bravely testify their faith to their neighbors.





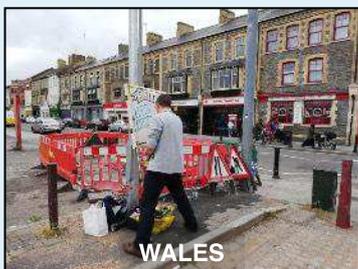
FRANCE

Since 1999 Peter Kent has trained churches all over France to do open air evangelism. In Toulouse, six people did their first message each to a crowd of 200 in the main square, while a team of 25 got into conversations. In Strasbourg a pastor was astonished to see 50 people stop and listen to the Gospel each time as the sketchboard was moved around the town centre. At Avignon, as volunteer Marie preached, with Peter holding the board, a Chinese girl stood listening, then repented of her sins and put her faith in Christ. Her face changed and shone with the light of forgiveness! Photo shows team members in conversations in the crowded streets of Avignon during the Music and Arts Festival.



GREAT BRITAIN

After attending one of our training courses, a local guy invited us to do some outreach in Pill, a poor district of Newport, Wales. The area where we were going to set up had recently been dubbed “the most violent street in the UK” and was known for drug dealing and prostitution 24 hours a day. When we arrived the area seemed semi-derelict and mostly deserted but God definitely had other plans for us. For each message God drew a couple of people to the board and it was clear that these people were desperate for a Saviour. After an hour and a half 3



people had prayed to trust Jesus and the church had taken their details in order to be able to follow up with them. God was doing something great in an area that is so desperately in need.



RUSSIA

God had been giving us different possibilities for proclaiming the Good News and teaching Christians about effective methods of Gospel sharing. For an example, we organize sports events for young people and teenagers, playing soccer and tennis with them. During the breaks in the game we tell and show the Gospel to all these kids. We even were able to organize some kind of championship for several village teams. Recently the local government invited our whole family to participate in regional “family games”. With Lord’s help we could win the first place and receive the winner’s cup. It was another way to preach the Gospel. Photo shows Misha leading young people to Christ at a Youth Conference.



UKRAINE

Anatoly is our National Director of OAC Ukraine, but due to the ongoing war, he is serving as a military chaplain. The Lord is using him to share the Good News of salvation with frightened and hurting hearts. He writes: “Trips to the frontline... There is a lot of work here as a military chaplain. All the time new soldiers are coming into military service. They ask questions about God and believe in Him only when they come to the frontline. Also, all the time we have meetings with families of those killed in the war. It is hard just listening to them. There is a lot of pain, tears, and a broken life in each of their stories. Thank God, many families want us to pray with them. The work of God is very visible in all of this.”



AUSTRIA

Tourists and local people flock the pedestrian area in the centre of Vienna. Every month for over 20 years we have been preaching the Gospel near one of the most prominent landmarks of the country - St. Stephens cathedral. Most churches have become more about culture and heritage than preaching salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. We find that the combination of various visual tools like sketchboard and Gospel magic keeps the interest of the listeners and helps us to communicate clearly.



ROMANIA

OAC work in Romania is busy during the summer with camps and outreaches. We worked on the camp site in spring preparing it for summer (we converted an attic into dorms) and summer includes 4 camps for children or youth. At the end of these we have another work camp at the camp site and then a VBS.

We are so pleased with the team of volunteers God provided for the summer events. We are never left without help!



OTHER NATIONS

We also have an active OAC ministry in Albania, Belgium, Greece, Italy, and Spain.

God can use you!

Your prayers, your gifts, yourself!

Have you considered becoming a volunteer or going on a short-term mission trip?

For current prayer information, ways to give, or enquires about joining a team, contact us through the website, Facebook, or the National Branch of your choice.