

THE BUSSEN FAMILY MISSIONARY PRESS



- SPECIAL EBENEZER EDITION -

FALL 2020



HEADLINE NEWS: 35-30 VISION IS LOOKING GOOD: GLORY TO GOD FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVING IN MISSIONS (30 WITH OAC)

I love the Bible passage (1Sam.7:12) where Samuel set up a stone of remembrance and called it "Ebenezer," which meant "Thus far the Lord has helped us!" This coming school year has many milestones to remind us of how God has so faithfully, but unconventionally helped us through the many years of our marriage & missions ministry life. We are coming up to our 40th wedding Anniversary, and our 35th Anniversary of missions' ministry, and our 30th Anniversary of working with OAC. Here is a quick review of God's missionary calling adventure for us (see pgs 2-3 for a pictorial view):

THE MINNESOTA ERA: Renae was Born-Again as a High School teen 45 years ago, and me in college 42 years ago. We met through Campus Crusade as we were being discipled to be all out committed to the Great Commission Cause of Christ. Then, after we married in February of 1981, God soon launched us off to Bible college to pursue His confirmed missionary calling on our lives!

THE CHICAGO ERA - 1985-87: Graduating from Moody Bible Institute, God opened the door to begin our missionary ministry at a downtown Chicago rescue mission called Pacific Garden Mission, daily giving the Gospel and the love of God (in the form of food & shelter, etc.) to the homeless, as well as to young soldiers in town on leave from the nearby Great Lakes Naval Base (at our military hospitality center).

THE EUROPE ERA - 1987-90: God fulfilled a dream He had put on my heart since coming to Christ through a teammate on a College football team, by joining the ministry of Christian Sports Outreach International and **the first ever missionary football team** (and numerous other sports teams) as we won athletes to Christ as we toured all over Europe (including the former Soviet Union with a Hockey team, as the Iron Curtain began crumbling down and opening up).

THE OAC CANADA (and beyond) ERA - 1990- 2008: **Glory to God for over 17 years** of fruitful Canadian ministry covering from East to West (The Maritimes & Montreal & Ottawa & Toronto & Hamilton & Brantford, and all the way out to Calgary and even to Vancouver, and a lot of places in-between). Thousands upon thousands of Canadians (kids, youth, adults, seniors, and prisoners) received the Gospel in some creative & positive way, and we enlisted & equipped many more laborers for the Lord. **Also, due to some difficult Canadian weather seasons** for open air ministry, and other reasons, God also gave me the blessing to take the Gospel on the road (or I should say air routes) to do fruitful short-term outreach ministries in other countries like Jamaica, The Bahamas, England, Mexico and the USA over those years.

THE USA (and beyond) ERA - 2008-Present (and hopefully beyond): God re-directed us in mid-life to help facilitate the ministries of other evangelists throughout the USA, Canada and the World, through the OAC Central Services National HQ Office in the USA. Also there is opportunity to continue to do training and outreach ministries in our local-regional Nazareth & Lehigh Valley area (and East Coast of the USA), where tens of thousands (of kids & teens & adults) have already received the gospel through various outreaches we have been involved in. Even more exciting is to help keep evangelists going with the Gospel from coast to coast, and in such countries as Albania, Greece, Jamaica, Ukraine, Russia, India, Kenya, Congo, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Bolivia, etc., to reach multitudes more than I (or you) could ever get to personally. **You have a share in all these things by your prayer and material support of us.**

Well, there you have it – 35 years in a nut-shell. Looking back, it seems like a life-time, and yet it also seems like only yesterday we were just getting started – time sure does fly, and eternity fast approaches!! During those years we raised 4 kids for Christ as well, and they have all flown the coop, and we are now in a new era of being empty-nesters. Of course we give all the glory to God for any good accomplished, as imperfect and unworthy as we are to serve the perfectly holy but very merciful & gracious & amazing God. **We are also SO thankful for the so many of you** who have been committed to God in partnering with us in our Kingdom calling, in providing prayer & material support! We SO look forward to you enjoying eternal rewards in return. **Still GO-ing with the Gospel for the Lord for as many more years as God enables and supplies (...No turning back, no turning back) – Sincerely & Gratefully, Michael & Renae**

SNAP SHOTS OF A MISSIONARY LIFETIME

1981: The Bussen Missionary Family Begins...



1982-85: Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Thank you Moody Bible Institute for helping with that!



1985-87: Missionary ministry begins at the old lighthouse, Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago—a home for the homeless, and a home away from home for young Servicemen, where many prodigals find their way home to the Father up above.



1988-90: Missionary football, now that's a combination that can't be beat for an old gridiron gladiator turned gospel evangelist. We tackled people for Jesus in Holland, Belgium, Germany & Austria, and they loved it (and so did I)!



Hockey Evangelism was a hit in Scandinavia and Russia—and learning OAC sketch-board preaching at MBI helped me to score for Christ in the community as well.

1990: Dutch Treat—a whole season of football follies trying to lead a team in Holland (The Rotterdam Trojans) to gridiron glory and the Gospel story. Well, we didn't win too many games, but hopefully we won some hearts over to God's team. In any case we had a great time preparing little Matt for the Dutch girl he would later find and marry in Canada.



OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS



Mickey, Renae and Matthew

Evangelists in Ottawa, Canada
Presenting Christ by all means everywhere
Ottawa Telephone Number
(613) 825-7718

1991: Oh Canada—ready or not here we come -
Joining OAC in the true north strong and free.

1991: Baby Sarah arrives just in time to launch her missionary career in Canada - as an Anne of Green Gables look-alike she was a hit from coast to coast!



91-98: Fellow American transplant Chip Welton and I take the National Capitol, Ottawa, by storm. Well maybe it was more of a gentle steady sprinkle—but it got thoroughly soaked with the Gospel of God's love & truth over many fruitful years there.

91-98: Multitudes get the message on the streets...



The 90s: Many kids are reached at Camps for Christ...



Matt was a great help all along the way.....



John, Stephanie & Sarah were BIG helpers too—kids for Christ leading kids to Christ.

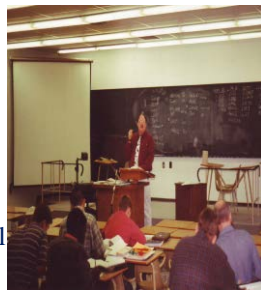
Many kids were reached in Churches too.



Training the next generation of evangelists at Canada Bible Colleges (1993-2008)



In the classroom, keeping our evangelism theology, strategy, and methodology within biblical and practical boundaries.



Now let's hit the streets and do it!!!
Answering Jesus' prayer request for more laborers for the harvest.



98-2000 the teacher remains a student - graduating from Graduate Seminary along the way—to God be the Glory!

Jamaica man



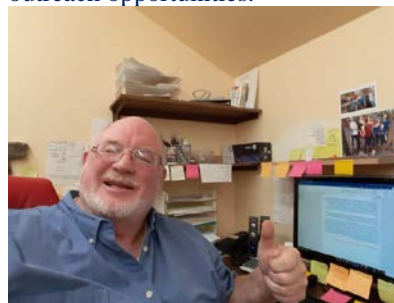
Mexico



Jolly old England



Now having a hand in reaching throughout the world through the OAC-USA Central Services Headquarters ministry, and through Eastern USA region through personal OAC training and Gospel outreach opportunities.



Soldiering on in frontline Gospel opportunities for the Lord and for the Lost. May we be found faithful to the end!



Bahamas



SEE SPECIAL 2020 REPORT ON BACK!

