



# THE BUSSEN FAMILY MISSIONARY PRESS

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Open Air Campaigners 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.



## HEADLINE NEWS: THE \$300 - 40 YEAR MIRACLE !!

This past month marked another significant milestone in our missionary journey with Jesus. It was 40 years ago this past month that God did a round-about miracle to confirm His calling of us into a missionary ministry vocation. Renae and I were married in February 1981, just after Renae graduated from university, and we started out in a little apartment in Moorhead MN. I had discontinued my university journey as I did not have a clear vocational direction, except that as I finished my football eligibility I wanted to pursue some possibilities for pro football. I worked some odd jobs for a year, and worked out, and actually went to 4 different professional team tryout camps, and interviewed with a Minnesota Vikings coach and general manager. But alas those doors closed as it was not the Lord's will (but He did fulfill my football passion by later getting me connected with the first ever missionary football team for a few years of playing & witnessing in Europe). After those tryouts dashing my football dream, the only other thing I was interested in was serving the Lord, but as a relatively new believer I had no clue how I would be able to do that. As I recall, my tremendous Pastor at the time (thanks Pastor John) suggested I apply to Moody Bible Institute/college (in Chicago) to pursue a degree in Bible theology & ministry. Moody is a unique school that is hard to get into because it is completely tuition free if you can get accepted, out of the thousands who apply. So I gave it a shot in the Spring of 1982. Well at the beginning of August I was blown away to receive an acceptance letter, but we did not have much time to prepare to get there as classes were starting in just a few weeks. Also, even though tuition free, there were some required student services fees and the school required me to send in \$300 as a "matriculation fee" (whatever that is) to confirm I was accepting their invitation to become a student there. As newlyweds we were just living paycheck to paycheck, just working some basic labor jobs, and so we did not have any extra funds on hand for such a move, let alone the \$300 needed immediately upfront. So we prayed that if it was God's will and calling into ministry that He would somehow provide that specific amount by the end of the week (as a kind of "Gideon's fleece"), and we were excited to see how the Lord would come through, as we were so sure He would. However, that time expired and no such money miracle happened, and I was devastated. I had thought surely God's hand was in my acceptance & calling to this, but without the \$300 that ship was sunk in the harbor. One of our jobs was as apartment managers of our building which gave us a free apartment, and alarmingly right after our deadline passed we were contacted by a new management company that had just taken over the complex of numerous apartment buildings, and they informed us we were being terminated as they were cutting back to just one manager for numerous buildings rather than one for each building. It was shocking to us, and I was literally depressed for several days, wondering why God had not come through for us, because now we had to move anyway. THEN SUDDENLY, LATER THAT WEEK IT HIT ME! Hold your horses, since we were being terminated by that new management company, that meant we needed to move out by the end of that month. Since that was their initiative then they could not require that we had to give a previous month's notice or lose the security deposit for that apartment that we had been required to deposit (even as building managers). Well guess how much that security deposit was for (wait for it – drum roll please...) - \$300 – and they had to give it back!! I quickly called the company and asked when they had made the decision to let us go, and they said it had been the previous week (before the deadline for the Lord to come through). Then it dawned on me what the Lord had done. If He had provided the \$300 some other way, and we had to leave abruptly, then we would have also lost the \$300 security deposit (basically nullifying the other provision). But this way we wouldn't lose anything and we were free to go. I contacted Moody and got the green light, and thus began a string of provision miracles that blew our socks off. I needed to leave for Chicago that very next weekend, and Renae would have to arrange to move all of our stuff down to Chicago a couple weeks later (with help from our local Church & friends). It just so happened a friend who had moved to Chicago had come back for a wedding that weekend, and so was able to give me a ride, and they knew of an apartment building that operated as a Christian ministry renting apartments to Bible school students and missionaries at a big discount, and there was an opening (they even allowed us to delay our first month's rent and no security deposit required) – AMAZING! The next thing you know my missionary calling journey had started (as Moody is also a very practical oriented school requiring all students to do a practical Christian ministry in the city, every semester). Time & space would fail me here to tell of all the amazing things the Lord arranged to get us through those early years, and to open doors for us, first in a local Chicago rescue mission (The famous Pacific Garden Mission), then to an international sports outreach mission all over Europe (including Russia before the iron curtain collapsed), and then to Canada & America & internationally with OAC. That initial \$300 miracle catapulted us forward in to an amazing missionary journey of 40 years now and some hundreds of thousands given the Good news of God's gospel (including some 7000 so far this year). Our Lord's prayer instructs us to ask for our "daily" bread/provisions, and we have had to experience missionary life like that. We often wondered from day to day, week to week, month to month, even to this day, how to pay all the bills and meet all the challenges and expenses of life (including raising 4 kids with a stay at home Mom, and even homeschooling or private schooling them all the way through college). But God has proved Himself over and over as an ever faithful & able provider, even though there has never been much of anything in reserve. That reminds me of the testimony of the missionary, William Borden, who left his family fortune (as the heir to the Borden Dairy co fortune) to serve the Lord in China. But, sadly, he died enroute, in Egypt, at age 25 in 1913. When challenged by friends that he was crazy to give up such a lucrative life for the Kingdom cause he had written in his Bible – "NO RESERVES"! After completing seminary he was offered some lucrative pastorates and other jobs by friends of the family, but he refused and continued to pursue his vision of foreign missions in difficult conditions, and then wrote another line in his Bible – "NO RETREATS"! He first went to Egypt to study Arabic in hopes of reaching some China Muslim groups, but he contracted a fatal disease, and as he lay dying he wrote one final line in his Bible – "NO REGRETS"! That reminds me of another famous martyred missionary, Jim Elliot, who wrote, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose."

He is also famously quoted as saying, “only one life will soon be past – only what’s done for Christ will last.” We are so thankful for the many of you who have joined us from afar in our calling and journey, some from those initial Chicago days, and some even from before that, back in Minnesota who have followed us on our whole adventurous journey. Also, we are grateful for all those the Lord has brought into our lives along the way, to fellowship with and encourage us, and many who pray for us and those who partner with us in helping provide those ongoing provisions as conduits of the Lord’s gracious and great faithfulness in taking care of those ongoing expensive life bills. I have thought for a long time that I need to write a missionary memoir book about our journey and all the amazing things the Lord did for and in and through us (as we have kept an incomplete but extensive journal of such things, called “The Bussen Blessings Book”), for which He deserves and gets all the glory. I have contemplated that I will entitle such a book, “ON A SHOESTRING AND A PRAYER (A missionary memoir of the faithfulness of our Father in the adventure of our lifetime)!” We are just glad to have the grace privilege to be allowed to partner with Him in serving the great commission Kingdom cause of King Jesus, and to double serve as an outlet for others to be able to further invest in and lay up treasures in the Kingdom of Heaven. We can’t wait to see you enjoying your eternal rewards for being such a blessing to us, so that we can continue bringing much more joy to Jesus and all in Heaven through reaching more lost ones around here, as well as around the country and around the world through our services to help facilitate the outreach ministries of many in the OAC National & International family!! Praise God for that \$300 round-about miracle!!!

In football terms we are now in the last quarter of life, and the clock is rapidly ticking down – but this ain’t no game (eternal lives are at stake). We may be battered & torn and weary & worn, but this is no time to quit. Rather it is time to dig down deep and give it our all to finish well, and to insure a greater victory in the battle against satanic forces of evil (Ephesians 6), which Jesus assures us has already been won – PTL!!!

1981: The Bussen Missionary Family Begins!

*Still Going with the Gospel for the Lord (and for the Lost), Michael & Renae*  
**(PLEASE PRAY FOR US – WE NEED IT – REQUESTS BELOW)**



**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 at the old lighthouse, Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago—a home for the homeless, where many prodigals find their way home to the Father above.



**1988-90:** Missionary football, now that’s a combination that can’t be beat, for an old gridiron gladiator turned missionary evangelist. We tackled people for Jesus in Holland, Belgium, Germany & Austria, and they loved it (and so did I)! Also scored for Jesus in Scandinavia & Russia with missionary hockey teams – AWESOME outreach opportunities!!



**1990/91 - 2008:** Oh Canada—Joining OAC in the true north strong and free.



**2008 to the present:** privileged to serve in the OAC USA National & International Central Services Office, and Eastern regional outreach area.

**PRAYER NEEDS**

- **PLEASE PRAY** for OAC & us to be faithfully fruitful in our Gospel outreach efforts and bring great JOY to Jesus and all in Heaven (as per Hebrews 12:2 and Luke 15), as well as to converts here on earth.
- **PLEASE PRAY** for the needed new great awakening & deliverance of America & Canada from an evil ideological take over. That God’s Kingdom influence will become predominant again, and so we will continue to send multitudes of Gospel missionaries out into the whole world, until the Lord pulls His Church out.
- **PLEASE PRAY** for all our kids & Grandkids to be spiritually directed & protected by the Lord (as they surely are being particularly targeted by the enemy of our souls). Also please pray for Gospel breakthrough to many of our extended unsaved family before it is too late.

**FOR THOSE WHOM GOD IS LEADING TO PARTNER WITH US IN HELPING US KEEP THE BILLS PAID, SO WE CAN KEEP GOING WITH OAC AND THE GOSPEL, THANK YOU SO MUCH! PLEASE SEND FUNDS WRITTEN OUT TO “OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS,” AS A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE SUPPORT DONATION (with a note designating it as Bussen family support – even little amounts by many add up and are helpful, and are always very much appreciated):**

- **OAC Canada receipting:** PO Box 915 Wingham, ON N0G-2W0 – Credit/Debit donating - Call (519) 529-1189 or email oachenry@gmail.com / Online donating available at [www.oaccanada.org](http://www.oaccanada.org)
- **OAC USA receipting:** PO Box D, Nazareth, PA 18064. (610) 746-0508 / Email: [usa@oaci.org](mailto:usa@oaci.org) / Online donating available at [www.oacgive.org](http://www.oacgive.org)
- **The Bussen Family:** 137 S. Main St. Bangor PA. 18013-2605/ Phone (610)-405-5513/ Email: [oacbussen@gmail.com](mailto:oacbussen@gmail.com)