



# THE BUSSEN FAMILY MISSIONARY PRESS

JUNE 2024  
Spring & Ecuador Report



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: GLORY TO GOD - GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!!



It was exactly 40 years ago this month (in 1984) that I took the OAC summer training course at Moody Bible Institute, and the rest is Kingdom history. I used the creative OAC tools I learned in many ways in the years following and then joined OAC at the end of 1990 as an international missionary evangelist to Canada for many years, until God moved us to help in the HQ ministry office in the USA. I still consider that ancient summer course to be the best, most practical evangelistic ministry course I have ever received, and it is still bearing fruit to this very day - see our Spring 2024 report below.

In the New testament book of Acts 14:7, when the Apostle Paul and his partner Barnabus returned to Antioch after taking their first missionary journey, it says:

**“On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.”**

Likewise, Renae & I want to give all glory to God for what He has accomplished by His grace & Spirit working through such unworthy vessels as us, as we share some of the great things God has done for us and through us in this Winter/Spring report (and see the included picture page to back it up).

First, like Jesus' parable of the Sower, we were able to spread the Gospel seed around here in the form of tracts to homes and individuals, and in public speaking, to almost 5000 families & individuals so far in 2024 (along with our HQ office support services ministry helping facilitate a multitude of other evangelists, nationwide & worldwide reaching multitudes more).

Part of that was that we had the privilege, as part of a CEF Good News Club team, to proclaim the Gospel and Bible discipleship lessons extensively in 2 area public elementary schools to a couple big bunches of precious kids. Many of those kids indicated making saving faith decisions to receive Jesus as their Savior & Lord-Leader of their lives – HALLELUJAH!!!! Also we gave the Gospel & discipleship lessons to many kids in our local Church, Kids Church ministry as well, and trust God will do a mighty work in and through those kids as well. We are trying to help reverse the trend where over 60% of Church-raised kids leave the faith after High School (ostensibly because they did not take it seriously enough, or it wasn't presented profoundly enough in their upbringing, to counteract the satanic counter deceptions so prevalent in our culture/society these days).

We also had the opportunity to go to two different community Easter egg-hunt outreaches and give the kids the real treat of learning the real meaning of Easter, after which numerous more kids received the blessing of eternal salvation & life in the risen Savior, which again caused all in Heaven to erupt with joy along with God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit (as per Luke 15)!!!!

Then we had the TREMENDOUS blessing of getting to go to **the OAC International missions conference and outreach ministries in ECUADOR- WOW!** What an experience of GREAT THINGS GOD DID DO! **SUPER-DUPER thanks to all of you who pitched in to make that possible – another trip of a lifetime!** We can now check off our bucket-list that we have had the experience of being (short-term) jungle missionaries. The amazing conference “hotel” was like nothing you would ever imagine – it was literally like living on Gilligan's Island, as we went to a town right on the edge of the Amazon rain-forest and went over the edge into the jungle where each couple slept in bamboo huts, and had short hikes through jungle pathways to the open-air thatched roof dining area and other conference meeting areas (well we are open air campaigners after all). It was actually an amazing (even if a bit challenging) experience. We experienced wonderful fellowship with some 80 OAC-ers from some 19 Nations around the globe, and heard their reports of all the great things God was doing through OAC ministries globally. It further excites us that we get to be a part of such Kingdom victories through our OAC USA HQ support services ministries helping many of those indigenous evangelists. Also, it was worth the price of the whole trip just to get to hear the testimony of a surprise guest speaker who came to address us. His tribal name is Meniwa, but he also adopted the name David. We were floored to discover that he was the Grandson of one of the 6 Auca (or actually Waurani tribe) savage warriors that infamously killed the 5 Gospel missionaries (including Jim Elliot & pilot Nate Saint) back in the 1950s. As that famous story goes, and was confirmed by David, after killing them they witnessed their spirits rising as lights into the trees and heard the singing of what presumably were angels. This must have cut them to the heart, as they realized they had just wrongly killed good godly men trying to befriend them. Jim Elliot is the one who said – “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose” – and – “Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last!” Well, later his wife, Elizabeth Elliot & others were able to then successful enter the village and teach them the Gospel that led to the conversion of many, including the killers, one of which was David's Grandfather (who had a hand in bringing David's father & him into a saving faith relationship with Christ Jesus). Now David is an evangelist and missionary pilot himself, and multitudes have entered the Kingdom as continuing fruit is multiplying and spreading from the sacrifice of those five brave missionary martyrs. Their sacrifice for the Lord also inspired multitudes of young Christians throughout the West to start a missionary

movement that still continues to this day, as our OAC Canada director, Henry de Roos, testified to David that because of Nate Saint's story, Henry's son committed to becoming a missionary pilot himself, and is serving in the Philippines now) – it was amazing to hear & behold first hand, in the very area near where it happened, what great things God had done & is still doing. We even went to visit the heritage site of Nate Saint's home and the airstrip from which they embarked on their fateful trip.

Then there were the outreaches to modern Ecuadorian city schools, as well as to indigenous tribal villages out in the jungle. God really blew us away there. We split up into numerous teams and got our assigned ministries and buses and off we went to an inner-city elementary school with several hundreds of kids. The school was glad to let us preach the gospel outright to the kids, as our UK Director did an illustrated sketchboard message with our team translator. Renae & I were mainly observer-prayerers in support, sitting on the sidelines, since we couldn't speak the language. However, I had brought 500 Spanish Gospel tracts with me on the trip, praying for opportunity to give them out and bear some fruit in Ecuador (as one of my life goals has been to hopefully bring in Gospel fruit for the King & Kingdom from every continent, and this was my first and probably only trip to South America). But with all the conference meetings and no real venue presenting itself to hand them out, I wasn't sure I would have much opportunity. With the kids school meeting it seemed to me that once our presentation was over in the outdoor auditorium (where the kids were being very antsy & rowdy), the teachers would then immediately take the kids back to their rooms and that would be it. But, OH MY, did God ever show up! Our team translator knew several of us had brought Spanish tracts and at the end of the Gospel presentation she asked the principal if we could give them to the kids, and was given the green light (unbeknown to me). Suddenly she pointed at me and explained we can give out the tracts to the kids, and the kids jumped up and literally mobbed me and the others, all wanting one of each. I had really brought the tracts for adults, but I realized that the kids would be bringing them home to their parents, who then also would get the Gospel – hallelujah! God had a plan and I was able to give out a huge portion of what I brought in one fell swoop. The kids hung around us for about a half an hour and all were asking for our autographs on the tracts, and a bunch were giving us hugs & thanks for coming, and it just blessed my heart, as I felt what it was like to be a celebrity for a moment, and it was obvious that they were impacted with the love & truth of God and the Gospel there that day.

Lastly, I believe God gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to follow in Jim & Elizabeth Elliott's footsteps, as I was asked to do the sketchboard Gospel preaching for the Sunday afternoon outreach. However, I was thrown for quite a loop in that situation, as initially I was told to prepare for doing an inner-city plaza outreach to modern Ecuadorian adults (and one of the rules of good public speaking is you have to know your audience and gear it for them). At the last hour we suddenly got word that one of our Ecuadorian evangelist's ministry contacts had been contacted by a remote jungle tribe (who had been told about us) asking to please send a team to them to teach the Gospel to their children. We were already in the bus on the road when we got the call, and my sketch message was already prepared for the wrong audience. I did some quick Nehemiah-type emergency praying (see Neh.1 & 2:4) for how to adjust my message on the fly to such a switched audience. At first I felt like I was going to bomb and fall flat and it would go over their heads as I just had to use the same sketch, and it wasn't geared for a kids & primitive audience. But, there were a lot of parents and other tribal adults in the crowd as well, and as it turns out, what God gave me to say, was just what the Doctor (Jesus) ordered for especially one person in the audience – THE CHIEF! In those tribes, as the Chief goes, so goes most of the rest of the tribe. Well, bless my socks off, as when I gave an invitation for who wants to get in on this and choose to believe in and receive the Lord Jesus as Savior, and I asked for a show of hands, the first hand that shot up was the Chief's!!!! Also, pretty much all the kids and parents hands were up too – I was blown away! What have you done Lord!?!? With tears filling my eyes even as I write this, God worked through me in an almighty way to answer my prayers for fruit in Ecuador in the most surprising way! I felt so weak and failing in really being able to speak effectively to such a group. But we learned after that the Chief had heard the Bible taught as a young man and rejected it. He then became the leader of this tribe, which later we discovered was named after an ancient demon deity idol (YIKES!)! However, just recently he had contracted cancer and passed out. After intervention at a hospital, he recovered (and is under treatment), but he knew he was close to death and was afraid. Apparently he told one of our people that he had called out to the unknown God and asked him to send someone to tell him who He was. Well that someone evidently was me (and our team). He got up at the end of my message & invitation and declared that he was lost, but now he understood why bad things were happening to him, and that he needed the Lord. He also invited us to come back for a BIG feast, as he wanted to celebrate his new found faith & salvation with us – HALLELUJAH – PRAISE THE LORD!!! Also amazing, because of the switch in venue, we got there way later than our outreach was suppose to go, and we were supposed to get back for meetings that night, so we thought we just had to rush away. But God had other plans. He sunk our bus down into the muddy dirt road it was parked on, and it took an extra hour and a half to dig and push it out. That gave a great opportunity for one of my fellow OAC USA evangelists (Dan from California), who had been practicing Spanish to use on this trip, to further interact with the Chief and give him a Spanish Bible he had brought. He was able to clarify & confirm his understanding of God and the Gospel and start him into interacting with the Scriptures, and they are keeping in touch by smart phone. Also, other ministry contacts in the area will now go back regularly to teach everyone the Bible – AMAZING – GLORY TO GOD!!!

Well okay, that's enough. Actually, Renae and I were exhausted (but in a good way) from the challenging climate & weather & such, and after reaching home we crashed for several days of recovery. It made us realize that we probably (at our age & stage of life) are not really cut out for the rigors of longer-term jungle missionary life. But OH what a blessing that short stint in the jungle was & is, and will be for all eternity! And all of you who supported us materially and/or prayerfully will rejoice together in the eternal rewards of what came from that trip, as well as our other ministries. Renae & I can't wait to see you being hugged and blessed by Chief Luis & co (tribe) on high!!! I will let some pictures tell the rest of the story (see picture page included) as we sign off here with much gratefulness to the Lord and you all who back us up in the Lord's work. For all the fruitfulness of these 40 years since taking that fateful OAC training course when I was in Bible college, and how the Lord has gotten us through all things these 4 decades, all I can truly say is ALL GLORY TO GOD – GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE, IN & FOR & THROUGH A COUPLE OF OLD SINNERS SAVED & SERVING BY HIS GRACE - AMEN!!!!

**Still going with the Gospel for the Lord (and the Lost), Mike & Renae Bussen**



An old throw back pic from the 1980s when I started doing OAC style sketchboard Gospel proclamation after that fateful OAC training course.



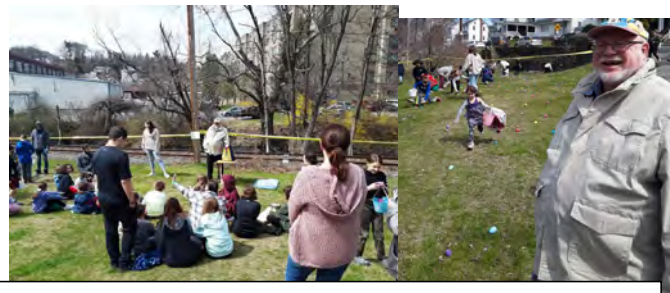
Jesus described the sower going out and broadcasting the seed widely on the field...and some fell on good soil and produced an abundant harvest. Gospel tracts are used of God like that (seeds of salvation) – so we have spread thousands of them around so far in 2024!



Kids are the most fertile soil of all – Good News Clubs in public elementary schools is a great way to reach many



A bunch of kids indicating salvation decisions



What better time to proclaim the Gospel than Easter-time, and what better way to gather kids & parents to hear it than with a community easter egg hunt at a couple of area Churches.



And we dare not neglect to reach the kids in our own church, when satanic forces are all out targeting them for later disillusionment and abandonment of Christianity & Church (which is happening in droves these days in all Western nations like ours that used to be culturally Christian oriented).

Ecuador here we come



Our primitive tropical paradise home for the week – cool cool!!

Our wonderful hosts, the OAC International President and Ecuador National Director, David Proano, and his gracious wife Monica and amazing family



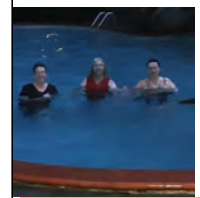
Some 80 OAC-ers from 19 Nations across the Globe – we split into several outreach ministry teams, and combined, we did some 33 various outreaches and reached an estimated 4994 people, many of whom indicated saving-faith decisions to enter God’s forever Kingdom family

Encouraging to be honored by the Pres for our over 30 years of OAC service for the Lord

Amazing to be in the very middle of the world’s North & South hemispheres



Fun was allowed, so Renae and numerous OAC wives figured since they got soaked in the rain from an outing, they might as well all jump in the pool fully clothed, when we returned – what a hoot!



Hanging out with Meniwa (David), an amazing part of some legendary missionary lore – holding the same kind of spear that his grandfather started a worldwide missionary movement with by martyring Jim Elliot & co.!

Some food choices were challenging – like these live grub-worms



We all had amazing opportunities to reach whole student bodies at the area schools with the Gospel – many responded with saving faith decisions



Getting mobbed by the school kids for my tracts & my autograph



The moment of truth when the Chief and many kids & tribe members responded to the Gospel



Renae gets the privilege to use the Chiefs home bathroom and make friends with his family



Chief Luis gives a testimony of faith in Christ to us and the whole tribe after the Gospel invitation – amazing grace!



The tribe kids all give us grateful hugs for coming and giving them Jesus & Joy!!



Renae was a tremendous help and blessing, and here is helping the kids get excited about Jesus



OAC Dan was able to give Chief Luis this precious gift of a Spanish Bible, and, because the Bus was stuck, got to use his Spanish to do some immediate follow-up discipleship and establish an ongoing relationship connection with him by smart-phones. Please pray for this tribe & Chief



**PRAYER NEEDS**

- **PLEASE PRAY** for Renae as she has been called to go to Minnesota for the whole month of June and beyond to help my 93 yr old Mom recover at home from a fall that broke her shoulder/arm, (and in hopes to give a further witness to finally help her switch from RCC faith to saving faith in Jesus alone
- **PLEASE PRAY** for me stuck at home in PA alone.