

SWITZERLAND

Composed from Kurt Schafli reports and notes

Founded by Major W. Ian Thomas, The Capernwray Missionary Fellowship of Torchbearers (CMFOT), is an evangelical Christian educational organization based at Capernwray Hall in North Lancashire, England. This is where my wife, Shoshanah, and I found out about Open Air

Campaigners when we attended the Torchbearers Bible School in 1978-1979. Then, in 1980, we were in contact with OAC at the Lausanne conference, where we were checking out the ministry booths and listened to a message by OAC staff man Jack Kreidler (picture 01 - Uli and Anne Hofius from OAC Germany are also in this picture). One of the OAC staff asked me to translate Jack's message simultaneously from English into German and French since the badge I wore indicated that I spoke those languages.

God miraculously helped me. Not only could I keep up with Jack, but I sometimes knew ahead of time, what was going to be said! I had never translated on stage before and must say that it was an amazing experience. The next day in church, however, was a different matter. I had trouble translating into just one language! Nevertheless, it was evident that God was giving us a sign by answering our prayer that we end up serving with a mission whose desire would be to use all our talents. OAC has undoubtedly fulfilled our desire in that area.



01 - JACK KREIDLER (PLAID JACKET ON LEFT) WITH ULI AND ANNE HOFIUS

In the early days of our ministry, we started the publishing leg of OAC-CH (The letters "CH" stand for "Confederation Helvetica," which is an international abbreviation for Switzerland). This publishing ministry was called Ephratha-Verlag, meaning "double fruitful." Pictures 02 and 03 show some of the publications we were able to produce,

including a large-format flashcard story based on the Chick tract called "The Fool." An illustrated gospel presentation called "The Film of Life" was also created and printed on untearable Tyvek paper. These publications were translated into Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese. Our manuals regarding evangelism to children, youth, and adults, as well as sketchboarding techniques and illustrations of the Gospel, were translated from German into French and Italian. The "Indian Symbols Tell the Gospel" booklet was written and published in English and German and has been a great help and blessing to many people. We also printed gospel pens and other cool items illustrating God's Word, including a Christ-centered message printed on a ruler.



02 + 03 TOOLS OF EVANGELISM



One of the talents God has given to me is the ability to build ministry equipment. Through the years, God has enabled me to develop many such tools, including visual aids like a magnetic sketchboard. I also modified the Ford Transit vehicle we were using to include sleeping quarters, a sketchboard, a



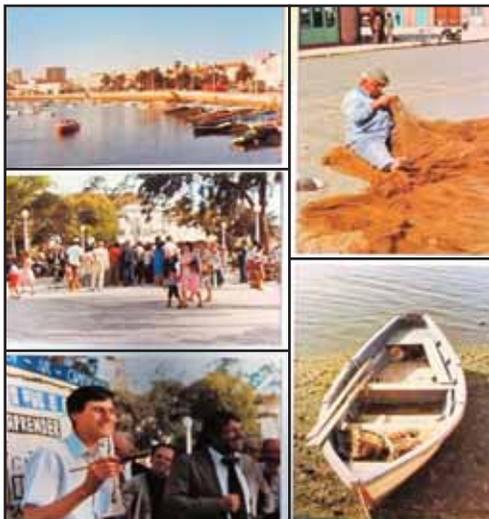
04 - SHOPPING CART TRANSPORT

blacklight, and a movie screen. Having the van set up like this was tremendous, however, sometimes parking it was a challenge, especially in inner-city situations, so God led me to develop some alternate means of transporting our equipment. In those first days of ministry, a basic shopping cart was used (picture 04). A fully equipped sketchboard, including legs, paint box, and literature, all make for a hefty bundle, so I fit the board with wheels as a base that latched onto the board using flexible cords. These inventions I designed and built were a great help to keep our travel to and from open-air meeting locations easy and efficient.

We were trained in Wuppertal, Germany, with Keith Rudkin during 1980 and 1982. Shoshanah (picture 05) also took this training. The artistic pictures she drew and continues to produce even today are gorgeous! Helpful instruction to us was also offered in England by Derek Heyman for about one month and with Dave Glover for another month. The first official ministry after our training was a visit to Portugal upon the invitation of Alliance Missionnaire Evangélique (AME) and Action Biblique (AB), who still invite us for ministry when we visit Switzerland!



05 - SHOSHANAH AT THE TRAINING SEMINAR



06-10 FISHING FOR MEN IN PORTUGAL

It is a blessing to be fishers of men. In Portugal (pictures 06-10), we taught in a Bible school in the north and conducted some spiritual "fishing" by reaching tourists and locals in the Algarve. In Lisbon, an AME missionary was impressed with these meetings and took us to a slum where a Youth With A Mission (YWAM) team earlier in the year claimed it was too dangerous to evangelize! But with the visual aids, lots of prayer, and God's love, it turned out that souls were prepared, and this outreach was a very fruitful endeavor.

During our training in Germany, we equipped a Volkswagen "Beetle" for the ministry (picture 11). Later on, the first OAC van was given to us by co-worker Jack Kreidler, who ministered with OAC in Italy. Picture 12 shows me preaching from the platform of this van.



11 - A MINISTRY "BEETLE"



12 - VAN CANOPY IN ACTION

When we picked the van up in Rome, one cylinder in the engine was not firing. As a result, it made a terrible noise, but God sent a mechanic to fix this problem before we had to drive through the Gotthard tunnel. I believe we surely would have been arrested had this issue not been fixed, as the van sounded like rifle fire as it went down the road!

Tell-a-Tourist (TAT) was a three to five-week summer team event which ran from 1983 to 1988. In Switzerland, this ministry was initiated by Albert Jansen from the Janz team in cooperation with several local churches of the Evangelical Alliance in Basel. Albert is with me on the platform in pictures 13-16. The new magnetic sketchboard I had developed was well used during these events for children, often conducted in conjunction with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). The bottom left picture in this series shows the new bus which was used at the BESJ event in Zurich. Since the main city of ministry outreach for TAT was Basel, I met a man named Oswin Weidner who, at this time, was a student at the FETA, studying to become a pastor. Oswin became a wonderful friend and tremendous help to the ministry and continues to be used by God in this way. A couple of TAT outreaches took place in Lucerne. OAC Great Britain board member, Henry Robinson, and his wife, Anne, desired to meet us in Switzerland, but did not know how to make contact. On that particular day, unknown to us, they were visiting Lucerne. Strolling along the river, they happened to see a crowd of folks gathered around a sketchboard, which gave me away!



13-16 TELL-A-TOURIST OUTREACH IN BASEL & YOUTH EVENT IN ZURICH

In those days, lots of people, including some local Swiss folks, guest workers from other countries, and many tourists would stop and listen to an open-air presentation. The Swiss people are generally more private and have developed an attitude of not wanting to be talked to in the open air. Because of this, I often carried literature printed in 70 languages to distribute in these crowds where guest workers and tourists were open and receptive.

Through many of the events mentioned above, doors opened to local churches, and numerous individuals were trained to conduct effective open-air evangelism. These events led to many souls finding salvation. Several of those local church contacts from years past still support us today, either because they were reached, like Claudio Trinchera, an Italo-Swiss who later invited us to Southern Italy for meetings, or because they were team members. One year, the Lord even brought a Bible school student named Hanspeter Diriwächter our way, who ministered with us as an intern.

Gospel Arena was a music event in central Switzerland that took place in a huge three-hall gym. A gospel movie was shown, followed by my sketchboard presentation. I knew that the normal sketchboard was too small for everyone to see, so I brought in a huge board with no legs. Legs were not needed because I put it up on a scaffold and used a blacklight unit to make the sketch glow in the dark. I had to draw each stroke on the board double-wide; by doing this, everybody could then see the message clearly, so it worked great. The irony of this outreach was that in the planning stages, a pastor named Fredy Staub, who was once contacted by co-worker Keith Rudkin (OAC-Germany) to be trained as an OAC evangelist for Switzerland, was asked to conduct the open-air meeting at this event, and I was asked to do the indoor session. However, God knows who has the gifts and the tools needed in any particular situation, so He worked it out that I ended up conducting the open-air meeting, which turned out as a boon for the development of OAC Switzerland.

The first OAC Switzerland (OAC-CH) president, Heinz Weidmann, was affiliated with the Salvation Army. He participated in one of our first OAC-CH seminars (picture 17) and took us to open-air services held at campgrounds and downtown outreach located in Wetzikon ZH. I challenged the Salvation Army soldiers to show up



17 - ONE OF THE FIRST OAC SWITZERLAND SEMINARS



18 - MOVING THE SKETCHBOARD CLOSER TO THE CROWD

without wearing their official uniform since folks stopped at a far distance from our meeting location, not wanting to get close to where the people in uniforms were. We also moved the sketchboard (picture 18), so it would be closer to the crowd. The next day, without the uniforms, individuals passing by did not hesitate to come close to our meeting location. Individuals in the crowd were overheard saying that they were not sure who these people leading the meeting were, but they thought the Salvation Army group sang better! Others said, "Strange; they do sing the same songs as the Salvation Army."

At the first open-air seminar held in Switzerland, students from Germany, Switzerland, and several different denominations participated. One of these students was named Stefan Grossenbacher, seen in picture 19 (the fifth person from the left). At this time, Stefan was in training with the Christliche Kontaktgruppe (CKG), a team starting churches in the Catholic Central Part of Switzerland. He produced our first OAC-CH flyers, one of which was designed to reach drug addicts and distributed to all the pharmacies in the area. He eventually became a pastor and supported our ministry for many years. Thanks to faithful friends like Stefan and his family, we were able to serve for all those years and see God blessing the ministry He gave to us, not only in Switzerland but in Italy, Austria, Germany, France, Spain, and Portugal, as well.



19 - STEFAN GROSSENBACHER (FIFTH PERSON FROM LEFT), A FAITHFUL SERVANT



20 - A MEETING DURING THE FIRST SEMINAR IN SWITZERLAND

Picture 20 shows an open-air meeting being conducted during the first seminar held in Sursee LU, Switzerland, which took place, most probably, in the spring of 1983 in front of the MMM shopping center.

1985 was the official launch of OAC Switzerland. It was known as "Verein OAC-CH / Freiversammlungs-Mission Schweiz." Picture 21 shows those who attended this event, including Keith and Eva-Marie Rudkin (Germany) and Tom Swan (Canada). The names of the first seven founding board members in this picture are from left to right:



21 - BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS AT LAUNCH OF OAC SWITZERLAND



22 - THE FIRST OAC SWITZERLAND BOARD IN SESSION

Victor Winteler (Chrischona - A Swiss denomination named after the geographical location of their main office), Heinz Weidmann (Salvation Army), me, Max Läubli (Chrischona), Richard Stähli (CKG), Albert Wöhrl (Chrischona). Missing from the picture is Ernst Merki (CEF). Through the years, God has brought us quality individuals to serve on our board, and I am grateful to God for each one. Picture 22 shows the first OAC-CH board in session - Front left clockwise: Victor Winteler, Ernst Merki, Heinz Weidmann, Shoshanah, me, Helen and Max Läubli, Richard Stähli, and Albert Wöhrl.

Those actively serving on our Swiss board, as of this writing (picture 22-B), include Oswin Weidner, president (FMG); Martin Emch (Then: FEG, Now: Salvation Army); Thomas Brunner, treasurer (Salvation Army); Johannes Vogel, secretary (Missionary for homeless). Also, August Martin, ex-president of the Salvation Army, served for a time.



22B - SWISS BOARD MEMBERS AS OF 2019



23 - NEWLY EQUIPPED FORD TRANSIT

In 1986, we had a newly equipped Ford Transit (picture 23). As long as our children were small, they could sleep on the bed in the back of the van while traveling. I had designed the canopy, which was manufactured in Eastern Europe. It was made out of carbon, the lightest and strongest material in existence at the time, used for constructing airplanes. A special financial gift from the US made all this possible, and it was an awesome tool of evangelism! The van was equipped in such a way that a blacklight board message could be prepared while the movie was playing. Then, with the touch of a finger, the screen rolled up in two seconds, after which an “altar-call” could be given, illustrated by the blacklight painting!

We have conducted many open-air outreaches on beaches through the years (picture 24). Some of these have taken place in the Protestant area of Schöffland and some in the Catholic area around the Sempacher Sea, both locations in the vicinity of Lucerne, Switzerland. It is amazing how often permission was miraculously granted to us. We also presented Christ in creative ways at markets, carnivals, and weddings! Usually, securing official permission was needed to conduct these presentations, so we did, and enjoyed wonderful results.



24 - MANY BEACH OPEN-AIR OUTREACHES HAVE TAKEN PLACE

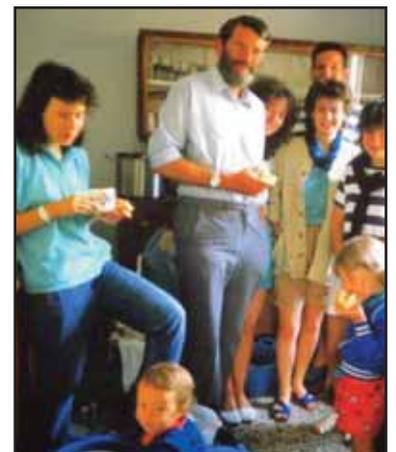


25 - TRAINING IN BIBLE SCHOOLS

Over the years, I taught principles of open-air evangelism regularly in Bible schools (picture 25) within France (France pour Christ, Alsace) and in the German and French part of Switzerland (New Life in St. Gallen and Bern; Salvation Army, Chrischona, and Bienenberg in Basel; Seeburg in Iseltwald BE, Emmaus in Vevey VD, and Le Roc in Geneva).

In Alsace, the mission director told us that people would not stop for an open-air meeting which contained singing, etc. But with the OAC tools we used, this was not true; crowds were attracted easily! Missionaries, pastors, youth leaders, and lay believers have been trained with these proven open-air techniques, which they have learned and then put to good use all over the world.

In Paris, France, and Milano, Italy, we met with Korky Davey of OAC-GB (picture 26) and various teams. In the early days of our ministry, there were no cell phones or GPS devices, so when trying to meet up with Korky and the team in Milano, I suddenly realized that we had no clue



26 CO-WORKER KORKY DAVEY

how to get to the meeting location. The address was not on the map, and we had no way of contacting him or any of the team members! So, Shoshanah and I prayed for God to guide us. We were driving along and did not need gas, yet God prompted us to stop at a gas station about 30 miles out of Milano. When we stopped at the station and asked for directions, there was a Volvo with GB license plates gassing up - it was Korcky!!! GPS at that time stood for "God's Positioning System," and God certainly took care of the details, as this story illustrates!



27 - OPEN-AIR IN PARIS

Picture 27 shows a huge open-air meeting taking place in Paris on the 14th of July, which is a national holiday there. The police wanted to stop us from conducting the meeting, so we told the officers we were conducting a 14th of July celebration, and they allowed the meeting to continue! The English had a "Christian Rock Band" with them. While we played our Christian music, folks who were drunk started dancing. I was prepared to deliver the message but thought we would surely not get any attention from the crowd, so I confronted the leader of the dancers who

responded menacingly, ready to hit me. It looked as though I was going to get boxed in the head, but I looked him straight in the eyes and said, "We are here in the Name of the Prince of Peace!" The leader's arm lowered; he turned and walked away. Now the crowd became completely silent, and I was able to continue with the meeting!

In 1990, at the OAC European Conference held at the CEF center in Kilchzimmer, Switzerland, our OAC-USA staff man Fred Kornis was scheduled to be the main speaker. The conference leaders wanted to surprise him so it was arranged for his wife, Barb, to be present. Fred thought she would not be able to be there and had no clue this was being arranged. Before this event, Fred was ministering for several weeks in India, and when he de-boarded the plane in Europe, we were surprised to see him in a wheelchair! During his last day in India, he had a motorcycle accident that broke his back and caused many cuts and bruises. The doctors in India stitched his face together and sent him on his way but did not check his back for injuries. Despite this, he was very glad to be at the conference, and having Barb there was a bonus and comfort to him. God made it possible for the OAC team to take Fred to an outstanding hospital located in Basel, which specialized in treating back injuries. It is the foremost facility in Europe for treating patients with such injuries. This story illustrates how God can provide through His disciples and the importance of responding to His prompting so we can glorify Him by bearing one another's burdens!

In 1991, we moved to America to begin our outreach ministry in the western portion of this country. Prior to our arrival, we were not sure of the exact location nor what the details of our ministry would look like, but we trusted the Lord and launched out into the unknown. The move from Europe to America had been planned for two years after an OAC International conference, at which it was agreed that we tour the West for two weeks in order to evaluate the possibilities. It was an amazing journey of God, guiding us all the way. He called and moved us, as a family of five, from "secure" Switzerland to the wild native reservations of North America. During the preparation period, God answered specific prayers. Here are some of the ways in which God led and guided. I found a book on Indian culture, when I was not even looking for it, in a huge second-hand bookstore. I was blindly grabbing for any book, and the one I ended up with was "Sitting Bull." Shoshanah also brought a

record home from a thrift store with the song "Get Along Little Dogies, Wyoming will be your new home" on it! In New Mexico, Indians for Christ had promised us a home, but it turned out to be a leaking trailer, no furniture, non-functioning toilets, etc. You can imagine the culture shock we experienced, but we could not go back home since everything had been moved or sold. We remembered the Wyoming song and made a phone call to a person who was once interested in us in that area of the country. Once a misunderstanding about transport and housing was cleared out of the way, we were on our way to the location of God's choosing for us!

From 1991-2019, we regularly traveled to Europe and Israel. In Jordan, we took part in an archaeological dig during 2010 and then guided a tour in Israel during 2016. From 2014 to 2019, we had the opportunity to teach OAC techniques to Jews and Arabs.

For many years in the States, we conducted an after-school program called "Sonshine Club." As we prepared for a Christmas program for one year, one of the girls named Tara had a very sad face. I touched her chin lightly, saying, "Hey, these are joyful songs, smile!" The children said she could not smile, for she was "bewitched." I remember having seen her smile in the past. So, when bringing the children home in the van, I asked her if she would like to be able to smile again. She nodded in the affirmative. So, I told her we could ask Jesus, who is our Savior and Great Physician, to take that curse away. With open eyes, I started praying. The thought hit me: "What, if nothing happens?" I prayed a clear, long salvation prayer and ended with, "You need to mean this! Amen!" Sure enough, Tara was able to smile again! PTL!

Our memories of ministry through the years are many. We have thousands of pictures from Pow-Wow outreaches, Bible camps, rodeo open-airs, Good News Clubs, and VBS weeks with teams and volunteers from all over the US and Europe to remind us of these memories! One year, I remember taking our youngest son, Ephraim, and three of his friends to Switzerland. One of them was named Wes, a Shoshoni Indian. He passed out when changing planes in Minnesota, so we had to rearrange flights. We arrived a day late in Switzerland, which meant we had to jump into the task of leading a youth weekend event right away. On top of that, Ephraim's other friend, Allen, tried riding a unicycle and promptly broke his leg. Allen is now married to a Swiss lady named Miryan, whom he met on one of these outreaches. Miryam later came to help in a Bible camp as a nurse tending to the medical needs at the camp that summer, including treating lice! Memories like these keep our hearts filled and overflowing.

Oswin Weidner, our Switzerland chairman, is a big man! Picture 28 shows him having fun lifting Ephraim and his friend at the same time.



28 - OSWIN WEIDNER, A STRONG MAN!



29 - CO-WORKERS FANNY DAEPPEN AND BEA TSCHOPP AT OAC BOARD MEETING

God has always provided help when we have needed it. For instance, Fanny Daepfen (picture 29) was at the Emmaus Bible School in Switzerland when I was asked to teach there on one of my ministry trips back to Europe. Later that year, she was asked to sort through the many prayer letters the school wanted to archive. Out of a whole stack, she picked up ours and read it. As a result, God worked in her life and called Fanny to come and help us reach the Arapaho and Shoshone. She served for several years with us as a co-worker, doubling our effectiveness! Thank you, Lord! The picture shows Fanny and Bea Tschopp in a board meeting with Oswin Weidner,

August Martin, and Martin Emch. Bea trained with OAC-GB, then joined Operation Mobilization (OM). Through the years, OM, CEF, The Salvation Army, and YWAM have often asked us to help train their teams, and we have been glad to help.

Ministering to those in prison, on parole, and in camps through the years has also been a great memory and blessing. Many inmates remember us from their childhood and love to come study with us while incarcerated. These times of ministry are filled with interesting situations. For instance, one inmate reminded me that when I picked him up for Bible camp, he tried to smuggle his puppy into the van. At another time in one Bible camp, three boys decided they wanted to walk home, which was way too far! I stopped them and said that I would have to call the police, since what they wanted to do was far too dangerous. They dropped their luggage in front of the bathroom just as the sheriff drove up on one of his rare checks of this area. The boys were surprised, picked up their stuff, and went back to the hut! Another time, a boy discharged the fire extinguisher, which I kept under the seat of my vehicle. The cabin immediately filled with white smoke, and I blindly stopped the van. By God's grace, we were coming up on a construction site, and the speed at which we were traveling had already been reduced!



30 - ULI HOFIUS AT MEETING IN BASEL

Twenty-five years after the foundation of OAC Switzerland, we organized a celebration service. OAC Germany's Uli Hofius was our guest speaker at this service held in Basel in 2010. Of course, it had to be celebrated with an open-air meeting (picture 30)! Mainly Muslim children and parents watched the presentation. The Swiss have become hard to reach, but divine appointments still happen!

Starting in 2010, we began having opportunities to minister at Ravencrest, a Torchbearer Bible School in Colorado. It was through

Torchbearers over in Europe, founded by the Thomas family (picture 31) that we first found out about OAC; they were thrilled to see us enter into this ministry.

In 2012, I used the Eagle as a symbol in my message (picture 32) at the funeral of a little boy whose Indian name was "Chief Eagle!" Using cultural symbols has opened many doors and hearts to the Gospel! There is truth in every culture, and those points of truth are great starting points for sharing biblical truth. God does not contradict Himself, so it is possible to point people to Him, no matter what the cultural background, by using



31 - MRS. JOAN THOMAS AND KURT SCHAFLI AT RAVENCREST

truth from every people group in the world because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life for everybody on planet earth (Jn. 14:6)!

Through the years, team or no team, we have regularly gone to the housing areas to conduct after-school open-airs. Nadiyah, our granddaughter, whom we raised for several years while our daughter was overseas with the Marine



32 - USING THE EAGLE SYMBOL AT A FUNERAL OF A SMALL BOY WHOSE NAME MEANT "CHIEF EAGLE"



33 - TEAM OR NO TEAM, THE MINISTRY CONTINUES

Corps, raises her hand to answer a question in one of these meetings (picture 33). Of course, she knows many Bible stories and is eager to share her knowledge.

In 2017, at an open-air meeting in an Arab village (picture 34), a brother named Fadi (CEF) was translating the gospel magic presentation. One of several devotions in

the public Baptist School in Natzeret (picture 35), where hundreds of Christian and Muslim children were reached.



34 - ARAB VILLAGE OUTREACH



36 - USING A HANDHELD SKETCHBOARD

It was during this time in 2017 that my back started “going out” on me, so I started working with a handheld sketchboard

(picture 36). Interesting pictures that illustrate the Gospel are well received by most everyone and can be displayed on these boards, which are especially well suited for smaller meetings.



35 - DEVOTIONS WITH OBJECT LESSON AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION

For many years, I taught “Reasoning with Truth” (Science and Philosophy) at a local college. Through this contact, the local library opened its doors for children’s events. One year, a summer vacation class was offered on making balloon sculptures (picture 37). One class illustrated “The Armor of God” presentation based on Ephesians 6. Classes in puppetry and drama were also offered to disabled people.



37 - LOCAL LIBRARY EVENT



38 - A RARE PHOTO SHOWING A WORSHIP SERVICE TAKING PLACE IN PRISON

Picture 38 shows a rare scene; a photo of a worship service being held in jail. In recent years, picture taking has been banned in the prison system. Such scenes as this are no longer readily obtainable! The iron doors seen in the picture served well; I could put up the small Indian symbol flashcards, which had magnet strips on them. For many years, we trained volunteers and conducted ongoing weekly Bible studies with the Prison Fellowship team, serving all facilities in Fremont County, the jails in Ft. Washakie and in Lander, the Detox and the Honor Farm in Riverton, and

the ShoRap treatment center in Ft. Washakie. In 2018, God also added opportunities to minister at the Tribal Children’s Home and the Fremont County Group Homes, who provide services for teenage boys and girls. I often held short devotions at the Christian Food Store House and started teaching regularly at the Set-Free program for ex-addicts and prisoners. The “Recovery Celebration,” a bi-monthly event, was started by the parents of an ex-prisoner. Folks graduating out of the Set-Free

program, which we prayed into our area to have a follow-up ministry for prisoners, share their stories after a short input by another leader or me. Music and a meal (picture 39) are also provided. This event is well-liked by Natives and by volunteers who come from all over Fremont County.



39 - GRADUATION SERVICE AT THE SET-FREE PROGRAM



40 - SHOSHANAH DISPLAYING HEBREW CONTEXT OF THE GOSPEL IN CHALK

It was also in 2018 that Shoshanah had a unique opportunity to display the Hebrew context of the Gospel at a “chalk-walk” competition (picture 40). Many visitors stopped and engaged us in conversations about our Messiah and faith. It was through this event that we were made aware of the Tribal Children’s Home and that two of the girls we had served in the past now lived there. We

promised we would visit them, and when we did, they ran up and hugged us. At that point, the director needed no other references and allowed us to share the Bible with all the children.

It has been common practice for us to travel to the US, England, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and Germany through the years in order to attend OAC conferences. In 2012 and 2018, we were privileged to serve with our



41 - OPEN AIR IN BAHAMAS

Bahamas staff. An open-air meeting (picture 41) was held using puppets, drama, and the sketchboard, in between rainstorms.



42 - OPEN-AIR MEETING AT INTERLAKEN USING SEMINARY STUDENTS TO HELP US

Picture 42 shows an open-air meeting taking place in 2019 at Interlaken, with Seminary Biblical Theology students. An “international” tourist is filming the action.



43 - STUDENTS LEARNING “THE ROPES”

We are showing students “the ropes” (picture 43) and how to teach with visual aids.



44 - BOYS GROUP HOME, A TOUGH CROWD

In 2019, God used us at a boys' group home (picture 44). Several times, a couple of tough teenagers challenged us verbally and with scuffles. Once they left, these four boys in the picture, including the caretaker that night, put God first by trusting Jesus as their Savior. Here, they proudly show off their own Bibles.

Picture 45 is a favorite photo of Adventures In Missions leader, Joe Richard. He was astonished that this ten-year-old boy was able to repeat word for word the picture message he had just heard from the sketchboard to his friends who arrived later. Joe is kneeling, watching in amazement! He tells us that he has never seen a method of communication more effective than the sketchboard. Of course, the natives love pictures as colors and objects



45 - SMALL BOY EXPLAINING THE SKETCHBOARD MESSAGE TO HIS PEERS



46 - OAC CAN EVEN USE A HOT AIR BALLOON TO ATTRACT A CROWD

have special meaning for them, similar to the way it is with Israelites, so the sketchboard is a perfect tool to use for this purpose. Among others, we had teams from Virginia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Montana, and Switzerland representing Youth With A Mission, Frontier School of the Bible, and several denominations. Bill Ackerman from Loveland remarked, "I love to bring my teams to you because through the OAC methods, we learn more than anywhere else how to share our faith effectively." One year, we even used a hot-air balloon (picture 46) to attract people to the city park for the special event we called, "Take Off" (Take off with the Savior, and you will be safe!).

Our ministry travels over the years have been very educational. For instance, do you know what the contraption is in picture number 47? The answer is at the end of this story.

The Bible teaches that laughter is like good medicine. We remember a humorous situation during our time of training in Germany. Shoshanah was baptized by Jakob Esau in the presence of other German-Russian believers, as famous as Arnold Rose and Abraham Hamm who had been incarcerated for their faith but were finally allowed to leave. We left our baby Lukas in the care of a German-Russian grandma. When we picked him up, his Pampers disposable diapers were hanging on the clothesline. Pampers were invented only a few years earlier, and grandma had no clue that they should not be washed!



47 - GUESS WHAT THIS IS

During the Reformation, Anabaptists wanted to live according to the clear instructions of God's Word. They were persecuted for wanting to live in this way, so some of them would hide in this cave located in Switzerland (picture 48). Eventually, they were betrayed and executed. Serving our Savior and teaching God's Word, the Bible, can sometimes be dangerous. Pray for all who respond to serve and find themselves in this situation, even today.

In conclusion, I have found that ministry is dependent on God's guidance. We constantly pray for divine appointments, and many more stories could and should be told to illustrate how He guides and provides. We pray that these examples will encourage and challenge you.

So, what is the contraption in picture 47? It's an underground printing press, assembled by using washing machine and bicycle parts. This machine was used to produce small Gospels, bound in leather, on water-resistant paper, so that they could be buried in the snow. This process of moisture-resistant printing was essential to have, especially for those sent to labor camps under communist leadership.



48 - A CAVE IN SWITZERLAND, USED AS A PLACE OF REFUGE BY ANABAPTISTS IN REFORMATION TIMES