OACI Update

Reports from the Front Line Ministry of Open Air Campaigners International

OAC INTERNATIONAL IS AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM COMMITTED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE UN-REACHED THROUGH OPEN-AIR AND OTHER OUTREACHES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHURCH.

OUR GOD IS ABLE... Daniel 3:17

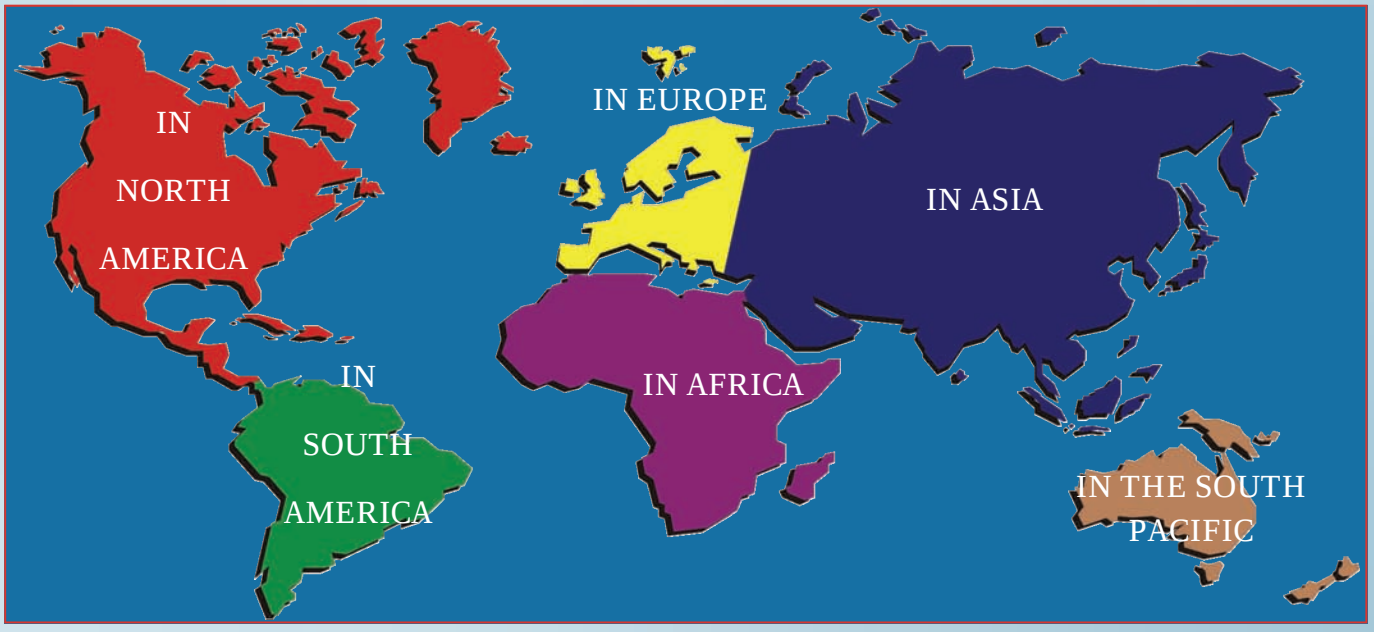
A fellow evangelist asked me a few weeks ago, "What keeps you going and doing what you are doing right now?" My answer to these questions is very simple and is still the same. The reason is based on the passage of scripture above - It is because "GOD is able" to save. I believe GOD was able yesterday, GOD is able today, and GOD will be able tomorrow. He is able to save! I strongly believe that this is the key to longevity in ministry and also for fruitful ministry and lasting impact in all evangelistic ministry. I am absolutely confident in GOD'S sovereign power to save all those who come to Him by faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. Not only does GOD miraculously save them, but He also keeps them by His amazing grace. As we have faithfully preached the gospel and planted the seed of His word in the lives of many people, at every opportunity we have had, I am confident that the Holy Spirit of GOD did work then, is working now, and will continue to work in the lives of those who chose to listen and consider what we shared. Sometimes we don't see the results of our preaching straight away, but GOD will continue to work.

Recently in Fiji I visited a stall owned by a man that I tried to share the gospel with about two years go. At the time I felt that I wasn't getting through to this man because he kept on saying that he was okay. I left a Christian booklet with him before I went away. When I returned this time, his daughter was working for him at the stall. Before I arrived at the spot where the stall was, I could hear her singing a Christian song. She told me that she became a Christian after reading a Christian booklet that someone left with her dad about two years ago. She was looking for peace in her heart and the booklet talked about 'Steps To Peace With GOD.' She committed her life to CHRIST and contacted her friend who is a Christian and had been praying for her. Now she is attending the same church with her friend. Here is a classic example of how GOD is able to speak to a woman through a simple witness. 'He is able.'

Keep on preaching the gospel and let GOD save and change the lives of those who come to Him. Remember, 'The GOD whom we Serve is able to Save and Rescue!'

Robert Siakimotu, OACI President

JESUS SAID, "FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN." OACI IS FOLLOWING JESUS AND CASTING HIS GOSPEL NETS...



READ ON FOR SOME EXCITING REPORTS OF OAC INTERNATIONAL OUTREACHES FOR CHRIST

OACI IS DRAWING PEOPLE TO JESUS IN...

CANADA

This past November 11th, known as Remembrance Day in Canada, was a beautiful day which drew about 500 - 600 people to an outside war memorial service at a park in Moncton, New Brunswick. We set up a gospel sketch-board higher than normal to accommodate the large crowd. Kirk Hubick, one of our OAC missionaries in Atlantic Canada, was asked to close the memorial service with prayer. After he did so, he walked over to the sketch-board and began a message with a Remembrance Day theme. Around 150 people of the original crowd stayed behind to hear a message entitled, "Lest We Forget." In it people heard how freedom is not free but always comes at a high price. This led to preaching of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ after which a number of people took literature and our volunteers had some good one-on-one witnessing conversations. God is good. Many similar outreach opportunities are happening for OAC evangelists all across Canada, for God's glory.

NEW ZEALAND

In New Zealand we have continued faithfully sharing the gospel by all means everywhere.

We recently re-launched a branch work in Dunedin, which is a proud University City with a population of 130,000. One in five is a student! In September OAC Ministries invited 13 OAC evangelists from different parts of New Zealand to gather in this southern city to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people. Six churches were involved. The weather was superb for open airs, community surveys and door-to-door visitation. Nine staff ministered through the churches amongst children, teens and adults. We praise God for 12 who came to Christ, 12 who made re-commitments to the Saviour and precious seed sown across the city.

At the end of each year we are invited to do special Christmas assemblies in schools around Christchurch. This year we did 24 assemblies over 17 days. We were able to present the Christmas message to 3400 children in a fun way using muppets, gospel magic, songs and an exciting game at the end to review the main teaching. We encouraged the children to give their lives to God, and to say "thank you" for the gift He gave to us, and now choose to live in a way that pleases God.

GREAT BRITAIN

Booming Bristol enjoys an international reputation which belies its size. Culturally, the city has become the home for new arrivals from the Indian Subcontinent, the Caribbean, Africa and Eastern Europe. OAC Evangelist Mark Detzler notes, "We meet a lot of people on the street who have a variety of needs. Many of them come from different cultural and faith backgrounds. One young man I spoke to had never had a conversation with a Christian before!" The team uses a variety of means to share the gospel but they have found that simple, winsome messages, proclaimed using the sketch-board, are still challenging men and women from all over the world.

Another OAC evangelist recounts an amazing open air experience in Manchester - "The weather forecast had not been promising; when we arrived the skies were overcast. During my first talk, as about 20 people listened, the skies darkened and the 'heavens opened' just as I finished; everyone scattered for shelter, but most team members did manage to get conversations. Once the rain stopped, the next meeting was amazing in terms of the numbers in the crowd; there must have been around 70 plus. Some people say that proclamation of the gospel like this is not relevant today - no one has told the Holy Spirit that!"

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JAMAICA

A couple of years ago our OAC team went to a High School here in Kingston to conduct a devotional assembly. There were approximately 1400 students in attendance. We shared the gospel and gave an invitation, and several students raised their hand indicating that they were accepting Christ as their Saviour. After the assembly, Crystal approached the team and expressed her appreciation for the devotions and testified that she had received Christ as her Saviour. She also wanted to come and visit our church. A young man, who had accompanied our team to the devotions, made it his duty to keep calling and encouraging her to come to church, which she did faithfully. Crystal has become a dedicated young woman, loves the Lord, and is involved in the Youth Fellowship at our church. She is now praying for the salvation of her mother.

ECUADOR

In the city of Quininde, where we have been working for many years, we were able to visit six communities and five schools and share the gospel. We were delighted to see that an evangelical church has been planted in Quininde, in which many of the new members had heard the gospel through our Open Air Campaigns. One of the ladies, Mariela, told us that when we visited her community two years ago, she was a social leader and she tried to give opposition to our program. However, the Lord touched her heart in an evangelical campaign, and she gave her life to the Lord when we did the final calling. Her testimony of radical conversion is so powerful that it really encouraged us. At that time she was living with a married man and had a little girl with him. When Mariela understood the gospel, she told him to go back to his wife as she could not live in sin anymore. He did so, and his marriage has now been restored. She is currently raising her family by herself, but she told us that now her provider and loving husband is the Lord Jesus. Mariela is a great leader among her community; she now works full time serving in a local mission ministry, and the Lord is using her to bring many lives to Him.

THE USA

Our OAC Los Angeles Director, Russ Hodder (pictured here doing one of his tremendous after-school kids club ministries), reports that at one adult open air location, two college-aged teens were listening intently to the meeting and then started to walk off after the conclusion. Russ was able to catch up and found himself talking to a young man with a Catholic background who was a doubter as to the reality of God but full of questions. He was getting really excited as he was being supplied with answers to things he had always wondered about. His friend told him that they had to leave, since his parents had given him a specific time to be home. This young man replied, “I don’t want to leave, this is great,” referring to the conversation he and Russ were having. Russ quickly gave him the OAC office number and told him to get in touch anytime. Leaving, he gave Russ a quick hug and a word of thanks. He has since contacted Russ and wants to talk further.

OACI IS DRAWING PEOPLE TO JESUS IN...

ARGENTINA

Being a new OAC ministry in the huge city of Buenos Aires, we have been looking at places and possible sites for carrying out our evangelistic presentations. We have done several presentations of the gospel in Plazas, presenting the gospel to approximately 200 people, with several of them indicating that they prayed a prayer of repentance and faith in Christ. On one occasion Matia Elena and her eight-year-old daughter, Fabiana, were listening very carefully in one of our meetings, then raised their hands at the end as a sign that they prayed with us. Later, after we had confirmed that they had made firm decisions to receive Christ, they asked us for the address of a church where they could attend.

PARAGUAY

We all realize that the world is getting worse, Paraguay included. The unrest here increases daily with a worsening economic situation as well as an increase in violence, resulting in much insecurity. Supposedly, the military police are the ones that are to help bring security and rest to the people, but Paraguay is so corrupt that even the police are involved in the violence. Due to this, the director of the Police Academy invited us to come share the gospel with the first year students so that they can begin to have an integral foundation for a strong base. We shared the sketch-board with 600 students, and the majority acknowledged praying with us to receive Christ. The Lord knows how many were sincere. We also passed out a New Testament to each student. Praise Him for the doors that are opening due to people seeking rest!

MEXICO

We have continued preaching in the center of Guadalajara with the support of various missionaries. One of the nights that we were preaching, Josef and Lina were helping with the counseling. Josef told us later that he had spoken to a man who had been living on the street for some time, and his problems had led him to attempt suicide. That night the man had come to a church (Catholic) asking for God's help. The young man continued saying that while he was in church praying for God's help, he heard someone or something telling him to go out into the street, and he did so, walking without direction. To his surprise he found us preaching, and he said the message that we shared was almost as if someone had known all about his life, and so he trusted his life to Christ right there. Praise God for His Spirit who convicts of sin and draws people to the Saviour, Jesus!

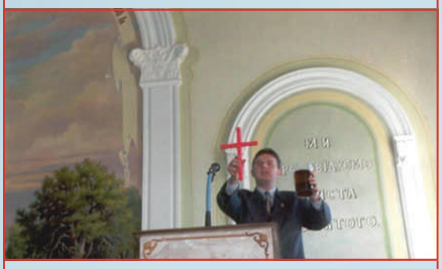
BRAZIL

We had a great meeting recently in a youth prison. They were very open to the gospel. It is incredible to see that the bigger part of them were born into a Christian home. Satan is working hard to destroy the families. Many of them came to Jesus, praying with us, and when we closed the meeting a lot of them came to talk to us about the Christian life, asking us to pray for some specific problems. Some of them at the beginning of the meeting were very closed, seated far back from the meeting, but at the end they were very concentrated on the message and came to say thanks for the program.

OACI IS DRAWING PEOPLE TO JESUS IN...

UKRAINE

Once under Soviet Communism, Ukraine now enjoys increased freedom of speech and religion. The OAC Ukrainian evangelists, who are Bible college graduates, freely hold open-air meetings on the streets of Kiev and in other cities. They work in partnership with churches and Bible Colleges, for whom they also provide evangelism training. Other outreaches include programs in schools and orphanages, where many young people are



searching for hope and answers to their problems. Having been failed by Communism, and suffering financial hardship in a developing democracy, most Ukrainians are very open and responsive to the good news of the gospel as it is proclaimed by our national evangelists.

INDIA

During our monsoon rainy season we can still have short open-air meetings. During these three months we conducted 49 open-air gospel meetings, and 30 film meetings in remote villages. In these meetings some 21,050 people have attended, and 1175 of them have professed to receive Christ as their Savior – Hallelujah! Also, we distributed 14,250 gospel tracts for people to consider the message of Christ further. Praise the Lord there was no major trouble in any of these meetings. We also held a Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a village called Rajakadu, about 200 miles away. This village had never had any kind of children's ministry program before. Our team spent 15 days there and did all the groundwork to set up the VBS. We had 227 children who were ministered to by 22 teachers and two directors for 12 days, during which 49 children indicated they received Christ as Savior. For the final day rally the children marched for two miles through the village singing Christian songs and attracted some 351 to attend the final meeting. Almost all of the children at this VBS came from Hindu or Muslim families, but we were unhindered in presenting the plain gospel message to them. It helped that during both of these VBS times we were able to distribute chicken curry and rice to 750 people. We thank and praise the Lord for provisions for both of these fruitful ministry opportunities.

GERMANY

OAC evangelists see it as their special assignment to preach the gospel in the open air. So we are, for example, organizing open-air outreaches in pedestrian areas as well as during folk and street festivals. Programs for children are staged in residential estates, on beaches and at camping sites. We are always working in partnership with local churches on the basis of the Evangelical Alliance in Germany. Before going outside we lead the team members in the local church through a training. One goal of the OAC workers is the establishment and supervision of mission teams of the local church. Besides the work in the open-air we are frequently visiting jails, orphanages and schools. In the scope of an "OAC missions week," conducted in partnership with the local church, we seek to explore every missionary possibility in each particular town.

OACI IS DRAWING PEOPLE TO JESUS IN...

KENYA

While there is a good percentage of evangelical Christians in Kenya, there is still a great need for evangelism in the north and west where many tribal people are responding to the gospel. OAC is targeting these people through open-air outreaches using the "Jesus" film in several tribal languages. Nomadic people are coming to these meetings and are very open to the preaching of the Good News of salvation. Also, over half the population of Kenya is under 15, and the public schools are wide open for religious education. Principals readily allow OAC to present the gospel to their whole student body, and many students are responding to Christ.

RUSSIA

Though persecuted under Communism, when many of its members were imprisoned or martyred, the church survived and is now growing. Today, evangelical congregations are multiplying as Christians enjoy religious freedom. There is a great need, however, for more evangelism, as evangelicals make up less than 1% of the population. Working closely with Baptist Union churches, OAC is receiving invitations from across the country to hold evangelistic outreaches. Open-air meetings in cities and villages reach many who do not know the way of salvation. Cultural Centers, which had been used under Communism for indoctrinating the people, now make very good places for presenting the gospel during the cold winter months. Programs in public schools, using videos on drugs and morality, allow our evangelists to bring the transforming message of Christ to many students. There is a great open door for evangelism in Russia, which has come through the blood of the martyrs and the prayers of God's people around the world.

OACI also has active ministries or branches in:

Albania - Australia - Austria - Belgium - Denmark - Fiji Finland - France - Greece - Ireland - Italy - Latvia Netherlands - Romania - Spain - Switzerland and Uganda

HOW ABOUT YOU? The fish are many; the fishermen are few! OACI has tremendous opportunities for you to be involved in national and international gospel outreach for Christ. Volunteer workers are essential in each branch. Summer and other short term mission trips and training seminars are tremendous experiences in serving the Great Commission cause of Christ and developing witnessing skills and freedom. Also, perhaps God may be calling you to be a national or international OAC missionary evangelist! God is calling all His people to help, in some way, to haul in the Kingdom nets and catch. OACI is here to help Christians and churches heed that call to be fishers of men! Also, supporting our national and international staff or branches makes you a significant part of their substantial gospel “fishing” efforts which are bringing much glory and rejoicing to our wonderful God and Saviour! (see Luke 15:3-10 and Philippians 2:9-11 and 4:15-20)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OAC NATIONAL BRANCH PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.OACI.ORG, OR CONTACT AN OAC OFFICE (listed below):

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