

OAC USA THROUGH THE YEARS



Ben Gazroic operated a metal fabricating business in Elizabeth, New Jersey. For many years, he designed, constructed, and installed canopies and platforms on our open-air vans.



George Naggy ministered in New York City for nearly 40 years.



George and Betty, circa 1981, lived on Long Island.



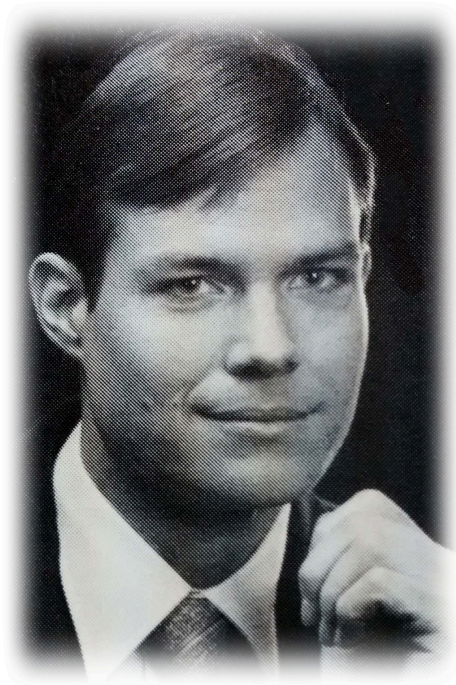
*Chuck Phelps and his wife, Fran, were active in the open air for over 42 years.
Here is Chuck conducting a children's program circa 1972.*



*Russ Hodder was introduced to
OAC as a Bible college
student in 1970.*



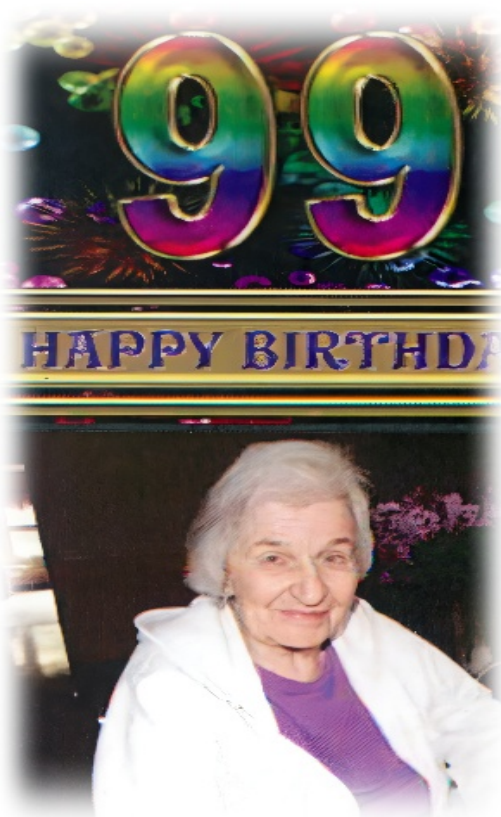
*Russ (left) during his first years of
ministry in the Los Angeles branch.*



Here is a trip back in time with a young David Braun who found out about OAC as a student at Word of Life Bible Institute in 1980.



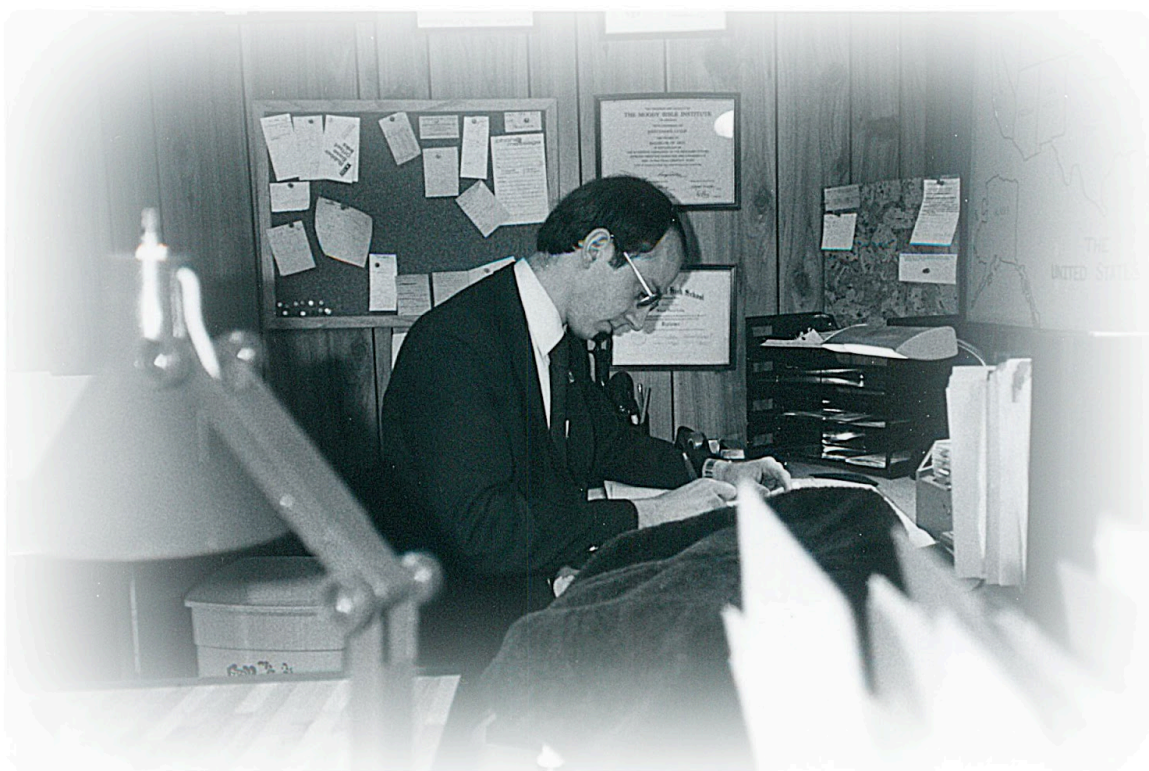
While at Word of Life Bible Institute, David Braun met Joy, who became his wife. They joined OAC in 1985, and currently minister in the metropolitan area of Philadelphia.



Olga Kruck (left) was our first USA office worker in 1959. She was promoted to heaven just one month before turning 100 years old! She and Ralph Coglianese took care of all of our bookkeeping and accounting needs in the Wheaton, Illinois, office.

Ralph Coglianese was a diligent worker for many years before retiring in 1995. He and his wife, Emily (right), continue to live in Chicago.





John Cutlip circa 1980 in our New York-New Jersey office. He later became director of our Central Services office, which relocated to Pennsylvania in 1989.



Sue Cutlip worked with her husband, John, in the office until their children were born. She ministered as secretary to our USA director, Art Williams. Here we see her very pleased with the brand-new word processor circa 1983.





Staff meeting in our Plainfield, New Jersey, office circa 1982. From left to right, Jack Kreidler, John Cutlip, Jim Duffecy, and Eric Briscoe, who was visiting from Boston.



Steve Nelson and family, circa 1984. Steve was planting a church in Queens, New York, when he found out about OAC through David Wilson. He has been a friend of the ministry for many years.





Jim and Koline Sherwood (above) started with us in our New York-New Jersey branch in the '80s. Later, they moved to Florida, reaching out to international college students.



Al Turhune (above) and his wife, Linda, also ministered with our New York-New Jersey branch.



Lisa Gruthusen (left) came on staff as a single lady in Chicago. She worked closely with Ed and Cathy Lowe and eventually married Philip Lundstrom.

Mary Rosier (right) received her bachelor's degree from Biola University in California and joined our Los Angeles branch team in the early 1980s.





A young, unmarried lady named Tammy Bellinger (left) ministered in our Philadelphia branch in the early 1980s. During a course of OAC training at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga in 1982 (see picture below), Tammy met a young man named Chip Welton. Chip was assigned to a team that traveled to Philadelphia. He and Tammy got to know each other during this time and eventually married!



South Carolina staff member Randy Riddle (pictured above, kneeling and also leading the meeting at right) assisted teams serving at Columbia Bible College (above photo), where Chip Welton (above, far right) provided student leadership. During his college years, Chip completed two summers of service with OAC Philadelphia, working alongside the Director Bob Ewerth, Eric Briscoe, Dennis King, and, of special note, Tammy Bellinger!





God has led some faithful volunteers our way through the years who have helped us teach and lead teams in the open air. Mark Johnson (left) is one of those choice servants. He has frequently traveled with our staff to various outreach events and is a great co-laborer. We appreciate his heart for ministry and deep desire to share Christ with the lost.



Minneapolis-St. Paul staff member Mike Malszycki (above) circa 1985 leading a children's meeting from the van platform.



Planning meeting circa 1980. Standing in the back row from left to right, Chris Schroeder, Jack Kreidler, and Chuck Williams. In the front row are Randy Riddle (left) and Jim Duffecy (right).



Matt Harvey has been a friend of OAC for many decades! As a teenager, he received training and spent a summer ministering in our Philadelphia branch. Through the years, he has been a great help and blessing to our mission in many ways. He currently serves as a national board member.



Here is Joe Toy circa 1985. Joe has served through the years as a Philadelphia staff member and also as a board member. Today, he is based in the Raleigh, North Carolina area, still conducting open-air evangelism and leads an organization called Open Air Ministries.



Mike Bussen and his son, John, conducting outreach in a local park, circa 2007.



Our Central Services office moved from New Jersey to Nazareth, Pennsylvania, in 1989. Through the years, God has used OAC-USA to provide open-air equipment and supplies to our staff and also to other missionaries and multiple local churches around the world. We currently have over 80 types of items available to conduct effective open-air evangelism.



Preparing for an open-air meeting (above) in New York City in 1981 are, from left to right, staff members Art Williams, Chris Schroeder, Randy Riddle, and a friend of the ministry, Scotty Teague.



Janet Fureman conducting a children's meeting in Plainfield, New Jersey, circa 1985.

Sam Frey (below) ministering in the New York-New Jersey branch in the 1980s.



Sherry Frey (Sam's wife) also served in our New York-New Jersey branch, working with the support staff team there.





A young Eric and Diane Briscoe family.



Eric Briscoe at the sketchboard in 1993 with his daughter, Bethany, singing. She sang for Eric twice that day as they were doing an outreach with Washington Bible College at 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC.



Jim Kirkpatrick served with our Los Angeles branch team in the 1990s.



Paul Adams at the sketchboard, circa 1992.



Gordon Loop, circa 1992, in the open air.



*Al Collins (left) and George Naggy (right)
at a staff conference in 1994.*



*At a staff conference gathering are
Bob Ewerth (left), Chuck Phelps,
and JoAnne LaRue.*



Peter O'Driscoll was involved in a vibrant local church outreach to children of all ages in the greater Orlando, Florida, area called Orlando Children's Church. Here are some glimpses of this ministry, circa 1996. A fleet of school buses transported many children to and from these meetings each week.





A young John and Cathy Plasterer family, circa 1996. They ministered in our Baltimore branch from 1993 to 1998.



Karen Boorse was married to Chris Williams in 2012. For many years before that, she was known as "Miss Karen" to a multitude of children in the greater Philadelphia and surrounding area! Here is Karen ministering in the mid-1990s.





*The Bob & Deidra Ewerth Family,
circa 1991.*



*In 2009, Bob Ewerth received
the Washington Bible College
Alumni of the Year award.*



*Our Boston team, circa 1998. From left to right, Richard Burley, Eric Briscoe,
Gordon Loop, a Boston police officer who became a friend of
the ministry, Sue MacNeil, and Aaron Wentz.*



Sue MacNeil ministered with our Boston team for many years and was an excellent children's worker.

Chip and Kim Wolfe teaming up with Karen Williams for a children's ministry, circa 2000.





The early days of Mark and Angela Kennedy's ministry with us took place in the Baltimore area. Mark (left) is conducting a meeting around 2004.



John Copell (left) is doing ministry at Boston University in this picture. He and his wife, Tiffany (below), were on staff from 2020 to 2022, ministering with our Boston team. Pictured with Tiffany are two of their youngest children, Asher and Aaron.



In 2008, George Naggy was promoted to heaven. Those attending his funeral included, from left to right, Eric Briscoe, John Cutlip, Art Williams, Fred Kornis, and Bob Ewerth.





Zane Dempsie (above) counseling, circa 2009.



Minneapolis staff member, Ken Teeter (below), at the board, circa 2011.



Sarah Cain (above) served with us from 2009 to 2011 in the state of Maine.



Pastor Peter Bogart (above) was Bob Ewerth's pastor for many years in the Philadelphia area. Peter is a good friend of the ministry and has helped us in multiple ways. His church provided office space for Bob, which, along with Peter's advice, counsel, and friendship through the years, has been a great blessing and encouragement.



Chris and Amy Reick were part of our Baltimore team from 2013 to 2017.



Mark and Shelby Sohmer (picture circa 2014) were on staff with us for 10 years working with the Boston team.



Sue Goss received our training in 2013, came on staff in 2020, and ministered for a year in the state of Arkansas.

Randy Bockman participated in our 2015 Sketchboard Evangelism Training, subsequent Orientation/Candidate School, and ministered for a short time with us as our staff man in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area.





A young Kimberlee and Brian Harmon (above left) join Eric Briscoe for a time of training and outreach.



Rebecca Coates began OAC staff status as a single gal, then was married to Jimmy in 2021.



Ed Neiman (left) and Erin Chervenak (right) starting their open-air ministry with us.

Frank Baldus has been on staff since 2011.





Dan Beaudoin (above left) and his wife, Rebecca, came on staff in 2015 and established our NORCAL (Northern California) branch located in the Bay Area. His co-worker, Brenten Powers (above right) and his wife, Lena, joined them in 2020.



Scott Domont (left) and his wife, Christine (bottom left), served short-term with us in 2020, as staff interns in 2021, and full-time in 2024. They minister with our Michigan team.





Juan and Dawn Monzon joined our USA staff after establishing OAC Paraguay and serving in that country for 22 years.



Ryan Itzel joined us in 2011 at the age of 16. He left in 2013 to attend college. He came back on staff in 2020, after graduating from school and marrying Tasia.



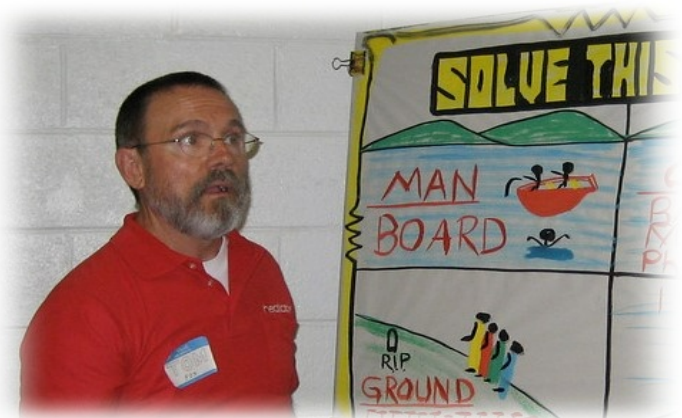
Barry Felis is a friend of OAC and a great blessing in the Los Angeles area.



Mike and Christine Wilson have been with us since 2016 and minister with our Michigan team.



Steve and Connie Johnson have been on staff since 2015, ministering in Iowa.



Tom Fox has known about OAC since the early 1980s. He joined us in 2009 and is married to Carmen.



Rick Moore (above) worked as a police officer for many years before trusting Christ. He and his wife, Dovie (below right), came on staff in 2007 and ministered for two years as interns in our Boston branch. Then, they moved to the Dallas, Texas, area to establish a branch of OAC, where they continue to live and conduct outreach.



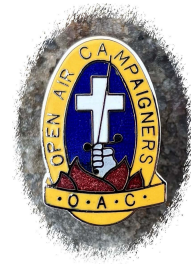
Kurt Schafli (above) reaching Native Americans in Wyoming since 1991 after establishing OAC Switzerland in 1985.

Chris (right, at the board) and Bonnie McKinley have been with us since 2016 in the Manchester, New Hampshire, area.



FUN FACT #17

During the 1980s and 1990s, our staff in the USA would, for the most part, wear similar clothing when ministering in the open air or representing the mission at local church gatherings or conference events. In those days, our official OAC "uniform" consisted of light blue shirts, red ties, dark blue blazers, and grey slacks. An OAC lapel pin (pictured here) was also part of the uniform dress and helped to identify us as official OAC staff.



OAC-USA CONCLUSION

God has abundantly blessed and expanded the USA work into several new fields since that first Chicago meeting in 1956. We are thankful for all the choice servants He has sent our way through the years, whether they be volunteers, short-term workers, board members, branch committee partners, financial donors, prayer supporters, or staff from other countries. We look forward, with anticipation, to what He has for us in the days ahead. God is in the business of changing lives; all of us in OAC are here because God captured our hearts and changed our lives. We desire to continue making Him known, by all means everywhere. May the testimony of OAC, found in these pages, be a blessing and encouragement to you and bring glory to God.

