

Chapter 40

Switzerland



Composed from Kurt Schafli's reports and notes

PART 1 - MINISTRY IN EUROPE

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 member Jack Kreidler (picture 01 - Uli and Anne Hofius from OAC Germany are also in this picture). One of the OAC staff asked me to simultaneously translate Jack's message 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 I must say it was an amazing experience. The next day, however, in church, 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, leading us to serve in a mission whose desire was to use all our talents. OAC has undoubtedly fulfilled our desire in that area.



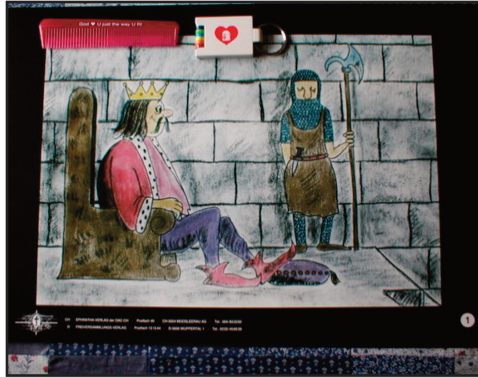
01 - JACK KREIDLER (PLAID JACKET ON LEFT) WITH ULI AND ANNE HOFIUS

After our training in Germany, we returned to Switzerland as a family and began OAC's work in that new field in 1982. The next three years were spent organizing and establishing an organized ministry structure and routine. Then, in 1985, we officially launched OAC Switzerland.

In the early days of our ministry, we began publishing under OAC-CH (the letters "CH" stand for "Confederation Helvetica," an international abbreviation for Switzerland). This publishing ministry was called Ephratha-Verlag, meaning "double fruitful." Pictures 02 and 03 show some of the



02 - TOOLS OF EVANGELISM



03 - STORY OF THE FOOL

publications we produced, including a large-format flashcard story based on the Chick tract "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 on evangelism for 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, written and published in English and German, has been a great help and blessing to many

people. We also printed gospel pens and other everyday items illustrating God's Word, including a Christ-centered message printed on a ruler.

One of the talents God has given me is the ability to build ministry equipment. Over the years, God has enabled me to develop many such tools, including visual aids such as a magnetic sketchboard. I also modified the Ford Transit vehicle we were using to include sleeping quarters, a sketchboard, a 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, makes for a hefty bundle, so I fit it with wheels as a base that latches 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.



04 - SHOPPING CART TRANSPORT



05 - SHOSHANAH AT THE TRAINING SEMINAR

We were trained in Wuppertal, Germany, by Keith Rudkin from 1980 to 1982.

Shoshanah (picture 05) also took this training. The artistic pictures she drew were gorgeous! Helpful instruction was also offered to us in England by Derek Heyman for about one month and by Dave Glover for another month. The first official ministry after our training was a visit to Portugal, at the invitation of Alliance Missionnaire Evangélique (AME) and Action Biblique (AB), who still invite me to minister when I visit Switzerland!

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.



06-10 FISHING FOR MEN IN PORTUGAL

During our training in Germany, we equipped a Volkswagen "Beetle" for the ministry (picture 11). Later, the first OAC van was given to us by co-worker Jack Kreidler, who had ministered with OAC in Italy (see chapter 20). Picture 12 shows me preaching from the van's platform. When we picked up the van in Rome, one cylinder in the engine wasn't firing. As a result, it made a terrible noise, but God sent a



11 - A MINISTRY "BEETLE"

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!



12 - VAN CANOPY IN ACTION



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

Tell-a-Tourist (TAT) was a three- to five-week summer team event that 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 children's events, often held in conjunction with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). The bottom-left picture in this series shows the new vehicle 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, wanted to meet 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!

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 very private and have developed an attitude of not wanting to be spoken to in public. Because of this, I often carried literature printed in 70 languages to distribute to crowds of guest workers and tourists who 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 many souls to find 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, Hanspeter Diriwächter, our way, who ministered with us as an intern.

Gospel Arena was a music event in central Switzerland held in a large 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 tools needed in any particular situation, so He worked it out that I ended up conducting the open-air meeting, which turned out to be a boon for the development of OAC Switzerland.



17 - ONE OF THE FIRST OAC SWITZERLAND SEMINARS

moved the sketchboard (see picture 18), so it would be closer to the crowd. The next day, without their uniforms, individuals passing by did not hesitate to approach 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."

The first president of OAC Switzerland (OAC-CH), 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 without their official uniforms, since folks stopped at a distance from our meeting location, not wanting to get close to where the people in uniforms were. We also



18 - MOVING THE SKETCHBOARD CLOSER TO THE CROWD

At the first open-air seminar held in Switzerland, students from Germany and



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

Switzerland, and from several denominations, participated. One of these students was named Stefan Grossenbacher, seen in picture 19. 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 bless the ministry He gave us, not only in Switzerland but also in Italy, Austria, Germany, France, Spain, and Portugal.

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



20 - A MEETING DURING THE FIRST SEMINAR IN SWITZERLAND

At the official launch celebration of OAC Switzerland in 1985, the work 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: Victor Winteler (Chrischona - A Swiss denomination named after the geographical location of their main office), Heinz Weidmann (Salvation Army), me, Max Lämpü (Chrischona), Richard Stähli (CKG), and Albert Wöhrli (Chrischona). Missing



21 - BOARD MEMBERS AND VISITORS AT LAUNCH OF OAC SWITZERLAND

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 Läuppi, Richard Stähli, and Albert Wöhrle.



22 - THE FIRST OAC SWITZERLAND BOARD IN SESSION



22B - SWISS BOARD MEMBERS AS OF 2019

Those who have served on our Swiss board (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 the homeless). Also, August Martin, ex-president of the Salvation Army, served for a time.

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 of carbon, the lightest and strongest material in existence at the time, used to construct airplanes. A special financial gift from the US made all this possible, and it was an excellent tool of evangelism! The van was equipped so 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!



23 - NEWLY EQUIPPED FORD TRANSIT

We have conducted many open-air outreaches on beaches over the years (see 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 incredible how often we were miraculously granted permission. 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 that 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 in Milano, Italy, we met with Korky Davey of OAC-GB (see picture 26) and various teams. In the early days of our ministry, there were no cell phones or GPS devices, so when we tried to meet up with Korky and the team in Milano, I suddenly realized we had no clue how to get to the meeting location. The address wasn't on the map, and we had



26 CO-WORKER KORKY DAVEY

no way to contact him or any of the team members! So, Shoshanah and I prayed for God to guide us. We were driving along and didn't need gas, yet God prompted us to stop at a gas station about 30 miles outside of Milano. When we stopped at the station and asked for directions, there was a Volvo with GB license plates gassing up - it was Korky!!! 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 large outdoor gathering in Paris on the 14th of July, a national holiday there. The police wanted to stop us from holding the meeting, so we told the officers we were celebrating the 14th of July, 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 I 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 member, 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 the event, Fred had been ministering for several weeks in India, and when he deboarded 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 a source of comfort for him. God made it possible for the OAC team to take Fred to an outstanding hospital in Basel that 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!

PART 2 - MINISTRY IN THE USA

In 1991, we moved to America to begin our outreach ministry in the western portion of this country. Before 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 would tour the West for two weeks to evaluate the possibilities. It was an amazing journey, with God guiding us every step of 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 wasn't 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 "Git 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 called someone who was once interested in us in that area of the country. Once a misunderstanding about transport and housing was cleared away, we were on our way to the location God had chosen for us!

From 1991 to 2019, we regularly traveled to Europe and Israel. In Jordan, we participated in an archaeological dig in 2010, and in 2016, we guided a tour in Israel. 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 one year, one of the girls, Tara, had a very sad face. I lightly touched her chin and said, "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 I brought the children home in the van, I asked her if she would like 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 my eyes open, 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, featuring teams and volunteers from all over the US and Europe, to help us remember these moments! 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, so we had to jump into leading a youth

weekend event right away. On top of that, Ephriam'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 at a Bible camp as a nurse, tending to medical needs that summer, including treating lice! Memories like these keep our hearts filled and overflowing.



**28 - OSWIN WEIDNER,
A STRONG MAN!**

Oswin Weidner, our Swiss chairman, is a big man! Picture 28 shows him having fun lifting Ephriam and his friend together.

God has always provided help when we have needed it. For instance, Fanny Daeppen (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 with us for several years 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.



**29 - CO-WORKERS FANNY DAEPPEN AND BEA TSCHOPP
AT ONE OF OUR OAC BOARD MEETINGS**

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

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 brought the van to a stop. By God's grace, we were coming up on a construction site, and the speed at which we were traveling had already been reduced in response to the boy's rambunctious actions!

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



31 - MRS. JOAN THOMAS AND KURT SCHAFLI AT RAVENCREST

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



30 - ULI HOFIUS AT MEETING IN BASEL

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



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

background, by using 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)!



33 - TEAM OR NO TEAM, THE MINISTRY CONTINUES

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



35 - DEVOTIONS WITH OBJECT LESSON AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION

In 2017, my back started "going out" so I began working with a handheld sketchboard (picture 36). I have discovered that most everyone is receptive to interesting pictures illustrating the gospel. Such drawings can easily be displayed on these boards making them especially well suited for smaller meetings.



36 - USING A HANDHELD SKETCHBOARD



37 - LOCAL LIBRARY EVENT

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.

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 in the picture served well; I could put up the small Indian symbol flashcards, which had magnet strips. 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, which provide services for teenage boys and girls.



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



39 - GRADUATION SERVICE AT THE SET-FREE PROGRAM

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



40 - SHOSHANAH DISPLAYING HEBREW CONTEXT OF THE GOSPEL IN CHALK

It was also in 2018 that Shoshanah had a unique opportunity to present the Hebrew context of the gospel at a "chalk-walk" competition (see 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 Bahamas staff. An open-air meeting (picture 41) was held using puppets, drama, and the sketchboard, in between rainstorms.



41 - OPEN AIR IN THE BAHAMAS



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

Picture 42 shows an open-air meeting in 2019 at Interlaken with Seminary Biblical Theology students. An "international" tourist is filming the action. We are showing students "the ropes" (picture 43) and how to teach with visual aids.



43 - STUDENTS LEARNING "THE ROPES"

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.



44 - BOYS' GROUP HOME, A TOUGH CROWD

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

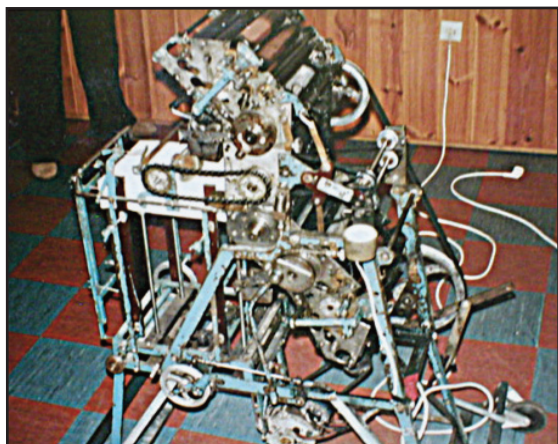


45 - SMALL BOY EXPLAINING THE SKETCHBOARD MESSAGE TO HIS PEERS

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 have special meaning for them, similar to the way it is with Israelites, so the sketchboard is a perfect tool 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!).



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



47 - GUESS WHAT THIS IS

Our ministry travels over the years have been very educational. For instance, do you know what the contraption is in picture 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. Jakob Esau baptized Shoshanah in the presence of other German-Russian believers, including 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 idea they shouldn't be washed!

During the Reformation, Anabaptists wanted to live according to the clear instructions of God's Word. They were persecuted for wanting to live this way, so some of them hid in this cave 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 all 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 from our history will encourage and challenge you.

So, what is the contraption in picture 47? It's an underground printing press, assembled 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 moisture-resistant printing process was essential, especially for those sent to labor camps under communist rule.



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