OACI UPDATE

Encouraging reports from the front-line ministry of Open Air Campaigners

AN IMPORTANT WORD FROM THE OACI PRESIDENT

Warmest Christian greetings, dear friends. Thank you very much for taking the time to read the articles and stories in this publication. I know that you are concerned about what is happening in our world today; I hope that your concern will lead you to pray for OAC worldwide and to get involved in some practical way to help the OAC staff reach the lost with the gospel of *CHRIST JESUS*. As the Lord would lead, we would be very thankful for your faithful partnership with us in the outreach of the gospel.

We are all aware that things have changed very quickly in every country around the world. Certainly **the *times* have changed**. The *thinking* of so many people has changed, and along with that their *values* have also changed dramatically. Because of all these changes that are happening, I strongly believe that we must resolve to stand firm in our trust and hope in GOD Almighty and in the absolutes of His Word. **We must remain faithful to *JESUS CHRIST* as our Commander in Chief, and we must resolve to proclaim His gospel**, the only message that has the power to change lives and rescue people from death unto life, from hopelessness unto hope, and from hell into heaven. **We must be men and women of DISCERNMENT and DIRECTION,** to know and do what needs to be done. **(1Chron.12: 32)**

There are a couple of things that I am absolutely certain about today as far as evangelism and missions are concerned. **First**: the problem that everyone in the world has today is the same - ***It is Sin***.
Second: the solution to the problem is the same - ***It is the Saviour, JESUS CHRIST***.

As OAC evangelists, leaders, volunteers and supporters, **we must remain faithful** to the *LORD JESUS CHRIST* whom we serve, **and we must resolve to preach no other message but *CHRIST* crucified** (1 Cor.1: 23-24).
Thank you and GOD bless.

For the sake of *CHRIST*,
Robert M Siakimotu

AN OLYMPIC STYLE GOLD MEDAL CONFERENCE

Just as the summer Olympics is held every four years and gathers the nations for a great event, so OAC International holds a once every four-year spring conference to gather all the OAC national directors and any other staff and family who can make it. It is a tremendous time of international fellowship, encouragement, sharing and reporting (in the tradition of Paul, the great missionary evangelist and apostle - Acts 14:27), "on all that God (has) done" through OAC ministries, and how He has opened tremendous doors of opportunity to spread the faith in all our nations.

The most recent conference was hosted in Canada, (see picture below) and although the OAC evangelists and families present were just a motley crew of normal people, it was very evident that God, in His grace, has chosen them and has manifestly used them. The reports were full of amazing ministry feats that are sure to gather some gold medals (crowns) in the great heavenly international gathering of believers for the judgment seat of Christ where all those who are faithful-fruitful in their stewardship of the gospel and the Church will be rewarded (2Cor.5:10; 1 Cor.3:8-15 and 9:25; Revelation 22:12).

Through the national branch articles in this publication we know you will be blessed to get a taste of the good Kingdom fruits of OAC ministries worldwide - enjoy, and let us exalt the name of Christ, and God our Father, together!!!

OAC International is an interdenominational ministry of evangelism committed to preach the gospel to the unreached through open-air and other outreaches in partnership with the church.

JESUS SAID: GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL… OAC INTERNATIONAL IS ON THE JOB → →

PROCLAIMING CHRIST

OAC AUSTRALIA

REACHING KIDS IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL IN THE LAND DOWN UNDER

Aussie OACers run school holiday clubs and kids' adventure camps during the school holidays in most Aussie states. Great victories have been realized for the Kingdom through these opportunities. During the last school holidays many kids and teenagers responded to the Lord's call to follow Him. Also, new ways of opening the doors into schools with Values Programs that line up with the Government's National Framework for Values Education in Australian schools are in the works. This will give opportunity to teach the gospel in a way that helps the students, as well as teachers and schools, by reinforcing the values that they are already teaching in their curriculum. They are excited about the many new and creative opportunities this government initiative will present for presenting gospel truth. **God is great!**

OAC INDIA

SOWING GOSPEL SEED THROUGH A SEWING SCHOOL MINISTRY

While the purpose and ministry of OAC India is open-air

evangelism (and much is done with gospel film and sketch board meetings), in order to comply with a government requirement upon Christian missions to "elevate the poor," sewing schools have been established in four of our state branches. About 100 poor women receive training to certificate level each year. This enables them to find work or to start their own little businesses. The training is given free of charge, with OAC covering the $15 a month cost for each student. Each day a devotional is given to the women along with a time of prayer. Without any pressure, or any requirement to convert, we do see most come to faith in Christ. **Hallelujah!**

OAC in SOUTH EAST ASIA

AN AUSSIE OPENING SOME 10/40 WINDOWS FOR GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

For a number of years Rob George from OAC Australia has been travelling regularly into South East Asia for ministry in Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia. Recently he was recognized and designated as an OAC International evangelist. The emphasis in these countries is mainly on training. The locals do not have the language or culture barriers, and so the ministry is extended by the efforts of many and not just one. Our OAC methods and ideas are always very well received. Here's some feedback from a recent visit to Malaysia and Singapore:

"Thank you for your ministry. Your creativity is a God-given gift to His church..." (Leong)

"Praise God for blessing you to reach out to the kids in such a creative and fun way." (Carol)

"Thank you for teaching us this so many creative ways for sharing the Gospel with others." (Kenny)

OAC FIJI

THOUGH THE GOING IS ROUGH OAC HANGS TOUGH

Despite the challenging times Fijians face since the 2006 military coup, life goes on and our OAC people there believe that God has allowed these circumstances to take place so that the Fijian church may be drawn closer to Him and be used to draw outsiders in. Open-air preaching continues to be held in downtown Suva, as well as children's ministry during and after school hours every week. Training and teaching is also carried out in the local churches at their request. Thus God's kingdom continues to go on and forward here. **Glory to His name!**

BY ALL MEANS

OAC CANADA

PREACHING AND REACHING FROM COAST TO COAST

One of the best opportunities to preach the gospel in the open air in Atlantic Canada is during the summer-time International Busker's Festival, on the public boardwalk of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Thousands of people come to see live street performances by some of the most talented acrobats, mimes, jugglers, dancers and magicians from all of over the globe. We go with an OAC team and find excellent spots to preach at night with the sketch board using a black-light and neon paint to attract attention. Within minutes the crowd swells and many people are hearing the gospel! It is very exciting! Everyone on our team had plenty of wonderful opportunities to present the biblical gospel. A former pastor, turned OAC evangelist, states, "I believe it is safe to say we reached more lost people in 48 hours on that boardwalk than most churches will reach in a year." **Great is our God!**

OAC JAMAICA

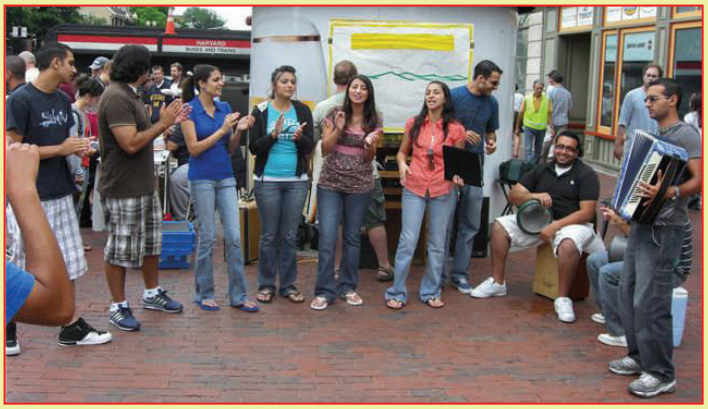
CONDUCTING A MARATHON OF MINISTRY IN A LAND OF SPRINTERS

While many around the world may recognize the names of Jamaica's Olympic track stars, a much more significant name known throughout Jamaica is "Uncle Keith"! Our OAC evangelist Keith Phillips and associates have given gospel presentations in multitudes of public and private schools to tens of thousands of Jamaican students for over twenty years, but that is not all. When the schools are closed they carry on other ministries such as the hospital prenatal clinic chapel outreach that has also continued running for twenty years. There is also a regular prison ministry as well as churches, camps, VBS and open-air ministries yearly. One VBS opportunity required a marathon of traveling over 130 kilometers per day to conduct, which was very tiring, but as Uncle Keith reports, "To see many of those children give their lives to Christ was well worth it." So they marathon on for Jesus. **Praise His mighty name!**

OAC USA

BUILDING WITH JESUS IN BEAN TOWN (BOSTON)

Jesus said, "I will build my Church...." A core valve of this ministry is our involvement with the local church. This past summer OAC-USA experienced a tremendous fulfillment of that core value. The Arabic Evangelical Baptist Church of Boston is a church we have often worked with over the years. During one week our OAC Boston staff spent four days with them, conducting 15 open-air meetings. They formed a choir which helped attract many to the open-airs. An Arabic literature table was set up near the sketch board which resulted in many Muslims engaging in Arabic conversations with church members. At the end of the week the Arabic Church had a barbecue and concert at their church and 33 Muslims attended who had been at various open-air meetings the preceding five days. The church called us to report this news, and we all had to praise the Lord for His hand of blessing on this entire week. **All glory be to Jesus!**



OAC USA AND SWITZERLAND

REACHING AMERICAN NATIVES VIA SWITZERLAND

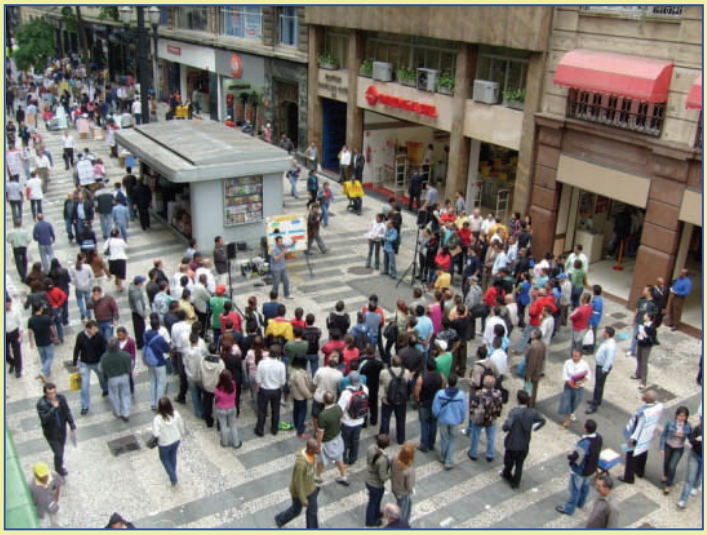
How do you reach American natives from Switzerland, you might be wondering? Well, the answer is for God to relocate Kurt Schafli, our OAC Switzerland director, to an American Indian reservation years ago, and have him plug away at giving out the gospel there – here is a recent result:

A group of 20 children were sponsored for a Bible camp this past summer. Many of them were reached through open-air programs in their housing areas. Most of them have a parent in prison. One young boy was counselled for salvation and joined his step-dad in the Kingdom who, one month before, had received Christ at a Bible study in jail. Many of our children are Native American. Pray for them to be able to implement the biblical principles they have learned. **Our God is an awesome God!**

EVERYWHERE

OAC BRAZIL

A HUGE HARVEST IN THE STREETS AND SCHOOLS



All the schools that we go to have many students who are very involved with drugs. In our message we talk a lot about this problem and how God is the only one who can give them a hope, a new life, and save them. Many teachers, as well as students, lift up their hands as a sign that they have prayed to receive Jesus. Some teachers told us that when the students went back to their classes after the program, they were absolutely impacted by the message and talked a lot about what they saw and heard.

The plazas are also an incredible place to work! In big towns in Brazil we can have crowds between 100 - 200 people. Sometimes during six meetings, in just one day, we can preach to 1,000 different people! In these crowds there are all ages and all social classes represented. Wherever the outreach is, usually about 80% of the people indicate that they prayed to receive Jesus, after the programs. We praise God for this great ministry that He has given us.

A visiting youth pastor, with a short term mission team from the U.S., said, *"Wow! This was an incredible day of ministry. Words cannot describe it.... This is the most incredible day of ministry I think I have ever experienced on all levels in 20 years of youth ministry."* **Praise the Lord indeed!**

OAC ECUADOR

TURNING KIDS FROM GANGS TO GOD

The city of Manta, according to the police, is the most dangerous and violent city of Ecuador. Gangs are a real problem. One night, in the middle of a gospel film we were presenting in one of the poorest neighbourhoods, a confrontation began between two gangs. The environment became very heavy. We began to pray that the Lord would preserve our lives. Thank God, they decided not to fight and finally they left. In that moment I asked the Lord, "How can we attract the attention of all of these teenagers when they are involved in a mafia?" The answer came immediately, "By continuing school meetings!" During the next two weeks the Lord allowed us to present the gospel in no less than six high schools. In one week we were able to present the gospel to over 1900 students from a public school, class by class. Every such meeting in a public school is a real miracle. One teacher heard the message no less than 20 times. Our OAC evangelist asked her, "You must be tired of hearing the message over and over again." She responded, "On the contrary, I needed to hear this." Then after a more direct personal witness was shared, she was broken and prayed to trust Jesus! **Hallelujah!**

OAC PARAGUAY

ONE FRUIT LEADS TO THOUSANDS

The OAC work is increasing greatly here. The number of public schools that are opening their doors to us is impressive. There is a small town here called Caacupe, which is very focused on practicing idolatry. It is known as the blue virgin city. Every year in December around 1 million people go to worship this blue virgin idol there. Years ago, in this same town, we held an outreach in a school and a young man named Edder Cantero accepted Christ as Saviour. Because of his good testimony he was given the position of president of the youth of Caacupe. Just this year Edder organized an event in a theater in Caacupe. He invited us to hold campaigns at which approximately 1,500 youth gathered into the theatre to receive the gospel message. The governor of this town and the chief of police also attended. The governor was so happy with the program we presented that he came forward to thank us and invited OAC to hold a campaign in the plaza where he plans to gather some 4000 youth. **Praise the Lord again!**

OAC MEXICO

INFLUENCING THE FUTURE INFLUENCERS FOR CHRIST

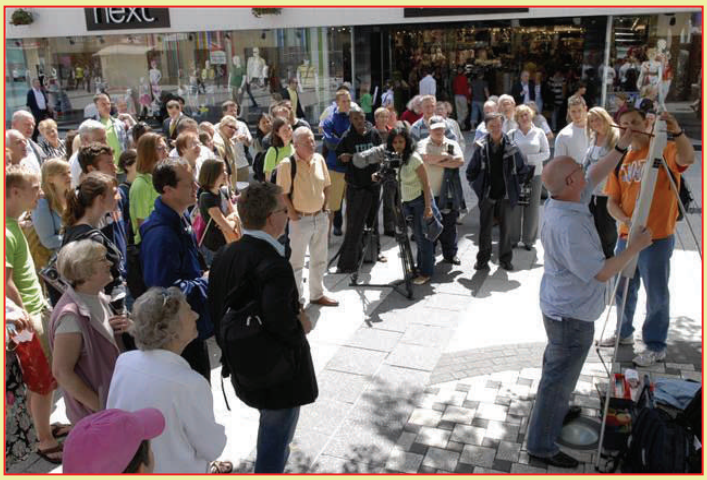
Approximately 450 first-year students attended our first meeting on a university campus in Mexico. There was great attention paid to the film on AIDS, the message on biblical values and the gospel. A good question and answer time followed. Some students told the local pastor with us that they wanted to come to his church.

Certificates of appreciation were given to the OAC evangelists by the director, and they were asked to return whenever they could, and at least once each year to speak to all first-year students. This has opened a new door of ministry to OAC Mexico which we trust will spread to other universities. **Praise be to God!**

OAC GREAT BRITAIN

HEAVENLY KINGDOM MIRACLES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

OAC GB was joined this year by OM Life-hope in a joint initiative in Cardiff. Experienced evangelists, worked with a team of 89 and some 14 churches in and around Cardiff for what was an exciting time of outreach ministry. One team member, Glen, was talking to a young man from Russia and had just mentioned the verse from Romans 6:23. At that precise moment a complete stranger thrust a piece of paper, quoting that exact verse, into their hands. This divine encounter shocked the man. The next day he returned to say he had given his life to Christ! Another team member, Leslie, reports, "I was sitting on a bench eating my lunch and struck up a conversation with a young Muslim man from Saudi Arabia. After sharing my testimony and the cost of being a disciple of Jesus he trusted Christ right there!" Then there was Tori who was amazed to see the way God used us as a team and shared that after one event in a local church 12 people trusted Christ. "I will never forget that evening," she said. "God is awesome!" **Our God is a great big God!**



OAC SPAIN

GIVING OUT LIVING WATER AT THE WORLD EXPO ON WATER

At the World Expo on water and sustainable development (hosted in Spain) some 330,000 visitors came over three months time. OAC was there for a couple weeks showing a video presentation on how Jesus offers the Living Water and speaking with people about their personal spiritual thirst (need) after the show. OACers also trained a team to carry on doing sketch board and other evangelism in the Expo and the city's parks to keep the Fountain of Life flowing. **God is good & gracious!**

OAC AUSTRIA

REACHING MUSLIMS ON MAIN STREET

During the last few years there has been a considerable increase of Arab tourists coming to Austria.

In some of our open-air meetings almost half of the crowd is Muslim. Many of them are friendly and are listening right through to the end when the gospel is being presented. They show great interest in receiving gospel literature in their own language. Muslim ladies have thanked us for the leaflets saying, "My husband must not know that I read this. But I will hide it from him and read it secretly." The local outreach team regularly uses evangelistic material in about 30 different languages. It is very difficult for missionaries in most of these countries to share the gospel, but OAC is glad to take advantage of the many opportunities to share Christ with Muslims coming to us. **Blessed be the Lord!**

OAC GERMANY

GOD'S PRESENCE IS FELT ON THE STREETS OF BAVARIA

"God is present" was the motto of an outreach of the Evangelical Alliance Wuerzburg. Christians from six different churches worked together hand-in-hand to reach their hometown. Four OAC evangelists from Germany, Austria and the Netherlands worked together as team leaders. Thus they were able to perform open-air meetings at several different places in the city every day during the entire week. Everyone involved in the outreach clearly experienced the reality of the motto, as God worked through them. The local Christians learned to evangelize openly on the streets, and several people opened their hearts to Christ. On the last day of ministry, Guenther, the pastor of the Baptist church, wanted to give a tract to a woman. Her answer was, "Thank you, I received this flyer yesterday already, and this morning I have committed my life to Jesus." **God was present indeed!**

OAC LATVIA

A SMALL SEED DEMONSTRATING BIG POTENTIAL

We welcome OAC Latvia as a new and officially registered national branch ministry. They have made good progress towards a long-term vision of raising up **four specialist departments in the Riga region** (Riga being the capital), with the clear goal of creative communication of the Christian message. They have an increasing number of volunteers who are growing in experience and developing their gifting through a structured four-level evangelists' training program. All four departments have been growing tremendously. **The department of outreach to adults on the streets** now has three voluntary team members, and has received permission for regular open-air meetings in the centre of the capital. The **department of outreach to schools** has been recently testing a new program called "The Jesus Project" which focuses in a creative way on Jesus' book, birth, life, death and resurrection. What was, only two years ago, such a small, almost invisible seed, has now grown into a small, but strong tree. They are looking forward to that growth continuing and increasing their fruitfulness for the King and kingdom there.
God be exalted!

OAC RUSSIA

MANY OPEN DOORS IN THIS ONCE CLOSED COUNTRY

God has provided us great opportunities to preach in family camps. With the help of a puppet show, Bible stories and illustrations, people heard and clearly saw the Good News. Also, in kids' camps, God opened the doors with the help of an anti-drug and AIDS program, where in every program we showed that there is "Someone" who can fill the emptiness in people's hearts and give them a purpose in life. Then through sketch board messages we tell them about Jesus. At one of these programs about 700 teenagers gathered to hear this "Good News"!
Another great opportunity is when people come from many parts of Russia for summer vacations at the warm Black Sea. Though this kind of public proclamation was formerly forbidden, the police are not only not hindering the ministry now, but are actually even encouraging it for the good of the community.
Glory to God in the highest!

OAC UKRAINE

A MURDERER FINDS A PARDON

Our OAC Ukraine director writes, "When I approached a man to talk about Christ after an open-air meeting he was reticent, but in his eyes were tears. It was obvious that something was hindering him from finding peace in his life. I encouraged him to talk. It appeared that once he had killed a person and had then left his family. From the program he had heard that God is willing to forgive, release from guilt, and love us despite everything we have done. He prayed a prayer of repentance, and then we prayed for him with a visiting pastor from America who was helping us with his team. As we parted, we gave him a New Testament and a big brotherly hug. Now we trust that he, who so needed God, will go on to live his life with Him and give life to others."
God is merciful and wonderful!

OAC also has significant and fruitful branch ministries in the following countries:

- **Albania**
- **Argentina**
- **Belgium**
- **Denmark**
- **Finland**
- **France**
- **Greece**
- **Ireland**
- **Italy**
- **Netherlands**
- **New Zealand**
- **Romania**
- **Uganda**

If you are receiving this Update from one of these national branches then look for a special insert article featuring the OAC work within that country.

For more information on any OAC branch please visit our website - www.oaci.org - or contact a national or continental zone office listed below:

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AN OAC OFFICE IN YOUR AREA

Is God calling you to join in an OACI work as an evangelist, or a volunteer helper, or as a prayer and financial supporter for one of our staff or branches? Please follow His leading and contact the appropriate office for assistance.