

NEW ZEALAND



MARTY SCHEIB

New Zealand is perhaps one of the most geographically isolated countries in the world and has a population of nearly five million on its two islands. Settled by the English in the late 18th century, the Gospel was preached to them first by Samuel Marsden on Christmas Day in 1814, sparking a revival. The 200th anniversary of that event seemed to spark a renewed feeling of unity in Christian churches.

New Zealand was the second overseas branch of Open Air Campaigners. Jim Duffey and George Bremner conducted

ministry here during 1953-54 and founded an OAC branch in Auckland and Wellington nine months later. Through the years, God has blessed, and OAC NZ has expanded to include present-day branches in Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Canterbury, Manawatu, Nelson, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty. The work in this nation is known as OAC - Outreach and Church Ministries NZ.

This country has gifted staff who specialize in communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who are normally outside the scope of routine church outreach. It works alongside the local church, leading people to faith in Christ and into fellowship with local churches. OAC Ministries is committed to taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the world of the unconverted and equipping the Christian church to do the same.

At this writing, the national director is Lew Meyer, who has a background in science and had training at Massey University (BSc) and Biblical Studies (New Zealand Assembly Bible School). He is married to Angela and has directed the ministry in NZ for many years. He participated in the six-week training seminar taught by Gerald Bradley in 1981. His ministry experience includes three years as a youth worker in West Auckland, three years as a high school and camp worker with Scripture Union, and over 30 years with OAC Ministries as an evangelist. In March 2020, Jeremy Dempsey, a gifted communicator and passionate about training, took over as the national director after serving as the OAC national field director.

Additional staff and their spouses include Gareth Cross (Hawkes Bay), Maria Henderson (Hawkes Bay), John Laing (Nelson Bays), Roy Ouwerkerk (Canterbury), Tania & Wayne Payton (Canterbury), Kim & Joan Rusden (Canterbury), Marty Scheib (Canterbury), Gary & Vicki Scoggins (Bay of Plenty), Robert & Laisa Siakimotu (international evangelist), and Paul & Joanne Tabrum (Waikato).



TANIA PAYTON



JEREMY DEMPSEY

The OAC NZ leadership sees the present focus of OAC NZ as reconnecting with the local church. With this purpose in mind, OAC staff lead and train summer mission teams. They have launched a program called "Community Chaplains." This program trains church people to be out in their communities, effectively presenting the Gospel.

In addition, the School of Evangelism is a course offered by OAC NZ which raises up a new generation of evangelists who will work closely with the local church in

mentoring, equipping, inspiring, and resourcing them to effectively take the power of God for salvation (the Gospel) into the community. The goal is that people will have an opportunity to have their lives transformed by Christ and be discipled to maturity, actively serving in the local church and the community.

Long-term goals for OAC NZ include ongoing training for local church teams in evangelism and equipping them to reach out to their communities. The "Community Chaplains" program mentioned above makes a significant contribution to that goal. Also in the planning stages is a weekly children's TV program where the Gospel is presented in a clear and creative way so that a new generation can be reached for Christ.



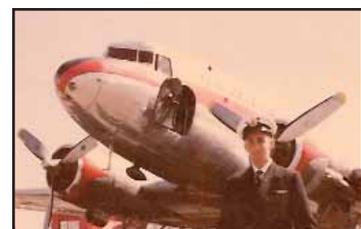
GARETH CROSS



MARIA HENDERSON

Through the years, God has used OAC NZ to provide many key people to establish, nurture, and advance the Gospel, not only in New Zealand but around the world. Such individuals have included Gerald Bradley, George Bremner, Bryan Fruish, Noel Gibson, Ken Rout, David Salisbury, Barry Tetley, and others. Today, this tradition continues as OAC NZ staff conduct ministry outreach in the Philippines, Samoa, Vanuatu, and other Pacific islands and nations. Robert Siakimotu currently conducts extensive foreign outreach and served as our OAC International president from 2004 to 2012.

David Wilson was born in New Zealand, became an airline captain with Air New Zealand, then felt led to leave for the USA in 1967 to become an international missionary. After graduating from Bible college, he joined the OAC USA staff in 1970, and became the director of the Baltimore/DC branch. Moved by the Lord to an expanded international ministry, he formed and became director of the "Overseas Ministries" department which is now known as Worldwide Proclamation (WP) and has been



DAVID WILSON



JOHN LAING

responsible for planting OAC branches in Bolivia, Brazil, Congo (DRC), Ecuador, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Russia, and Ukraine. David also served as our OAC International president from 1996 to 2004. Today, Chip Welton (OAC Canada) is the director of Worldwide Proclamation, and David is still going strong, actively serving as the Field Director for WP, traveling as an evangelist, and overseeing much of the front-line work in many countries.



GARY SCOGGINS

OAC NZ continues to have a positive impact for Christ in their own country and abroad.



ROY OUWERK