

Presenting Christ by all means everywhere

STEVE AND CONNIE JOHNSON UPDATE

OPEN AIR CAMPAIGNERS
QUAD CITIES BRANCH

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Busy Year

God has graciously given us many opportunities to reach the lost for Christ here in the Quad Cities this year. There is certainly a need, as we live in one of the most unchurched communities in the USA. Most of our ministry is dedicated to the biblical model of taking the Gospel to the lost, where they are. This includes many Colleges and High Schools. There is also a huge Farmers Market in Davenport where we regularly set up a sketchboard every week. Indoor opportunities include different Awanas, Mens Shelters, Senior Centers and even weekly Gospel outreaches at local public elementary schools. We have hosted 2 mission groups this last summer and have partnered with our local church to do week long neighborhood VBS program. We led a community Bible study for Christians and non believers this last winter also. Connie has also spoken at a few women's conferences this past year.

Connie at the Salvation Army in Moline, Illinois



Steve preaching the Gospel at the University of Iowa



Neighborhood VBS with our church



Connie using sketchboard to proclaim the Gospel at the Farmers Market



Connie Testimony

October proved to be a month with abundant opportunities for the ministry of the gospel. Two encounters that stand out for me this past month involved kids encountering Christ on a personal level. I'd like to tell you about a young lady named Stephanie that I interacted with at a local church's Trunk or Treat event. As kids waited in line to play the carnival type games, I had their captive attention as I did "magic tricks" as object lessons to share the Gospel. After sharing with the group of kids that Stephanie was in, they moved onto the next game but Stephanie hung back and asked me if I could answer a question for her. I gladly agreed. She then asked me "Can I really know that I can go to heaven when I die? I really miss my grandma and I want to see her again. Everybody tells me she's in heaven." I assured her by explaining repentance and faith again and stressed that it meant she would spend eternity with Jesus, who loved her even more than her grandma. I then asked her if she wanted to make her salvation sure by receiving Jesus as her Savior. She hesitated and said she didn't want to do it in front of her friends who were now making their way back to us. I told Stephanie that she needed to get right with God before she went to sleep that night. With tears in her eyes, she said she definitely would. She then grabbed me and hugged me so tight and thanked me for making it all make sense to her. Please pray for Stephanie!

The next story is about how God can use you to minister the Gospel to someone in the most unexpected and unusual way. I was the speaker at another church's ladies fall retreat weekend. One of the ladies who was singing at the retreat had to bring her son with her because her husband had something come up and couldn't keep him. The little boy was in a room next to the hall where I was speaking trying to keep himself entertained. Before my afternoon session, I set up my sketch board which really piqued his interest. He asked his mom if he could peek in and watch since he very much enjoys art himself. After the retreat ended, his mother came and said that her son couldn't stop talking about the sketch board and Jesus' cross. On a Sunday afternoon, two weeks after the retreat, the lady who had asked me to speak told me that the little boy went home that day and told his mom that now he understood why Jesus died on the cross. He prayed to receive God's forgiveness and for Jesus to save him. On the Sunday morning that she contacted me, that little boy gave his testimony and was baptized at their church. He had also told his mom he wanted to draw pictures to tell everybody about Jesus too. Ha! Perhaps a future evangelist? God is good!

Van Fund

We have been careful over the years to be as financially self sufficient as possible and by God's grace we mostly are. Our mission organization does not support us financially, so we are responsible to appeal to others to join us in the ministry through tax deductible donations. For now, we have been paying for all our supplies and travel expenses by ourselves and through the generous giving of a few precious saints. We were grateful for the opportunity to buy a ministry van last year and it has been a wonderful tool in the ministry. It is very old, however, and will probably not last more than a year or two. So we are asking you to prayerfully consider joining with us in prayer and in financial assistance. All donations go through our mission organization and they are all tax deductible. Open Air Campaigners is a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability, and you can be assured all funds will be spent with high standards of accountability.

You can donate one time or monthly and all funds can be sent online at OAC website..<http://www.oacusa.org/staff-johnson.php>
Or you can send checks with a note to whom the donation is for, to
OAC PO Box D
Nazareth, PA 18064



Thanks for prayers

1. It has been a tough year physically for me(Steve). For someone who has never been sick, it seems I am getting everything at once. Starting in January, I had a wisdom tooth become infected and had to be removed. It infiltrated my eustachian tube and has affected my inner ear. The symptoms have been much ear ringing and dizziness.
2. In September of this year, I began having symptoms of a breathing problem and was diagnosed with pneumonia. It was not resolving, however, and it seemed much more was going on. Then one day I sat down on the chair and all of a sudden, could not breathe. Connie took me to the hospital and I had bilateral pulmonary embolism, and had to be admitted. I will be on anticoagulants for a while until the embolisms dissolve.
3. We are in the process of reevaluating our outreach schedule for next year. Some outreaches were more fruitful than others, and it seems we will be engaging with other churches around town this summer in addition to our regular home church. We need to be mindful of not over scheduling, as it was crazy at times last summer, and we want to do everything with as much planning and care as we can.
4. Please pray for more laborers in the harvest field. We could easily field another team of evangelists around our community. It was wonderful to see our church participate in the different outreaches around town. May God continue to expand our territory and bring many to proclaim the glorious Gospel to the lost of the QC's.
5. Pray that we have continued favor with the authorities at the colleges and high schools and in general with the local police.
6. The QC's have a high concentration of Roman Catholics, JW's and other cults. May we have an impact with them with the Gospel.
7. We are planning a 2 month long "Conversation Club-Bible Study" meeting at a local coffee shop next to Western Illinois-Quad Cities University campus in January-February. Pray for much participation from other Christians and non believers.
8. Connie and I are planning on joining with a church in Mexico in January for an outreach in Cozumel. It will be a time of rest and also, Lord willing, some fruitful Gospel outreaches there.



Our current van, named "The Truth Taxi".