

You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; at Your right hand are eternal pleasures.

Psalm 16:11

### Dear Friends, Family and Former Team Members,

On May 1 we celebrated our 35th year as **staff with Teen Missions.** Reflecting on the last 35 years, we cannot be more thankful for these many years of ministry. The Lord has blessed us beyond measure, and it is because of those who were/are praying for us and have supported us in so many ways these 35 years, which allowed us to serve, and continue to serve Him. The many staff and volunteer friendships we have been blessed with, the many lives of our team members and leaders that we had a front seat in watching God work and change for His glory, the missionaries and overseas staff that we have had the privilege of getting to know and love, experiencing hardships but so, so many blessings—for these things and others, we give all the glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We continue to love what we do, even in the tough times, and we look forward to continuing what we started 35 years ago as long as the Lord allows. He is so, so worthy!

Today, Teen Missions is celebrating its 55th birthday! We are grateful for Bob, Bernie, Jim, Paul, Barb, and Widder, who had a vision of what God could do in and through the lives of the team members and leaders as they served Him through their evangelistic outreaches and work projects. What a privilege it is to

be a part of this ministry that continues to do what the founders envisioned—spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It has been a busy few months since our last newsletter. In just about a month, the team leaders and team members will arrive to begin their training at the Lord's Boot Camp. The Big Top Tents are up, tents sights are being prepped for tents, the Obstacle Course is up—it is definitely beginning to look a lot like Boot Camp! Paul has been busy finalizing the travel, having zoom meetings with the leaders and missionaries, working outside as needed and leading the Mobilization Department. I continue to process the never-ending paperwork, work on visas, talk with parents, answer emails, etc. It can be hectic at times, but we keep our eyes on the "prize" of when our team members arrive.

We are looking forward to going back to Cambodia. We have a love for the staff, students and ministry there. We are so excited about leading a group of 18 team members (seven boys and 11 girls) along with four other leaders—three team members are former team members of ours and we led the parents of one of our team members and one of the leaders (are you confused yet?). We have been having zoom meetings together and weekly prayer with the two students who are part of our leadership team. Please pray for health,

safety, unity and ministry opportunities (when We just got back from a weekend trip to traveling and while in Cambodia) for our team Illinois, where our nephew got married. It was members and leaders. We long to be a blessing good to see the Kostner side for a few hours. to the base and the surrounding areas.



Our flight to Chicago arrived seven hours late, but we arrived safely and had a great time of fellowship.

Thank you for your vital part in our ministry, whether you are praying, encouraging, or supporting us. We could not do it without you!

**Paul and Beth** 





Our kids are doing fine, and we are so thankful for each of them. It has been fun watching them navigate adulthood! All of us were together for BJ's wedding on March 15. What a blessing! It was a beautiful wedding; everything went smoothly, and the weather was perfect. We are overjoyed to welcome Kenzie into the Kostner family.

In the U.S. mail to: Teen Missions Int'l, Inc. 885 East Hall Road Merritt Island, FL 32953 F-mail: info@teenmissions org 321-453-0350

In Canada mail to: **Great Commission Foundation** PO Box 14006 Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 0B4 CANADA

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Teen
Missions
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885 East Hall Road
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**Teen Missions International** 

## Spring 2025

# Ministry Update

### **Teen Missions: A Legacy of Faith and Action**

"I will remember the works of the Lord. Yes, I will remember the amazing things you did long ago!" Psalm 77:11

On May 7, 1970, Teen Missions was born—not from a boardroom or a business plan, but from a burning desire in the hearts of men and women who believed God could use young people to change the world. Leading the charge was Robert M. Bland, a man whose years in ministry had opened his eyes to a powerful truth: God doesn't wait for someone to grow up before He calls them. And neither should we.

Bob met countless teenagers who were eager to serve the Lord, only to be told to wait. One young girl's words stayed with him: "But I want to do something for the Lord now—not five years from now," she told him. Her plea echoed the heart of a generation longing to act, to serve, and to go. Bob knew teens had the passion, the energy, and the boldness to follow wherever God would lead.





From that conviction, a bold and unprecedented vision took shape: "**Training tomorrow's missionary today.**" The first Teen Missions team stepped out in faith and traveled to Mexico in 1971. It was the beginning of something extraordinary.

Fifty-five years later, the numbers tell the story—48,000+ teenagers, 120+ countries, and 1,900+ teams have left their mark across the globe. Fifty-five years later, our mission remains the same: "To inspire and equip a new generation to boldly proclaim salvation in Christ alone." (I Peter 2:9)

And that's the story of Teen Missions—a story still being written by teenagers with willing hearts and a God who still does the impossible. When young hearts say "yes" to God, they can impact the world for Jesus!

Be part of the legacy and share your photos and memories! Send them to: graphics@teenmissions.net

### Happy Birthday, Teen Missions International!

### Together for Global Impact: Will you partner with us today?

Teen Missions International has **equipped and inspired youth** to live out their faith and serve others for decades. Our overseas ministries, established **because of their faithfulness to 'GO'** are growing like never before! National staff are trained, equipped, and eager to begin new ministries. The only thing standing in their way is funding. We invite you to join our **Global Impact Partnership** to fuel this movement! Together, we aim to raise **\$1 million** in 2025 to sustain and expand vital ministries worldwide:

- Boot Camps Training youth for missions (\*3,362 team members)
- **Bible Schools** Equipping future leaders (\*627 students)
- **Sunday Schools** Discipling children in need (\*81,690 children attended)
- Rescue Units Supporting children in crisis (\*7,397 orphans receiving care)
- **Matron Units** Providing safety & discipleship for young women (\*729 girls)



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