

Major Milestone Reached

Guest Writer – Tom Paver



The last couple of years Janice has been the writer of these letters, and I think she's done a very good job (don't you?). However, I asked her if I might take a portion of this letter to reflect on our journey with OM – a journey that has spanned over 4 decades. It all began a little more than 40 years ago in the



Original entry stamps into Belgium in 1985

summer of 1984 when we attended a Christian music festival put on by Resurrection Band. The Cornerstone Music Festival was to us a 'bargain' in terms of the concerts that we would hear, not to mention the seminars that were scheduled during the day. What we didn't realize at the time was how God would impact the future direction of our lives. As a result of hearing various speakers, George Verwer among them, God opened our hearts to His plan for us. We both felt a clear call to commit ourselves to that plan. Shortly after returning home, we reached out to get more information about Operation Mobilization (OM). We learned that there were opportunities to serve using the talents that God had given us – God had already prepared us to follow His plan. In fact, Janice had been working for Greater Europe Mission in their headquarters in Carol Stream, Illinois (just across the street from our apartment complex!) seeing missions from the administration point of view.

During the application process with OM, it became clear that Belgium would be the best location for us to serve as Janice could work in the CAO (Central Accounting Office) and Tom would find his place in the garage. Not everything always went according to our plan and there were difficulties along the way, but we began to realize that our service would be longer

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than just a year or two. We were in Belgium from April 1985 to September 1997 and at OM USA from January 1998 to present for Janice (Tom's role ended in December 2022). Over those years there were far too many events to recount in this letter, but there are some highlights that stick out. Being around the many summer and fall conferences that brought new people into OM. Helping to send off teams overland to India. Helping launch a new system for finances across all of the OM fields. Being involved behind the scenes in 1989 when Love Europe (the summer outreach across Europe) began. We travelled to many countries around Europe in support of the teams that were sharing the Gospel message to people who needed to hear of God's Amazing Grace. The work at OM USA was, on the surface anyway, not as 'exciting', but just as vital to the smooth functioning of a home office and impacted world missions.

Looking back on 40 years with OM, one thing clearly comes to mind – God has provided for us all along the way. In Deuteronomy 8:4 and 29:5 it is mentioned how God cared for His people for 40 years in the wilderness – and this was for a disobedient generation! How much more does God provide for those who obey Him and follow His plan for them. AND He has been using many of you to provide for our needs – we are humbled by His goodness to us. Thank you for being obedient and blessing us in the process.

Our Original Photos – Wow we look so young!



Family Update

Abby – Will finish her Junior year of college soon. She has turned in most of her projects but has a few more things she needs to do and a couple of classes to attend. She continues to work for Country Fried Creative (a digital marketing agency in Peachtree City, GA) and enjoys the work she is doing for them. She is going to be taking 1 summer course this year as the elective she wants to take is only offered in the summer. This will also lighten her load for next spring and give her a slower pace (hopefully). If you would like to see some of her work visit her website at: <https://paverabby.wixsite.com/apaver-portfolio>



Amanda – Has had an exciting couple of months with the sports that she is responsible for. She was mid-season with women's basketball at the writing of my last letter. They finished top of their conference and were in the first round of the NCAA Women's Basketball playoffs. This meant a trip to Indiana where they played Notre Dame and lost, but they played hard none the less. Amanda talked 2 of her friends into going to Portillo's for dinner the night before the game – one of her favorite Chicago based restaurants. Just last week the Tennis Team won their conference championship. Softball is heading to the conference championship this weekend as a 6 seed so she is heading back to Louisiana again while tennis will be an hour away at LSU. SFA women's teams have won five of the six conference championships this season. It is exciting to see these athletes doing so well. Amanda is looking for new opportunities in the job market – please pray for the right door to open. SFA Strategic Communications is about to get a new boss in the next month or so. The previous boss moved on to another job in April.

My work here at OMUSA continues to challenge my skills. I have been working with our Mobilization department and our applicant tracking system for many months now. There are parts of the system that are working quite well and others that we seem to have issues with regularly. Pray that we would be able to wrap up these workflows soon to allow us to work on other projects that have been waiting for this project to be completed.

Our department is looking to add another person as we find ourselves having to delay projects since we don't have a person to dedicate to it. Pray that we can find the right person to take on 2 of our newer systems as their main focus.



A recent picture of us visiting one of our favorite restaurants.



Tom – Is enjoying the work that he is doing at the local repair shop. They are always happy to have him in the garage. We took a few days off this month to take a couple of short trips and he was told by at least one of his co-workers they were glad to have him back.

He often works on challenging vehicles. Some for only a consult with one of the other mechanics, others he is also doing the work to fix the problem. This gives a lot of variety to his work.

At the writing of my last letter I was just heading off to South Africa for the Finance Forum at Magalies Park in South Africa. I had 2 sessions that I was responsible to give which went well (I think). The venue was a very nice place and our bungalow was able to play miniature golf on our afternoon off. We had a great time.



My Working Group for the week



As you can see from the photo below we had a good number of participants. Mostly from around Africa but there were a few from other places too. We had a very profitable week making connections with others that work in similar roles around the globe. Friendships were begun and relationships built some that may last a lifetime. I enjoyed my time with this group as we all tried to learn new things about the product that we use for our account software. Thank you for your support in the work that I am involved in. Trips like this make me appreciate all those who stand with me in the work I do with OM.



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