

# MAHER NEWS

TEENMISSIONS.ORG



**“Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name;  
the upright shall dwell in Your presence.”  
Psalms 140:13**

Dear Friends,

### Happy New Year!

Each year Tom and I choose a **“word of the year”** and spend the year focusing on and applying it to our lives and experiences. Our word for 2024 is **DEVOTE**. We are using Colossians 4:2 as our verse of the year. **“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.”** (NASB). In one of the books I am currently reading, I ran across this statement, “Trusting and trying are opposites, we are either trusting God or we are not.” This statement hit home with Tom and me. We desire to spend a year DEVOTED to prayer, with alertness and thankfulness. We are confident God will give us many opportunities throughout the year. We are encouraged by the testimonies from the 14 winter Boot Camps run overseas. Over 2000 young people had the opportunity to be trained and equipped to share the Gospel. We are also excited that 200 teens are already signed up for the 2024 summer mission trips. The numbers are higher for January 2024 than last year. Praise the Lord!

### OCTOBER

We traveled to Pennsylvania in mid-October for my mom’s funeral. Mom entered her eternal rest on October 15. We had an interesting trip with Tom on the knee scooter, but it was a bittersweet and precious time. As a group of six siblings, we were relieved to see that mom’s suffering had ended: however, she was our friend, the one whom each of us called to share any news. She will be greatly missed. I had the opportunity to talk with cousins I had not seen in years. Mom was the last of the family patriarchs and was a prayer warrior for so many. It was a blessing to hear how her life had touched so many others. Some of her childhood girlfriends attended and told stories about her we had never heard. We will treasure those memories.

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

The holidays were very different for us this year. We had Thanksgiving with Zach, Alyssa, Kalah and the girls at Zach’s home. We went over the day before and spent the night and had a good



time of fellowship together. We did Christmas in what seemed like shifts. Everyone in the family took turns with different illnesses. Oh, such is life. We were eventually well enough to celebrate with everyone. We had a joyous time making cookies, playing games, opening gifts, eating good meals, and having the blessing of knowing our Saviour came as a baby. I enjoyed watching the grandchildren play with the nativity set and tell the story to each other. Kalah spent three or four days with us and it was fun to rest together. I also spent time through the holidays talking with my siblings as we all missed Mom.



### NOW

Tom is as busy as ever in the Graphics/IT department. He is working on the new website, supervising the printing of materials for summer team members to promote their trips, printing year-end receipts, and troubleshooting. He does have a new “toy”, an electric cutter. The Graphics/IT Department is having fun with it and the guys are so excited to cut literature with accuracy.

Tom purchased some toy rockets and the grandkids are having so much fun launching them with Papa in the field. Tom also found a used bicycle and is teaching the two oldest to ride a two-wheeler. They love it, and so does Papa.

I managed to keep busy with running the Finance Department and teaching this term. I took on a class at the last minute due to a lack of available teachers. 2024 greeted me with my first challenge of the year when I was diagnosed with shingles on January 14th. I am convinced this must be what Job experienced with his skin condition. It is painful and produces so much fatigue. I am not contagious so I am working in the office. The ministry has been so gracious in allowing me to rest when needed. Tom is hovering like crazy, and he along with many co-workers get on me if I am staying “too long” each day. God has an incredible sense of humor. As a couple,

we decided to devote ourselves to prayer and God has given us the opportunity to do just that. I have not been sleeping well, so I spend many moments in prayer throughout the night. Once I worked through the frustration of coming down with this, and thanked the Lord that it wasn’t on my face, I decided to make the best of it and have a good attitude through the process. I am not always presenting the correct attitude, but am intentional in trying.

The next big event for the ministry is the annual 5K Mud Run on May 4th. We are praying for a good turnout. We have been averaging around 600 participants since we began. It is a wonderful opportunity to share with our community the things we are doing around the world. All of the proceeds go to our overseas bases to buy clothing, medical supplies and food for those in need.

We are so grateful for our support team who partners with us in ministry. Thank you so much for your prayers, sacrificial giving and love. We are just now beginning our 45th year in ministry. It is hard to wrap our minds around the idea that it has been that long. Here are some stats to reflect those 45 years.

Tom has driven buses over hundreds of miles, has worked in the Print Shop as a printer, as a graphic artist, designed and drew the building plans for three of our existing buildings, and is a registered software developer, web designer, computer programmer fixing both hardware and software, video cameraman, photographer and has been the Boot Camp Mr. OC (Obstacle Course Coordinator) since 1983. Not to mention the hours of doing various other work projects around the 265 acres here at TMI over the years.

I have worked in every department except the Mechanic shop (and I never will). I have served as Department Head of several different departments, In-House Editor, cook in the kitchen, Bible school teacher, Boot Camp counselor, speaker and teacher, and the maker of giant pizzas.

Together we have led 35 teams of teenagers around the world and have been in 43 countries. Our teams have built amphitheatres, clinics, churches, airplane hangers, dormitories and done landscaping. We have drilled wells, had foot-washing teams, eyeglass/medical teams and have done



On Our First Team Together 1981

open-air meetings on five continents. We have visited all nine of our African bases, teaching various classes and skills (including motorcycle riding). In building relationships, we fell in love with Africa and its people. We established the work in Cameroon, West Africa, where Tom became a Prince of the tribe of Gom and Nswonga. We have also visited several other TMI bases. We have four children and at present eight grandchildren. In writing all that down it sounds exhausting and I am sure much has been forgotten. We do realize that it has been a privilege to have taught and led so many. We love missionary life! May HE find us faithful.

Thank you to all of you who have had a part in our lives and ministry these last 45 years, it’s a milestone we realize was not reached without the prayers and partnership of so many!

### Because He Lives,

Tom and Linda Maher

### PRAISES

Praise God for the lives and hearts changed as a result of the winter Boot Camps.  
Praise God for His faithfulness to us in 45 years of ministry.  
Praise God for family and friends.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for my full recovery from shingles.  
Pray that each of our children and grandchildren will walk with the Lord, seeking Him to direct their paths.  
Pray for Zach and Alyssa as they plan to move this year.  
Pray for wisdom and direction as we seek the Lord in prayer.

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

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

I would like to have a part in the ministry of Tom & Linda Maher

\$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly pledge       \$\_\_\_\_\_ one-time gift

I wish to be a Prayer Partner

**You can donate online at TEENMISSIONS.ORG/give**


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Note: In order for your contribution to be tax deductible, checks must be made payable to Teen Missions (the missionary's name should not appear on the check). Please enclose this coupon with your contribution to assure proper designation.

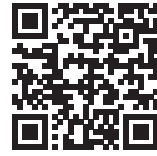
## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**WINTER & SPRING:** Youth Groups, Schools, and Church groups welcome!  
**SUMMER:** Boot Camp! (June 15 - 29)

**Big Top Day (April 13)**



**Mud Run (May 4)**



**Scan to Volunteer!**



You can pray for Teen Missions using the free PrayerMate App. Download it today!



## 2023 Teen Missions Worldwide Statistics



<b>Boot Camps:</b>	<b>Staff and Students:</b>
Leaders ..... 816	Staff ..... 380
Team members ..... 3,239	Interns ..... 126
Salvations: ..... 20,671	Students ..... 450
<b>Matron Units:</b>	<b>Rescue Units:</b>
Girls cared for..... 437	Children cared for 6,641
Salvations ..... 96	Salvations ..... 397

## INSIDE: News from your missionary! Winter 2024

# MAHER NEWS

885 East Hall Road  
Merritt Island, FL 32953



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Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cocoa, FL  
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Teen Missions International

Winter 2024

# Ministry Update

## The Tough Gator 5K Mud Run is an “event with a purpose!”



100% of the proceeds from our annual fundraiser in 2023 were sent to our TMI ministries overseas. The proceeds assisted families and orphans with school fees, uniforms, food, and other daily needs. It was also used in unexpected ways. This is a story from our Malawi country coordinator, Miscious.



“Greetings in Jesus name. When I visited the Wellman Family Rescue Unit, I found this poor Agogo (grandmother) sitting down. I felt sorry. She does not have anyone to help her. Her house is just by the entrance of our ministries, and she struggles with the rain daily. She did not beg anything from us, but when I saw this, I discussed what we can do to help her.” Miscious and the Malawi staff had some bricks to start helping build a house but didn’t have cement or other materials needed. Miscious was able to use

\$300 from the Mud Run money they had received to build a new house for her. Miscious says that the Agogo appreciates the house and said, “Teen Missions has given her a new life and she has seen the love of God.” The chief of the local village said that, “It is a real gesture that Teen Missions is here to show the love of Christ.”



Before



After

## Sojourner Campus Days March 6 - 8



Want to tour the Sojourner School of Ministry campus, preview our Bible classes, participate in chapel, meet our staff, and experience Sojourner life?

Come visit Sojourner School of Ministry for Campus Days! Stay in the dorms, engage in the normal school life of our current students, and see what life is like on Merritt Island. You will also get to be a part of our weekly Community Night where we come together as a student body to worship, play games, and/or relax!



## Lead a Team This Summer! Spring Leaders Seminar Feb 29 - March 3

**Gain Valuable Experience**  
 — Teach Bible Studies  
 — Build valuable skills in youth ministry

### Help Youth

- Discover gifts and abilities
- Grow closer to the Lord
- Develop a burden and heart for world missions
- Impact nations and eternity

## Join Our Staff Family! First Step Orientation March 4 - 8

Our current reality has taught us all that we live daily on the edge of eternity. Come and join the Teen Missions family and have the privilege of working toward eternity’s reward! First Step is the opportunity to come and see what Teen Missions is doing worldwide. Positions are available in Graphics, Computers, Finance, Mechanics, Maintenance, Video, Promotions, Office Work, Landscaping, and at various overseas bases.