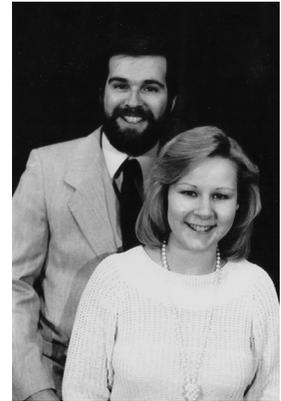




Dear Friends,

Spring, 2011

August 1, 1986. Has it really been 25 years already? Not long after our 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, we sold our home in Plainwell and moved with our three small children into Mom and Dad Friedl's two-bedroom basement apartment (where we lived for 5 years) so that we could afford to live on a ministry salary instead of an electrician's salary and began to work for God's Helping Hands full-time. Although we had helped Mom and Dad with the puppets even before they started GHH and before we started our family, this is when the adventure really began!



During our first summer, we traveled in a pop-up camper with three small children while Robin was expecting our fourth. Then for four summers we lived in a 24-foot motor home with our four children and towed the equipment in a trailer. We moved into our first bus conversion in 1991 when we were expecting our fifth child. That 1956 bus became our traveling home for 14 seasons as our family grew and changed until the Lord replaced it with a more reliable 1985 model that we began using in 2005.



In the past 25 years, we have been as far east as Maine and as far west as California. We've gone south to Florida and even farther to South America. And every mile has been a family adventure. It has been great fun to work together as a family to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Using puppets and acting out Bible stories has given our children a way in which they could participate. They weren't away from home just because they had to be with Mom and Dad. Of course, it wasn't always easy and it wasn't always something they wanted to do. But we do have great memories of traveling, doing puppets, acting out Bible stories, working on props together, surviving vehicle breakdowns, making friends, and seeing God provide for our needs. And those things were just some of the extra blessings we experienced as we were able to take part in carrying the message of salvation to boys and girls!

These days, we are still in the 1985 bus, but we only have the last two of our seven children traveling with us: Logan and Jordan. However, we get to take granddaughters with us on occasion; and now our daughter, Amber, and her husband, Chris, have their own team of puppeteers with whom they travel. It looks as though God is planning to continue the work He started through Mom and Dad over 30 years ago!

The winter schedule was busy enough with program dates that came in bunches! That meant that we would be working along in the office and at home, keeping up with school and a normal routine for a couple of weeks. Then, suddenly, we would have several programs in a few different places in about a week's time. It sure makes life interesting! We enjoyed some missions conferences, Christmas programs, a couple of Friday night kids' lock-ins, Christian school chapels, a couple of Saturday outreach programs, some Sunday services, an outreach to a Spanish-speaking group learning English, and even an Easter egg hunt that brought in almost 200 kids plus their parents.



On several occasions following a program, we were encouraged to hear from someone in the audience that they appreciated the clarity of the gospel message. We praise the Lord for these opportunities

We are busy getting the new summer series ready to go; but for the first time, we find ourselves ahead of schedule! Though there are always things that keep us busy until we pull out of the driveway in June, the scripts, stories, music, stages and most of the props and costumes are completed and we are ready to begin practicing. It is our goal to be able to be this far ahead every year, but it is especially helpful to our family this year as there are other things keeping us busy this spring. Logan is in another Homeschool Performing Arts production during the first two weeks in May. Another event that is keeping us busy is Kendra's wedding. Although it is not until August 27<sup>th</sup>, we hope to have most of the preparations done before we leave in June because our summer schedule ends only one week before this exciting event!

Changes in the office have also kept us quite busy. With the recent resignation of Steve McPeck, we have both been spending more time in the office with the managerial end of things. Although busy, we have enjoyed working more closely with Mom and Dad once again in directing the ministry of God's Helping Hands to reach boys and girls with the gospel. One of the issues that has taken a lot of time is the financial situation. Recently, the ministry has been feeling the effects of the poor economy. During the last six months, we have come to realize just how much each of our missionaries' support levels has dropped making it difficult to keep paying each of our hard-working people regularly. As we look ahead at a summer of travel with gas prices threatening to rise even more, we could be discouraged. But instead, we look expectantly to see how God will continue to provide for all of us in this ministry just as He always has! We thank all of you for the many ways you have supported us here in the ministry of God's Helping Hands. Please keep us in your prayers!



Praises:

Ready ahead of schedule!  
A full summer schedule  
25 years of full-time service  
God's faithfulness

Prayer Requests:

Preparation of the children's hearts  
That our hearts would be prepared for service  
Safety in our travels  
Support level: 76% Monthly shortage: \$1,244.54

In His Service,

Jeff and Robin Awe