

Concept of International Messengers (IM) takes place in the mind and heart of songwriter, evangelist, and former youth pastor, Robert Rasmusson.



God opens the doors for this new missions organization to be born as a branch of Oak Hills Fellowship in Bemidji, Minnesota. IM is designed to motivate and train believers in world missions and to assist local churches to disciple their adults through sending them. IM sets out to provide effective cross-cultural, short-term missions experiences for college-age students and adults.

**1980**

**1984**

Put on first overseas full-time staff—two Polish nationals—joined a year later by some American staff.

EELC camps begin in Hong Kong, Austria, and Poland

EELC camps expand to communist Poland.



Birth of a relationship-based ministry concept called Evangelistic English Language Camps (EELC) with the first camp in Austria.

**1988**

**1987**

**1986**

**1985**



IM becomes an independent, non-profit mission organization.

IM continues to expand into more countries around the world as it offers opportunities aimed at involving adult lay people and impacting the local church.

Winter camps begin; IM starts to focus on recruiting church teams of adults.

IM's Home Office moves from Bemidji, Minnesota to Clear Lake, Iowa. Also the first children were sent along with their parents on short-term mission trips.

**1989**

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Messengers of Hope starts and focuses on revival and evangelism in North America. This year also marked the beginning of Evangelistic Family English Camps. This concept allows North Americans the opportunity to include their kids in the missions experience.

IM provides EFCA, Inter-Varsity, SEND International, CampChina, and several churches, with curriculum and teaching materials to start their own EELC programs. Since then IM has trained a number of other mission organizations how to use English camps for evangelism.

Basketball camp outreach begins in northwest Poland and later branches out to Hungary and Ukraine.

**1996**

**1993**

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Facility in Libby, Montana is given to IM to serve as the Mountainside Ministry Training Center for those wanting to serve as career staff with IM. The 4-month missionary training focuses on character development, spiritual growth, mentoring, and intentional relationship building which serves to help IM care for these folks once they move to the mission fields.

Camp concept continues to expand into medical, nursing, educational and professional English camps to have an effect on the adult population of Central/Eastern Europe. The Gospel can be shared in a comfortable, relaxed setting and peer to peer.



**1997**

**LATE 1990s**

Messengers of Hope ceases as Terry Baxter leaves to start Global Compassion Network.

God accomplishes much through the willingness and heart of our staff and short-termers. Over 250 short-term workers conduct 50 outreaches annually. These include sports camps, discipleship camps, EELCs, family English camps, business English camps, staff conferences, children-at-risk ministries, women-at-risk ministries, and retreats for pastors, elders and marriages.

Bob's last vision had been for a mentoring-based training center in Central/Eastern Europe. God helped us open the Seaside Missionary Training Center in Odessa, Ukraine, in the fall of 2004.

Bob Rasmusson is taken home to be with the Lord on Nov. 4 in a hunting accident. Darwin Anderson is appointed president of IM.



**2011**

**2006**

**2004**

**2003**

Desertside Training Center opens in Egypt. This missionary training center is quite like the IM training centers operating in Odessa and Libby but is well suited for Arabic-speaking Christians.

There are 235 adults (97 North Americans, 138 of 20 nationalities) serving with International Messengers in Canada, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, England, France, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Native American and First Nations Reservations, Nepal, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and the U.S. working to share the Gospel. There are 24 who work to serve our career missionary staff in various roles alongside another 16 salaried and volunteer workers.

**2014**

**2020**

