



GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION

of the Evangelical Congregational Church

Empowering National Churches • Facilitating Mission Workers • Ministering to the Marginalized



The **TOY**
Family

Joe & Wendy
Jared, Ethan, Adam, Seth, Aaron

*Serving in Evangelism
and Evangelism Training
for Open Air Ministries*

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OPEN AIR MINISTRIES-PHILADELPHIA

Joe and Wendy Toy-Biography

Joe grew up in Shillington, Pa and attended First EC Church of Reading. He is a 1978 graduate of Governor Mifflin High School. In 1982, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Millersville University. In the spring of 1982 as a senior in college, Joe committed his life to Jesus Christ.

Upon graduation, Joe began his career as an accountant in Trenton, NJ. During this time, he attended Newtown Community Church in Newtown, PA. While attending this church, Joe felt the call to full time ministry. He left his job to attend Moody Bible Institute for a 3-week seminar on Urban Evangelism with plans to attend Evangelical school of Theology in the fall of 1984. When Joe returned from Moody, he began a street ministry in the city of Reading called **Inner City Campaigners**. From this street ministry, an outreach to children and teens began at First EC of Reading called The Source. This ministry continued from 1984 to 1988 when Joe moved to Philadelphia, PA. During this time, Joe became a commissioned missionary and a licensed preacher in the Evangelical Congregational Church.

In 1985, Joe and Wendy met at Evangelical School of Theology while working on his Masters of Divinity studies. They were married at the chapel at EST on March 22, 1986. Joe and Wendy have five sons. Jared(1987), Seth(1989), Ethan(1989), Aaron(1991) and Adam(1984). The boys have primarily been home schooled from

1991 to 2009. Both Jared and Seth serve in The U.S. Coast Guard. Ethan has attended the Delaware County Community and is pursuing a career as a firefighter.

Wendy was raised in Western PA, near Monongahela. She trusted Jesus as a child and committed her life to Christ at the age of thirteen. She is a 1975 graduate of Ringgold High School. In 1980, she graduated from Messiah College with a degree in Elementary Education. Upon graduation, she taught at Harrisburg Christian School. In her pursuit of higher education, she did graduate work at Wheaton College and EST.

Wendy has been very active in youth work. She worked with teens in Bermudian Springs and at Hershey Free Church. She also was the youth director at Lancaster Faith EC Church from 1985-86. Wendy is a member of our Royersford EC Church. Recently, Wendy has been writing articles, stories for Children and e-books for homeschoolers and is presently teaching high school English and History at Cornerstone High School.

In 1988, Joe and Wendy moved to Philadelphia to begin an association With Open Air Campaigners. During this time, they worked in an internship status with this mission board. The ministry of Open Air Campaigners is to do the work of Evangelism and to train others in Evangelism in an urban setting. This association lasted until 1992 when Joe resigned because of doctrinal issues that conflicted with the EC Church. At this point Joe became one of our few Denominational missionaries, which is a status that continues to this day.

In 1993, Joe established a ministry called Open Air Ministries-Philadelphia. Joe's ministry is primarily evangelistic by nature. Outreach is conducted at bus stops, subways, college campuses, center city, parades, events, neighborhoods, parks and other areas in and around Philadelphia. Joe has also done outreach in Camden, NJ, Wilmington, DE and the New Jersey and Delaware beach resorts. Through the years, Joe has been involved in the Philadelphia Port Ministry. Also, much outreach has been done in inner city neighborhoods with children. Presently, Joe is reaching out to kids through Metro Philadelphia's Sidewalk Sunday School ministry. Many times a year Joe travels to national events such as Mardi Gras, Indy 500, Spring Break Florida, Senior Week in Ocean City, MD and others to share the gospel.

Another large part of Joe's work is training others in evangelism. Joe spends a number of weeks each year training youth groups, college students, missionary candidates and others in evangelism. Some of these groups spend time with in Philly for a day or a week. The summer is especially busy with hosting these teams, including a number of EC Church youth groups. Joe and Wendy and the boys live in Folcroft, which is in Delaware County. Folcroft is located very close to the Philadelphia Airport. They attend Cross Roads Community Church, which is in Upper Darby.

Joseph Toy, Jr.

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