

Vic and Kathy Varis

Pacific Northwest Area and Oregon
Chi Alpha Director—

Vic and Kathy Varis have served full-time as Assemblies of God missionaries and Oregon Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Director since 1990. Through those years they pioneered campus ministries at Portland State University and led the way to develop ministries at Oregon's major universities. Under their direction, Chi Alpha is now at Portland State University, the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Oregon Institute of Technology.



Recently Vic was appointed to Chi Alpha's national Executive Leadership Team as Area Director for the Pacific Northwest including Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Northern Idaho. In that role, Vic "Assists new ministries, Resources District Leadership, Executes an area operational plan, and Advances Chi Alpha's national movement."

International Student Ministry with FOCUS-- At Portland State University Vic and Kathy continue as co-directors for, "Friends for Overseas Citizens and University Students", one of the largest international student ministries in the country. From 1995 this ministry has grown from about 25 foreign students meeting weekly to an average of 186 students taking part weekly in the Friday International Coffee House. Each year more than 400 students from 60+ nations consider themselves members of FOCUS. A strategic aspect of their work is the fact that 80% of the students are from "10/40 Window" countries representing the most unreached nations of the world. Students have come to Christ from China, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, Russia, Iran, Bangladesh, just to name a few. Ninety American volunteers from 40 area churches, and more than 10 professional staff assist serving students from arrival through graduation.

"1748", A Missional Campus Community House-- Vic and Kathy have lived in a large inner city ministry center in Portland's historic Ladd's Addition neighborhood since 1992. The 100-year old nine-bedroom Portland Craftsman is known to students simply as "1748", and has been home to over 60 students from 25 nations. Currently they share the house with students & scholars from India, China, Indonesia, Korea and the US. Each week they host numerous events including Bible studies, meals, prayer meetings, and informal gatherings of students. The house is ministry center for both American Chi Alpha students, graduates and many internationals in Portland. In 2004, the Lord opened doors for Vic and Kathy to purchase this 100 year old historic house in the heart of one of Portland's most diverse neighborhoods. It's become a sort of "L'Abri" for young adults in the area.

International HIV/AIDS Educators with the Jesus Film-- Another lesser known side of their ministry has been a personal partnership with foreign missions under the Assemblies of God, Campus Crusade for Christ and Jesus Films International. In 1997 Campus Crusade invited them to join their newest ministry, "Crossroads", a character-based HIV/AIDS curriculum for school teachers, health and social workers worldwide. As educators, they visit some of the most untouched areas of the world ministering to influential leaders. Through Crossroads literally thousands of students and teachers have come to Christ. Vic and Kathy also travel from time to time teaching or consulting for student ministry related missions venues or leading student outreach teams worldwide. Since their first steps away from the US, Vic and Kathy and been in nearly 35 nations.

Family-- Vic and Kathy Varis have three children and two grandsons: Heather and Jared Mann of Salem, OR; Shannon, who lives in Portland, and Alec now in Los Angeles.

Previous Ministry-- Vic is a graduate of Trinity Bible College, has his M.S. in Education from Portland State University, and completed coursework toward a doctorate at Portland State. He is also a dual-citizen of both the US and Lithuania. Kathy is an Education and Sociology graduate of Seattle Pacific University and was a lead instructor at Mt. Hood Community College for over 10 years. They have served as pastors, associate pastors and youth pastors in North Dakota, Michigan and Oregon before moving to missions.

Vic and Kathy speak and teach throughout the U.S. and the world motivating adults and students in Missions, Ministry and to pursue the Great Commission in their personal lives.

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