



“Here am I. Send me!”

As a member of an OCMC short-term mission team, you can help change the world ... and have a life-changing experience yourself!

In the Book of Isaiah, the holy prophet hears the Lord ask, “Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?” Isaiah immediately gives the beautiful and inspiring reply, “Here am I. Send me!” You can answer the Lord’s call the same way, by joining an OCMC short-term mission team. It’s easier than you think ... and more rewarding than you can imagine.

Some mission team members have specialized training in healthcare, teaching, or other fields. But that’s not a requirement. Young or old, man or woman, alone or with a group from your parish, what you need most are a love for the Orthodox Faith, and a willingness to step outside your comfort zone just a little to share it with others. We’ll teach you the rest.

We’re currently looking for passionate people to fill teams for Africa, Latin America, and other parts of the world. To find out more, go to ocmc.org and click on “Orthodox Mission Teams” at the top of the page. Thank you!

MY NEXT GIFT TO SUPPORT ORTHODOX MISSIONS

Yes, Fr. Martin! You can count on me to continue to share the Gospel and sustain Orthodox Missionaries through my prayerful support of OCMC. **Here is my gift of:**

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$_____

☐ I want to join the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Society with a monthly gift of: \$_____

To give online visit www.ocmc.org/donate. Thank you!

Thank you! Your gift is tax deductible. Please make your check payable to OCMC and send it to 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086.

2018 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

The Seasonal Kontakion and Icon of Holy Pentecost remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world and how it ordained and empowered the Apostles to share the truth with all nations.



Seasonal Kontakion

Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called all men into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-holy Spirit.



God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER

MISSION

Reports from around the world for supporters and friends of Orthodox Christian Mission Center

The Work that Began at Pentecost is Still Happening Today, and YOU are Part of It!

“Today you truly are a missionary. You brought a new soul into the faith.”

OCMC mission trips are full of unforgettable moments. In Kenya recently, OCMC’s Andy Lekos was asked to participate in a baptism performed by Fr. Athanasios Amadiva.



As the Missions Teams Director for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Andy Lekos thought he knew what to expect on a trip to Kenya a few months ago. But God, an Orthodox priest, and a Kenyan family had different plans. Andy’s story is one more example of how your support of OCMC is changing lives and carrying out the

Great Commission ... sometimes in unexpected ways.

OCMC teams in Kenya share the Orthodox Faith, mentor young children, provide healthcare services, lead women’s retreats, and more. Sometimes, team members are even invited to preach sermons, as Andy was at a Divine Liturgy in

the village of Evola.

After the service, Andy was asked to participate in the baptism of a four-month-old boy. He joked that in the Greek tradition, the child would be named after him, as godfather. Imagine Andy’s surprise a few moments later when Fr. Athanasios Amadiva announced the

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*** Volunteers needed for short-term mission trips! Details on back page.***



MAY 2018

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.
— MATTHEW 28:19

Your Faithfulness Fulfills the Promise of Pentecost

Before His Ascension, Christ gave His followers — that is, all believers, not simply those who were with Him that day — the Great Commission: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Ten days later, on the day we honor as Holy Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowered the Church to carry out that commission. One way you are fulfilling the charge Christ laid on each of us is through your prayers for, and your giving to, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. From your home here in North America, you are reaching across the world and welcoming new brothers and sisters into the Body of Christ.

Thank you so much for that!

I love sending you new issues of Mission because I want you to see the wonderful impact you're having in people's lives. I pray that what you read here helps you feel more connected to the Church around the world, and to the Orthodox missionaries who are your partners in this work.

In Christ,



Fr. Martin

P.S. You're already part of the stories here in Mission through your faithful partnership with us. But maybe the Lord is calling you to do even more to share our beautiful Orthodox Faith with the world? If so, please consider joining a short-term mission team. Find out how on page 4. And thanks again!



Rev. Fr. Martin Ritsi
Executive Director



Your support allowed Presbytera Renee Ritsi and her OCMC mission team to help and support your fellow Orthodox believers at a parents' retreat in Indonesia.

Believers Stay Strong in Muslim Lands ... With Your Help

Orthodox Christians face many challenges in mostly-Islamic lands like Indonesia. Christian teachings on marriage and child-rearing, for example, are often very different from those in the surrounding society. Your generosity recently sent an OCMC mission team to Medan, in northern Indonesia, where team members took part in a parents' forum put on by St. Demetrios Orthodox Church in that city.

Local Church members shared the pressures they face trying to live Christ-centered lives as husbands and wives and to raise children with Christian values, in an overwhelmingly Islamic community. Presbytera Renee Ritsi and OCMC team members shared their own insights and experience and discussed how the timeless truths of the Orthodox Faith transcend national or cultural lines.

Best of all, team members and Indonesian Christians strengthened and supported one another through prayer, fellowship, and their shared faith. The Church is stronger and more closely knit, thanks to your generous and prayerful support of OCMC!

OCMC Teams Bring Care and Love to Rural Guatemala

Thanks to you, OCMC medical teams are regular visitors to isolated northern Guatemala, where the mainly Mayan residents depend on a Church-run clinic for care.

An OCMC mission trip is an unforgettable experience, but that doesn't mean it's a vacation! A six-member healthcare team you sent to a medical clinic in northern Guatemala recently saw more than 160 patients in a little over three days. That shows how your support of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center touches lives and demonstrates Christian love in every corner of the world.



The team spent several days at the Father Andres Giron Clinic in Aguacate. The team included an experienced doctor, several fluent or near-fluent Spanish speakers, and a whole lot

of dedication to helping as many people as possible. And that's what they did: From exams and counseling to updating medical records and even partnering with a dentist from Guatemala City to provide even more care, the team made sure to get the most out of every minute in Aguacate.

OCMC teams are regular visitors to the Father Andres Giron Clinic, and you can be sure future teams will be welcomed with open arms. Thousands of people receive quality health care every year because of your generous support of OCMC's mission teams. Thank you for caring about them so much!



Your support for OCMC mission teams brings not only the Gospel but love, care, and fellowship to people all over the world.



OCMC team members work alongside local partners. It can be exhausting, but it's so rewarding!

The work that began at Pentecost continued from page 1

name of the newly-baptized child: Athanasios Andrew!

Later, one of the team members told Andy, "Today you are truly a missionary. You brought a new soul into the Faith." And that's the thing about OCMC short-term mission trips: whether you travel on one yourself or support them with your gifts of prayer and money, God

will use them to expand His Church and change lives forever!

Please remember the Orthodox Christians of Kenya, old, young — even newborn! — in your prayers. Your continued support of OCMC helps them live and grow in the Faith every day.