



220 Mason Manatee Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

# INSIDE ►

Your new issue of *Mission*,  
with stories of how *YOU* are making disciples of all nations!

Window, Do Not Print







# Your Giving Lets Us Follow Where the Lord Leads Us

Unrestricted giving to the OCMC gives us the flexibility to respond quickly to opportunities the Lord presents us in every corner of the world!

When you go to [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org) and click on the big yellow “Support Missions” button, you’ll see your first giving option reads, “Help Where the Need is Greatest.” By selecting this option, your gift will allow us to respond to the most urgent needs and enable us to prepare for future needs as well.

Through your generous giving, OCMC missionaries and mission teams are busy in many parts of the world. Every time we successfully complete a project or meet a need, we end up discovering another opportunity, and a community of people who need your help and support. God is always presenting us with new opportunities to serve!

It is vital that we be able to recruit, train, and send missionaries and team members to, and fund projects where, the Holy Spirit is opening the hearts of people to receive the Gospel. We cannot do this without your unrestricted gifts!

**Your prayer and gifts that we can apply to the greatest need means we can respond quickly to these opportunities by expanding existing mission projects or starting new ones. Thank you for your kind gifts of prayer, volunteering, and giving!**



Dcn. Herman and Mat. Mary Madsen in Alaska are just two of the OCMC missionaries and ministry partners whose work around the world you help make possible by giving to our general fund.

One of the Holy Unmercenaries, physicians who refused to accept any payment for caring for the sick, St Panteleimon the Great Martyr and Healer is a model of selfless love and compassion for others.



**Kontakion of Great Martyr Panteleimon**  
*Plagal of the First Tone*  
O Champion and Martyr of God, imitating the Merciful and bearing from Him the grace of healing, cure our spiritual ills by your prayers, and set free from the temptation of the eternal enemy those who ceaselessly cry out, “Save us, O Lord.”

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER

# MISSION

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

## In Romania, You’re Shining the Light of God’s Love into the Darkness of Addiction

*Your support of the St. Dimitrie Substance Abuse Program touches hundreds of lives every year*



God is being glorified, the Church is growing, and lives are being transformed in Romania ... and you’re part of the reason why!

Romania has one of the fastest-growing economies in Europe. But the good times aren’t reaching everyone. Life is still tough for many, especially those addicted to drugs or alcohol. In the northwest Romanian town of Cluj, your support of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center is bringing hope and healing to hundreds of people, freeing them from addiction and demonstrating God’s grace and love

in their lives. OCMC Missionary Floyd Frantz, who runs the St. Dimitrie Substance Abuse Program, says at any given time, there are about 100 people enrolled in his programs, fighting their addictions. He remembers one young woman you helped. We’ll call her Elena. Elena had been married to a drug dealer, and was addicted to both heroin and alcohol

when her doctor sent her to the St. Dimitrie Program. Elena had a tough time early in the program, Floyd says, but with the help of the counseling, spirituality, and 12-step programs you support, Elena is now clean and sober. Floyd recently attended Elena’s graduation from a nursing college, and says she also has her EMT certification. On weekends, she

*Continued on page 3*

## 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](http://www.ocmc.org/donate). 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.



*God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity!*



Thank You for Being a Model of Christian Stewardship and Love

I’ve been thinking a lot about stewardship since I read Bill Black’s report from Kenya (see page 3), and I’m reminded of how the generosity and prayerfulness you show as a partner of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center is a wonderful, inspiring model of Christian stewardship. He asks for your prayers that a spirit of stewardship will arise in the Kenyan Church. Dr. Black shares that stewardship is a vital to our spiritual health, and I agree completely!

As Christians, we give to the Church, not out of obligation, but out of joy! It’s exciting to be part of the amazing ways the Lord is growing and strengthening our beautiful Orthodox Faith and Church in so many parts of the world. In this issue of Mission, for example, we have stories that share the Church’s growth, not only from Kenya, but from Romania and Alaska. Other recent issues have featured stories from Albania, Guatemala, the South Pacific, and other fascinating places.

When you read this issue, I hope you will remember to place yourself in the middle of every story. You are a part of every positive report we receive, because of how the Lord is using your prayers and your generosity to bless the lives of people near and far. Thank you for all you do!

In Christ,  
*Fr. Martin Ritsi*

Fr. Martin



Rev. Fr. Martin Ritsi  
Executive Director



More than 30 priests gathered for a Diocese of Alaska clergy retreat this spring. They agree: God is at work in Alaska!

The Church in Alaska is “Moving in the Right Direction” with Your Help

As the mission field of Saint Herman the Wonderworker and Saint Innocent, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of North America, Alaska holds a special place in the heart of many Orthodox Christians in America. Your support of OCMC is helping the Church strengthen and grow in the land where Orthodox evangelism in North America began.



Fr. David flies his own “bush plane” to visit remote parishes on Kodiak Island, Alaska.

OCMC Missionary Fr. David Rucker reports that St. Herman Seminary in Kodiak has received many applications from eager students, including several from the lower 48. “The vision of expanding missionary training as the Church in Alaska matures from a ‘receiving field’ to a ‘sending field’ is catching on,” Fr. David says. “We are moving in the right direction,” he adds, and you’re helping make it happen!

Meanwhile, Matushka Rozanne Rucker has become Clinical Supervisor of the Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) program at the Kodiak Area Native Association. This ministry provides children, adolescents, and their families with counseling and other services. “We have learned that by choosing to cooperate instead of argue, we can help our whole family get better,” one graduate of the program says. “Now we have tools to communicate in a healthy way,” another says.

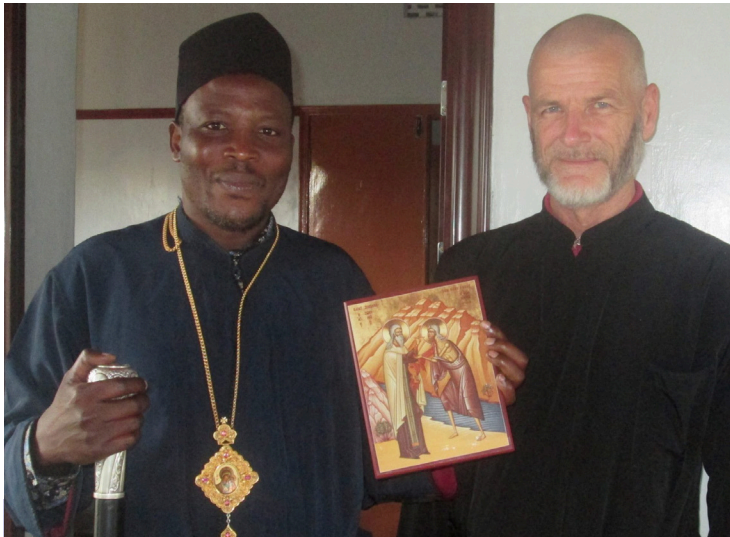
**Your partnership with OCMC is making such a difference in Alaska! Thank you for remembering the Orthodox community in Alaska through your prayers and generosity.**

Growing Church in Kenya Thanks You for Your Help ... and Asks for Your Prayers

You’ve been doing a great thing in the Western Diocese of Kenya, reports OCMC Missionary Dr. Subdcn. Bill Black. Through your support, Orthodox clergy recently gathered for a conference focused on liturgical and pastoral training and services have begun at a new parish church in Kisumu. That’s a lot of good news to report, and Bill is very grateful for your help and support!

Bill has some specific requests he asks you to remember in your prayers. His prayer is that the Lord will gather His flock and raise up effective leadership for parishes in the Kisumu Diocese. He also prays that a spirit of stewardship will rise in the Kenyan Church. “The way to spiritual health and vitality, for both individuals and parishes, runs through stewardship,” Bill says - the stewardship “Jesus and the Apostles teach, and what the early Church put into practice.”

**Thank you for modeling the vital spiritual practice of stewardship through your ongoing support of OCMC. Your faithfulness is being rewarded dramatically in Kenya!**



Lorem ipsum

In Romania... continued from page 1

cooks food for homeless people who attend Alcoholics Anonymous through the St. Dimitrie Program.

And that’s not all. “Elena was cradle Orthodox,” Floyd says, “but was not attending an Orthodox church. Today she has returned to the Orthodox Church and is a committed Orthodox Christian.”

Floyd wants you to know “I am not alone over here!” Your gifts also support the Protection of the Theotokos Family Center, which provides daycare and other services for families in Cluj. “They have helped over 250 families stay together while the mothers found work or went to vocational training,” he says. Floyd adds, “Many of these mothers see the Church playing an important role in their lives in very difficult times. We have brought some of them back into the Church, and even baptized a few kids along the way!”



**Please pray for the adults, children, and families who participate in St. Dimitrie’s and the Protection of the Theotokos Family Center’s programs. Your support of OCMC is sharing the Light of God’s Love every day!**

# 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:**

☐ \$XX1    ☐ \$XX2    ☐ \$XX3    ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Mr. and Mrs. Demetri Samplopoulos**  
6559 15th Avenue NW #102  
Seattle, WA 98117  
Barcode



220 Mason Manatee Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32086  
877-463-6784 • [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org)

For credit card gifts, please see reverse  
or give online at [www.ocmc.org/donate](http://www.ocmc.org/donate).  
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:**

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mr. and Mrs. Demetri Samplopoulos**  
6559 15th Avenue NW #102  
Seattle, WA 98117  
Barcode



220 Mason Manatee Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32086  
877-463-6784 • [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org)

For credit card gifts, please see reverse  
or give online at [www.ocmc.org/donate](http://www.ocmc.org/donate).  
Thank you!

## I'm making my donation by credit card.

I authorize Orthodox Christian Mission Center to charge my ...



CREDIT CARD NUMBER

NAME ON CARD (Please Print)

EXP DATE

CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE

Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ One Time ☐ Monthly

To keep you informed, and so that you can receive stories about the people you help with your gift, please share your email address:

EMAIL ADDRESS

CELL PHONE

## My prayer request

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Most Holy Theotokos, Ever-Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God pray for us!**

OCMC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization eligible for tax-deductible contributions. As faithful stewards of your donations, we apply all funds received as designated. Please note that in the event the missionary, project, or fund you designate is over-funded or no longer applicable, your donation will be applied to the area most needed to continue the work.

---

---

---

2018 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER**  
220 MASON MANATEE WAY  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086