



You Can Be the Help a Priest Has Been Praying For

October is Support a Mission Priest Month. And as we’ve described in this issue of Mission, donors to OCMC’s Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program provide essential financial assistance to indigenous Orthodox clergy, allowing them to serve their parishes (often more than one per priest) and other ministries full-time.

Today, 17 priests in Asia are supported by SAMP donors. Our goal is to enroll at least 5 more around the world in the next 12 months. **You can help provide the financial stability an Orthodox priest has been praying for by becoming a SAMP donor today!** Go to ocmc.org and select “Support a Mission Priest” on the “Support Missions” page. Thank you!



MY NEXT GIFT TO SUPPORT ORTHODOX MISSIONS

Yes, Fr. Martin! You can count on me to continue my support of the vital work of the OCMC in Asia and around the world. **Here is my gift of:**

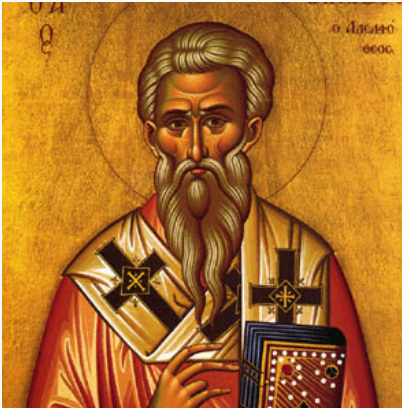
☐ \$XX1 ☐ \$XX2 ☐ \$XX3 ☐ \$_____

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

To give online visit 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. Please remember OCMC in your estate planning.

2019 FALL NEWSLETTER



According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of a wife he’d had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin, and thus a brother of the Lord. Others say James (or Iakovos) was a nephew of Joseph. Whatever the case, he was clearly a close member of the Lord’s earthly family, and the Scriptures call him “brother of the Lord.” He was the first Bishop of Jerusalem, wrote the Epistle of James, and was called “the Just” because of his wisdom and holiness. After proclaiming the authority of Jesus from the top of the Temple on Passover, James was thrown from the building and stoned to death while he prayed for his murderers.

Kontakion of James (Iakovos), the Brother of the Lord, in the Second Tone

O wondrous Iakovos, God the Logos, only-begotten of the Father, who dwelt among us in latter days, declared you, the first shepherd and teacher of Jerusalem, and faithful steward of the spiritual mysteries. Wherefore, we all honor you, O Apostle.



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



Matthew Augenstein (front right) made unforgettable memories on his OCMC trip to Indonesia.

OCMC Mission Team Member Describes an Unforgettable Experience in Indonesia

Earlier this year, Matthew Augenstein went to Indonesia as part of an OCMC short-term mission team. We asked him to tell you about his experience.

There are moments when time seems to stand still. Our OCMC team experienced one of these moments when arriving at a grade school run by the Orthodox Church in Medan, on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. As we approached the school, we could see children and adults quickly moving into position from the grounds and school buildings.

As we entered, the students formed in rows on either side of a path

leading to the main courtyard. In the center, teachers in traditional Indonesian dress danced together slowly in an elegant row. Father Chrysostom, one of the founders of Orthodoxy in Indonesia and our host during the trip, showed us how to move our hands in front of us as we walked, to show we accepted and returned this traditional greeting.

As the beaming faces of the children came into view, all looking intently at us, the beauty of this moment transcended anything I had ever experienced. Any fear I might have felt disappeared as we joined together in instant communion as

brothers and sisters in Christ. The memory of the warmth, joy, and hospitality of this greeting will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Continued on page 3

SPECIAL
Support a
Mission Priest
Edition

Are YOU the answer
to a priest's prayers?
See page 4!

You Make These Priests' Work Possible

Fr. Chrysostom Manalu, the priest in Matthew's story on the front of this issue, serves several parishes in Indonesia. He has also worked to bring much needed healthcare to people in Medan, a large city on the island of Sumatra. The hospital offers care to anyone who needs it, regardless of their faith.

Fr. Stephanos Boik is a parish priest in Indonesia. He also directs an orphanage that is home to 15 children, and runs a food bank that serves many children in need in his community.

These holy men are two of 17 priests across Asia who receive financial help from OCMC's Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program. This allows them to focus on their parish and ministry work, instead of having to put time and energy into a secular job, as so many priests do.

Because of the increasing demand for Orthodox clergy in mission fields in Asia, our goal is to add at least five more priests to the SAMP program in the coming months. That's *if we have the funding*.

Can you help? SAMP donors sustain the missionary and parish work of the priests they support. They are vital, and we need more of them. If you think the Lord may be calling you to join this special group, please visit ocmc.org today to learn more. Thank you for prayerfully considering this need.

In Christ,

Fr. Martin Ritsi

Fr. Martin

PS: I hope you enjoy the stories in this issue about the amazing impact your partnership with OCMC is having in Asia. Thank you so much for your prayers and your faithful giving!



Rev. Fr. Martin Ritsi
Executive Director

You're Shaping the Future of the Church in South Korea



Your generosity is blessing a South Korean parish. Thanks to you, they have a full-time priest again!

OCMC Missionaries Fr. Chris and Mat. Jen Thank You For Your Love and Support

Through your faithful prayers and generous support for OCMC, you're a vital partner in the work of Fr. Chris Moore and his wife Mat Jen, who since the start of the year have been OCMC missionaries at St Dionysios Orthodox Church in Ulsan, South Korea.

They've kept very busy since their arrival in Ulsan, which is in southeast South Korea. Their parish had been without a priest for more nearly two years, and Fr. Chris reports that "most parish families had not had a house blessing in some time." Blessing houses is a great way to meet parishioners, especially since "our community has a tradition of house blessings as a community event: together on a Sunday after Liturgy we visit homes, pray, and after a few homes have been prayed over, have fellowship time in the last home before people head their separate ways."

Of course, there are many challenges — not least of which the language, which Fr. Chris, Mat. Jen, and their young sons Andrew and Gideon are all working hard to learn. They request your prayers as they continue this process! Despite the challenges, Fr. Chris says the parish "seems ready to start engaging more fully in being Christ's Church in this city."

Your faithful support is helping make that happen! As always, thank you for your generous partnership with OCMC, which is supporting the efforts of priests and other missionary workers in Asia and around the world.

Profile of a Partner

She Left a Legacy That Reaches Around the World

Maine Angel Maria had a heart filled with love — for her family, for her Faith, and for sharing that Faith with people around the world. Her story reaches back to her family's homeland of Cyprus. Long ago, they moved to Lebanon, and more recently to the United States, where Maine was born in the state that shares her name. After attending St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, Florida, for many years, she moved to Allen, Texas, where she was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church for two decades.

Maine loved the idea of sharing the Orthodox Faith in lands most people only read about in storybooks. Even if she never visited those lands herself, she knew she was helping share the Gospel through her support of OCMC. That's why, years before she reposed in 2017, Maine made sure that support would continue after her death by including a bequest to OCMC in her estate plans.

It's not difficult to leave a legacy that takes care of your loved ones and ensures the financial stability of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center the way Maine did. If you're interested in learning more, visit us online at ocmc.org, click on "Support Missions," and select "Leave a Legacy." Thank you so much!



Maine Maria of blessed memory remembered OCMC in her will before her repose, and her generosity is still touching lives today.

"My Life Will Never Be the Same" ... *continued from page 1*

Over the next two days played group games with the children and gave instruction in English language and Christian living. The gratitude and love that were shown in that initial greeting continued throughout our stay. Children from kindergarten to high school age would reach out their hand for ours and press our palms gently into their foreheads as a sign of honor and respect.

We often think that serving others is our primary mission on a short-term trip. It's easy to forget that one of the most important teachings in cross-cultural ministry is receiving hospitality. We are invited to receive the embrace of our brothers and sisters, and accept and return their love and gratitude. Our shared humanity and connection in Christ can transcend barriers and transform their lives and ours. My life will never be the same.



Matthew Has a Special Message for You...

"Please join me in praying for the Orthodox Church in Indonesia, which is still in its infancy. Consider joining an OCMC mission team to Indonesia or supporting the Support A Mission Priest (SAMP) program as the Gospel spreads in this land. People are hungry for the fullness of the truth only found in a personal relationship with Christ in the Body of the Church!"

Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'
(Matthew 9: 37-38)