

# Global Missions Initiatives Update

The Global Impact of Your Prayerful Support

Dioceses and Metropolises around the world come to the Mission Center for financial assistance with initiatives that will equip and empower them to be the Church to their people by ministering to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Your financial contributions enable us to respond to these critical needs. Here is just some of what you are making possible:

## Sustainability in Ghana

With help from OCMC supporters like you, a grant totaling \$20,000 is being awarded for the construction of an eight-unit sanitary toilet facility in Ghana. This facility will not only improve the sanitary conditions in the community where it will be installed, but it will be built using technology enabling the waste to be harnessed for gas and fertilizer production.



## Spreading the Gospel in Albania

In mid-July the radio tower for the Orthodox Church of Albania's 24-hour radio station, Radio Ngjallja, was completed! The station now reaches 70% of Albania and can be heard in Greece and North Macedonia with religious and cultural programming. Additionally, OCMC funds have purchased a new printing press which will help the Church with the production and distribution of religious education materials.



## Food and Water in Madagascar

In response to the critical need for food and water in southern Madagascar, gifts from donors like you have enabled OCMC to send more than \$15,000 to His Grace Bishop PRODRAMOS of the Diocese of South Madagascar. These funds have been used to purchase and distribute 26,000 pounds of food and buy a water storage unit for people in food-depleted and drought-stricken regions of the country.



## Thomas the Apostle of the Twelve

### Apolytikion of Apostle Thomas

O Holy Apostle Thomas, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

### Kontakion of Apostle Thomas

Christ's Apostle, who was filled with God's divine grace, he who was His genuine and faithful servant in all truth, all-lauded Thomas exclaimed aloud in deep repentance: Thou art both my God and Lord.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER

FALL 2022

# MISSION

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



## Fiji's First Class

The Jones Family Arrives and Prepares for Missionary Service

It was an 11-hour flight from Los Angeles across the Pacific Ocean, but it had been a lifetime of preparation for the Jones family, who recently landed in Fiji to begin their service as Orthodox Christian missionaries.

Michael and Meghan Jones were both received into the Orthodox Church as children during the 1980's, and, after meeting and marrying in Alaska, they felt the call to missionary service upon hearing of the growing Church in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa. Thanks to your prayerful support of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, the

Joneses, along with their four children, have had a place to explore and answer this calling. It was through your commitment to Orthodox missions that the Jones family found their way onto that flight and to the island nation of Fiji.

With his experience in construction, Michael will assist with the completion of many construction projects in Fiji and across the Metropolis. Megan, a trained teacher, will apply her gifts in the classroom by teaching English and assisting with the running of an Orthodox orphanage. As faithful Orthodox Christians

they will both actively share their faith in whatever way, and with whomever, they can.

As their ministries ramp up, however, the Joneses will go through the wonderful and challenging process of learning and experiencing a new place and culture. In their brief time in Fiji, they have already had to get used to new foods, using the metric measurement system, and driving on the left-hand side of the road. Seeing them through this beautiful journey of enculturation are the warm and welcoming Fijian people. Hospitality is such an integral

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Go and make disciples of all nations. - MATTHEW 28:19

ENSURING ORTHODOX MISSIONS WITH A LEGACY GIFT! see page 4





FROM FR. MARTIN

### Celebrating past, present, & future missionaries

Since 1985, when OCMC sent its first missionaries to Kenya, we have been blessed to help 123 missionaries answer their call to share the Good News of the Gospel in every continent except Antarctica through your prayers and support.

Many of these missionaries have given years of their lives in service to sharing the Faith. From helping to establish seminaries and training up ranks of Orthodox clergy to starting and directing ministries that care for some of the world's most vulnerable, they have done remarkable things in the name of Christ.

In this issue of Mission, we celebrate some of these missionaries who, after years of this work...work that you have made possible...are returning home. We are also excited to share with you some of the people who will be continuing their work into the future.

On the back page are updates on some of the global mission initiatives that we have been able to undertake because of donors like you.

THANK YOU for sending Orthodox missionaries into the world! I invite you to learn more here about how you can ensure this vital work continues for generations to come.

In Christ,

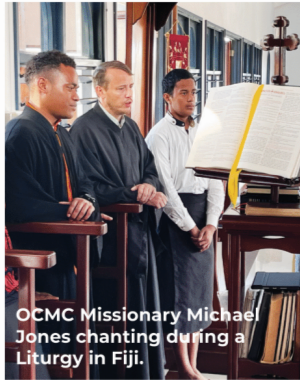
*Fr. Martin Ritsi*

Fr. Martin Ritsi

### Fiji's First Class

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part of the Fijian culture that the Joneses have already made new friends. It is through these bonds of friendship that the Holy Spirit can work!



OCMC Missionary Michael Jones chanting during a Liturgy in Fiji.

Thank you for your hand in helping the Jones family get trained and equipped as missionaries. They are but a few of a new generation of Orthodox Christian missionaries who are serving, or are preparing to serve, all over the world. Your ongoing support of the Mission Center will help ensure that they will be joined by others who have felt God calling them to share the Faith with others.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

OCMC makes disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church. Your support can become a **legacy** that continues spreading the Good News by including OCMC in your will.

OCMC has formed a strategic partnership with FreeWill so that you can create a **legally valid will at no cost to you**. This free gift enables you to create peace of mind for you and your loved ones while leaving a legacy of support for OCMC and its ministries.

In just **20 minutes**, you can create your will today. Including OCMC in your will changes lives! "Lay up treasures for yourself in heaven...for where your treasure is there will your heart be also." (Matt. 6:20-21)

**Scan the code to learn more**

or call **1-877-463-6784**  
**www.ocmc.org/legacy**



# Celebrating Years of Living Witness

## Anastasia Pamela Barksdale and the Moore Family Return from the Mission Field

**M**issionaries have an incalculable impact through their connections with people. Even over the course of a single year, they serve hundreds, if not thousands, of people. OCMC Missionaries Anastasia Pamela Barksdale and Fr. Chris and Mka. Jen Moore have served the people of Albania, Mongolia, and South Korea for a combined total of over 22 years.

Through your prayers and gifts to OCMC, you have helped make these decades of life-transforming service possible. As the missionary service of Anastasia, Fr. Chris, and Mka. Jen comes to an end, however, we wanted to share with you just some of what they have done on behalf of the Church.

Anastasia arrived in Albania in 2008. As a graduate of Holy Cross School of Theology, she traveled to Albania with the blessing of His Beatitude Archbishop

ANASTASIOS to teach Christian Education at the Resurrection of Christ Theological Academy at Shen Vlash Monastery in Durres and offer research assistance to His Beatitude. In 2018, she became the Executive Director of The Spirit of Love Foundation, a non-profit organization that oversees the Albanian Orthodox Church's private schools and preschools, as well as their philanthropic efforts under Diakonia Agapes.

*Being a missionary in Albania was an absolute joy. It was the most meaningful work I've ever done.*

**Anastasia Pamela Barksdale**



OCMC Missionary Anastasia Pamela Barksdale lovingly served in Albania since 2008.



OCMC Missionaries Fr. Chris and Mka. Jen Moore served with their children in South Korea.

Fr. Chris and Mka. Jen began their missionary service in 2014 as lay people in Mongolia but completed it in South Korea. During that time Fr. Chris was ordained, and the family welcomed their three children into the world. Throughout their missionary service, Fr. Chris and Mka. Jen have worked to teach the faith and establish relationships that reflect Christ and help build the local community. At their last assignment in Ulsan, Republic of Korea, Fr. Chris served as rector at St. Dionysios of Zakynthos Orthodox Church. There the Moores welcomed new people into the Church, helped establish religious education ministries, and assisted with the Metropolis's church camp program.

These are but two examples of many that comprise the missionary witness you make possible through OCMC. Please continue to remember Anastasia, Fr. Chris, Mka. Jen, and their children in your prayers as they return to life back in the United States after years of faithful service.