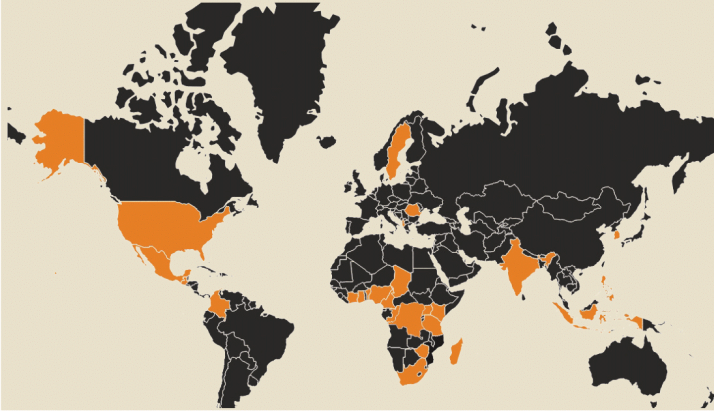


YOU Are Needed to Help Shape the Future!

As you've seen from the stories in this newsletter, sending missionaries, training and sustaining mission priests, and making initiatives possible that help the Church minister to Her people remains our focus as we move forward. Scale up these initiatives with your giving. Reach out to us about serving as a missionary. **AND, PRAY FOR MISSIONS...ALWAYS!**



Apolytikion of Cosmas of Aetolia

With odes let us acclaim the renowned Cosmas, who gloriously excelled among the choirs of the martyrs, priests, and ascetics, and let us gather in praise of his memory; for he dispenseth healing to them that have recourse to him with faith, since, as an equal of the Apostles, he hath boldness before Christ.

MY NEXT GIFT TO SUPPORT ORTHODOX MISSIONS

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

\$XX1 \$XX2 \$XX3 \$_____

I want to join the Ss. 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.



Cosmas the New Hieromartyr & Equal-to-the Apostles of Aetolia

At the age of twenty, Cosmas went to study at the school of the Monastery of Vatopedi on the Holy Mountain. Later, he was tonsured a monk. After learning the art of rhetoric in Constantinople, he began to preach throughout all the regions of northern Greece, the Ionian Islands, but especially in Albania. In 1779, after having greatly strengthened and enlightened the faithful, working many signs and wonders, he was martyred. His feast day is celebrated on August 24.



God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity

2022 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

MISSION

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



Dreaming Again in Indonesia

You helped send OCMC's first missionary family to Sumatra!

Sumatra is the third largest of the 17,000 islands that comprise the Republic of Indonesia. It is also home to more than 58 million people, most of whom are non-Christian.

From Sumatra's largest city, Medan, Fr. Chrysostom and Pres. Elizabeth Manalu, under the omophorion of His Eminence Metropolitan Konstantinos of Singapore, have been pioneering a vibrant Orthodox Christian outreach grounded in tolerance, acceptance, and a sincere desire to serve their

neighbors. A prime example of this outreach is the St. Paul's Theological Academy. This school is open to Orthodox and non-Orthodox undergraduate and graduate students who are studying theology.

The school's capacity has expanded even more with the recent arrival of OCMC Missionary Dn. Phil McClanahan and his family to Indonesia. Dn. Phil will be teaching at the Academy, and your support of the Mission Center is making his service possible.

This past spring, your support also enabled OCMC Executive Director, Fr. Martin Ritsi, to visit Indonesia in order to help prepare the deacon and his family for the service that they will offer as the first missionaries from OCMC to the region.

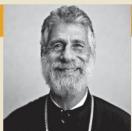
While there, Fr. Martin, Dn. Phil, and Fr. Chrysostom spent five days brainstorming ways to further the mission in Indonesia. As Fr. Chrysostom pointed out, "If we had more resources, we could go to people we've never reached before."

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

WILL YOU SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MISSIONS? LEARN HOW! *see page 4*



FROM FR. MARTIN

The Shape of Missions Going Forward

It has been over two years, but we are finally able to visit the missionaries, priests, and hierarchs where, through your commitment to missions and support of OCMC, the Gospel is being shared and the Church is being planted and strengthened.

These trips are such a blessing because, through them, we are able to connect you with your family in Christ all over the world. **Through what we learn during these visits, we are also able to share with you the impact you – our OCMC supporters – have had and the vision for increased impact going forward.**

In this edition of Mission, I am excited to share with you three visits that were recently made to Albania, Kenya, and Indonesia. There is so much you have made possible in each of these places and so much yet to do!

Thank you for your prayers and financial contributions that have transformed lives like those you will read about. **Thank you for your ongoing partnership** that will transform even more. Be sure to check out page 3 to learn exactly how.

Enjoy your brief trip around the world in this issue of Mission!

In Christ,

Fr. Martin Ritsi



Continuing the Legacy of the Church in Kenya

Givers to OCMC, like you, have been involved in establishing the Orthodox Church in Kenya for decades. Orthodox faithful like you sent OCMC's first two missionary families to this East African nation back in the 1980s, deployed the first team of volunteers from the United States as part of a Mission Team, and supported and helped train a new generation of indigenous priests.

OCMC Development Director, Dan Christopoulos, and OCMC Executive Director, Fr. Martin Ritsi, were part of these first missionary families. One of the key components of their ministry was to train these early priests by teaching at the Makarios III Seminary in Nairobi.

A few months ago, Fr. Martin and Dan returned to Kenya to visit with its three hierarchs: His Eminence Archbishop Makarios, His Grace Bishop Neophytos, and His Grace Bishop Markos and assess the ongoing opportunities for sharing the Gospel there.

While in county, they connected with one of their first students, Fr. Makarios Ngugi. To this day, Fr. Makarios serves a

vibrant parish a couple of hours outside of Nairobi. As pastoral issues come up in the parish, he still refers to the notes he took in his pastoral care class at the seminary.

What's more, his son Fr. Makarios Ngugi Jr., who was inspired by his father to become a priest, now works at the same seminary.

You have supported the Makarios III Seminary for years through the Mission Center, and you continue to have an impact. After closing due to the Coronavirus pandemic, **your prayers and contributions have helped re-open its doors.** Currently, there are 38 young men enrolled at the seminary preparing for a life of ministry service.

As Fr. Martin and Dan witnessed on their visit, the seminary is vital to the continued growth of the Church throughout East Africa. New priests need to be trained and supported as new parishes are established throughout the region. **Thank you for helping to continue to grow the legacy of Orthodox missions in places like Kenya!**

"Please, Don't Ever Forget Us"

Your Support Continuing the Witness of St. Paul in Albania



Thank you for always remembering our Albanian brothers and sisters through your prayers and support.

Like the early missionaries, however, OCMC Missionaries also work hard to share the Good News directly with the people. Personal relationships and small gatherings still lie at the heart of missionary service. Following a Bible study hosted by OCMC Missionary Nathan Hoppe, a woman approached OCMC staff who were visiting. Her one prayer: "Please don't ever forget us".

Albania, then known as Illyria, was first evangelized by the Apostle Paul or his missionary companions. Your support of Orthodox missions continues this vital witness by helping the Faith to survive and thrive through thousands of years of change and struggle.

Where these early missionaries, however, could only preach to relatively small gatherings of people, **your partnership with OCMC Missionaries and the Albanian Orthodox Church through your commitment to the Mission Center is sharing the Gospel with a voice that is able to reach nearly 70% of the entire country every day.**

We were able to see just how on a recent visit to Albania this past November. Under the visionary direction of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios, the Church in Albania established a radio station many years ago called Radio Ngjallja. Through the help of OCMC donors like you, a new radio tower is being built to increase the broadcasting range of the station.

The radio station allows the Church to share a variety of content, some of which has been developed by OCMC Missionaries, that is able to minister to most people in the country, many of whom are non-Orthodox.

The station's director, Fr. Gregory took OCMC Executive Director, Fr. Martin Ritsi, Development Director, Dan Christopoulos, and Assistant Development Director, Fr. Chris Rowe on a tour of the station when they visited. Of the experience, Fr. Chris reflected, "When at the radio station I saw, in real terms, the effectiveness of their programming including services, sermons, Bible studies, music, cultural programming, interviews, and feature stories. Broadening the reach of the radio station will take the Church to so many more people."



Dreaming Again in Indonesia

continued from page 1

"It is so nice to be dreaming again," Fr. Chrysostom reflected on the time he was able to spend with the visitors from the Mission Center.

Thank you for making this dreaming possible, and thank you for your ongoing support that will make these dreams come true.