

# HELPING THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA



The *Dream* program in Aleppo is one of several such programs across Syria. It provides safe venues for homeless, orphaned, disabled, and displaced children to receive psychosocial support, to learn life skills including hygiene practices and interpersonal communication, and to participate in art, theater, and other recreational activities in addition to basic remedial classes. Thousands of children, as well as their parents, have benefited from *Dream* programs and open day events across Syria throughout the conflict.



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## IOCC EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- **March 18** – Denver, CO  
Annual IOCC Pan-Orthodox Evening
- **March 19** – Bealeton, VA  
Around the World with IOCC: Coffee-Hour Benefit
- **April 2** – Pittsburgh, PA  
Syrian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service
- **April 22** – Baltimore, MD  
Big Fat Greek Wedding Reception to Celebrate IOCC
- **April 22** – Cranston, RI  
25th Anniversary IOCC Benefit

**FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE  
INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR PARISH**

## PARTNERS IN COMPASSION

As little as 33¢ a day  
can make a difference!

Join IOCC's Partners in Compassion  
monthly giving program and  
help ensure that we respond quickly  
and effectively to people in need.

[ioccc.org/monthly](http://ioccc.org/monthly)

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

IOCC®  25  
YEARS

INSPIRED BY FAITH. DRIVEN BY PURPOSE.

# Priest to Priest

Spring 2017

## Joining Hands

Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos writes about St. Paul's conversion as a "Damascus moment." He defines these as moments of illumination, moments of transformation and self-knowledge, moments of renewal and empowerment for missions.

On March 10, 1992 Orthodox Christian hierarchs and lay leaders came together to form International Orthodox Christian Charities

to be their hand of compassion reaching out to those in need in times of war, civil unrest, natural disaster and economic hardship. Damascus moment? Yes!

In 2005, in response to Hurricane Katrina, I traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana to see the IOCC response. I was standing in a big warehouse full of tired volunteers and relief workers. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America and Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, arrived to observe the work first-hand and give his blessings to the effort. After a short tour he was asked to say a prayer. This was not an Orthodox facility, nor were the people who were there Orthodox Christians. To this day, I can visualize the people reverently standing there in prayer. I can feel the sheer emotion in the room as the people yearned for answers, for peace and comfort. Damascus moment? Most certainly!

Thank you to all of the Hierarchs of the Assembly of Bishops for your love and support these past 25 years. Thank you to all Orthodox clergy and lay people who have so generously given of their time, talent, and treasures to support IOCC, as we strive to fulfill our mission. Thanks to you we have provided over \$600 million in emergency and development services to over 60 countries.

I fervently pray for a safe and peaceful Holy and Great Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou  
Executive Director and CEO



Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:

His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae, Very Rev. Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Rev. Fr. Luke Palumbis, Very Reverend Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou



INSPIRED BY FAITH. DRIVEN BY PURPOSE.

The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, through many, are one bread and one body: for we all partake in one bread.

— 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

# Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread



THROUGH IOCC, YOU ARE HELPING FAMILIES TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN FOOD AND SECURE THE NUTRITION THEY NEED TO WORK, LEARN AND PLAY.

## JORDAN

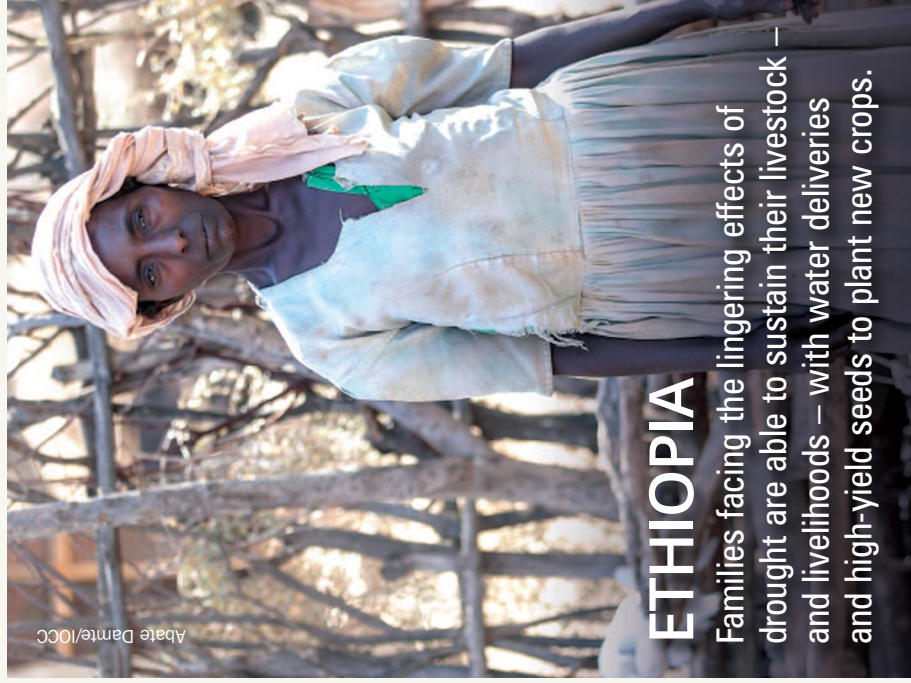
Your support is helping families maintain livestock, manage water and develop greenhouses that provide food year-round

## KOSOVO

By working with the Orthodox Church to build a mill, more than 200 farming families can now access markets for their crops. Revenue from the mill also provides more than 3,000 meals a day to people in need in the community.



N. Prelevic/IOCC



Abate Damte/IOCC

## ETHIOPIA

Families facing the lingering effects of drought are able to sustain their livestock – and livelihoods – with water deliveries and high-yield seeds to plant new crops.

## GREECE

Your gifts are helping worker cooperatives in Northern Greece to increase their capacity and create new jobs vital to the country's economic recovery.



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