



# IOCC DELIVERS ESSENTIAL RELIEF TO HAITIAN QUAKE SURVIVORS

## Port-au-Prince, Haiti (IOCC) —

Twenty-nine-year old Tamara, an expectant mother, had been trapped in her collapsed apartment building for 10 hours before her husband, Peterson, was able to pull her out of the rubble. Her leg was crushed, her four-year-old son had died in the collapsed building, and she was about to deliver a baby. After doctors at King's Hospital saved her leg, Tamara was wheeled out into an open-air triage area where she bravely went into labor and gave birth to a baby girl.

Anne Blaufus, a nurse attending Tamara, held the newborn before she had to return to the world of operations and amputations. "I told Tamara that this is life, this is hope." Tamara named the child, Jesula, which means "Jesus there."



Steve Shelton/Medical Teams International

Tamara gave birth to a baby girl after being rescued from the rubble of her destroyed apartment building in Port-au-Prince. Pictured with her is the nurse who attended her labor, Anne Blaufus with Medical Teams International (MTI), one of IOCC's key partners in Haiti. IOCC and MTI worked in cooperation to deliver \$2.2 million in critically-needed medicines and hospital equipment to Haiti.



Magnus Aronson/ACT Alliance

Clean water is a precious commodity in Haiti. IOCC has provided water purification and sanitation equipment to the people of Haiti as part of its \$3 million response to the January 12 earthquake.

Since the January 12 earthquake struck Haiti, IOCC has delivered over \$3 million in humanitarian aid to the impoverished island nation, including \$2.2 million of medicines and hospital supplies, in cooperation with Medical Teams International (MTI) that has benefitted thousands of patients like Tamara. IOCC's relief work in Haiti has also included the delivery of water purification and sani-

tation equipment, wheelchairs and crutches, tents and shelter materials, hygiene kits, fuel, food, blankets and mattresses.

Orthodox Christians in North America participated in IOCC's aid to Haiti by making generous donations, including assembling and collecting tens of thousands of hygiene kits. The kits are being used to assist Haiti's survivors

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



His Eminence Metropolitan Jonah of Uganda with IOCC CEO Constantine Triantafilou in Katente where IOCC is providing equipment for a school of orphans. IOCC is also creating income-generating projects that will allow the church more financial resources to educate more children.

When the earthquake struck Haiti, IOCC issued a call to Orthodox parishes around the country to begin assembling hygiene kits for the survivors. In a disaster like Haiti where disease becomes the second killer, hygiene kits are the basic tools needed for health and cleanliness and in maintaining sanitary conditions. We are grateful for the overwhelming response. Tens of thousands of kits were assembled by Sunday School children, youth and women's groups and others. Your generosity through these kits has personally touched the survivors of this disaster and your financial gifts have so far provided over \$3 million in aid, including the delivery of water purification and sanitation equipment, wheelchairs and crutches, tents and shelter materials, hygiene kits, fuel, food, blankets and mattresses and crucial medicines and hospital supplies.

A story from our office in Ethiopia highlights the debilitating disease, podoconiosis, where limbs swell to a grotesque size, and how IOCC is combating it in a new partnership with the Greek Orthodox Ladies

Philoptochos Society. In Romania a new \$1.5 million program is underway to strengthen the Romanian Patriarchate's efforts to provide health and social services. In the Holy Land, we're pleased to announce new and sizable projects in both Gaza and the West Bank to provide jobs, cultivate farm land, and address the needs of children affected by the trauma of war.

Finally, we're introducing a new section in *News & Needs* that will provide a spiritual reflection on our humanitarian work. We are reminded that not only is the mission of IOCC life-sustaining for those we serve, but that through Christ-like actions is also the actualization of our faith. Thank you for joining with us to respond in the spirit of Christ's love to those in need worldwide.

Yours In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou  
Executive Director & CEO

International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC) is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) and a member of the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy.

*IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.*

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## IOCC AND PHILOPTOCHOS HELP ETHIOPIAN CHILDREN COMBAT DREADED DISEASE

**Addis Ababa** — Lidya grew up on a small farm in southern Ethiopia and spent sunny afternoons playing barefoot in the fields. At 13, she began noticing a slight swelling in her feet. For a year Lidya hid this swelling from her family and school friends under long skirts. However, the swelling continued and a painful oozing wound appeared between her toes.

Lydia was afflicted by a debilitating disease called podoconiosis, a condition caused by the exposure of bare feet to alkalic clay soil that causes open sores and ulcers, infection, and burning, itching, or swelling of the feet and lower legs.

Like so many who suffer from her affliction and the misconceptions that surround her disease, Lidya's mother reacted harshly and blamed Lydia for bringing a curse upon their family. Yet, for Lidya and approximately one million people who are affected by podoconiosis in Ethiopia, a simple pair of shoes and daily foot treatments can change all of this.

Lydia fell into despair after realizing she must stop going to school and would never marry. Her mother forced her to stay inside the house and hide from the community. Then Lidya's father heard about a relative who also suffered from the condition and arranged for this relative to show Lydia how to wash her feet with soap and water and taught her the importance of shoes and socks. Within four months, the oozing stopped, and the outgrowths on her feet disappeared. She returned to school and raised awareness about the condition and its treatment among her classmates.



S. Tomczyk/IOCC Ethiopia

One million Ethiopians are afflicted by a dreaded disease called podoconiosis, which causes severe swelling to feet and legs. With the support of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, IOCC is distributing shoes and providing training to prevent and treat this painful condition for individuals like Lydia (pictured above).

“So many Ethiopians, especially the children, face a host of dreadful diseases,” said IOCC Ethiopia Country Representative Sigurd Hanson. “The numbers are brutal and stark, but most of these diseases are preventable.”

With the support of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society and private donors, IOCC is working to give hope to affected individuals by distributing shoes and providing training to prevent and treat this painful condition.

In a country of 80 million people, Ethiopians struggle on many

health fronts in addition to podoconiosis. Since 2004, IOCC and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church have reached over 9 million Ethiopians through an HIV/AIDS prevention and care program, and a disability outreach project in Addis Ababa has assisted individuals through employment training, teaching life skills, and increasing awareness among the community.

— Sara Tomczyk/IOCC Ethiopia



Learn more at  
[iocc.org/Ethiopia](http://iocc.org/Ethiopia)

## IOCC DELIVERS ESSENTIAL RELIEF TO HAITIAN QUAKE SURVIVORS

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and will also be available for use in response to disasters throughout the world. "This tragedy has been monumental for Haiti claiming nearly 230,000 lives," said IOCC Executive Director Constantine M. Triantafilou. "We will continue to explore other opportunities to help the Haitian people begin the hard work now of rebuilding their nation."

IOCC's work continues in Haiti in cooperation with ACT Alliance members, Haitian Orthodox churches, and other humanitarian partners. Recently, IOCC dispatched a specialist to Haiti who will be in the country for an extended period of time in order to identify long-term needs and recommend projects that lead to recovery and sustainability.



Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance


Tens of thousands of hygiene kits were assembled by IOCC volunteers and shipped to the survivors of Haiti's January 12 earthquake. Hygiene kits provide the basic tools to promote health and keep disease at bay.

 Learn more at  
[iocc.org/Haiti](http://iocc.org/Haiti)

## IOCC OFFERS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP REBUILD HOMES ON GULF COAST



IOCC is calling on Orthodox volunteers from throughout the U.S. to build homes for families whose lives were devastated by Gulf Coast hurricanes. Volunteers don't have to be skilled. Activities include roofing, framing and landscaping. The volunteer contribution is \$800 per person and includes round-trip airfare to New Orleans, Louisiana, local transportation, room & board, materials, supplies and tools. Volunteers can apply online at [iocc.org/volunteer](http://iocc.org/volunteer) (or contact Pascal Papouras at [ppapouras@iocc.org](mailto:ppapouras@iocc.org)).

 Learn more at  
[iocc.org/USprogram](http://iocc.org/USprogram)



# IOCC AND ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH TO BROADEN ASSISTANCE TO ROMANIANS



IOCC staff meet with officials of the Romanian Orthodox Church to review plans for their new partnership that aims to broaden the Church's ability to effectively help Romanian communities overcome severe social issues. Pictured in the center is Father Dorel Motoc, Patriarchate Counselor, and (center right) is Cosmin Grigorescu, executive director of Federation Filantropia.

**Baltimore, MD** — IOCC Executive Director and CEO Constantine Triantafilou recently traveled to Romania for the launch of IOCC's new partnership with the Romanian Orthodox Church (ROC). The \$1.5 million program is designed to broaden the Church's ability to effectively help Romanian communities overcome severe social issues. Triantafilou met with church officials including Bishop Ciprian Câmpineanul, the Patriarchal Vicar and the President of Filantropia, the Church's humanitarian arm.

"In meetings with His Grace Bishop Ciprian and the leadership of Filantropia, it was clear that there is a shared enthusiasm for this new program and the significant investment in the Romanian people that it represents," said Triantafilou. "Whether the Church is provid-

ing emergency supplies to villages that have been flooded or building new schools, Church clergy and administrators will receive important training in strategic planning, financial stewardship, and program monitoring," he continued.

The new program has been made possible through the Romanian Ministry of Labor, Family and Equal Opportunity and co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the Sectorial Operational Program for Human Resources Development 2007-2013. It is the largest program in IOCC's Strategic Plan specifically dedicated to strengthening the Orthodox Church's administrative, financial and programming ability to respond to the needs of underprivileged Romanians.

Romania, one of the newest members of the European Union,

has tremendous human and natural resources, though it lags far behind the rest of Europe in jobs and income level. Access to healthcare is inadequate in many rural areas. The two-year program will help the Church become a key player in responding to natural disasters and in creating new jobs and in improving education and health care.

IOCC and the Romanian Orthodox Church are well suited to the task. Since 2005, over 2 million Romanians have been educated in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and family violence through a program that IOCC and the Romanian Orthodox Church implemented with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

 Learn more at [iocc.org/Romania](http://iocc.org/Romania)



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## IOCC PROVIDES NEW JOBS & HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS IN THE HOLY LAND



S. Essawi/IOCC Jerusalem

West Bank women receive training in harvesting honey. A new IOCC program will allow more families to create vegetable gardens and establish bee hives in order to provide up to 30% of their own food needs.

**Jerusalem** — Whether training women to create farming cooperatives or assisting families who were cut off from their farmlands by the West Bank Barrier to grow vegetable gardens, IOCC's assistance to the people of the Holy Land has emphasized self-sustaining initiatives that address poverty and promote economic independence.

Today, IOCC is continuing this approach in the Holy Land with new programs that allow it to build on its humanitarian assistance, particularly to Gaza's families who still suffer the effects of the 2008 conflict. "We're very excited to have received \$1 million in funding that will help improve the lives of thousands of Palestinian families living in poverty," said Greg Manzuk, IOCC's representative in Jerusalem.

"So many families in the Gaza Strip are struggling to meet even their most basic needs, and this project will provide essential food, as well as blankets, cleaning supplies, soap, and baby kits to over 3,000 needy families," he continued.

IOCC's new aid to Gaza follows the over \$1.4 million in much-needed emergency food and other essentials that IOCC provided to about 70,000 people since the outbreak of the 2008 conflict.

In Qalqiliya and Nablus, two of the most isolated areas of the West Bank, IOCC is launching a program to assist families. The \$260,000 program, funded by ACT

Alliance partner Finn Church Aid, will train 180 individuals to create vegetable gardens and establish bee hives so that families can provide up to 30% of their food needs. Many of these families have lost access to their farmlands.

IOCC is in the process of launching a \$2 million program that will provide jobs to nearly 1,700 people who live in the northern and southern areas of Gaza. The work includes digging agricultural water catchments, recovering farmland, and general clean-up in the aftermath of the 2008 conflict. The people IOCC employs will help to recover up to 13 acres of agricultural land in Gaza.

IOCC will also provide irrigation equipment and materials for constructing greenhouses.

Children and youth who have experienced war trauma will also receive counseling and recreational therapy as part of the project.

 Learn more at [iocc.org/HolyLand](http://iocc.org/HolyLand)



S. Essawi/IOCC Jerusalem

A new IOCC program funded by ACT Alliance member Finn Church Aid will train 180 people to create vegetable gardens. Many of these families lost access to their farmlands due to the construction of the West Bank Barrier.



# ACTS IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST'S LOVE

At Pascha, the feast of all feasts, we joyously gather in our churches for that beautiful moment when we can sing the hymn of all hymns:

*Christ is risen from the dead by death trampling on death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life.*

But the question we wake up with is, "Now what?" **How do we take the truth of the resurrection and incorporate it into our daily existence? How do we let the world know that Christ is indeed risen?**

Hamena and Mukhel are teenage brothers in the village of Wolyto in Ethiopia. As Orthodox Christians they heard the words, Christ is Risen! But when their parents died from AIDS they were forced to live homeless, with barely enough to survive. Their lives were filled with fear and darkness, and the resurrection of Christ seemed far away from their world. If we are honest, we too have to admit that once the hoopla dies down, the resurrection of Christ can seem far away for us as well.

The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, understands our difficulty. Just as the Church prepares us for Pascha with a period of fasting and special readings, so too, after Pascha the Church introduces into the liturgical cycle the Acts of the Apostles.

How appropriate that it is named *Acts* because it is about the work and life changing *actions* of the Apostles and their followers in response to Christ's Resurrection. In Chapter 1, Christ instructs the Apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they are baptized with the Holy Spirit, and then they will be His witnesses to the whole world. In Chapter 6, we read that the Apostles eventually choose seven deacons to help with the daily distribution to the poor. Christ's work continues through the Apostles.

The time after Pascha is the period of Acts – a time for action. After we proclaim, "Christ is risen!" we are to live as little risen christs in our daily actions. Like the Apostles we are empowered by the Holy Spirit (*the Comforter*) to continue Christ's work and to

serve the needy of the community like the deacons.

Hamena and Mukhel are still orphans, but they experienced the reality of Christ's resurrection through IOCC when they became part of an IOCC program in Ethiopia that gave them \$80 in start-up capital for a small business. They bought a ping-pong table and charged other children a few cents to play. They were so successful that they also bought a foosball table. Today, they are self-sufficient, with a place to call home, enough food to eat, and the chance to go to school. After the pain and uncertainty of their parent's death, Hamena and Mukhel have been resurrected. The impetus for that change was you – and everyone who supports the work and mission of IOCC. Your daily Christ-like actions make the words, "Christ is Risen!" a reality, not only in your own life, but for children like Hamena and Mukhel.

 [Learn more at  
iocc.org/wherewework](http://iocc.org/wherewework)



IOCC Ethiopia

Teenage brothers Hamena and Mukhel stand in front of their ping pong table in the village of Wolyto, Ethiopia. The boys, who were orphaned by AIDS, were able to purchase the table with help from IOCC and support themselves by renting the table out.



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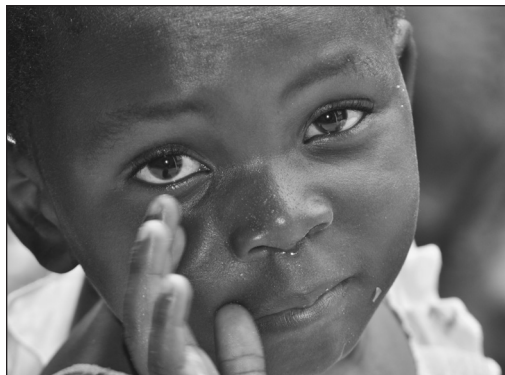
## MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT HOME AND ABROAD: **COSTA PANOS**



For the past decade, Costa Panos has been working diligently to promote IOCC's humanitarian work in Atlanta, Georgia. Not only does Costa volunteer at the local pan-Orthodox "Loaves & Fishes" program, which feeds the poor and hungry with initial support from IOCC, but he has also been the chairperson of the IOCC Atlanta Metropolitan Committee since 2000. The Committee hosts a 5k walk/run annually, an event that has raised over \$250,000 since it was launched ten years ago. "I enjoy being part of IOCC because it is truly one of the best pan-Orthodox organizations in motivating and inspiring Orthodox Christians to join together to help those who are in need," said Costa.

## THE WILL TO HELP

Many people think about making a will, yet a majority leave their estate without having made one at all. Every person – no matter what other estate planning tools exist – should have a will appropriate for their individual circumstances. A legacy of hard work and generosity can live on through IOCC. For more information on including IOCC in your will or to make a gift of appreciated securities, call IOCC toll-free at 1-877-803-4622 or visit [iocc.org/plannedgiving](http://iocc.org/plannedgiving).



## **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

You can play a vital role in helping children and families in need in just about an hour a month. Parish representatives help to communicate the work of IOCC in their local parish. For more information on how you can make a difference for people in need, please contact: Megan Carniewski ([mcarniewski@iocc.org](mailto:mcarniewski@iocc.org)) or Vasi Jankovich ([vjankovich@iocc.org](mailto:vjankovich@iocc.org)) or call 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).