

## 10th Anniversary Video available

It's been 10 years since IOCC was established by SCOBA as the official humanitarian aid organization of Orthodox Christians. A 13 1/2-minute video focusing on the ministry of our faithful through the work of IOCC during that 10-year period is now available for use by parishes, women's auxiliary groups, Bible study groups, youth groups, Sunday Schools and others within the various Orthodox church jurisdictions in America. Footage is featured from IOCC projects around the world. To obtain a copy of the video, call IOCC toll-free at (877) 803-4622.

## Speakers available

IOCC has developed a "speakers bureau" that is available to help bring the IOCC message to our Orthodox parishes throughout the country. This resourceful group is composed of Board Members, staff members (both from headquarters and from country programs) and former interns. Many of them have extensive experience in the more than a dozen countries where IOCC serves communities in response to disasters and conflicts.

IOCC will be happy to provide you with an appropriate speaker for your parish or for a presentation coordinated among a number of Orthodox parishes in a metropolitan area. For more information, please contact Stephen Huba, IOCC Communications Associate, toll-free at (877) 803-4622.

## Upcoming IOCC events

The following events are being sponsored during the next few months by local Metropolitan Committees in support of IOCC's work. See details at [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org) about these and other events.

- St. Louis, MO, Annual Banquet, Oct. 5.
- Akron, OH, Annual Banquet, Nov. 3.
- San Francisco, CA, "Remembering Home" Annual Banquet and Silent Auction, Nov. 10.
- Reading/Lancaster, PA, Annual Banquet, Nov. 17.

## "This and That"

- Nov. 24, the Sunday preceding Thanksgiving Day, has been designated as "IOCC Sunday 2002."
- Father Constantine Monios, long-time Dean of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore and staunch supporter of IOCC, passed away on June 21. May his memory be eternal!
- Jose Quinonez has joined IOCC as Head of Program Development and Emergency Response. Mr. Quinonez, who has extensive experience in humanitarian aid and non-profit management, will be responsible for identifying resources and writing project proposals.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

# PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 3, NO. 3 FALL 2002

## Race to Respond: A witness of faith

Five Orthodox Christian men, the oldest 45 and the youngest 26, at this moment are at the mid-point of a grueling, 3,500-mile bicycle ride across the United States. From New Jersey to California, through daunting mountains and expansive valleys, into rural hamlets and sprawling urban metropolises, under driving rains and scorching heat, they peddle on. Their hearts are filled with determination — not to merely finish the "race," but to carry IOCC's mission to the hearts of our Orthodox people and to invite them to join the ministry of helping those in need in their daily struggle to survive.

These five individuals have volunteered for this 25-day journey because of their faith in Christ and belief in IOCC's mission. They see the "Race to Respond," for which they spent countless hours training, as a meaningful way to enhance awareness among the faithful to that mission. Their prayer is that more of our faithful will join the race "to respond to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ to minister to those who are suffering and are in need throughout the world, sharing with them God's gifts of food, shelter, economic self-sufficiency and hope."

Parishes in cities on and off the route have been marvelously supportive with their contributions, hosting events and receptions, and sharing the news about what Orthodox Christians like these riders are doing to support the ministry of IOCC. We thank each of them!

It's not too late to join the "race." You can guide your parishioners to this ministry of Christian love with a meaningful sermon, a special presentation, a newsletter article, etc. For comprehensive information about the "Race to Respond," as well as IOCC in general, go to [www.racetorespond.org](http://www.racetorespond.org) or [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org) and follow the various links. The help and cooperation of every brother priest, no matter how small or large his parish, is needed and appreciated. Together we can make the "Race to Respond" a huge success! Please join us in the "race" to help the needy survive, a daily race that will continue long after the bicycle journey has ended. Keep that momentum going by asking an IOCC representative to speak at your parish (see article on the back page.)

Fr. Jim Kyriakakis, Director of Quality Assurance

## Giving at the workplace

Each fall, Americans are invited to participate in a variety of workplace giving campaigns. These include the United Way campaigns, the Combined Federal Campaigns, as well as many state, local and private workplace giving campaigns. In some cases, the employer will match the employee's gift. The art insert enclosed with this issue can be used in your parish newsletter and weekly bulletins (September through November), encouraging people to designate IOCC as the recipient of their charitable contributions. IOCC is registered for these campaigns through International Services Agencies #0348. If IOCC is not listed, people can write in the name and address to designate IOCC as their charity of choice. When Orthodox Christians are asked to give at the workplace, IOCC gives them an Orthodox choice.

## Alert your college students

Four Orthodox young adults completed summer 2002 internships recently in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina (two), and the Republic of Georgia. They join earlier interns in gaining first-hand experience in non-profit management and the operation of an international humanitarian aid organization.

Nov. 31, 2002, is the deadline for submitting application for a 2003 IOCC three-month internship. It is anticipated that a 12-month internship will also be awarded. We ask priests to discuss our Honors Internship Program with worthy college juniors, seniors and grad students in their parish and encourage them to apply. Details about the program, including a brochure and application form, can be found at [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org) through the link "How Can I Get Involved?"

The IOCC Honors Internship Program has recently been added to the listing of internship opportunities at a number of colleges and universities, and is also available through the web site [www.MonsterTRAK.com](http://www.MonsterTRAK.com). Students applying for an IOCC internship may request academic credit through their respective department or university professor. IOCC interns receive a monthly stipend for living expenses, a housing allowance and travel costs. Prior to departure for their country of assignment, interns are provided with five days of orientation at IOCC Headquarters in Baltimore.

"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us."  
(Hebrews 12:1)

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# IOCC PROGRAMS COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

A Q U I C K O V E R V I E W - A U G U S T 2 0 0 2

The following are selected highlights from among IOCC's projects.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

IOCC's program in Bosnia-Herzegovina covers all aspects of refugee return, including the repair of public utilities. A project to repair electrical systems in two municipalities (the Bosnian equivalent of U.S. counties) is helping refugees as they return and resettle in their pre-war homes. Supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the \$1.6 million project will allow more than 200 homes to be reconnected to electricity supply lines over the next year, bringing the number of reconnected homes in the municipalities to more than 400.

## Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

A new project supported by Norwegian Church Aid will help meet the emergency food needs of an estimated 14,000 families in Serbia and Montenegro by providing them with food staples such as sugar, rice, wheat flour and vegetable oil. The \$160,000 project also seeks to improve the conditions of refugee shelters and other institutions by making minor repairs and by distributing parcels of cleaning supplies such as soap, disinfectant and buckets with mops.

The project is part of IOCC's on-going efforts to assist the often-forgotten refugees of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who have been living in despair for as long as a decade as they wait to return home. Many do not have even the basic necessities of life.

## Greece

Refugee, migrant and street children in Athens have a place to go thanks to a kindergarten program supported by IOCC. The kindergarten gives children a safe environment during the day where they can pursue creative activities, have two nutritional meals and receive instruction. Many of the children come from a shelter for homeless asylum seekers, run by a partner in Athens.

## Jerusalem/West Bank

The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs has significantly increased its commitment to IOCC's program of emergency relief in the West Bank. Equivalent to \$338,000, the funding will allow IOCC to continue distributing food parcels, medicine and medical supplies, and hygiene items in isolated areas where movement is severely limited. Despite restrictions on humanitarian agencies, IOCC is able to provide this life-sustaining assistance with the help of local partners.

## Republic of Georgia

In the midst of hard times for the Republic of Georgia, IOCC's micro-credit project is giving people the tools to work their way out of poverty with dignity. In the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, potato farmers now have hope because IOCC small-business loans have enabled them to plant and harvest successful crops. Many of them have repaid their loans and taken out a second loan to help them increase their growing area.

## Romania

Eighty-six percent of children residing in Romania's orphanages have at least one parent still living, and yet, child abandonment in Romania is a problem that has attracted worldwide attention. IOCC is helping reintegrate some of Romania's 100,000 orphans back to their natural or extended families. Working in partnership with the Romanian Orthodox Church, IOCC will help children from Dolj, Gorj and Mehedinti make the transition from state-run orphanages to stable homes. Together, the Church and IOCC will create a support network of social services and job creation so that families can carry on with a normal, productive life.

## Turkey

Because of recent conflicts in neighboring countries, Turkey has become a destination for asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers. IOCC's efforts in Turkey focus on this vulnerable group of refugees through a local partner, the Istanbul Inter-Parish Migrants Program. Through IOCC's support, the program has been able to safely repatriate many people to their home countries and to offer classes to children of refugee parents living in Turkey. In cases where refugees are unable to enter their country of choice and face a difficult future in Turkey, the program offers assistance to those who express a voluntary desire to return to their home country. The education program teaches English, math and art to undocumented children who don't speak Turkish.

## United States of America

In the wake of the Hayman forest fire in Colorado, IOCC is supporting a local initiative to identify children who have been traumatized by being forced from their homes. IOCC and its partner, Rocky Mountain Orthodox Christian Charities and Missions, have held a workshop to train volunteers who can work with displaced children and look for trouble signs that may require professional counseling. The volunteers will be working with the children in the coming months.

## JOB SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

You can make a difference in the lives of people around the world through your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or United Way Contribution. International Orthodox Christian Charities helps people help themselves through reconstruction projects, small enterprise programs for entrepreneurs and emergency assistance programs.

**International Service Agencies  
Code #0348**

Or, on the campaign form, write in:

International Orthodox Christian Charities  
P.O. Box 630225 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0225  
Toll-free: (877) 803-4622 • [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)



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