

Volunteer in the Gulf Coast



IOCC is sending volunteer teams every month through July 2007 to build new homes for families who were

devastated by the 2005 Hurricane season. Find out how you can serve on a one-week work crew at www.iocc.org/gulfcoast, or call 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

Serbia/Bosnia-Herzegovina Study Tour

Meet IOCC beneficiaries and see our special programs in Serbia (with a special stop in Kosovo) and Bosnia-Herzegovina



Tentative Sept. 2007 • Confirmed dates TBD
Approximate Cost — \$2,800 all-inclusive from Baltimore

For more information, contact Dan Christopoulos
dchristopoulos@iocc.org • 1-877-803-IOCC (4622)
or go to www.iocc.org/studytrip

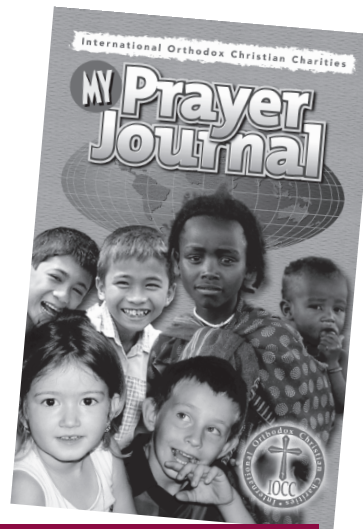
Upcoming Events

The following events are being sponsored by local Metropolitan Committees in support of IOCC's work. See more details at www.iocc.org/events.

- **ATLANTA, GA**
7th Annual IOCC 5K Run/Walk, April 21, 2007
- **CHICAGO, IL**
13th Annual Grand Banquet, April 22, 2007
- **DALLAS, TX**
IOCC Family Night, April 22, 2007
- **PHOENIX, AZ**
Wine, Cheese and Silent Auction, September 29, 2007
- **PITTSBURGH, PA**
Basile the Comedian Event, November 10, 2007

IOCC Children's Prayer Journal Still Available!

A great tool to help your parish's young people pray and care for others in need. The prayer journal is free, but shipping charges may apply. To learn more, visit www.iocc.org/prayerjournal.



I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, "What can get through from such snares?" Then I heard a voice saying to me, "Humility." — St. Anthony the Great



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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 8, NO.1 SPRING 2007

The Liturgy After the Liturgy: IOCC in Action Around the World

"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are varieties of service, but the same Lord." (I Cor 12:4)



IOCC's programs in Ethiopia to develop clean water sources and improve agricultural techniques help rural communities overcome the effects of poverty and drought.

Recently, David Bryer, an Orthodox Christian and the former Director of the humanitarian aid organization Oxfam, addressed IOCC Board Members on IOCC's distinction as an Orthodox organization. He quoted Metropolitan EMILIANOS (Timiadis) of Calabria "that aid is not merely material but in solidarity, identifying with the suffering of others; that there is an intimate relationship between the sharing and offering of the Eucharist and of every act of Diakonia." Bryer described this as "the liturgy after the liturgy"; the continuation of all the inspiration of worship in the service of others.

IOCC is our liturgy after the liturgy. Committed to the ethos of our historic Orthodox Church, it seeks Orthodox Churches and local Orthodox organizations as partners in responding to those who are in need throughout the world. In this issue of *Priest to Priest*, we focus on the nations of Georgia and Ethiopia, where IOCC is working closely with the local church to bring Christ's presence through love in action to areas devastated by war, poverty, and HIV/AIDs.

And so, brothers in the holy priesthood, we take the opportunity to invite you to be more closely involved with this expression of Orthodoxy in action. IOCC has developed many avenues of service for you and your parish to consider. We hope your prayerful reflection will move you and your community to join us for this liturgy after the liturgy.

Your Brother in Christ,

Leonid Kishkovsky
Father Leonid Kishkovsky

Get Your Parish Involved In IOCC Today

Volunteer to Build A Home On the Gulf Coast

IOCC will be sending volunteer crews to the Gulf Coast every month through July 2007 to build new homes as part of its comprehensive \$4 million relief and reconstruction program. Visit www.iocc.org/gulfcoast or call 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

Join a Metropolitan Committee

IOCC Metropolitan Committees support the humanitarian mission of IOCC through awareness and fund-raising activities. A list of contacts can be found at www.iocc.org/getinvolved or contact Sylvia Araj at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

Assemble a Gift of the Heart Kit

A package of supplies assembled in the United States and shipped to people in need around the world through IOCC's longtime partner Church World Service (CWS). Call 1-877-803-IOCC (4622) or visit www.iocc.org/giftsofheart.shtml.

My Prayer Journal

Help your parish's young people learn to pray for children around the world. The prayer journal is free, but shipping charges may apply. Contact the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America at 1-800-566-1088. A monthly electronic version is available at www.iocc.org/prayerjournal.

IOCC Expands Lebanon Assistance

IOCC is significantly expanding its ongoing work to help Lebanon recover from the war with a total of \$5.16 million in additional aid from the U.S. government. A grant of \$3.46 million has been awarded to IOCC by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the repair and development of 154 public schools throughout the country. A \$1.7 million extension grant from the U.S. Government's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) will expand IOCC's current program to help returnees rebuild their lives in southern Lebanon and southern Beirut.

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

from the Church Relations Committee of the IOCC Board of Directors: Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky, Chairman,
Very Rev. Michael Ellias, Very Rev. Michael Rosco, Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou

Combating Poverty in Georgia

A country with a renowned Christian heritage and unique culture, the country of Georgia has struggled economically and socially from the effects of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. At the invitation of ILIA II, Patriarch-Catholicos of Georgia, IOCC established its work there in 1994. Since then, school infrastructure rehabilitation has been one of IOCC's main activities. IOCC has also focused on underserved populations in the southern and western regions of the country with a micro-finance and credit program. Over 1,700 borrowers in Georgia have benefited from IOCC's program since 1999.



photos by Zaza Macharashvili/IOCC

A Healthy And Safe Environment To Learn

The before and after shots of IOCC's renovation of the public school in the Black Sea town of Poti in western Georgia. "We used to not have windows or doors, but now we don't have anything to say except a big thank you to IOCC," says student Tekla Shonia (above, right). Most Georgian schools have not received major repairs, or even routine maintenance, for a decade or more. With funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Hellenic Aid of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOCC has repaired broken windows and doors, leaking roofs, and renovated bathrooms in 30 public schools.



A World of Education

Georgian school children in the village of Bia receive their World Atlases, part of IOCC's project to provide books and other school supplies to underserved children. Before IOCC's outreach to public schools in Georgia, there were very few resources in the country to fund public education. School buildings were often crumbling, teachers and administrators were paid little, and textbooks and school materials were in short supply.



An Iron-Clad Foundation

Vasil Antadze (above left), a welder in western Georgia, wanted his own business but did not have enough for the start-up capital, nor was he able to qualify for a bank loan. In 2002, Vasil received his first loan from IOCC, which he used to purchase an iron cutting machine. Over the next three years, Vasil received other loans from IOCC to purchase additional machinery and equipment and to employ other welders. One of the most rewarding aspects, says Vasil, of running his own business has been to provide employment for others. IOCC has provided loans to more than 1,700 borrowers in Georgia since 1999.

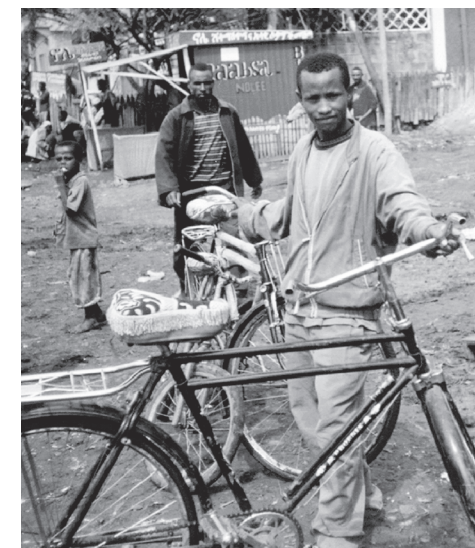
On the Frontline of AIDS in Ethiopia

A country with a storied Christian heritage, Ethiopia has struggled on several fronts, battling drought, war, famine and HIV/AIDS. IOCC began operations in Ethiopia in 2001 through a partnership with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Programs for the development of clean water sources and improved agricultural techniques helped rural communities overcome the effects of poverty and drought. In 2004, IOCC launched a comprehensive AIDS awareness and training program, with funding from USAID. Since then, nearly 7 million Ethiopians have received training in HIV/AIDS prevention. Children orphaned by AIDS and adults who are living with the disease are also assisted by IOCC through one-time start-up capital for small businesses.

Partnership in Ethiopia
Constantine M. Triantafilou is welcomed by the Ethiopian Patriarch, Abune Paolus and president of Ethiopia, Girma Wolde-Giorgis. IOCC's partnership with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and its humanitarian arm, DICAC, has resulted in nearly 7 million Ethiopians receiving training in HIV/AIDS prevention.



Nicole Minor



Ken Baker / IOCC

A Small Shop and A Lot of Dignity

Though she had contracted the AIDS virus, Sufan Negash (right) was determined to become self-supporting. Through IOCC, Sufan, and eight other women with AIDS, received \$340 to open a convenience store in the rural town of Assela. Since then, four of the original nine women have died, but Sufan and the remaining four have kept on with their business, which provides Sufan with an income of about \$35 per week — a substantial sum for rural Ethiopia. IOCC has assisted over 8,000 Ethiopians who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Bicycles and A Bright Future

Tariku is a 17 year old orphan who lost both parents to HIV/AIDS. In 2004, he joined IOCC's program to support Ethiopia's orphans and was given monthly support for his food, clothing, and medical expenses. In 2005, IOCC's program shifted to more sustainable support and Tariku received money to start his own business. Tariku purchased a bicycle and began renting it to others. In less than six months he saved enough money to purchase three bicycles, which has doubled his income. Since 2005, IOCC has assisted 14,000 orphans in Ethiopia who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.



Thomas Kivian / IOCC