

2016 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT



A testimony
to all nations

CREDITS

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Our story is your story

We want to share together in the ministries of Operation Mobilization. As we move into our 60th year of ministry, we should look back and thank God for all He has done. From the first prayer by Dorothea Clapp, who prayed for students to know Jesus, to prayers of today, we see God’s mighty hand at work. As you respond prayerfully and financially to some of the stories we share, you become part of that ministry. We each play our part in what God calls us to do, and the full story gets told.

What is the importance of remembering? First, it helps us understand where we have come from. Our past shapes how we engage in the present. Maybe some of you have been recipients of someone else’s good will and you believe in giving back. Some of you could have had generosity modeled by family or friends. No matter what the circumstances, we are now part of your story.

Second, we can learn lessons from our past. I make decisions today based on things I learned in the past. Both positive and negative experiences teach me how to make better choices in the future. As a mission organization, we have learned how to tell our story and share what God is doing around the world through our ministries. We evaluate from our past how to better communicate. You are able to have a better understanding of what you invest in as we bring context to

people’s circumstances and projects. Our stories help you pray specifically about how to be a part.

Third, we forget. In the Bible, God was always telling the Israelites to remember. Sometimes, it is good to have reminders about our past. It helps us keep things in perspective. In OM, we have a rich history of prayer, loyalty, the Gospel being preached, adventure, risk, God’s faithfulness, commitment, and cross-cultural teams. We are able to be where we are today because of the people who have gone before us—most of all, because God has sustained us—lest we forget. We desire to keep that same passion to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached.

Today, you are able to reflect with us on what God has done through Operation Mobilization’s ministry. You get to share in that joy as we see people being transformed by your prayers and generosity. Thank you for being part of shaping OM’s story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Sinsel', written in a cursive style.

James Sinsel
Canadian Director

CHURCH PLANTING

We want to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached. This is both the anchor and the impetus for everything that OM, along with its partners, undertakes daily by faith. Moreover, our passion is for indigenous expressions of faith in practice that will enrich God's people everywhere.

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." – Acts 16:5



PRAY

For opportunities to disciple handfuls of seekers and new believers who will form attractive fellowships in spiritually barren places.



GIVE

Enabling the training of nationals in leadership is a strategic investment with great returns.



GO

Effective church planting stems from a commitment to live out faith together. Let us find your fit.



MOZAMBIQUE

Now that his church of 10 members has grown to 50, OM leader Limardes Domingo is certain that he has been called to serve the Yao Muslims. Moving to Mecula meant great sacrifice for both his and his wife's families, and a pastor at his church told them that if they went to the Yao people, one of them would die to be a testimony; the people of Mecula promised death for anyone who accepted Christ. Those who became Christians faced banishment with no food, but Limardes and his wife (now with a team including four other couples) planted themselves in the community nonetheless.

About two years ago, the local Imam (leader of the mosque)—and dealer in witchcraft—became paralysed. He sought healing from Imams, with no results; the man who used witchcraft to 'cure' locals of their sicknesses could not be helped. It took those two years of paralysis for the Imam to send his wife to Limardes. "She said, 'I want your help. You can give us another way that we can follow,'" Limardes remembers.

At first, Limardes wouldn't pray for the Imam, because his house was filled with instruments of witchcraft; he told him he would only pray when all traces of the Imam's incantations were removed. "The Imam said that he didn't want to follow witchcraft anymore," Limardes says. With the house cleared out, Limardes prayed, and the Imam experienced a healing that sent shockwaves throughout the village.

Limardes prayed, and the Imam experienced a healing that sent shockwaves throughout the village.

Though the OM team still faces persecution—specifically when someone accepts Christ but their spouse does not—the growth in the church has meant increased outreach and witness. Pray for God's deliverance of the village of Mecula, with a population of around 5,000, many of whom still worship nature and animals.





UKRAINE

Pastor Sergei Saenko could not just flee his hometown of Donetsk or sit idly by while people suffered. Together with a group of pastors, he started a mission school for church planting teams, to plant churches in towns on the front lines of the conflict.

**According to Pastor Sergei,
people trust the Lord on a
weekly basis here.**

When OM Field Leader Wayne Zschech heard that this training centre's purpose was to plant churches on 'both sides' of the Ukraine/Russia divide, he knew OM should get behind it, supporting the first group of students and the first three church plants.

Artyomivka is a mining community on the front lines that, before the war, had no evangelical church. Now, a year and a half later, a team of missionaries has planted a church attended by 30 people. The small congregation in Zhellanoye, further from the front, has bloomed into a faith community of around 40 people. Church services, Sunday school, children's programmes and teenage groups are well attended. With the help of many Christian organisations, the missionary team and congregation members have been able to serve the community with humanitarian aid.

Saveeva is the third town where OM support has assisted church planting graduates from the missionary school. Recently, three people accepted Christ. According to Pastor Sergei, people trust the Lord on a weekly basis here. In the past, any faith other than Russian Orthodox was sectarian and looked on with fear and suspicion. Today, these congregations are held in high regard by both the local government bodies as well as the citizens of these towns. These missionary teams of four people are still being sent out; already 13 more churches have been planted.

TURKEY

Tekin is an agricultural city of 120,000 people near the ancient city where the touch of the legendary King Midas turned everything to gold. However, just as King Midas has no relevance now in Tekin, until very recently, there were no known believers in the living King of kings, Jesus Christ; almost 100 per cent were followers of Islam.

Two years ago, Mick* (UK) visited Tekin on a summer short-term trip, discreetly passing out gospel tracts that included contact information for a free New Testament. One was given to Farhat*. He had lived in Finland for 20 years and was more open-minded about Christianity than most others in the city. Farhat called the Bible Correspondence Course (BCC) in Istanbul, and they mailed him a New Testament.

Bill*, a worker with another organisation, was very happy to follow up and was delighted that Farhat's friend, Mehmet*, was also interested in God's Word. Two church planters began visiting Tekin for weekly Bible studies. Shortly afterward, Farhat and Mehmet placed their faith in Christ—the beginning of a church plant where the gospel had never been known before.

**"Islam is not our enemy;
sin is."**

Farhat and Mehmet invited Tunç* to join them. As an atheist, he was willing to participate because, "Your enemy is Islam, and my enemy is Islam. So, I'm happy to be here." To this they responded, "Islam is not our enemy; sin is." Tunç was an avid reader, and within two weeks of investigating God's Word, he came to faith in Christ! Through Farhat and Mehmet, God had led two church planters to a community of friends open to the gospel. By the end of the summer, three more Turks in this city believed and were baptised.

One year later, this group of six friends had come to faith in Christ, and progress is clearly being made toward a healthy church plant. Indeed, this fellowship is actively inviting more friends to their meetings. They are even using social media to tell others about Jesus Christ.



NEAR EAST

After two decades in the region, Joe* and Alisa* are amazed at the changes and new opportunities to share the gospel. Before the war, Muslims in local churches were rare. Now, up to half of their congregation are Muslim refugees from Syria. Churches have been instrumental in helping refugees, regardless of religious background. In the past, Kurds were not open to the message of Christ. Now arriving as refugees, they were welcomed and loved by the churches and our workers. They now have ladies' meetings where 50–70 refugee women come together, often bringing their children. They listen to stories and teaching about Jesus, starting from creation, the fall of man, the sacrifice (which they would recognise from their culture and the Qur'an) and salvation through Jesus.

Joe and Alisa have never witnessed so many Muslims wanting to learn from the Bible. "They come," said Alisa, "in need, in tears, in sadness and find release and peace as people pray for them. Many refugees now minister to others, offering to share and pray with relatives and neighbours. We see many miracles and answers to prayer." Joe's ministry extends to several countries, as he visits groups of believers to mentor, encourage and develop new local leaders. He and the OM team organise training for Arab partners in a neighbouring country. The training deals with church planting and Discovery Bible Studies but also member care. Meeting others in the same situation is a great encouragement.

While the world may look at the physical war in Syria and the movement of refugees, OM workers in the Near East see a very real and present spiritual war. Pray that Syrian refugees would understand and receive the message of Jesus, see God at work in their lives, and grow in faith.

SOUTH ASIA

"I learnt how to share my story and His story," one youth said after a Church Planting Movement training organised by OM. Seven trainers travelled to two remote districts in the far west of the country to host the training for 60 pastors, church leaders and youth. The purpose was to teach believers how to start healthy and multiplying churches by identifying what kind of 'field' they are in: an empty field, one ready for seed sowing, one needing discipling or one ready for church formation. The use of these symbolic fields helped to teach a mostly agricultural society about recognising the spiritual climate of their community.

"Before the training I used to preach the gospel the same, whether I was in a church with believers or outside in the community," one pastor said. He learnt the importance of identifying his audience and then targeting a message that they are ready to hear.

Another participant had received lots of training but never paired it with time to practice the lessons. "This training increased my confidence to put things into practice," he shared. Returning home, each participant was to write a list of their friends and acquaintances, identify a house of peace (someone in their community who is open to hearing about God), and to make a daily plan for whom they minister to. In a country with a population of 30 million yet less than two per cent Christians, such training is an integral part of growing the church. It empowers local believers to be a part of expanding God's kingdom.

**"I learnt how to share my story
and His story."**

#PeopleOfOM



"I took students on an outreach for a week where there was a lady who was hopeless and had been sick for years. We prayed for her, and after we prayed, we saw the healing God had done as she stood up and managed to walk. For three years, she hadn't walked. She went to the church to show what God had done in her life. She wasn't even a Christian."

Fredson, from Malawi, with OM Malawi

EVANGELISM

Faith comes by hearing—and watching and asking and reckoning and understanding. That’s why OMers are driven to share the good news with all the people they can, in all the ways they can. Behind every statistic of ministry are individual lives transformed through the gospel that brings light and life.

“As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” – Acts 4:20



PRAY

That God will prepare countless numbers of people at all levels of society to receive grace and truth.



GIVE

The logistics necessary to engage with those millions depend on the financial support of passionate partners.



GO

Even a short-term evangelistic team experience can be life changing. What hinders you?



ARABIAN PENINSULA

Maddie*, a long-term worker, spends holidays and weekends visiting local Arab friends. One evening, heavy rain pounded the desert, complete with thunder and lightning. “I loved everything about it,” Maddie remembered. Her friends, however, were afraid of the storm, telling her, “If God makes a noise, you have to listen fearfully.” Undeterred, Maddie went outside to feel the rain and watch the weather unfold, joined by one father who asked how to say ‘thunder’ and ‘lightning’ in English. Since he had started the conversation, Maddie continued: “In the Bible, they were waiting to hear God speak in the thunder, but He [spoke] in the whisper.” The father added, “I once had a *Jesus* film, but I lent it to someone and never got it back. Where could I get another one?” he asked.

Due to security and social rules for male-female interaction, she could not return to the family’s house with a gift for the father. “I prayed that God would create an opportunity for us to meet in an appropriate way,” she explained. Three and a half months later, while parking her car, Maddie saw the family’s car pulling in nearby. The father got out of the car and shouted to her, “Did you bring the DVD?” When she gave him the *Jesus* film, he told her that an expat at his workplace had been sharing with him and reading the Bible.

“In the Bible, they were waiting to hear God speak in the thunder, but He [spoke] in the whisper.”

On another visit, the husband asked Maddie to pray. “The wife started crying, because she had never heard a ‘free’ prayer,” Maddie described. With the husband receiving biblical input from his co-worker, Maddie hoped to spend more time talking to his wife. “They have a chance to develop [spiritually] as a couple,” she noted. Knowing little phrases from the Bible is important, she said. “It shows you are a spiritual person that they can talk about God with.”





BRAZIL

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does.” – Nelson Mandela

As millions of people came to Brazil for the 2016 Olympics, churches united to seize opportunities. OM worked in partnership with Movimento Braços Abertos (Open Arms Movement) to gather churches, missions and individuals with one single goal: to share about Jesus. Together they prepared for months beforehand.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro brought unity among churches and organisations.

As the games started, the OM team saw 45 people from 12 nations work alongside at the Olympics and Paralympics outreaches. They were split into three teams in different locations around Rio de Janeiro using arts, sports and creative evangelism to reach people in slums, streets, parks, arenas and fan zones. The team experienced God opening doors in front of the Maracanã Stadium. As they looked around, they saw the police preparing to protect the games, and they spoke with them. One policeman was a believer and called all of his colleagues over so that the team could pray for and share the gospel with them.

Overall, the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro brought unity among churches and organisations, as well as many open doors for the teams to connect, serve, love and share life with people.



CENTRAL ASIA

After turning down a job in translation to serve with OM, John* thought it might be the end of using his degree and interpreting skills. But God had other plans. Knowing Russian, the lingua franca of Central Asia, he was able to translate for and communicate with many believers with whom other workers—who knew only local languages—couldn’t. “It’s encouraging to see God’s hand over my academic life—even before I was a believer—with a future opportunity to work for His kingdom,” John shared. “It’s opened up doors to encourage and train local believers as I translate training sessions and sermons and chat with locals.”

Being a native English speaker in a place where many want to learn English opens up many opportunities for meeting people. People have been coming to John for English practice, but doors often open for talking about ethical choices in difficult situations, and how beliefs shape those. Miles* and Ben* profess to be Muslims but John challenges them about using deceit to get a job.

“It’s a sin; you shouldn’t do it,” he explained. “But what if you can’t get a job without the required experience?” they question. “God is Judge. You might get your job, but God knows our hearts. It’s wrong.”

Corruption is a topic that often comes up in conversations. “You can’t open a business without paying a bribe,” John is told, but he knows other workers who have never paid a bribe. Please pray that John and other workers would be distinctively set apart to cause others to question their own values and seek true answers found only in Christ.



“Being so far away from home and so new to everything, I learnt to give out all my strength and all my heart in all that I did. I used to be quite lazy in school, because it was easy. But missions is not about getting grades that are just good enough. All the work has to come from the heart, the character, and all these inner areas that I didn’t bother dealing with. I often felt so naked in front of God and others when I’d just joined OM. It was my first time being in an environment where I realised people care about my attitude and my relationship with God much more than how smart or talented I was.”

Joy, from Taiwan, with OM Sweden



LOGOS HOPE

“I tell you today, God is real,” proclaimed Abraham Moxen (Papua New Guinea), who shared a powerful testimony with inmates in Empangeni jail outside Richards Bay in South Africa. He shared about his past, living on the streets as a child and almost getting imprisoned. “He knows you by name; He cares for you. He wants to give you a life and a future to look forward to.” At the end of Abraham’s message, six inmates stood to accept Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour.

In subsequent one-on-one conversations, another 10 inmates expressed their desire to do the same. One of the prison guards, a pastor for the prison, was deeply moved by the response and presence of God that morning. He will play a crucial role in these inmates’ lives as he continues to disciple them and help them grow in their faith.

**“We are bringing true freedom,
the freedom of Christ, into a place
with no physical freedom.”**

“I could feel the oppression once I stepped into the prison,” recalled team leader Dyfan Graves (Wales), who was visiting a prison for the first time and experienced the eagerness of people to accept Jesus into their lives. “We are bringing true freedom, the freedom of Christ, into a place with no physical freedom.”



MALAWI

Over seven days, 17 cyclists from eight countries biked a combined total of 8,591 km in this year’s Ride 2 Transform Malawi (R2TM), raising prayer and awareness for the Yao tribe, a predominately Muslim tribe numbering two million. OM has found ways to build relationships through training programmes for entrepreneurs, Foundations for Farming and AudiBible.

The team handed out 49 AudiBibles provided by Davar Partners International to people they met along the road; three ministry teams distributed an additional 210. The solar-powered AudiBibles contain the whole Bible in the local language as well as a few sermons and songs. People gather around in the villages to listen to the devices simply because it speaks their language. The cycling tour also raised funds to build a school in Chisopi, a Yao village—the first of its kind and an ideal way to reach not only children, but families.

Three teams of local missionaries and the OM Africa Trek went to five locations along the 640-km cycling route to connect with local churches and run programmes, such as AudiBible training, children’s, women’s and sports ministry, and door-to-door evangelism.

Lindsey groaned inwardly at a group of teenage boys talking and laughing outside her window. God changed her view though: What hope they could have if they knew Jesus and what amazing men of God they could become! Lindsey explained to them what the AudiBible was, how to work it and gave one to the boys—with a prayer.



#PeopleOfOM

“Psalm 8:4 says, *What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*” (ESV). When I invited Jesus into my heart, He gave me value, something I never had before. I’m forever thankful for the blood He shed for me and the love He shows me every day.”

Annabella, from Guatemala, with OM Guatemala

JUSTICE

As darkness is nothing more than the absence of light, or cold the absence of heat, so injustices rampant today are vacuums needing God's justice, championed by His people. Whether it is the unprecedented wave of refugees, victims of trafficking or entrenched commercial slavery, God's people are obligated to show mercy to the suffering and to speak for the 'shalom' of God's wholeness.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." – Proverbs 31:8



PRAY

That churches worldwide will rise above the negativity and embrace the cause of refugees, the trafficked and the otherwise exploited.



GIVE

It's time for tangible compassion and generosity in Jesus' name. You can help OMers 'on the ground' to demonstrate that love.



GO

What's in your hand that God could use in showing mercy to the needy?



LOGOS HOPE

Educating students on the global problem of human trafficking was the assignment for a team of *Logos Hope* crewmembers sent to Adiembra Senior Secondary School (ADISEC) in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana.

Ghana is known to be a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficked persons, and the more than 2,000 students who attend ADISEC could be particularly at risk for exploitation, according to their headmaster. Ebenezer Nelson explained to the ship's team that the majority of his students come from low-income families that struggle to afford school fees, making them more likely to agree to a suspicious proposition without recognising the offer may be too good to be true.

Using a simulation to expose that vulnerability, *Logos Hope's* team offered two students a once-in-a-lifetime chance to study internationally, all expenses paid. When the teenagers jumped at the opportunity and were ready to leave immediately with people they had only just met, the crewmembers stopped the pretence. The pupils had been shown in a memorable way just how easily they could fall victim to the tricks of human traffickers.

Anyone can fall victim to these schemes
—young or old, educated or uneducated—
because traffickers look like anyone else and
are good at telling people what they want to hear.

“Did you think we were bad people?” asked Frieda Neumann (Germany). “No, we look like normal people.” The team explained that anyone can fall victim to these schemes—young or old, educated or uneducated—because traffickers look like anyone else and are good at telling people what they want to hear. The students were encouraged to use their eyes, ears, mouth and mind to look for clues, gather information, and recognise suspicious situations. “This has application for everyone,” said a teacher to the students gathered together at the end. “You don’t need to read it in a book; it has been presented to you today, and it is relevant for everything.”





ITALY

Women sit along streets surrounding the OM office in Pisa—many of whom have been trafficked and forced to provide sexual services to men who stop along the road. Forced labour and sexual exploitation are issues that affect millions of people worldwide, and members of the OM team have decided to respond.

“It is a symbol of the hypocrisy in our society,” says one OM worker after an outreach among transgender sex workers. “The same people that criticise, make fun of and abhor these people are the same that pick them up in broad daylight and pay for their bodies. What would have Jesus done? Would He have not spent time with them in love and forgiveness?”

OM moved to Pisa in September 2014 and spent months getting to know the area, churches, people and human-trafficking victims, many from Eastern European countries. A large number of transgender individuals from Brazil end up in prostitution as they struggle to find other work. In January 2015, people arrived to start working against the sexual slavery in Pisa. A year later, a weekly outreach on the streets of Pisa took off. The team has been connecting with local services and believers as well as other ministries throughout Italy and beyond to learn best practices and build a support network.

Engaging the local churches has been and continues to be a priority, since for sustainable ministry the involvement of local believers is a necessity. A team of volunteers has come alongside the OM staff to support the work through joining the outreaches, praying and providing material help.

“The same people that criticise, make fun of and abhor these people are the same that pick them up in broad daylight and pay for their bodies. What would have Jesus done?”

“None of us wishes to have a life like this,” is a phrase the outreach team has heard on multiple occasions. “The fact that many women have allowed us to pray for them and have opened up about their traumatic past shows us that we’re doing the right thing,” the team coordinator shares. Much needs to be done to help the women holistically, including planning for other means to help those that wish to exit a life in prostitution.

GUATEMALA

The town of El Tejar is only 40 km west of Guatemala City, the teeming capitol, but it may as well be 4,000: Dirt roads lead past corrugated tin constructs; stray dogs and chickens appear around corners; men and women dot bean and grain fields. The population was 12,500 in a 2002 census but doesn’t account for children not registered with the state. “The main problem,” says OM ministry leader Ruth Schmutz, “is that if one child were [kidnapped] or lost, it would be impossible to identify the child let alone get him or her back.”

Josefa, a widow and mother of six, takes part in OM’s Project Rescue, which provides opportunities for families who suffer from poverty, malnutrition, domestic violence and lack of education. When Ruth discovered that only the eldest of Josefa’s six children had official papers, she stepped in. Flor, 12, was most at risk. OM workers ensure that Flor returns safely home on afternoons spent at the Project Rescue house.

In addition, Josefa’s five unregistered children were not accepted by the school without papers. Ruth found a local ministry specialising in legal matters; with its help, all five were officially registered within one month. With papers now in hand, the school agreed to take them; however, Flor’s teacher would not accept her into the class. “The teacher took advantage of the fact that Josefa was illiterate—not knowing her rights—and gave excuses for why Flor could not attend school. I told the teacher, ‘We know the rules; Flor has a right to go to school,’” says Ruth.

Now, all of Josefa’s children are in school, and they receive help with homework and a nutritious meal at Project Rescue. They learn about God through Bible studies and songs, and they learn about hygiene. Ruth and fellow OM workers have witnessed physical and spiritual transformation in the lives of the children and parents they see every week ... and it’s changed them as well.



EUROPE

OM worker Kiet started life as a refugee, his family fleeing Communist rule in Vietnam after the war, living in a makeshift shelter off the coast of Malaysia before resettling in the UK when Kiet was two years old. “Lots of boats sank, as has been happening in Europe,” Kiet said. During the past 18 months, Kiet has been serving with OM’s EurAsia Support Team (OM EAST) at a time when thousands of refugees travelled through the Balkans and Eastern Europe, many similarly surviving a life-threatening journey.

God is using the Church today
to bring refugees the message
of true hope for the future,
a hope extending into eternity.

As a graphic designer with OM EAST, Kiet has helped design a card and website to help OM teams and partners share the gospel with refugees. Written in six languages, the card asks, “Are you looking for hope?” In answer, it directs individuals to a new website, called Love4refugees, which provides links to Christian resources in the Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Kurdi, Pashto and Urdu languages.

“The hope card is a tool to strike up conversation or offer even without a conversation,” Kiet explained. Since most people own smart phones, they can easily access literature, talks and videos online, including the *Jesus* film. “The question ‘Are you looking for hope?’ connects with them,” Kiet emphasised. “They view each country they go to as a place that can offer hope; the card directs them to a better place.”

Within the past nine months, over 160,000 hope cards have been ordered by OM teams, Christian organisations and churches throughout Europe and beyond. The commitment of believers to support refugees in a time of transition and uncertainty has lasting value. Just as Kiet’s family were pointed to a place where they discovered a new identity and home in Christ, God is using the Church today to bring refugees the message of true hope for the future, a hope extending into eternity. To order hope cards contact: love4refugees@gmail.com.



NETHERLANDS

One man’s refugee journey from Sudan to the Netherlands last year took him across the Serbian border at Šid, Serbia. Mahmood* had not forgotten God’s presence in a refreshment tent OM helped to run. OMer Volker described the scene: “Can you imagine? Bread with jam at midnight; Psalm 23 being translated aloud into Farsi; prayer for a Kurdish Christian; an Iraqi girl singing ‘Father Jacob’ in Arabic; parents dancing for us; volunteers worshiping in front of Afghans and Iraqis—there is hope in the worst situation. In moments like this, you feel God’s peace come over suffering people.”

Mahmood was struck by the atmosphere and carried the memory of this place with him to the Netherlands. Later, Robert Strong* from OM Netherlands posted: “We have a walk-in for refugees in our church where, every Tuesday, my wife and I talk with refugees. Mahmood from Darfur [Sudan] walked in. We had a good conversation and gave him a Bible. Today, Mahmood attended church for the first time...and accepted an invitation to our home.”

Mahmood described his journey to the Netherlands. He had travelled through Šid. When I heard that, I showed him a photo of the OM tent. ‘Oh,’ he said, ‘I know that place! The Christians served us coffee and tea and sang beautiful songs with us. That was a happy place!’”

OM Europe’s Safe Passage project meets refugees at their initial entry points, providing information and practical essentials. OM’s Safe Haven project focuses on helping refugees settle into Europe. To give to OM’s relief efforts, or for more information about how to get involved, please contact your local OM office.



#PeopleOfOM

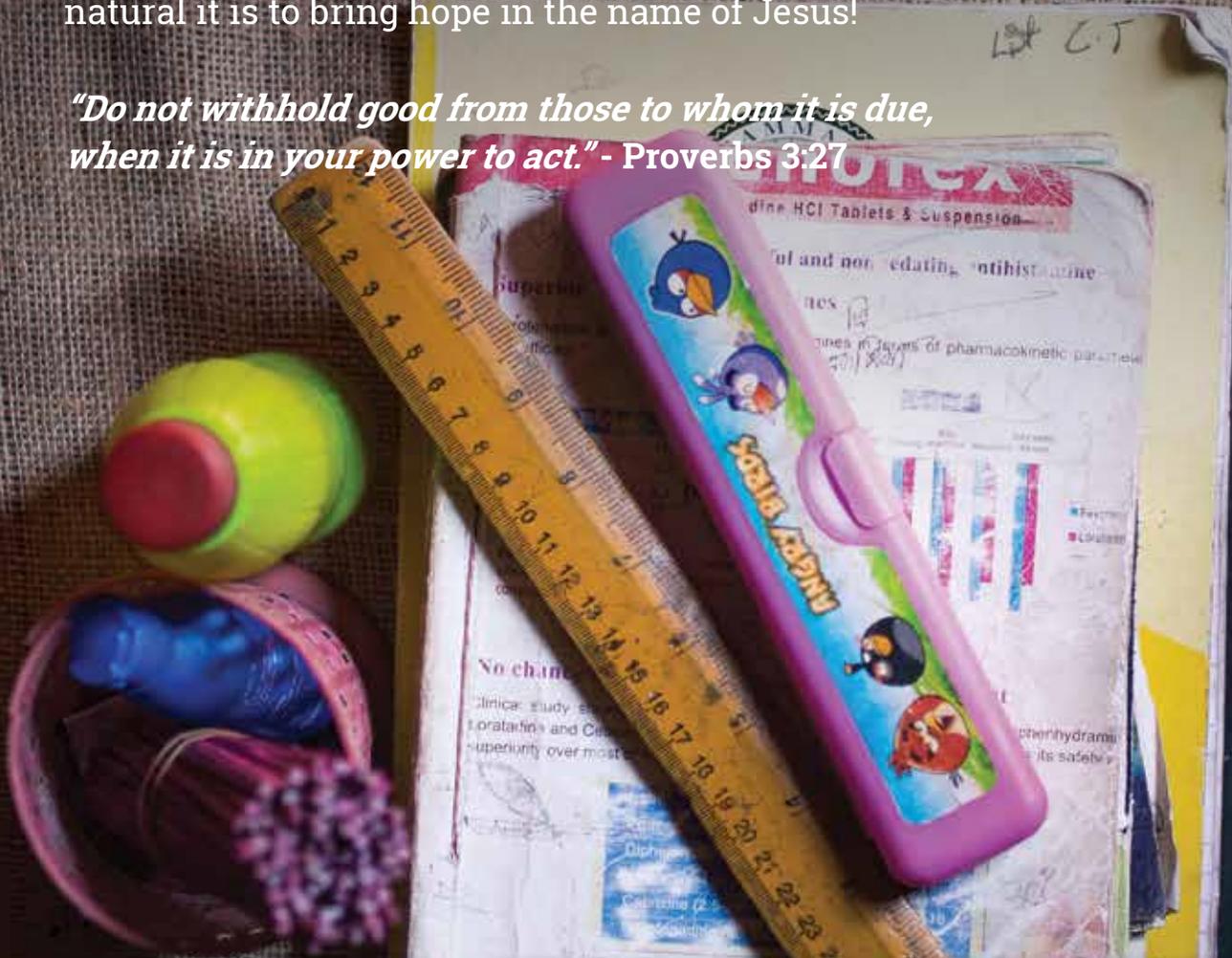
“I enjoy the creative space to design book covers and lay out literature for people in countries that don’t have enough resources in their language. It’s so satisfying to hear that people are finding the literature really useful and it is helping direct them to Jesus. I’m really grateful God has given me the chance to be involved in this work.”

**Kiet, who serves as a graphic designer
with OM EurAsia Support Team (OM EAST)**

RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

When God prospers you, build a longer table, not a higher wall. Particularly in the past two decades OM has, in responding to acute need and committing to help build new communities, found that acts of mercy fill not only stomachs but also hearts and minds. How natural it is to bring hope in the name of Jesus!

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act." - Proverbs 3:27



PRAY

For insight in allocating aid and resources in impossible situations, and for stamina to continue to love.



GIVE

Helping survivors today demonstrates compassion more than anything else.



GO

Do you have the head, heart and hands for this labour of love? Let's talk.



PHILIPPINES

The team witnessed the baptism of one teenager, when nine other people stepped forward to be baptised too. “We have been on the island for the past two years and have built over 50 houses since Typhoon Yolanda devastated the area in 2013,” said Gerry Rizon, Cebu team leader. “We wanted to see families living in new homes, but how about their souls?”

Kinatarkan Island is highly saturated by Roman Catholicism and bound by witchcraft and sorcery. There is no evangelical church or even witness in the village where houses were built. Since April, the team has offered Bible study sessions every Saturday, providing an introduction to the Bible and teaching on assurance of salvation and forgiveness. The eight-week Bible study was to conclude with a public declaration of faith through water baptism but, of 50 villagers attending, only one committed to participate.

“We were touched by the Holy Spirit and chose to not care anymore what others would say.”

Little did they know that the bold decision of a 17-year-old girl would lead others to be baptised. Nine other candidates spontaneously stepped forward to be immersed in the sea. “It took us a week to decide; knowing our family’s Catholic background,” testified Roseminda Mancio, 35. “However, we were touched by the Holy Spirit and chose to not care anymore what others would say.” The villagers, short-term Christian workers and OM staff, together with a missions team from OM Hong Kong, prayed for the 10 participants, welcoming them into God’s kingdom with gladness.





MOLDOVA

“I often thought there is no reason to live,” recalled Vasile* from the village of Porumbesti. “My wife died a few years ago and I had an accident with an axe and lost a leg. I have remained alone and powerless.” However, his outlook changed one day when he was met by a woman from the local evangelical church who worked in the elderly care centre run by OM. Now, five days a week a hot meal is brought to Vasile, easing his physical need and his loneliness—and making him wonder why he is being treated with such care. “I like this church; the people there care for others, whom nobody else cares about,” he said.

The centre has already brought huge changes to the lives of the poor and neglected elderly, and is making people favourably disposed towards the believers and ‘their’ God. “I am grateful that there are people with a fear of God who show such kindness,” said Tudor*, a 63-year-old widower whose children are working abroad. “I have been coming to church for a year, and realised that I need to make a commitment to God,” he shared. “On the first of November, I did so through baptism. I love Jesus because I have understood how much He loves me. I love the church and I feel that there is something new within me: A new relationship with people and with my Heavenly Father who cares for me.”

“I am grateful that there are people with a fear of God who show such kindness.”

Earlier in the year, the small church had already celebrated the baptism of Pavel*. “I am 56 years old, but my suffering and loneliness made me look like an old man,” he shared. “I had very dark thoughts and considered suicide, but God had mercy on me. Through this project, I heard that God cares about me.”



BANGLADESH

Bangladesh has a population of 160 million people. Day labourers and garment factory workers earn less than \$3 US a day, while an office worker with IT skills earns \$10 US a day. To make a better living, about one million people each year leave to work abroad. About half of the population is under age 25.

Computing skills are vital for the development of the country, yet personal ownership of computers is minimal, and only the top educational institutions have a functional IT department. Although taught at school, English is generally not spoken. OM resources Bangladeshi youth with job skills by offering three-month, two-hour-a-day courses in computer skills covering English and Bengali word processing, database and spreadsheets, basic photo editing and Internet access. In April, 33 people applied to study at the computer training centre. The team hopes to talk to the students about God’s Word, as some students are interested to learn more.

Nayef* took part in the three-month computer training course in 2015. He is a believer and ambitious. Nayef applied the computer skills he learnt at the computer training centre. He bought an old computer, rented a small place and opened a shop for his small business. Not everyone in the country has access to Internet and music or entertainment media files, so it’s common for people to go to a shop like Nayef’s to download media files.

At his shop, he loads files such as videos and songs onto people’s mobile phones or memory sticks and gets paid for it. His father fixes old electronics like mobile phones, radios and televisions. Nayef is now thinking of expanding his business by buying computers and starting his own computer training centre.



“A significant part of my growth as a Christian was shaped by missions. I matured in my walk with the Lord as a result of my involvement in missions. My hope is that my walk with Jesus would be more close and intimate, and that many around me would respond to His love and develop this relationship that He so desires.”

Seelan, from South Africa, with OM Ships International

MADAGASCAR

In the drought-stricken south, everything is brown, which is why the newly constructed school in Tavirmongy immediately draws the eye: A red roof symbolises the blood of Christ, white represents light, and green stands for growth. The one-room school is the biggest building in the village—the first of its kind in an area where education was never a high priority.

Then the OM team started making regular visits. Meeting under a tree, they talked with people about everyday matters. Through this, a team of local believers from Ambovombe and OMers shared what Jesus had done in their lives. In May, the team held a training course on church planting and community transformation.

Under the only tall tree in the village, they held literacy classes and soon had 20 students. So the village decided to build a school. Said OM Field Leader Hanitra, “One person gave the land and others give this or that. We helped with roof sheets and concrete.” Now, Tuesday through Friday, students gather at the Akany Fahazavagne (Light Centre) using a Christian-based curriculum from the Malagasy Bible Society. “They learn to read and write, but also learn about God,” Hanitra said.

The school officially opened in October. To celebrate, the village pooled funds and purchased a cow to eat at the event. In Tandroy culture, the cow is a symbol of wealth and status. The school opening was the first time a cow was killed for a celebration rather than for a funeral or sacrifice—a big step in changing mindsets. The school has already become a source of pride for the village. Explained Hanitra, “This is theirs. They invited the authorities to see what they had done themselves.”

The school has already become a source of pride for the village.

The villagers, eager to reach out, have started building relationships in five other villages wanting others to know the love of God. “Before, nothing happened here,” said one man. “But now there is. Not from our strength but from God.”

ECUADOR

Carmita stared at the immensity of the Pacific Ocean in front of her home city of Pedernales as the sun’s light faded. She could not have known that shortly after, in April, her neighbourhood would collapse under a 7.8 earthquake. When OM teams visited Carmita’s community a few days later, she told team member Ana María how fortunate she was because she only had material losses. Carmita and the people of the community of Pedernales were touched by OM’s presence in the disaster areas—they didn’t just bring material aid but gave also themselves by listening to people, talking to them and hugging them. Carmita started to help alongside the OM team, following their example.

Rosita, from the affected community of La Estancia, told the OM team, “Thank you so much that you have come and have continued coming. You have been a shoulder we can cry on, and you have given us hope that things will improve in the midst of our fear of aftershocks or another earthquake.”

Ana María and Alfredo, two OM leaders, are receiving support to provide temporary shelters and homes made out of local bamboo, plastic and simple materials. Pray that villagers will understand that this compassion is a gift from God, and that ongoing ministry will take root in the villages.



#PeopleOfOM

“I wasn’t eager to teach the literacy programme. I asked God if I really needed to do it, and He showed me the answer. I was in a bus and I sat with a Tandroy woman. She handed me her telephone and asked me to find a name in the contacts because she could not read. That touched my heart. The Lord told me, “This is something you can do for me.”

Lova, who teaches the literacy programme in Ambovombe, Madagascar

MENTORING & DISCIPLESHIP

Call it training, discipling, mentoring: Doing life and faith together results in mutual growth and encouragement, not only on OM teams but among the many thousands of believers with whom we engage every year. Always, it is an exchange of wisdom, experience and passion between cultures and generations.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” – 2 Timothy 2:2



PRAY

For wisdom in creating training programmes most suitable—and easily transferable—for different cultural contexts.



GIVE

Enabling Global South leaders to discover their potential will be highly strategic at an international level.



GO

We all need to be continuous learners. Shall we together find a team that's right for you?



NORTH AFRICA

In February, Heart Sounds International (HSI), a ministry of OM Arts, sent four ethnomusicologists (those who study music in its cultural context) for one week to help one of only a few known modern-day Sudanese Nubian believers write a worship song in his native language.

The Nubian people group was one of the first African people groups reached in church history, but the believing population was overtaken by Islamic expansion. Today, HSI knows of only one Nubian believer. HSI was invited to help a group of North African singers reach out to the Nubians.

“This project was challenging because the Nubian believer was the only one who could speak the language or translate the songs,” said Kelly*, who led the team of ethnomusicologists. “We helped the singers understand the music and culture so that they could effectively minister,” she continued.

They invited a group of secular musicians to play the music. “We were blown away when they learnt that they would be working with seven Sudanese Nubian musicians!” Audrey* exclaimed. Many of the North Africans had never interacted with the Nubian people. Working together was a fruitful time of bonding and relationship building for the two people groups. “We were able to build a bridge between the two peoples,” Kelly said. “We used music as a tool to build relationships.”

“Working together was a fruitful time of bonding and relationship building for the two people groups.”

The song created was modelled after Psalm 23, which puts emphasis on the Lord’s role as our protector, provider and comforter. The added emphasis on traditional instruments and music ensured that if someone heard it they would immediately recognise it as Nubian. By the end of the project, all the Africans involved had developed strong relationships and brainstormed on future projects.





ZAMBIA

“The potential of what people can do through business—empowered and empowering others—is amazing,” said Eva, a leader of the Tabitha Initiative, a Freedom Challenge project in Kabwe. This business initiative teaches women further business skills to market their products with a small loan of \$4.14 US. Though an insignificant sum, successful businesses have been started with a similar amount. Explained Eva, “The idea is that the reinvestment of their profits could actually grow their businesses.”

Business concepts ranged from selling popcorn to buying and re-selling books, making samosas to sewing. With the prospect of a bigger loan came bigger ideas: a grocery stand, raising poultry, a tailoring shop. Eight ladies were given loans of varying amounts.

Meeting monthly, the group learns business strategies and shares their struggles and successes as entrepreneurs. There is also time for worship, prayer and a devotion, and each lady has been given an audio Bible and taught to use the Discovery Bible Study to replicate it in their communities. “It’s not only that we want to bring them forward in business,” said Eva. “It’s a road of discipleship we walk together.”

When offered a larger loan, Monica didn’t know what kind of business to propose. Her grown son, Solomon, was already raising chickens and suggested she follow suit, as she could benefit from his experience and share the building he had already made to contain the birds. Said Solomon, “We are working as a family to see that we keep the chickens happy.” Once grown, the chickens are sold to individuals around the community and in the local market. Profits will pay the school fees for Monica’s youngest daughter. Monica advises future entrepreneurs: “You cannot start a business without preparation.”

PAKISTAN

Many women in Pakistan face gender discrimination, forced marriages and less access to education than men—particularly Christian women, who are a minority. A five-day retreat led by OM’s team created a safe haven for over 75 women from four provinces, who united for Bible training, fellowship and community. The teaching began with an explanation of God’s plan for salvation and new birth. The participants were then invited to accept Christ as Saviour. Ten women made a decision to place their trust in Him.

“I am Catholic and never heard the gospel message in such a clear way,” wrote one new believer, Samreen*. “I found Christ has given His life for my sins. I am changed and now have a passion to spread this news to others also.” Nimra* added, “Being female, I felt helpless and unworthy but, through the teachings from the Book of Esther, I found that women can be powerful, impactful and change the world. I am encouraged and thankful to God that He cares for me.”

“Being female, I felt helpless and unworthy but, through the teachings from the Book of Esther, I found that women can be powerful, impactful and change the world.”

Small-group activities, relaxing times in nature and meditation on God’s Word allowed the women to experience Christian community. Housewife Sumera* shared, “To me this is a golden time of my life [as] my routine is very tough at home. This time has refreshed me spiritually and provided much-needed energy for my life.”

SINGAPORE

OM entities in Singapore held their inaugural combined missions conference, The Missions Challenge in a Fast-Changing World, at Singapore Bible College on 31 October. More than 80 pastors, key leaders and missions workers gathered for an afternoon hosted by the OM International Director's Office, OM Mercy Teams International, OM Singapore, and DA+, a ministry in Southeast Asia.

Jason Mandryk, author of *Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation*, spoke about how the Singaporean church can respond to emerging missions trends across the world today—in particular, the rise of poverty, religious pluralism and migration. “These trends present both challenges and opportunities for the church in Singapore,” Jason said. “How will we respond? We must love the most vulnerable in the most radical ways. We need to speak truth in the marketplace of ideas. And we need to act spiritually in the power of the Holy Spirit. Armed with love, truth and power, the Singapore church can turn the world upside down.”

“How will we respond? We must love the most vulnerable in the most radical ways. We need to speak truth in the marketplace of ideas. And we need to act spiritually in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Breakout sessions were facilitated by Alvin Tey, Executive Director of OM Mercy Teams International; I'Ching Thomas, an apologist and OM International Director of Leadership Development; and Dr. Goh Wei-Leong, Founder of Healthserve. Rev. Choy Wing Yut, pastor of Changi Baptist Church, said, “I found the conference helpful in giving an overview of global missions. I have always wanted to find out more...It is good to hear about what God is doing across the world.”

OM International Director Lawrence Tong issued a challenge to share the gospel: “The good news today is that we see an increase in the number of people believing in Christ. The bad news is that nine out of 10 persons in the world are still spiritually lost. Let's go out there for the sake of these people.”

LOGOS HOPE

Eight young men from *Logos Hope* connected with Cameroonian boys in a meaningful way by living with them and brightening up their surroundings. Electricians, carpenters and handymen from the ship spent a week at the St. Nicodeme home, which houses 25 boys who used to live on the streets of Douala or whose families are not able to take care of them. The team offered practical help by fixing wiring, attaching mosquito nets around each bed space, building a library and donating books, tools, clothes, footballs, a pair of ‘The Shoe That Grows’ for every boy, a Bible each, bedding, hygiene kits and water purifiers. They led evening devotional sessions around a campfire and shared stories of what had inspired them to serve God on board *Logos Hope*.

Before long, the children began to imitate their new friends, copying their speech and dress. They made their own head bandanas out of rags and wanted to help with the work. Their attitude towards each other started to change as they picked up more respectful and caring manners from their mentors.

“Sometimes we go to a country and don't speak the language, but that shouldn't stop ministry,” said Phillip Masango (Zimbabwe). “Practical work is a great way to break through that barrier and, living among the boys for a week, we got a better understanding of their circumstances and could encourage them in their daily life. They don't get a lot of that.”



"I had no specific 'calling' [when I went to Greece]. I have a heart for young people and Greek people. In the beginning, I thought about doing refugee ministry in Greece but realised that the Greeks were almost forgotten about by a lot of the ministry workers. So my focus moved towards Greeks. Through this crisis, I have had the chance to reach out to young people from all over the world and Greeks and refugees, irrelevant of what they believed. So one of the things that God is teaching me is that I should not be too stuck on an idea. He works in us and, through that, we share what we learn. We cannot place Him in a box, and I guess neither can we put His work in a box. But it is very different for everyone. For denying that, I would just be placing Him in a box again."

Hein, from South Africa, with OM Greece



"There are many misconceptions of missionaries. We are human like everyone else. Just because we choose this path doesn't mean everyone has to. Many define missionaries as people doing extreme things for God or people who go to Africa or the Middle East. This results in them putting their expectations and pushing the Great Commission onto missionaries and expecting us to fulfil God's calling, while most of them ignore it. God called everyone to be a missionary. In school, in the marketplace, in the corporate world—everywhere we look—it is a mission field. People just fail to see it."

Anna-Lisa, from Germany, with OM Arts

"It is critical [for Christians to have an experience in missions]. I was interested in doing something to make a little change in this world, but my focus was not correct. I was thinking to help through politics and effective policies, but God changed my perspective. One of the means that God used was a short-term mission trip with my home church. It literally changed my destiny."

Betty, from Mexico, on *Logos Hope*



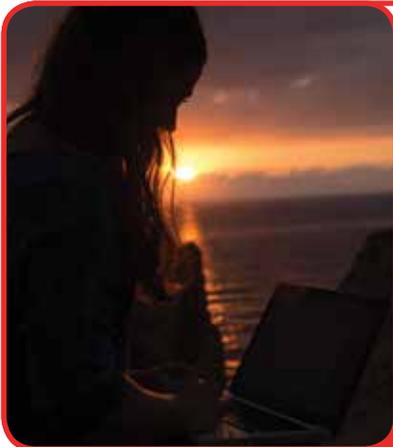
"Before I became a missionary, I was teaching at a preschool and earning a lot of money, but I didn't have peace. I always felt empty. Someone told me that those were not the children I was planned to teach. Since the time I have stepped into missions, I have had inner peace. That encourages me. I knew it was God."

Catherine, from Zambia, with OM Malawi

[A teacher at the international school] was talking about her decision to leave and head back to the States. She talked about how, so many times, on the mission field, missionaries make a commitment, and then when their commitment is up, they're like, 'Okay, well, I don't really feel anything one way or the other, so I guess I'll just go home.' And that's really the wrong attitude to have. Your attitude should really be, 'I don't feel called to leave, so I should stay.' Like walking through the woods on a path—God's not going to call you to stay on the path; He's going to call you to leave it. I didn't feel called to leave, so I stayed."



Suzanne, from the US, who serves as a softball coach with OM Hungary



"I grew up in church hearing stories of missionaries about what God had done around the world in the past, but now, it has been incredibly impacting being here in the Middle East and encountering the stories of what God is still doing in the world. I'm talking to people who are living out these stories by selflessly pouring themselves out for those coming into the kingdom. This is not just something that was in the past but something that's happening still today."

Nicole*, from the US, with OM International

"Even though we were Muslim, my family sent me to a Catholic school. I would often attend mass without knowing what was going on, or why. One day, a friend invited me to an evangelical prayer meeting. It was just a normal Monday night prayer meeting, but I remember it clearly because that was the day I met Jesus. I didn't know it then, but God had been preparing me for that moment during the eight years I spent going to Catholic school. At school I learnt about God, but at that prayer meeting I learnt what it really meant to follow Christ."

Three years later, I was baptised, and I changed my government papers to declare that I was now a Christian. I didn't want to be a Muslim anymore, even on papers. This was a big move in my life. You see, I come from a Shiite area, and changing your government papers to declare yourself a Christian is an insane thing to do.

My family accepted me little by little. They could see with their eyes that I was truly a Christian by the way I acted. This was an important part of them accepting me as a believer. They can see that I have something that they don't have."

Sami*, with OM in the Near East



OUR MISSION

We want to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached.

CORE VALUES

- Knowing and glorifying God
- Living in submission to God's Word
- Being people of grace and integrity
- Serving sacrificially
- Loving and valuing people
- Evangelising the world
- Reflecting the diversity of the Body of Christ
- Global intercession
- Esteeming the Church



OM Canada: Statement of Financial Position

As of December 2016 (All figures in Canadian dollars)

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash & bank	2,659,458	1,599,419
Receivables and balances with International Affiliate	756,951	489,159
Inventory	362	5,354
	3,416,771	2,093,932
Capital assets	277,242	301,452
Total assets	3,694,013	2,395,384
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued liabilities	704,520	577,726
Designated donations	0	79,786
Total liabilities	704,520	657,511
NET ASSETS	2,989,493	1,737,873
Financed by:		
Operating Fund	953,327	718,668
Capital Assets Fund	277,242	301,452
Restricted Funds	1,758,925	717,753
	2,989,493	1,737,873

OM Canada: Income & Expenses Statement

For year ended December 2016 (All figures in Canadian Dollars)

	2016	2015
REVENUES		
Donations	8,398,678	8,546,108
Literature Sales	50,959	56,520
Other Income	114,322	168,690
	8,563,959	8,771,318
EXPENSES		
Overseas & Local Ministry Programs	3,279,193	5,147,639
Salaries & employee benefits	2,845,554	2,331,600
Operational expenses	462,709	358,777
Broadcasting	217,318	255,003
Travel	151,420	210,627
Marketing & Public Relations	146,042	116,196
Other Expenses	210,099	70,152
	7,312,336	8,489,994
TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	1,251,623	281,324
Surplus Attributed to :		
Operating Funds	210,451	195,737
Restricted Funds	1,041,172	85,587
	1,251,623	281,324

Global projects funded by Canadians

Global Governance and Structure Funds	1,505,235	35%
Asia	1,424,341	33%
North America	450,343	10%
Middle East & North Africa	323,817	8%
Europe	245,451	6%
Africa	130,337	3%
Ships	142,012	3%
South America	90,477	2%
Total	4,312,013	

2016 income breakdown



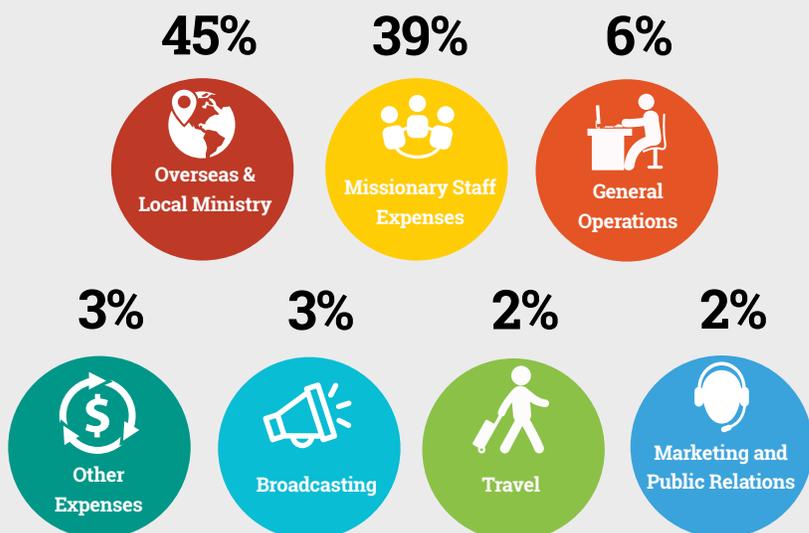
3,442 adults from 115 nations—including 95 from Canada—serve in OM, assisted by an additional 1,500 adult interns, volunteers, associates, seconded workers or those in training programs.



Where we serve:

Europe	916
Africa	570
Ships	445
East Asia Pacific	404
Middle East/North Africa	326
West and Central Asia	282
North America	226
Latin America	133
International	116

2016 expense breakdown



OM is truly grateful for the thousands of partners worldwide standing with us as we serve the Lord together. Thank you for your continued support.



“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere
and make them my disciples...”

MATTHEW 28:19A (GNT)

PRAY
GIVE
GO

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 OperationMobilisation

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