



## Walk the Talk VOL. 1/2020

### EUROPE: it's time

5

What if 'neighbour' was a verb?

9

OK: there's 'far away' and then this...

12-13

Can we help you choose?



© 2020 **Operation Mobilization Canada**  
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**Our Mission**

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

**Our Vision**

- Focusing on the unreached
- Partnering with churches
- Caring for our members
- Training & equipping world Christians
- Mobilizing the next generation
- Globalizing our ministry
- Strengthening our organization

**Our Core Values**

- Knowing & glorifying God
- Living in submission to God's Word
- Being people of grace & integrity
- Serving sacrificially
- Loving & valuing people
- Evangelizing the world
- Reflecting the diversity of the body of Christ
- Global intercession
- Esteeming the church

**Stewardship Policy**

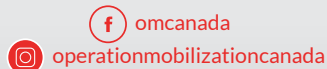
The spending of funds received by OM Canada is confined to agency approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used for that program with the understanding that, when any given need has been met or the specified project cannot be fulfilled, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and, where appropriate, an official receipt for tax purposes is issued.



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**Visit our website and social media to read more about how God is working through people just like you!**



**Our mission: His message**

What is OM really about? As a mission organization, we have a responsibility to inspire and inform you, the body of Christ, of what God is doing globally and then provide ways for you to engage in His mission. We do this in a variety of ways, and we are always encouraged to see people journey with us. Our prayer is that 2020 will be a year of not mere addition but rather multiplication of kingdom workers.

In this issue of Walk the Talk, we will focus on Europe. Since the beginning of the spread of the gospel, Paul's journeys brought him to some of the very places in Europe where OM workers carry out that same imperative. Two millennia later, Europeans still need to hear the message of God's love, forgiveness and hope for their future.

We marvel to see how God has used the recent refugee crises across Europe to bring hundreds and possibly thousands from nations hostile to the gospel to transformative faith in Jesus. Not only that, God has used many of these 'new Europeans' to revive vision and hands-on ministry in traditional churches across the continent.

You will see that each of our stories will give information about our work, key prayer items, an opportunity to invest in the ministry, and a way to serve alongside the team where applicable. Please take time to pause after each story and ask the Lord, "How do you want me to respond?" We are praying that God would stir your hearts and minds so that together we would see His kingdom come, His will be done in Europe as it is in heaven.



**JAMES SINSEL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paul's journeys brought him to some of the very places in Europe where OM workers carry out that same imperative.



**Gabriel Markus visits Canada**

Gabby, from Papua New Guinea, served on OM's ship, Doulos, in Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka where he managed tsunami relief and development efforts. As the National Director of OM's diverse activities in Greece, he oversees ministry to refugees and Muslims, justice ministries, mercy ministries, church planting and literature ministry. Gabby will visit Canada with updates and stories you won't learn of elsewhere! Check our website as places and dates are confirmed.



## Why Europe?

OM was birthed from a vision to evangelize the whole world, but by 1960 we were already mobilizing hundreds of young people to saturate entire European cities or provinces/states with the gospel. We first went to Spain, then soon to France, Belgium, Italy, the UK and before long over to Eastern Europe which was firmly behind the so-called Iron Curtain. Millions of pieces of gospel literature were passed into waiting hands or on the doorsteps of residents.

Some teams would travel throughout the night to 'blitz' village mailboxes with God's Word. Team after team would arrive in a town centre, making noise and doing drama, singing songs, giving testimonies and invitations and creating one-on-one conversations with passersby. No one had ever seen something like this, including the many

hundreds of often tiny evangelical churches we sought to work alongside.

For the most part, we 'got away with it' despite the occasional verbal and physical opposition or 'rest' in jail (where we would witness to our 'hosts' and be quickly let go). Our vision and passion were sincere. We were sowers in very barren fields; others followed and planted churches that remain to this day.

Although OM spread within a few decades to become truly global (110+ countries and the OM ships), we never abandoned the continent of Europe; today we work in 31 European nations because their need for a relationship with God in Jesus is as great as it ever was or shall be. We are, you might say, His optimists for Europe!

## Good neighbours

### THE NETHERLANDS

Ewout and Ali live in Delft, a very densely populated city, where 12,000 people dwelt within two sq.km. of highrise apartments. Oddly, this brought social isolation for the 100 nationalities represented. Although courteous in passing, they never made real connections despite Ewout's best efforts.

Then Ali suggested celebrating a dinner with their neighbours. Skeptical, Ewout went to the 13 neighbours on their floor to invite them, some of whom he had never met. All were a bit surprised, yet 11 turned up for an amazing evening together. Ewout saw it as a wonderful way for 'not possible' to become 'possible.' Then he thought, "If we want to be contagious, we need others living locally to share life together with others and God in community."

They approached the owner of a deserted building with 28 rooms that had been abandoned for over five years. Still, it was right in the middle of the highrises—perfect! Eighteen months later he rented it to them, two other families and six singles, OMers and local Christians who wanted to live intentionally in community. The minimal commitment was to one evening weekly for fellowship, a meal, reading the Bible, having fun and sharing their lives, plus two to three hours a week to do something with someone in the neighbourhood. Five years later, there is



a Friday café run by the neighbourhood and a community garden, cultivated and landscaped with vegetables, bee-keeping, chickens—"almost an urban farm," jokes Ewout.

Small groups of believers and non-believers have formed to help with communal activities. Small groups of six to eight people do Discovery Bible Studies or the Alpha course over dinner and general conversation. Today, a group of 20–25 people are learning how to follow Jesus.

"Most secular Europeans have met a Christian individual, but not a Christian community. So we show our love in unity, worked out in front of them," says Ewout. "Although it is challenging to share life in this way, it is also very rich spiritually...and we always have a babysitter!"

Other OM fields (Belgium, Italy and the UK) are researching how to develop similar communities.



Albania • Austria • Belgium • Bosnia-Herzegovina • Bulgaria  
 • Czech Republic • Denmark • Finland • France • Germany  
 • Greece • Hungary • Ireland • Italy • Kosovo • Macedonia  
 • Moldova • Montenegro • Netherlands • Norway • Poland  
 • Portugal • Romania • Serbia • Slovakia • Slovenia • Spain  
 • Sweden • Switzerland • Ukraine • United Kingdom



**Europe facts** • Population: 733 million (10.6% of the world; was 25% in 1900)  
 • 73% urban: 61 cities of over 1 million people • Western Europe's affluence and rapidly falling birthrate are a magnet for millions from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.  
 • European political ideologies have had worldwide dominance: Humanism, secularism, socialism, Marxism, fascism, Nazism and amoral capitalism. • The last 250 years have been years of worldwide advance for the gospel but a decline in Europe. However, an upswing of spirituality is occurring.

# Church planting in Tunceli

## TURKEY

For the past three years, workers Carla\* and Berni\* have visited Tunceli province, praying that the Lord would bring people to faith. Unlike most of Turkey, Tunceli largely consists of religious and ethnic minorities with Christian roots. After persecution about a century ago, many went into hiding and others became Alevi Muslims. Today, there is little interest in the gospel.

In 2018, there was a Turkey AfriAsia Creative Outreach (TACO) visit to Tunceli. Alevi people love the arts. Many perhaps 600 gathered to watch the show.

A group of five or six young atheist men mocked the show, joking about how silly it was that Christians would come and talk about 'religion' there. Carla and Berni spoke with them for five hours about all kinds of things: moral arguments, teleology and evidence for

the resurrection of Jesus. Several local brothers shared their testimonies. The young guys said: "Our teachers ('Dedes' who are said to have descended from Ali, the prophet Mohammed's nephew) don't teach us about these things!"

All of them met for tea the next day. Two said that they had seen Jesus in their dreams and were baptised. However, they promptly left for another province to study at a university... and Tunceli went back to having zero believers again.

Suddenly, in the last month, the Lord has been working; there are now 12 believers in Tunceli and so many inquirers that renting a meeting space for 25 people to gather on Sundays was necessary. The Lord can do the impossible!

Since 2018, the *Awaken Anatolia* group meets regularly to set up a sustainable sending field structure for mobilizing and sending Turkish believers. They want to organize mobilizing and training events for believers to catch a vision for missions, be equipped and exposed to ministry opportunities. They also want to provide business training which will enable them to provide for themselves while doing ministry.

OM has teams with various ministry focuses whether evangelism, special outreaches, working with local churches or church planting. Our goal is that local believers join with us as interns, partners in evangelism follow-up and as outreach participants.

- The rise of secularism was temporarily slowed by the collapse of Communism, but as greater freedom of religious belief becomes commonplace, a practical atheism or fuzzy spirituality has become the predominant belief system among Europeans.
- Regular churchgoers are less than 10% of the population; evangelicals are 2.5% of the population. **Europe challenges**
- Of over 400 people groups in Europe, 250 are completely unevangelized, especially immigrants and refugees.
- Great swathes of Central and Western Europe are truly post-Christian.



## To the least of these

A vision burns brightly at the heart of OM's special needs ministry: that all people, including the disabled, should meet Jesus and experience God's love. The disabled young people who come to the weekly outreach meeting called 'Sweet Mess' with their families are the most marginalised people in societies that regard disability as a stigma and shame, underscored by a lack of state provision: Of the 18,000 children registered as disabled, 15,000 received no education at all (UNICEF, 2014).

A rare resource for the whole family, Sweet Mess ('Rrëmujë e ëmbël', in Albanian) is hosted by a local church and OMers for ten families with a special needs family member. Sweet Mess is full of fun, crafts, Bible stories, prayer, songs, a puppet and dramas, along with a tasty meal to share. The event is a rare opportunity for these families, an oasis from a culture which defines and limits their daily lives. Here they can feel loved by God and His people: valued and equal.

## A renewed heart

"Although I didn't know God then, He was looking after me," tells Besim\*, who came to faith while recovering from a heart attack.

The OM team connected with Besim and his wife, Mirela\*, through a programme at the Emmanuel Centre where they share God's love in spiritual and practical ways among the Roma community. The team regularly makes home visits. Through such visits, Mirela and her granddaughters had become believers, but Besim had not.

This all changed when Besim suffered his first heart attack. The team talked with the family about following Christ. Realizing that God had been watching over him, Besim put his faith in Christ.

Despite two more attacks since, Besim has remained healthy. The OM team continues to meet with him and his family, and he continues to grow in his faith, with a desire to share it with others in his community.

- Today's generation has largely grown up devoid of Christian witness or values; in 17 nations, evangelicals are virtually nonexistent.
- The heartlands of Protestantism are some of the most irreligious and secular on the continent including parts of Germany, Sweden and Denmark, the Low Countries, the UK, France and the Czech Republic.
- Young Europeans increasingly disengage from older generations. The elevation of the individual and instant gratification spur on hedonistic, nihilistic lifestyles often ending in dysfunction, emptiness, loneliness and despair.



# Building strong foundations

## UKRAINE

Oleg Abaturov has been involved in missions for years. Having left the business world to join OM in 2000, he is a local church pastor and leads the OM team in Rivne. Since OM began in Ukraine in 1994, it has always dreamed of a training school; 20 years later, that dream started to become a reality. "We were sending people out but, unlike OM elsewhere, we were not training them beforehand," comments Oleg. "I visited the OM team in Moldova and saw the training that new missionaries received there. We needed something similar in Ukraine."

The construction of the mission centre began in 2017 and the first half is now used for student accommodation and the kitchen and dining area. The second half will hopefully be completed next year.

In preparing for the first training course, the team invited a few specific people. But news of the course spread. "Many people invited me to talk about our vision," tells Oleg. "For the first course, we had ten participants! Over six months, we cover nine subjects, half

on practical skills for mission work, and half on Biblical topics." The cost of the course is subsidised by OM, to enable as many as people as possible to join.

"We were hugely encouraged by the students," comments Oleg. "Their openness and willingness to learn greatly impressed us." Many students later shared their experiences in their home churches and encouraged others to join in the future.

Oleg wants to see more Ukrainians trained and sent to reach their own people in neighbouring countries. Before the war in eastern Ukraine, the main destination was Russia, but since the deterioration of relations between the two countries, the focus changed. Recently, Oleg went to Poland, where three million Ukrainians live—60,000 in Gdansk alone. "Pastors and churches there are for asking for Ukrainians to minister to their own people," tells Oleg. "We have opportunity to be a catalyst in mobilising Ukrainians to reach Russians and Ukrainians in Poland," shares Oleg. Students are already lined up for the next course in March.



**\$135** sponsors one student to attend the missionary training school for 1 month.

**\$800** sustains a local Ukraine missionary and their family for one month. 4 workers are under supported.

**\$32,100** supports the completion of the second stage of construction of the missionary training centre (accommodation for teachers and families).



• Freedom of religious expression is eroding due to secularism which tolerates religious faith if kept private and unseen. Practicing Christians are marginalized in the media and popular culture. • The spread of an activist Islam that is the second religion of Europe and the dominant religion in Albania and Bosnia and potentially elsewhere. Some groups have a political agenda to conquer the continent or at least heavily influence and shape European culture and laws...but they can also confront secularism and atheism.

## RUSSIA



Ruslan\*, a drug addict, found Jesus in Siberia. He completed OM's discipleship training and then studied at the local seminary. Recently, he and his family moved to the Caucasus\* region to serve a local people group that has heard of Christianity but never the gospel. Living among them, Ruslan engages with the locals through business, sport and hospitality. He invites locals to his home and shares Bible stories. When people seem open for spiritual conversation, he shares his testimony and invites them to study the Scriptures together.

Ruslan shares, "I have gotten to know Amin", a Muslim, through the sports club. Every time when we meet, I share—informally but intentionally— a Bible story, usually from the Old Testament as they connect better within the Islamic context. As our friendship develops, I pray that I could share the full gospel with him."

Pray that Ruslan's relationships in the community would grow, and that more Russian Jesus followers would go to the least reached!

\* A half-dozen countries—some in dispute—between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.

Since 2016, OM has totally realigned its ministries to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached in Russia: ethnic minorities. Many of our partners are working to create new faith communities. Building relationships with local people comes through taking part in their life. One way is by working with kids, providing opportunities and a place to spend quality time together. Local authorities in the Altai region (900 km SE of Novosibirsk, Siberia) approve of this and have offered property to build a playground.

OM wants to financially support several projects that promote evangelism and church planting among unreached people groups. Our goal is to make regular evangelistic visits to Tatar villages in the Novosibirsk region. Both of these efforts will bring joy and hope to some of the most desolate communities on Earth.



**\$200** supports a visit to a Tatar village where the gospel will be shared among the least reached. The OM team aims to visit 10 villages this year.

**\$2,220** Builds a children's playground and youth centre in the Altai region.

**Europe encouragements** • Religious freedom in the former Communist world sees new expressions of Christian faith engaging the spiritual, social, relational and economic needs of many lost in the vacuum of power and philosophy left by former Communist regimes. • Disillusionment with the emptiness of enforced secularism and hypermodernity leads to a new interest in spirituality; presented rightly, Jesus is of great appeal to such seekers.



## Simple gestures mean so much

### GREECE

Hester Roos has served with OM in Greece in communications and refugee ministries. She shares about OM's initiatives in the refugee camps: a start-up sports ministry for refugees in Athens and sharing meals, not merely food, the refugee camp.

#### Brand new sports ministry

It is wonderful to see the positive effects of a simple thing like playing soccer with young boys who are otherwise trapped, not only in a refugee camp but in a massive, impersonal socio-political system. Really, you only need a field, a ball and some kind of goalposts.

Today, the boys tried out their new sport shirts and soccer shoes that OM had donated. Most had been playing with bare feet on the hard field. The boys were proud to have their own outfits and the occasion called for a team photo.

Now that the sport ministry has succeeded, OM workers will follow up training with fruitful fellowship time with the boys. They also hope to set up friendly matches with

other refugee teams and church teams. This sports ministry also teaches valuable lessons about teamwork and discipline. The boys know that we are Jesus followers, and we pray for opportunities to share how God loves them.

#### Like one family

The team leader speaks of opportunities they have in the camps: "We don't want to help as an aid organization alone. We want to help as one family helps another family. So, instead of handing out food, we supplied the ingredients and organized a large dinner with volunteers and refugees together. This was such a wonderful time of sharing that we have done it many times since then."

The leader of the camp expresses his gratitude: "They [OM] are with us in the big and in the small things. They sit with us, eat with us, make jokes with us, and they hear our frustration and our cries. This makes us one family."

Such simple things can build a community that reflects God's love.

## Meet Mpumi Maweni, our new Director of Mobilization in Canada

Mpumi Maweni has served with OM for 11 years, first in his home country of South Africa, pioneering youth ministry. In 2011, he felt a strong call to Europe, working with local churches through OM in Birmingham (UK), and co-leading a traveling ministry that shared the gospel in over 20 European countries. Mpumi has a passion for the lost, mentoring, training, leadership, discipleship, evangelism and pastoral care. For the past three years, he served as Director of OM Transform in Europe (missions conference). Mpumi and Ginny (Colombia) have also been serving in youth ministry in the Netherlands since 2017. He is eager to work with Canadian churches and youth organizations to transform their missions mandate into reality.

He says, "Mobilization is at its core discipleship: awakening in every Jesus follower their God-given purpose. We want to inspire, equip and connect people to the nations."

mpumi.maweni@om.org  
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## 4 key OM positions open in Canada

### COMMUNICATIONS AND DONOR RELATIONS OFFICER

Be at the centre of a global ministry by Afghans to Afghans by serving in communications. Daily, this ministry sees and hears significant stories of transformation as Afghans follow Christ. Your training and experience in gathering reports and stories, following security guidelines and keeping supporters informed and involved can multiply the reach of a unique ministry.

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Great graphic design that strengthens how we tell God-stories motivates members of vibrant communities of Jesus followers. You will have training or experience in good design and familiarity with Adobe Creative Suite. You will collaborate within a team to serve our marketing and communication needs across all types of media and to strengthen our OM brand.

### IT SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER

Are you a tech-savvy missions-minded team player? Using your technical and IT still, you can help reach Afghans around the world by providing on-site and remote support to our Pamir ministries. If you have programming and web application experience and understand the IT needs of a small-medium sized office and have a heart for missions, we invite you to contact us.

### AUDIO VIDEO TECHNICIAN

Do you have a love for cinematography and audio video production? Use those skills to in our Pamir ministries as we create and distribute audio recordings and videos to share God's love in Afghanistan.



• Christian immigration has brought dynamic congregations into nearly every part of Europe. African, Caribbean, Latin American and Asian churches remind all that Christianity is a global faith. • Immigration is a boon and a wake-up call for the Church. The unevangelized are being brought to its doorstep but, more importantly, Christian migrants are swelling the ranks of the faithful.

## Short-term opportunities

DUE TO THE CURRENT CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, THE DATES AND MISSION OPPORTUNITIES LISTED BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.

### Zambia

Love Mkushi: The purpose of this outreach is to take the light of the gospel to this rural community of Mkushi and allow God to transform their lives, help them abandon ancestral practices and give them an opportunity to find Hope in the Saviour Jesus Christ.

You will be involved in village to village evangelism, ministering to the young and old. It is a chance to speak to people who have put their hopes in unhealthy traditional practices which they have replaced with God.

 DATES: 17-27 JULY | APPLY BY: 20 MAY

### Laos

STEP OUT 2020: Come catch a glimpse of what God is doing in this Communist nation. You will have the opportunity to meet and work with local believers while reaching out to kids and those visiting our

café. Have a prayerful heart and expect the unexpected. The most important thing you will be doing is praying for and in this country while encouraging local believers.

 DATES: JULY 25-8 AUGUST | APPLY BY: 28 MAY

### Serbia

Refugee Relief in Adaševci: The goal of this outreach is to serve the refugees and show the love of Jesus, through provision of a space where they can come and hang out, drink tea or coffee together or play table tennis and play other games. Located on a highway near the border of Croatia, OM is providing help to over 1,000 refugees in the One Stop Center "Adaševci" with their 'Tea Tent' and

the camp laundry. You will be involved in providing drinks in the OM tea tent, keeping the tent area clean, working in the camp laundry, socialising with refugees, and sharing Christ's love with them while respecting the rules of the camp.

When there is time, we are able to spend time with the refugees and share with them.

 DATES: 12-19 MAY (FLEXIBLE DATES AS THIS WORK IS ONGOING) | APPLY BY: 28 APRIL

## Longer-term opportunities

DUE TO THE CURRENT CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC, THE DATES AND MISSION OPPORTUNITIES LISTED BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.

### Central Asia

Teachers: Take that teaching diploma and invest in the lives of 'missionary kids' along the Silk Road. Whether you're a recent graduate or come with a lifetime of experience, whatever discipline you teach, MKs aged 5-18 are waiting for you! You'll play a vital role in the growth of the church as you release parents for ministry. We're looking for teachers who

are learners too, as you step out of your comfort zone and experience life in a unique culture.

You'll have an elementary or secondary teaching qualification, and a heart to disciple your students. You'll be willing to spend time learning a new language and immerse yourself in both the school and local culture. We'd prefer some teaching experience, but recent graduates are also welcome.

 1-2 YEARS | APPLY BY: MARCH AND SEPTEMBER

### Arabian Peninsula

Sports Ministry: Sports fields of all kinds are at the centre of every community around the world, filled with people competing and sharing life together. We believe every sports field can become a harvest field for discipleship and generate hope for families and communities through the transforming love of Jesus Christ. We want to see athletes and coaches, local churches and communities make the most of sports

through sharing Christ in relational and relevant ways, such as hosting community sports activities, engaging in sports leagues, training coaches and athletes in applying biblical principles to sports, and much more.

If you have a passion for sports and a passion to bring the gospel to those who have never heard before, come find your fit with OM.

 2-3 YEARS | APPLY BY: MARCH AND SEPTEMBER

### Moldova

IT Manager: Do you have a knowledge about computers, software and technical equipment? Are you passionate about using your IT skills to serve God in a foreign land? As our IT Coordinator, you will have the opportunity to use your talents to oversee and maintain technical equipment to keep it running smoothly and functioning properly.

The team in Moldova has discipleship training programs, provides food packages and other practical support to the poor, works to prevent human trafficking, is involved in planting churches in the least-reached villages of the country and organizes a variety of short-term outreaches each summer. We have need of an IT manager who can maintain our team members with high quality and ready to use facilities, in order for our hands-on ministries to function efficiently.

 APPLY BY: MARCH AND SEPTEMBER

Ready to learn more? Contact us today!

PERSONNEL.CA@OM.ORG | 1-877-487-7777  
HUNDREDS MORE OPPORTUNITIES AT WWW.OM.ORG

## Therefore pray...

**PRAY** that, regardless of your personal connection to Europe, you would open your heart and mind to consider ways for you join others to see the Kingdom of God advance there.

**PRAY** that the faith commune in Delft (NL) would both attract non-Christians (not-yet-Christians?) and inspire churches across Europe to create thousands of similar communities.

**PRAY** that the fledgling church in Tunceli will prosper and grow particularly among Turkish artists yet open to all.

**PRAY** that key positions with OM in Canada will soon be filled! Contact us for more info.

**PRAY** that believers will lead the way in ministry to the disabled and their families across Albania.

**PRAY** that the mission training centre in Rivne, Ukraine will soon be completed as funds materialize. Pray for discernment

The imminent future of Logos Hope in terms of where it can go or stay and what kinds of ministry will be possible is gravely at risk due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Pray for wisdom and faith for the leadership and that its daily operational costs will be met.

in selecting prospective students for upcoming courses, and that this kind of training could spread across the country.

**PRAY** that the far off, forgotten inhabitants of Russian Siberia and the Caucasus will discover that God knows their address, and that thousands of Russian missionaries will mobilize and be resourced to reveal the gospel to them.

**PRAY** that the plight and near-abandonment of thousands of refugees in Greece will soon be resolved. Pray that many turn to Christ while still in the camps, where OM workers can minister to them before they are spread across the continent.

**PRAY** that TeenStreet in Montreal will result in hundreds of teens covenanting to live lives of radical discipleship to the ends of Earth and to be ready to go where God leads them.

## Those preposterous '20s



GREG KERNAGHAN

EDITOR

So it's a new year, a new decade even, but why do we give these milestones special significance? A year from now, to say nothing of a decade from now, the world will be different and so will we. Whether everything within our control will be rewarding and better is up to us.

Did you know that the mortality rate in Canada is the same as in Afghanistan? 100% of us are going to die someday (preceding Christ's return). The reality is that this present year on Earth will be the last for a number of us in the OM circle, and this decade the last for many more of us (and not necessarily from ageing). Reality bites, but this can also bring focus and determination to the days remaining to each of us. Though we may be more comfortable with distraction than reflection, we will never maximize our remaining days until we understand how what we have done with our lives thus far shapes our response to the future. Who I am today is largely the result of a handful of life-changing decisions I made over the years. Has God's kingdom been my priority, not one among many? Has my generation of Jesus followers adequately prepared and invested in younger generations now, rather than postponing a probated inheritance? Can I transform my regrets into resolve? Absolutely.

### Big ideas need big words

"These are the times that try men's souls," wrote Thomas Paine in 1776. Or should that be 2020 as we examine our world? The expansion of evil, injustice, poverty, suffering, the pillaging and destruction of our planet and, above all, the vast and growing regions of the world where God is ignored and defied and the name of Jesus Christ has not been known are simply *outrageous* and unacceptable. A fitting response to all

this must be to commit to *preposterous* (contrary to reason or common sense, even utterly absurd) goals that only God can fulfill. This defined OM's early years.

OM works in 110+ countries to see vibrant communities of Jesus followers among the least reached. In 2020, we will focus on four themes:

- We will not merely make disciples, but rather disciple-makers—those who invest in others so that our efforts are not addition but multiplication.
- Broad sowing of the Word of God. We will use every medium at hand to plant the truth of the gospel in as many people as possible.
- Engaging least-reached societies. That can be difficult to discern at times, but our moral obligation is to those who otherwise will never hear of Jesus.
- Mobilizing (not just recruiting). Our passion is not to 'grow' OM but to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth workers through any channels, specifically from near-culture groups.

*"Thou art coming to a King large petitions with thee bring for His grace and power are such none can ever ask too much"*  
(John Newton, 1725-1807)

How shall we then live? *Preposterously!*

### LOGOS HOPE

## Upcoming ports\*

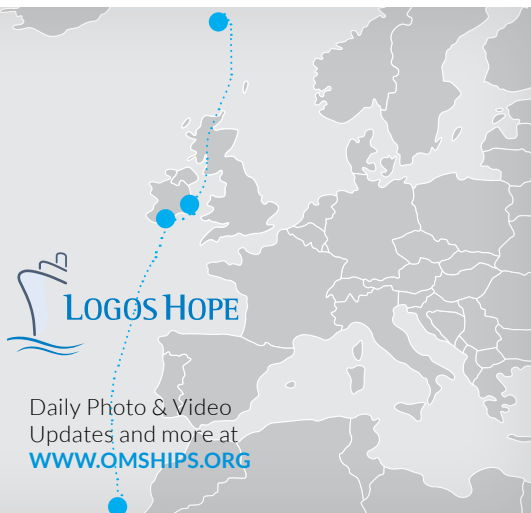
**LAS PALMAS, SPAIN**  
April 15–May 21

**CORK, IRELAND**  
May 27–June 9

**DUBLIN, IRELAND**  
June 10–30

**TORSHAVN, FAROE ISLANDS**  
July 2–8

\* The ship's itinerary will depend entirely on the Covid-19 (Corona) virus pandemic.



Daily Photo & Video Updates and more at [WWW.OMSHIPS.ORG](http://WWW.OMSHIPS.ORG)





# TEENSTREET 2020

JULY 30 - AUGUST 3 | CHERTSEY (QC)

We're excited to announce that TeenStreet is coming to Canada! TeenStreet is a summer youth discipleship event that will take place in Quebec. Our aim is to work with the church to motivate, equip, and walk alongside Christian teenagers to have a true friendship with Jesus so that they can reflect Him daily.

JESUS, PASSION, WORSHIP, FREEDOM.



teenstreetca

www.teenstreet.ca

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

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