



Walk the Talk VOL. 2/2020

Why Africa matters

5
The Sahel is the key to a continent

9
One media team can reach millions

11
Farming for all of life



© 2020 **Operation Mobilization Canada**
 84 West Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4C8
 Phone 1.877.487.7777 • Fax 905.835.2533
 info.ca@om.org | www.om.org
 Canadian Director: James Sinsel
 Board Chair: Everett Henderson

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.



Contents VOL. 2/2020

- 3 The Church in crisis**
Does God want us to go back to the ABCs of our obedience to Him?
- 4 Why Africa?**
Why Canadian and African believers should learn from and support each other.
- 5 The Sahel vision**
The future of a continent will be revealed when indigenous believers are trained and resourced to transform their societies.
- 6 Trained to train other trainers**
NORTH AFRICA: Fleeing persecution in his homeland, Imad finds greater opportunities next door.
- 7 No school, no good**
ZAMBIA: Mercy House daycare impacts families as it struggles with the pandemic.
- 8 Investing in workers**
SAHEL, AFRICA: Local volunteers assist OM workers. We rely on them; can they rely on us?
- 9 Advancing the wave**
ALGERIA: Multimedia is the best way to connect with believers and seekers.
- 10 So much in common**
NORTH AFRICA: A Brazilian finds multiple similarities in culture on another continent.
- 11 Foundations For Farming**
MALAWI: Learning better ways to farm shows people how God improves life.
- 15 Make every effort**
That extra mile, that doubled effort should inspire us to not fall short of all God promises for us.

The Church in crisis



JAMES SINSEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What has this COVID-19 pandemic taught us? It is difficult to articulate how it has altered the path for the Church. I have had many conversations about what has changed, what we can do, what we are unable to do and what we are unsure of as we move forward. However, this should not surprise us, because we are never promised an easy life free of trials and tribulations. If anything, this crisis is revealing the heart of mankind and the continued need for rock-solid hope.

Naturally, it has also caused OM in Canada to invest time to identify what is necessary as we move forward. Interestingly, we have been able to connect more often and have deeper conversations with people through virtual meetings. We have had an increase in opportunities to draw more people into times of prayer for the nations.

Travel restrictions and isolation complexities mean that our ministry opportunities abroad might begin to look different. While we 'watch and pray' over the many embedded ministries among the least reached abroad, we turn our attention to how we, working together in Canada, can use this perceived slowdown to gear up for the resuming of our work that we pray for.

I personally have been meditating on Psalm 145 and specifically verse 4: *"One generation will praise your works to the next one, proclaiming your mighty acts."* (CEB)

The only way the Church will be in crisis is if we do not disciple the next generation here and reach those who have yet to hear in other nations.

The pandemic could be an opportunity for radical faith, a testimony against fear and an audit of our lives.

Yes, we have to rethink how we engage as a community, but we cannot stop gathering. We might have to learn new things in technology, but it cannot replace how you love your neighbour. May it awaken in us the reality that people are suffering and dying without hearing the message of hope and forgiveness through Jesus.

It is critical to maintain a correct long-term perspective: God and his servants have been transmitting the message of his kingdom from Day One; in our lifetime the gospel has gone into every nation. Let us not lose sight of that. The past several months have been turbulent for missions and us all, but God will enable us to press on in faith—making adjustments while open to new approaches. We are in this together!

You are the Church, a light in darkness. You are an ambassador for Christ and His Kingdom. You are a demonstration of love. It is God's Mission and you are included. These things will never change.

Why Africa matters

As an African missionary in the western world, I have often heard colleagues refer to Africa as hopeless, beaten, broken, dark, resourceless and forgotten. Can any continent with 1.275 billion people refute these claims? However, the pernicious influence of colonialism and slavery has left Africans struggling for their own identity. With over 1500 spoken languages, Africa is still described as anglophone, Francophone or arabophone. Nevertheless, Africa has significantly progressed over the years and has much to offer to the world and the Church.

A spiritual hunger and vitality remain one of Africa's greatest attributes. Large prayer gatherings are common across the continent; in 2017, close to two million people gathered from all parts of South Africa to pray. African missionaries are commissioned to all walks of life across the globe to further their education or find work, taking this fervent spirit with them for others to learn from.

We need each other

The African church has succumbed in part to the prosperity gospel and needs dedicated, humble seminary graduates to come alongside African pastors to help plant Christ-centered, Word-based churches among the least reached of the Sahel region. Together they can promote radical discipleship, leadership growth, business for transformation and initiatives for sustainable development.

In most African countries, you can expect to be accepted and celebrated. Africa has a unique way of reminding

western Christians of the importance of enjoying the slow rhythm of life. Most African families are not looking for fast-paced demanding careers, luxurious lifestyles or retirement plans; they aim to take small steps for tomorrow and make the most of what they have today.

Apart from its vast resources, Africa has a young population eager to innovate. God is raising young leaders who want to find solutions for their own context. Among many examples is a Nigerian company, Fyodor, that designed a test to detect malaria in 25 minutes.

Some African experts suggest that by 2035, 40 per cent of the world's working population will be in Africa. Canadian churches can help by sending missionaries from all sectors now to help prepare for a formidable global marketplace.

Africa, oh my Africa: you second largest and second-most populous continent—how can you be forgotten? May God hear your prayers and answer you with awesome deeds of righteousness!



Mpumi Maweni

Canadians can help African trainers to equip frontline workers to share the gospel

To the north: the Sahel vision



OM workers serve in eleven countries in predominately Christian sub-Saharan Africa, where Christianity is growing. And so, these workers are looking north to the Sahel; home to some of the most unreached people on the continent.

The Sahel stretches approximately 5,400 km through more than ten countries from the Atlantic coast of Senegal to Sudan at the Red Sea. A geographical transition zone between the Sahara in the north and the savannah in the south, the region is mainly hot and dry.

Linguistically and ethnically diverse, the people groups in the Sahel are faced with many challenges: harsh climates, droughts, famines, political instability and violent extremism. Traditionally nomads who travelled with their herds to seasonal grazing grounds, the various people groups have maintained their own strong cultural identity which can be a challenge when reaching out to them.

When you look at the Sahel, there is a need for community transformation in terms of education, health, clean water, agriculture—and for people to experience the love of Christ. To address these issues, skilled professionals are needed to move to the Sahel. Having a profession provides a person credibility in a community and can open up the door for sharing the gospel. Professionals in agriculture and health can conduct training that brings together people from various places and equips them with skills and knowledge that they can then take back to their villages and implement.

The most effective witnesses for Jesus are same- and near-culture workers: local/national or neighbouring workers that know the languages, the cultures, the various religions—and, importantly, bear close physical resemblance. Blending in reduces distractions; thus Africans should be 'on the ground' in the Sahel. Westerners can concentrate on training and encouraging them.

Seeing the Sahel reached with the gospel must start with prayer to seek the wisdom of God. Though churches in the region may be few, OM workers want to see them actively reaching out to those who don't know Jesus. Then, as people believe and are discipled, self-multiplying churches can spread across the region. But this vision requires partnerships. There are already agencies working in the Sahel that we can learn from and partner with.

MELVIN CHIOMBE
African Area Leader



Africa facts • Population: 1.275 billion (15% of the world); 67% Sub-Saharan • World's highest population growth, double the global average, resulting in depleted soils and agriculture, crushing foreign debt and exploitation, lack of infrastructure, lack of educated middle class, corruption, disease and military conflicts • 40% urban: 52 cities of over 1 million people • Population under 15 years: 41% • Life expectancy 55 years • 2500 ethnic groups; 20% Arab • Literacy 61% • All languages: 2110; 30% of world's total



- Algeria • Angola • Egypt • Ghana • Madagascar • Malawi • Morocco • Mozambique • Namibia • Somalia • South Africa • South Sudan • Tanzania • Tunisia • Zambia and Lake Tanganyika • Zimbabwe



Imad the trainer

NORTH AFRICA

Living in Muslim North Africa, Imad saw the importance of strengthening believers' faith. When Amid*, a local believer, was starting a church planting school, Imad saw it as a perfect opportunity and completed the training a changed man. "I understood that God wanted me to share with everyone, not only believers," he said. "I started teaching the Bible outside the church, distributed Christian literature and food to the needy and showed the *Jesus* film in different villages," Imad explained. Amid asked him to join the training school as a team leader and serve in a Christian bookshop.

New place, same ministry

Political and religious upheaval escalated in Imad's country, forcing his ministry to cease. Imad was constantly brought in for questioning. "The police wanted us to work for them and tell them everything going on in the church, but I never cooperated," he recalled. After intense investigation for eight months, Imad fled to the neighbouring country where Amid was. "We prayed for our home country and host country; we both had a passion to reach

Muslims," he said. They restarted church planting training in their host country. Imad also started relief work among Muslim refugees. "We spent time listening to their needs and struggles. They were happy to know we were from the church, as no one from the mosque visited," he noted. These acts of kindness opened the door for the refugees to want to know about Jesus.

Pass it on

Imad not only teaches and leads the relief ministry but also disciples people one-on-one. He sees his Christian walk as a journey of sharing what he has learnt. He has seen many refugees come to Christ; a few of the men he disciplined have participated in church planting training. One was Bilal*, a Muslim who helped with relief work. Over time, he trusted Christ but was afraid to tell his friends and family. God transformed Bilal's fear into boldness; he now leads three discipleship groups and does one-on-one evangelism with two friends, just as Imad did with him. Others have also participated in church planting training, continuing the cycle of sharing what they have learnt.

Africa challenges • Africa has 13 of the 20 least-reached countries by percentage

- Central and East Africa as well as the Sub-Saharan region have gone through decades of genocide, persecution, child slavery, natural disasters and systemic evil. Only Almighty God can transform this; pray that the fear of God and repentance across the land will occur
- Exposing and confronting abject poverty must be a priority
- Islam is the major challenge and, resourced by Arab oil revenues, is winning the race for souls across the entire

No school, no good

ZAMBIA

For the children of Mercy House, more than their education is impacted as Zambia closes schools to stop the spread of COVID-19. "For some kids, we supply their only decent daily meal and we're the only ones who take time to love and be with them," explained Anne, the ministry leader.

Mercy House is a day-care centre in Makululu, the largest among shanty compounds in sub-Saharan Africa. Mercy House provides a safe and loving environment for kids to learn and grow. The 81 students are taught basic education, learn Bible stories and games and receive a hot meal and snack. Mercy House's feeding programme helps supplement the growing children's diets. When they can start up again is still to be determined.

"We were able to send children home with bars of soap and the local staple food," Anne said. "We taught them how to wash their hands, and told them how important it is. We prayed with them that God would provide for them. They have become strong in prayer which comes naturally to them."

In addition to operating as a day-care centre, Mercy House also has a safe house for young girls who have



been trafficked, abused or otherwise neglected. A second home was scheduled to be opened in the coming weeks but because of the country-wide closures, it has been delayed. The nine children from the original safe house have moved into the second safe house temporarily as it is bigger. "It's amazing that we have this house in town that we can provide more safety and security," said Anne. "It's easier to isolate them in town."

Driving through Makululu after the closures were issued, Ann could see little difference. "People [are] still moving about from house to house," she said. "Everywhere else in the world streets are dead, but not in Makululu. They are sociable people, and no virus will stop them."

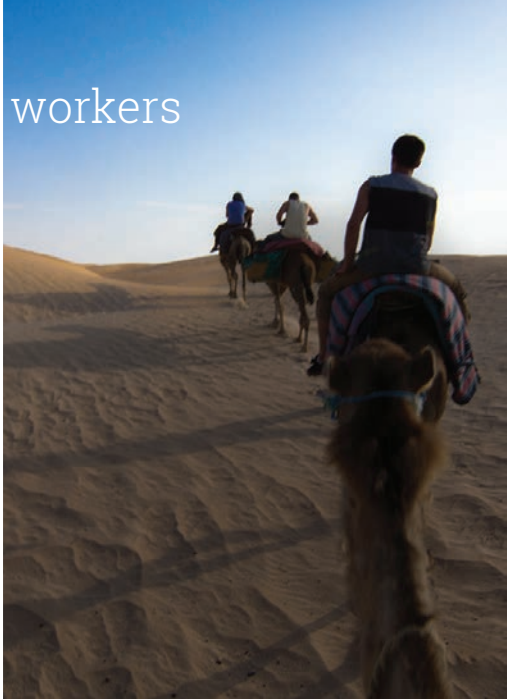
continent. Pray that the Church will win people's hearts not through building roads and schools—good as that is—but through their testimony and example of vibrant faith communities • Discipleship is Africa's greatest challenge; the sensational growth of the Church has fostered weak understanding and application of the Scriptures, lacking a commitment to personal holiness and a readiness to denounce sin and the works of darkness.

Investing in frontline workers

NATIONAL CO-WORKERS: SAHEL, AFRICA

OM's Sahel initiative mobilizes and empowers African missionaries to connect with unreached people groups in the Sahel region in order to establish vibrant communities of Jesus followers among them. OM wants to see 350 African communities holistically transformed spiritually, economically, socially and educationally by 2025. We are currently in 160+ communities where 460 'official' OMs work side-by-side with a similar number of (mainly) Africans who are the foundation of every project. Without such disciplined workers who make disciples, our work in Africa is unsustainable. Today, the faltering African economy together with the COVID-19 pandemic impact have put great pressure on these committed, competent workers and their sending churches.

OM has established a Co-Workers' fund to provide top-up support to our key volunteer workers. Many of our projects suffer when skilled and experienced local missionaries are forced to leave ministry to provide for their families. It is therefore strategic for us to be able to retain existing workers than to have to constantly recruit and train new workers. Assisting them financially also conveys a measure of dignity to them and motivation to continue in their



calling. This fund works in concert with ongoing personal support raising and sustainability initiatives.

Last year, six near-culture missionaries were recruited and trained to serve in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger. Our goal is to impact 200 African missionaries for this purpose that are expected to implement sustainability/business ideas within their first three months to reduce financial dependency on foreign resourcing and to establish credibility as fellow Africans.



\$60 supports a local African ministry volunteer for one month.

\$720 supplements a worker's costs for one year.

Advancing the wave

MEDIA MINISTRY: ALGERIA

In the last two decades, there has been a spiritual awakening across Algeria that is unique in Middle East history, with thousands upon thousands of Berbers and Arabs turning to Jesus with great boldness in spite of ever present opposition and persecution.

Christian media plays one of the most important roles in reaching Algerians today. Open Christian witnessing is limited, and Christian literature is not widely available, but radio, television and, of course, the internet and social media reach into every home—and pocket.

We have produced many video programs to encourage Christian families, strengthen couples' relationships and reach non-believers such as Jews, Libyans and Tunisians online. Many thousands have watched these videos! Our teams can witness,

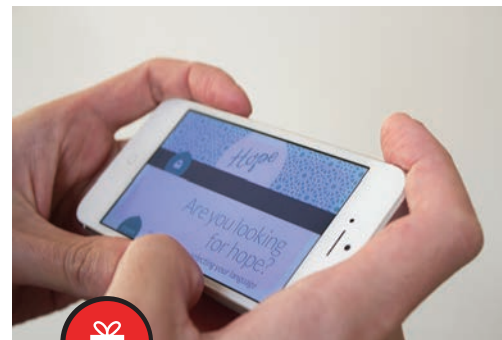


teach and follow-up inquirers virtually. They have teamed up with others to launch an online Libyan church. Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and Iraqis have joined Bible study groups on the internet.

As the response increases, Christian satellite and radio stations are asking for more programs in the Algerian dialect of Arabic. Of a potential daily audience of 500,000 we expect to personally follow up with 5000 inquirers this year.

Our media team uses all available forms of media and technology to help with evangelism, contribute to discipleship efforts, promote mission work and to develop people with skills training.

Equipping believers—especially in remote areas—and creating gospel resources for the least reached Africans remains our priority. Regular high-quality training of OM workers online is now affordable and scalable.



\$125 supports travel and media equipment as the media team travels to interview new believers' testimonies, film baptisms, record church services and more.

\$1230 covers living costs for one media worker for a year.

Africa encouragements • Nearly half of Africa would claim to be Christian and close to one-fifth are evangelicals today; the gospel is reaching into every level of society

• Massive prayer movements are impacting the spiritual darkness in society. • African churches are exploding and with that embracing a mission vision for their continent

and the world. However, financial limitations in adopting a Western style of missionary sending are forcing them to create alternative, more indigenous locally grown outreach and sustainability that could also be the way forward for the Western church.

• Restrictions on travel (financial and COVID-related) have forced new creativity for training online. Pray that church and mission leaders will capture this new momentum so that thousands more can be equipped.



So much in common

NORTH AFRICA

“From the time we arrived in North Africa until today, the spiritual situation has really changed. There are house churches in places where there were none before. There is more interest among people in the gospel, especially the younger generation,” explained Oliveira* (Brazil), who has served in the Middle East for over 20 years.

As a Latino, Oliveira fits well into the North African culture. “When people talk to me, they want to talk about football or Carnival or coffee,” he explained. “But he wants to talk about Jesus. “The goal [is] that as we build friendships, they introduce us to others, and what we share, they will share with others.”

In one city, a lady became a believer and led two of her nieces to the Lord. In another, someone decided to follow Jesus and shared with several family members who also became Christians. “Once one person becomes a believer, you can disciple, encourage and challenge this person to share what he believes with people who are important to him.”

Ministering to Muslims

Oliveira had his first experience with Muslims in Spain when he met a young man from Morocco. “Sitting at the port, I shared the gospel with him, and, actually,

he trusted the Lord,” he remembered. That sparked a desire in Oliveira to continue sharing God’s love with people who had never heard.

Back in Brazil, he served in a training centre where workers living in different countries regularly came to share with the students. As he listened to more people tell their stories, he recognised his growing interest in people who didn’t have access to the gospel, especially Muslims.

He prayed for several months and then decided to go to North Africa, a move which required him to first learn English, then Arabic. Although his host country has changed since then, his purpose has not: praying, ministering to people in their heart language, seeing new believers form house churches and investing in discipleship continue to be God’s call for Oliveira.

Since the Arab Spring, which began in 2010, Oliveira noticed that people in North Africa have been less fearful of asking questions and searching for answers on the internet. Still, despite the increase in people seeking truth and evidence of new small groups of national believers meeting in various places, less than one per cent of the country’s population are Christians.

Foundations for farming

MALAWI

When Daniel applies the techniques taught by *Foundations for Farming*, he harvests three times more maize than usual.

Years of burning the fields after the harvest and over-farming had drained the soil of nutrients—that was the way it had always been done in his small village. With a wife and five children, he needed to produce as much as possible to feed his family.



In a good season, Daniel harvested up to nine bags of maize (corn), but in bad years the family struggled.

In 2017, Daniel was invited to join *Foundations for Farming* (FFF). With the gospel at its centre, the OM-run programme teaches methods designed to bring nutrients back to the soil, such as composting, water retention techniques and the planting of trees. When Daniel applied what he had learnt to his field, he harvested 34 bags of maize—more than triple over the previous season.

Since then, his family has saved enough money to buy a one-acre field and began growing sweet potatoes, tomatoes and rice in addition to maize. They have also invested in goats, which reproduce quickly and provide meat as well as fertilizer for the fields.

FFF is about more than growing crops. The majority of those who attend FFF are Muslims and are learning about Jesus through the Bible study component of the programme. As participants hear Scripture in their own language and discuss what they heard, seeds are sown. Pray that these seeds will take root and grow, bearing witness to the new life that comes from Christ.



Opportunities to serve

Despite the global 'lockdown', hundreds of teams, projects and events continue every day. The examples here are valid although everything depends on travel and social restrictions. Still, we encourage you to start a conversation with us (and your church) that will expedite any future decisions you might make.

That said, there are no such impediments to joining the OM team in Canada at any time—even today, if these positions suit you!

Namibia

Discipleship Program

On the Luke 24 Journey we focus on hearing God's voice, living by faith and obedience. Travelling across mountains or deserts presents opportunities to express your faith by testimony or serving people we meet along the way. With no fixed program beforehand, we trust God to guide us in our daily walk. Our goal is that people would confirm a clear ministry calling for their future.

Bible study through the program will focus on Jesus and our identity and destiny in him.

We expect participants to be team players. There could be times of extensive travelling to where we will work with cultures significantly different than your own. Families with teenage children are welcome to join!

📅 13 OCTOBER—10 NOVEMBER 2020

Zambia

SportsLink Training

SportsLink reaches and disciples people through sports. We are looking for people willing to travel within Zambia to facilitate training using *ReadySetGo* material, and mentor people in order

to expand and deepen sports ministry across Africa. We look for athletes who are passionate, ready to train in various sports and develop local youth to be spiritual leaders.

📅 COMMITMENT: 2 YEARS

North Africa

STEP: Short Term Experience Program

STEP out to serve and support long-term ministry and gain valuable experience. Self-motivated people will learn some of the local Arabic language and be immersed in the culture, while supporting long-termers in their ministries or in supportive roles. Join our experienced,

multinational, vibrant community of Jesus followers in living out a Christlike testimony in various communities. Business, ministry and daily living all combine into an experience that can shape your life—while befriending local people in ways that will be an asset for longer-term ministry.

📅 COMMITMENT: 6-12 MONTHS

Contact us today!

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



Canada

Personnel Services Director

Caring for people well is a key component of authentic participation in vibrant communities of Jesus followers. As a team leader, your ability to keep OM compliant with Canadian human resources standards, together with your heart to support our workers around the globe will make a lasting impact on their effectiveness and longevity in the field. Plus, you may be the initial 'face' of our mission to many people seeking God's plan for their lives—what a privilege!

IT Support (Kitchener)

Modern missions requires secure and effective IT infrastructure and user support. As part of an international team seeking to reach Central Asian people with the gospel and inspiring vibrant communities of Jesus followers, your grasp of today's technologies in networking, security and more can keep our national workers to stay focussed on engaging with the least reached.

Digital Communications specialist

Digital media is a powerful tool for good or evil. We're committed to using all such means to engage with all people and generations. While the gospel message does not change, its delivery and context through digital media do change, making it possible to spread even in otherwise difficult places—as well as to inform and challenge Canadian believers, including your peers, to increase their awareness and desire to be involved. No limit!

Sound interesting? Contact us.

Short-Term Mission Webinar Training

• Prepare yourself and your church for short-term missions during Covid-19

Sat. Oct. 17 or Nov. 24, 2020 at 1 pm (Eastern)

Duration: 1 hour • Details updated at om.org

Registration:
Mpumi Maweni
Director of Mobilization
1-877-487-7777 ext. 602
mpumi.maweni@om.org



Joel & Erika Osborne

Joel Osborne appointed as Director of Communications and Marketing, Canada

Joel has a passion for design and marketing, and has served various ministries for the past ten years in sharing the message of Christ in print and in digital formats. In his desire to motivate the Church to take steps of faith in reaching the lost, Joel came aboard the OM team in January 2020 as the Director of Communications and Marketing in Canada.

As Joel has settled into his role here in Canada, he is excited to dream of how the communications team can grow and come alongside other departments in OM so that the gospel of Christ can reach more people here in Canada and around the world. As wolves are slowly creeping in and distorting the biblical gospel message, Joel believes there has never been a more urgent need to ensure that biblical truths are shared with as many people as possible. He believes there is a great responsibility to ensure that the Communications department stays on target.

Joel and his wife, Erika, live in the Niagara Region of Ontario. They are both active in ministry roles in their local church and desire to see lives transformed by the power of Christ.

joel.osborne@om.org
1-877-487-7777

Therefore pray...

PRAY that Canadian churches (yours too) will seek God's intentions in this never-before pandemic. Pray that our fear and awe of God will exceed the human fear around us.

PRAY that churches in Africa and around the world will see what God sees in the Sahel region. Pray that OM and many other missions will be able to train thousands to live and minister in this sensitive area.

PRAY for Mercy House in Zambia, that they can find solutions for the difficulties of the pandemic that will enable them to show mercy to many villages.

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

PRAY for the media team based in North Africa. Pray that they will get the resources they need to create gospel radio programs, podcasts, video clips and more to reach those who are seeking truth in God as well as training Christians to grow in discipleship, especially those who live in remote areas.

PRAY that hundreds of volunteer workers helping OM workers in Africa will receive enough financial support to be able to keep going. That is a lot cheaper for OM than having to find and train new people constantly.

PRAY that as the Foundations For Farming courses spread that locals will acknowledge that God's ways are the best for all of life.

PRAY that we (you and us) will determine to 'make every effort' in becoming what God wants us to be—one decision, one day at a time.



Caracas Bay, Curacao • 13 June–4 July

Nine millionth visitor!

In Kingston, Logos Hope welcomed the nine-millionth visitor to the book ship since she began operating in 2009. An unsuspecting member of the public received a celebration in her honour as she stepped off the gangway. Shamara Williams remarked, "This is the best day!" and danced with delight as the ship's percussion group played drums, crew in an array of national costumes cheered and onlookers applauded.

Facing the realities and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Logos Hope* will remain in the Caribbean until the end of the year.

"God is going to do something significant in this coming time, despite the uncertainties that exist," said John Benn (South Africa). *Logos Hope's* newly-appointed director, Randy Grebe (USA) sent a message to partners of the Ship Ministry: "I ask you to pray that we understand God's presence in our lives every day; that we sense the purpose of why we're here and what we're doing; and thirdly, to pray for our protection."



Daily Photo & Video Updates and more at WWW.OMSHIPS.ORG

Make every effort

The story is told of a missionary who settled in a remote tribal village and, over time, won the hearts and trust of the people there. One man would come regularly to discuss Bible passages and took the call to grow in Christlike character seriously. Then, unexpectedly, weeks went by before the missionary spotted him and asked why he had stopped meeting with him. Was there an issue that offended him? Was there teaching that he did not understand? Did he no longer want to study the life of Jesus?

"Oh, no, teacher; I love hearing these stories, especially about Jesus," he replied. "But last time, you read from Peter's letter [2 Peter 1:1-11] a long list of things I need to work on and practice so I can please God and serve him and my village. I have started on that list, trying to add to my faith goodness and hopefully to that, knowledge. Doing this can be hard and take time. But there's no point in trying to do more until I have accomplished the first things. Then we can talk about the rest of the list."

How is it that we in the West consider such people 'primitive' and 'uneducated' and ourselves the opposite?

Apparently it is up to us

2 Peter 1 (have a look at it now) makes it clear that, while we can do nothing apart from God's power, that power is released into us so that his character may be clearly seen by the world...in us. God is love, sure. But is that love evident in me? God is faithful—am I faithful? God perseveres—do I persevere? No doubt, I try; who doesn't want faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love to emanate naturally into the world around me? Who doesn't want these to increase and keep us from being ineffective and unproductive as a Jesus follower?



GREG KERNAGHAN

EDITOR

It's always the right time to do the right thing.

Twice in this brief passage, Peter calls us to "make every effort" because, whether we do or not, there will be consequences: If we don't "make every effort" then nearsightedness and eventually spiritual blindness and an amnesia of grace await. If we commit to "make every effort", we will never stumble and we will receive a rich welcome into Jesus' kingdom. Let that sink in. This is no claim for perfectionism; rather, it is meant to impel us to go that little bit further or deeper for Christ's sake and our sake.

So often, I have exerted some degree of effort to increase my focus or ditch temptation, with varying results. Here, Peter urges us to push forward with determination and foresight of the reward—in gym parlance, one more rep, then one more set brings our goals nearer. The marvel is that making every effort in one area spills into others. So, when you think you've done all you can, go that little bit more.

How can we add to godliness? By seeing that it means 'God-likeness' which of course includes an unrelenting passion to reveal the gospel everywhere. Let's make every effort for that—together.

Save The Date • You Are Invited

Virtual Partner Event



September 15th, 2020



7:30PM CST



Hear what God is doing in the Sahel region of Africa!

Join us for our first-ever livestream virtual partner event where we will hear directly from guest speakers currently serving in Africa. Learn how God is working and changing lives in the Sahel region. With over 60 million people in the Sahel, many are seeking the truth and mercy of God. Your awareness, prayer and support can impact many.

Kindly save the response envelope enclosed for this event.



Register Online:
www.OM.org/ca

We're anticipating hosting a second virtual partner event in late autumn for our partners on the east coast. Watch for details.

OPERATION MOBILIZATION CANADA

84 West Street, Port Colborne, ON, L3K 4C8

1 877 487 7777 • info.ca@om.org

 [omcanada](https://www.facebook.com/omcanada)

 [@operationmobilizationcanada](https://www.instagram.com/operationmobilizationcanada)

www.om.org

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