

O.N.E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Diocesan youth put faith into action with Rally and IOCC

Right: The assembled participants in **Youth Rally 2014**.



Youth Rally 2014

Diocesan Youth Rally took place from Aug. 11 to 16, 2014. A number of new Rallyers brought the total to 50. Under the leadership of Fr. John Hopko, Youth Rally Director, Youth Rally has been meeting at St. Methodios Greek Orthodox Conference Center for many years. See the photo gallery on page 3.

IOCC Serv-X-Treme

Jim Brockett

I landed in Minneapolis Minnesota on Sunday, Aug. 3, after my first time flying alone in an airplane. I was chosen to represent Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, Conn., and the Diocese of New England in the First Annual Serv-X-Treme conference. It was an event created by IOCC (International *IOCC to 4*

Archbishop Nikon participates in consecration of new Albanian cathedral



His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon represented the Orthodox Church in America at the consecration of Resurrection of Christ Cathedral in Tirana, the capital of Albania, May 31–June 1, 2014. Started in 2004, the new cathedral is a symbol of the revitalized Albanian Church. Under communist repression, all churches had been demolished.

His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, presided at the consecration and Divine Liturgy, together with His Beatitude, Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania and many other Primates and representatives of the world's Orthodox Churches.



Archbishop Nikon was among those who concelebrated.

During the weekend, Archbishop Nikon also had the opportunity to visit other locations. Of particular note were Saint Vlash Seminary and a house for abused and abandoned children, the Home of Hope.

Archbishop Nikon presented a personal gift of the relics of Saint Tikhon of Moscow, Enlightener of North America, to Archbishop Anastasios.

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Top Left: Resurrection of Christ Cathedral, Albania.

Top Right: Archbishop Nikon stands with many hierarchs for the consecration.

Above: Archbishop Anastasios welcomes Archbishop Nikon.

Bottom Right: The procession of the relics, as seen from the cathedral bell tower.



Diocesan Youth Rally: August 11-16



IOCC from I

Orthodox Christian Charities). As I walked into the hotel I began to meet 26 other like-minded 17 year old Orthodox Christians from across the country from Georgia to Alaska and from across varying parts of Orthodoxy from Greek to Serbian. It was a week of fellowship, friendship and service.



Right: Scenes from the IOCC Serv--X-Treme program in Minneapolis.



We heard enlightening presentations about topics such as Servant Leadership and Parish Outreach, which were reinforced when we got the opportunity to talk to and serve with organizations such as FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) and the Harbor Light Salvation Army Center.

We were all humbled at the great lengths people in these organizations went to help others. We learned a lot about how to serve others and how to make our service the

most beneficial to those who need our help.

We also had plenty of fun. We were guided on a tour of the Twin Cities, visited the Mall of America, and went to a Minnesota Twins game where they played against the San Diego Padres.

All and all, this was an absolutely amazing experience and I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to attend this conference with support from Father Vladimir Aleandro, Archbishop Nikon and our parish. I have returned with many ideas that I cannot wait to share with our parish community.

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OCMC Mission Trip to Kenya

Matushka Suzanne Aleandro

Dear Family and Friends,

Fr. Vladimir (Papa Emoru) and I (Mama Apua) greet you with our sincere gratitude. Thank you for your love, prayers and monetary support.

The goal of our fifth Mission trip, June 17 to July 3 to Turkana in Kenya was to replace their tree church with a cement block church dedicated to St. Nicholas in Lokichar. One afternoon, Fr. Zachariah, the pastor, showed us the site for the Posho Mill also to be installed this month.

Our Team travelled with Archbishop Makarios to Loupwala for the consecration of St. Peter's Church built in 2012.

On the last leg of this trip, we visited the Orthodox Turkana Community lead by Fr. Herman in Kitale. This is the home of the corn mill (Mama Apua Posho Mill). Many of you helped with the funds for this mill and the deep wells in Lockichar and Loupwala.

As part of the first Mission Team to Turkana in 2007 we have witnessed the growth of the Orthodox Church. There are now thirteen Orthodox Communities. Many of these people in "the



bush" had never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. Trained catechists and four priests now minister to these communities.

Our Turkana Brothers and Sisters say "Ejoka Noi" (THANK YOU). They will

soon worship in their beautiful church, built with the labor and love of many people. There will be no greater satisfaction than to see the love and joy on their faces as they worship, sing and dance in the church of St. Nicholas.

Your prayers sustained us during our travel and days in Turkana. God bless your generous missionary hearts.

With love, prayers and gratitude in our hearts,

Matushka Suzanne

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Above: Church of St. Nicholas under construction.

Below: Archbishop Makarios leads the consecration of the **Church of St. Peter**, Loupwala, built in 2012.



Thoughts on Kitale, Kenya

V. Rev. Vladimir Aleandro

The community in Kitale is unique in many ways. It is not in Turkana but made up of Turkana people. It is an eight-and-a-half-hour drive from our base in Lodwar through rough areas (this was the third time M. Suzanne [aka Mama Apua] and I traveled this road). We asked for these three days to be added to our Mission this year. After leaving the Turkana desert, things began to be green as we went through Pokot territory. The Pokot tribe borders Turkana territory. They are the “enemy” who raid and kill for livestock. Virtually all of the Pokot we passed carried rifles as they walked the road or took care of their cattle. I caught myself thinking and even seeing “them” as the “enemy.” Because of “them,” our new Orthodox Community at Nacobosan is abandoned. Because of “them,”

Above: Fr. Vladimir and M. Suzanne with some of the women after Liturgy in the tree church.

Below: The tree church in Lokichaar.



the people of Loupala live in fear. We were told that fear grows every day and they hide, especially at night, and are arming themselves with guns.

As we traveled on, I noticed the churches and children waving. I thought of the *Comboni* fathers we stayed with in Lokichaar who have missions all through Pokot territory. I began to think of the work of the evil one who tries to plant tribalism in our hearts. It is the opposite of how God made us to be in commun-



ion with Him, every person and all of creation. Turkana vs. Pokot, Turkana vs. Samburu, and here in America and throughout the so



and small churches. The city is a small, miniature, bustling Nairobi. After eight hours, we were still in Kenya, but in a different world. It was

called civilized world it is no different. We just use different names for our tribes, but it is the same dehumanizing of seeing the other not as a brother or sister created in the image of God and needing to hear about the love God has for them, but the other, the “enemy” who threatens us.

easy to understand how Turkana people migrated from their drought-stricken land to this lush new world. Like most immigrants, they settled in communities where they could speak their own language and preserve their culture while living and working in a different world

Above: The site of St. Nicholas Church under construction. The town is barely visible in the distance.

Below: Faithful worshipping in the newly consecrated Church of St. Peter.

As we came closer to the city of Kitale, there was lush green, rain, winter climate, schools, academies,

In Turkana, it is hot and dry. Much of life is lived outside and the shade of a tree is the most normal



Above: Fr. Vladimir with **Fr. Zachariah** at Liturgy in the tree church. Fr. Zachariah is a long-time friend, mentioned in the previous article on page 5.



Below: Fr. Vladimir (dressed in a Youth Rally '03 shirt) **pumps water at the well** built with help from a previous OCMC mission trip.

shelter for working, resting, assembling, and even worshipping. The land is quite open and people are still moving with their camels and goats. In Kitale, it is much more like the American city with overflowing small farms surrounding it. As a church, you can't gather under a tree or public place. Weather and living circumstances require a building. Every inch of space is planted, occupied, and claimed. Therefore, there is a tight "real estate" market. A permanent building here is essential to stability and growth of the Church.

The Turkana Orthodox community is made up of three groups around Kitale: St. Makarios, St. Paul and a new community. There are the older people who speak Turkana and remember Turkana, and their children and grandchildren, some of whom have never been to Turkana. At present, the main place to assemble and worship is a very small lean-to at-

tached to Fr. Herman's small house and posho mill. It is all bordered by neighbors and road, with no room for expansion. Their challenge is to reach out from their Turkana "ghetto" and bring Christ and life in the Orthodox Church to the *outsiders*, the other tribes who live around them.

We knew their pastor, Fr. Herman, before he was baptized. We took part in his ordination to the diaconate, and worked with him on three of our missions. I see him as a young, bright, enterprising but humble and dedicated pastor who has a gentle, loving way with young and





Above: Fr. Herman with his wife, Pappadia Alice, some of his children and orphans who live with them. M. Suzanne is standing at the far right. Baby Suzanne is in front.

Below: House church in Kitale.

old. The respect for him and his hard-working Pappadia was tangible. Father has a special place in his heart for the orphans and the poor. At present, he has four of his own children (his youngest is baby Suzanne), and six orphans whom he has taken to live with him. His great dream is to have an Orthodox orphanage/school for girls, as well as a church building to worship in and to unite the people. God-willing, this vision will materialize for him. In Kitale, he is very isolated from other Orthodox communities. In a city with many cars and motorcycles, his mode of transportation is an old bicycle.

What a wonderful sight it was to drive down a country road lined with houses, small churches,

corn fields, and then a prominent sign on a brightly-painted building that reads: "Mama Apua Posho Mill." As soon as we got out of the car, parishioners gathered around as Fr Herman and Pappadia Alice demonstrated the grinding of maize for Posho. This is the daily staff of life for Kenyans. Mother hens and their baby chicks scurried around the floor, picking up the dropped corn-



Below: Fr. James Parnell of All Saints, Hartford, writes: "Liturgy this morning (June 13) in a tin shack at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, LA. Standing with three members of the Army of Montenegro and one US soldier from All Saints of North America in Albuquerque, NM."

meal. Father told us that, because of this mill, he is able to feed his family, take in orphans, and have time to visit his parishioners with help. The building is made of brick and stucco. It is attached to the front of his house. Throughout the day, there was an outpouring of gratefulness and joy. In this circumstance, the mill seems to be a success in helping pastor and parish move toward self-sufficiency. This has all been made possible by Orthodox people in our diocese and those places who invite us to do Presentations to their parishes. From Kitale there comes a thundering "Asante Sana, Ejoka Noi, Thank You."

We preached, taught, and answered questions. Large pots of beans, potatoes, rice, and cabbage provided an abundant lunch for everyone. Of course all was interspersed with clapping and hymn singing. Since they did not have a single icon, we gave them the diptych that was a present from Fr. Michael Westerberg at his anniversary.

The Orthodox of Connecticut and the Orthodox of Turkana are linked in many ways. God willing we will also be bringing that connection to the Pokot and Samburu some day so all of us can sing, dance and praise the Lord together.

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From Hartford to Louisiana: Divine Liturgy at military training



Archbishop Nikon visits Maine: *Christ the Savior Mission, Bangor*



Right: His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon made an archpastoral visitation to Christ the Savior Mission in June. Fr. John Kreta, Diocesan Chancellor, also served. All photos by Nectarii Lukianov



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Upcoming Events

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| Sept 30 | Deadline for the next issue of the ONE |
| Sept 13 | Tour bus from All Saints, Hartford, to Museum of Russian Icons, Clinton, Mass., 8:30 AM-4 PM. Vigil concludes day. |
| Sept 19 | A screening and discussion of <i>Soul Searching: A Movie about Teenagers and God</i> —7 PM at SS. Peter & Paul, Meriden, Conn. All parents and teachers are invited. |
| Oct 11 | Connecticut Bible Lecture Series at Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn., at 10 AM. Rev. Dr. Paul Tarazi will cover Acts 8-16, the Mission to the Gentiles. |
| Oct 24-25 | Diocesan Assembly in Cumberland, R.I. |
| Nov 8 | St. Nectarios celebration at Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn. Archbishop Nikon will preside at Vespers with outdoor procession. All are invited. |