



THE MSC FAMILY

For over seventy-five years, MSC has operated as an efficient, low-overhead means of supporting the Lord's work in Canada and around the world through a model of missions which is unique and biblical. This model is more relevant than it has ever been and is resonating today with many new workers and sending local churches.

MSC has always operated from two big ideas - mission workers being directed by their commending local churches, and a total commitment to God's supply of financial needs. The board of MSC believes strongly in these principles, but also understands that many who use MSC's services now have no idea how its finances work, what funds are on hand, or what it does beyond moving money from donors to mission workers.

YOU ARE MSC

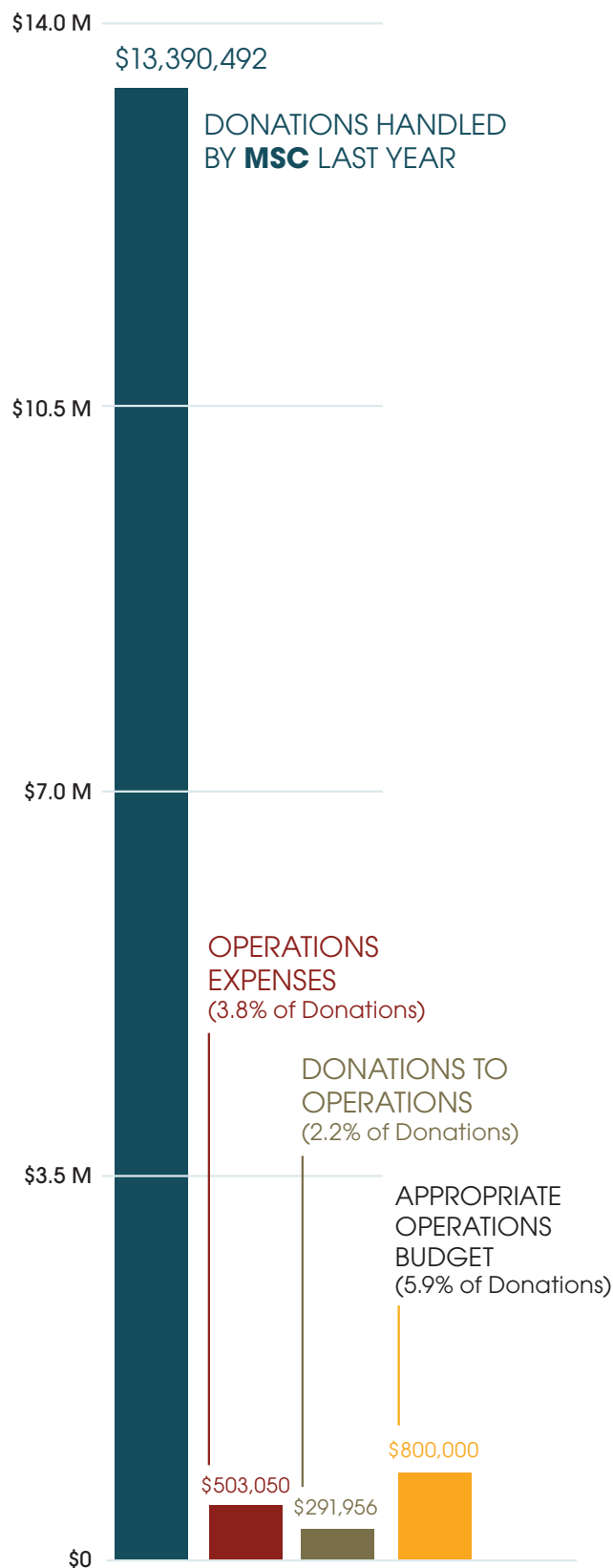
MSC is more like a co-op than a corporation. In a sense, it is owned by all the local churches, donors and mission workers who benefit from the many services it provides. Unlike conventional missions organizations who would ask "you" to support "them," we are all a part of the MSC family and share an interest in seeing it thrive.

However, this sense of ownership is no longer as strongly felt as it was in the past. The vast majority of those who use MSC's services do not make any contribution to its operating expenses or support MSC's programs which help workers in the field.

INSIDERS

We have called this newsletter *Inside MSC* because we believe that **true partners should have inside information**. There are life-long supporters of MSC who are interested in knowing what the financial situation is, as well as others who are eager to direct funds through MSC but are not aware of the programs and support that MSC offers to workers. Many of you would be alarmed to discover what the level of support for MSC operations is.

The board would like to do a much better job of informing the MSC family by giving you all the insider information we can. MSC believes in "information not solicitation" and that will not change. **Faith in God's ability to provide for every need is central to all that MSC does.**



TRENDING UP

Over the last decade, MSC has seen significant growth in every aspect of its activity.

MSC's missions model has never been more relevant than it is today.

We're seeing increases in:

- Local churches served
- New mission workers sent out
- Donations handled through MSC
- Donors giving generously.

However, support for the essential services MSC provides has not grown, and the many programs MSC operates in support of missions and mission workers continue to be underfunded.



A HISTORY OF HIGH EFFICIENCY



THE MSC FINANCIAL ADMIN STAFF IN 1963

In 1963, MSC's three financial admin staff handled **\$294,519** which would equal **\$2,325,435** in 2016 terms.
(source: Bank of Canada)



THE MSC FINANCIAL ADMIN STAFF IN 2016

Last year, MSC handled **\$13,390,492** while still utilizing three financial admin staff. This amounts to nearly six times the volume of donations as 1963.

WorkerCare

MSC has been gradually increasing the degree of involvement we have with mission workers on the field. With 250 workers in over 40 countries, this is a daunting task. At times we feel we are just scratching the surface, but we believe that every effort we make to stay connected pays dividends. We reach out to workers via email, phone or Skype, and spend time listening and assisting in the situations faced by those who engage us. We have held and sponsored conferences, assisted with resettlement and re-entry, visited many in the field where they serve, and collected resources which can be helpful in the unique international and cross-cultural situations where workers find themselves. With **WORKERCARE**, we do what we can with resources available to assist with furlough needs.

WORKER SECURITY

Security training and support is an important new level of service we are beginning to implement as we are able. This is essential as Canadian local churches and MSC Canada enter into the legal realities of sending out mission workers into areas of danger. A reasonable level of care for our workers is mandatory morally, spiritually and legally. MSC currently budgets \$40,000 for this each year, but the level of care and support we can currently provide is not adequate.

ACCTS

As hospitals, schools, and facilities have developed in Zambia over the decades, the **ACCTS SHIPPING PROGRAM** stands as an essential part of the equation for sustainability. Many medical supplies are sourced in Canada and many local churches pack and send countless boxes of needed goods. Workers regularly report that some stations could not continue to operate without the support of this ministry. The shipping expenses last year were \$190,000 and the funds received \$160,000. A new season of shipping is happening now, and the directors of MSC have decided that **ACCTS** will not spend money it does not have. At least \$50,000 is required in the next few months to cover the current deficit and fulfill the current shipping requirements.

WORKER SUPPORT FUND

Some mission workers are underfunded. To help care for these workers, MSC distributes available funds that have been designated as "Where Most Needed" or that have been donated directly to the **WORKER SUPPORT FUND**. MSC monitors the level of support for each overseas worker and when distributing funds considers many variables such as the cost of living country by country, size of family, immediate needs, and so on.

RETIRED WORKERS FUND

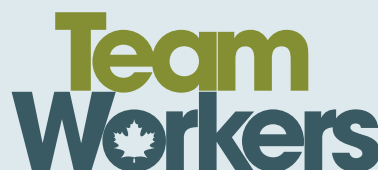
Many mission workers who have reached or are now approaching "retirement" have spent their whole lives living simply by faith from month-to-month in basic conditions. Many of them freely passed on funds sent to them to help in the work or to meet desperate needs around them. Many also find themselves back in Canada with few resources and little income. MSC distributes funds each month to many of these according to what is in the **RETIRED WORKERS FUND**. Some general funds are also allocated in this direction, but the level of support is far below amounts that would be helpful to these faithful servants. MSC was able to pass on from donors about \$100,000 last year. \$150,000 would allow MSC to more adequately help those in need, and \$200,000 would be the most appropriate level.



The **MK EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** helps mission workers to be able to afford to educate their children on the field. Every country, situation and family is different, so some make use of excellent missionary boarding schools, some home school, and some have international schools nearby. In each case, the costs can be a burden and so MSC offers this program through which they can apply for assistance. What funds are available are divided accordingly. Our funds available for this program fall well short of the requests received.

PROMOTING MISSIONS

MSC has a vital role to play in **PROMOTING MISSIONS** among the Lord's people through social, digital and print media, conferences, presentations, videos and email updates. This is all necessary to raise awareness among the local churches who are part of the MSC family about what MSC is and does, how it works, and how it serves mission workers and their sending churches.



One of the great ways that MSC supports workers is through the involvement of two types of short term mission teams. **TEAMWORKERS** puts together teams to support mission workers with technical and practical help in their building and maintenance projects. Meanwhile, **eTEAMS** puts together teams to support mission workers by coming alongside to help equip national believers to evangelize, encouraging churches, and evangelizing in English. Team members pay for their own airfare and insurance, and they go trusting the Lord to provide for their needs.

CONNECT WITH MSC

MSC FUNDING THROUGH THE YEARS

Since it was founded in 1940, MSC has been wonderfully supported by the Lord's people. Thirty years ago in 1986, when MSC operated out of Central Gospel Hall in Toronto, donations handled by MSC amounted to \$4,430,920 out of which \$258,226 (about 5%) was designated for MSC operations. Thirty years later, donations handled have grown to \$13,390,492 out of which \$291,956 (about 2%) were designated for MSC operations.

Consider the changes MSC has undergone since 1986 (30 years):

- Inflation has almost exactly doubled (95.6%)
- MSC handles 54% more funds
- Costs are incurred for MSC to comply with many new regulations
- Higher levels of pre-field training and on-field support are required for workers operating in today's world
- Office in Markham which includes warehouse for the ACCTS program
- Worker support programs outlined under IMPACT in the previous pages

Despite all these factors, current operational costs of \$503,050 have roughly kept pace with inflation since those days 30 years ago in Central Gospel Hall. MSC does not need to reduce these expenses. Operating expenses need to be increased in order for MSC to do a proper job of caring for workers in the field, staying engaged with local churches across the country, and continuing the work of promoting missions. Every facet of MSC has grown substantially with more mission workers, more sending local churches, more donors, and more donations to missions, but support of operational costs have not even matched inflation. The board believes that it's time our partners knew that.

**With thanks on behalf of the MSC board,
Phil Barnes**



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HAVE SOME QUESTIONS?

We'd love to help you understand what we do, how we do it, and who we are.

Visit us on the web:

msccanada.org

Call us:

905.947.0468

Send us an email:

msc@msccanada.org

MISSION PRAYER ITEMS

Each week, MSC compiles a selection of prayer items from mission workers for you to use in your personal prayer times and corporate prayer gatherings. The MPI Email List receives them every Wednesday afternoon.

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