



It doesn't take a professional missiologist to realize that the global missions landscape is

MISSIONS in CANADA

changing rapidly. For over 80 years, MSC mission workers have traveled abroad to take the glorious Gospel message to those who had never heard. During this time, most of the movement of workers was "from the west to the east." MSC has been privileged to serve hundreds who obeyed the call to leave for the uttermost parts of the earth. We will always be excited to support new workers that God calls to go to hard places where they don't have churches, they don't know a Christian, and they've never seen a Bible.

A few years ago, the Board of Directors decided to begin the work of positioning MSC to address the obvious needs within our own borders. As we began this new emphasis, it was stated that we face "the growing reality that Canada is itself a global mission field." A part of this included the introduction of the designation Global Mission Worker to describe anyone who reached out cross-culturally, both across the ocean and in our homeland of Canada.

We are happy to report that as we help churches send their own workers, we are more engaged than ever in three primary areas of focus in Canada. They are:

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA (IPC)

After the first consultation with our workers and partners who serve IPC communities in 2022, in September we hosted a week-long retreat at Faith Bible Camp in MB. Approximately thirty workers were in attendance and we had a wonderful time of training, helpful discussions, rest, music, and great food. We are attempting to grow in our understanding of how we can support these devoted workers who live out and share the Gospel with our indigenous communities, and pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out more to this domestic cross-cultural mission field.

NEWCOMERS

Canada is recognized around the world for its leadership in offering safehaven to people who need refugee protection. This year, we've had the opportunity to support local churches in two provinces who have recently commended workers to full-time newcomer ministry here in Our Home and Native Land. This adds to the ranks of several other MSC workers engaged in refugee ministry who go about doing good just like Jesus did (Acts 10:38). Their ministry continues to open up wonderful opportunities to share the Good News with people of countless nations, tribes, and tongues who have come to live in our neighbourhoods.

QUÉBEC

It may surprise some that Québec is home to North America's largest unreached people group. Statistically, less than 1% are evangelical believers, and so its population of 8.8 million represents a vast mission field right on our doorstep. In early November, we had the opportunity to participate in a networking conference of church leaders who were meeting to discuss the way forward in Québec. It was billed as the most important consultation of the last 20 years among the leaders of the assemblies. We returned home with an increased desire to better serve our francophone workers and to do whatever we can to see La Belle Province reached with the Gospel.

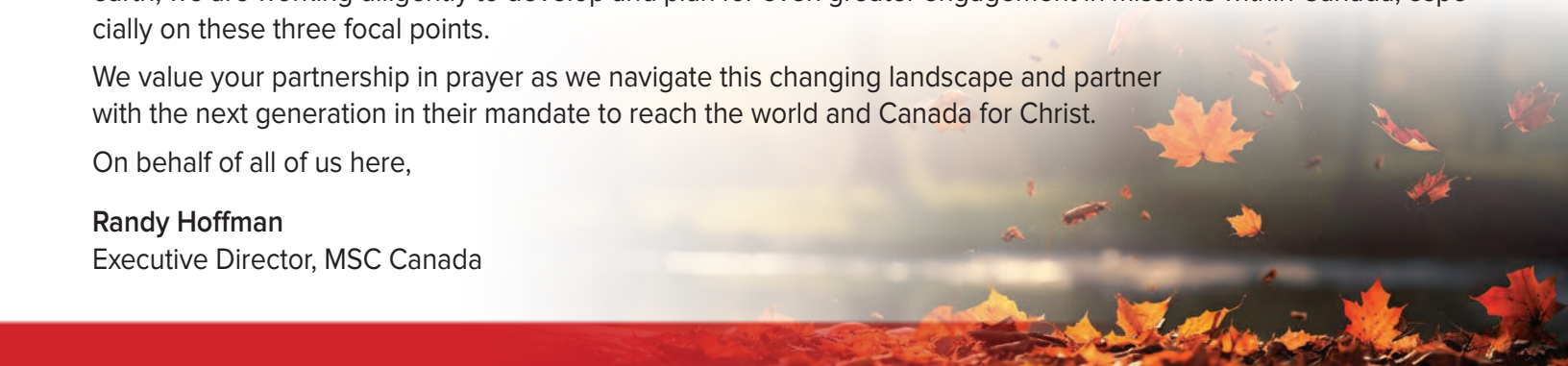
While we will never stray from our roots of supporting churches sending their workers to the uttermost parts of the earth, we are working diligently to develop and plan for even greater engagement in missions within Canada, especially on these three focal points.

We value your partnership in prayer as we navigate this changing landscape and partner with the next generation in their mandate to reach the world and Canada for Christ.

On behalf of all of us here,

Randy Hoffman

Executive Director, MSC Canada





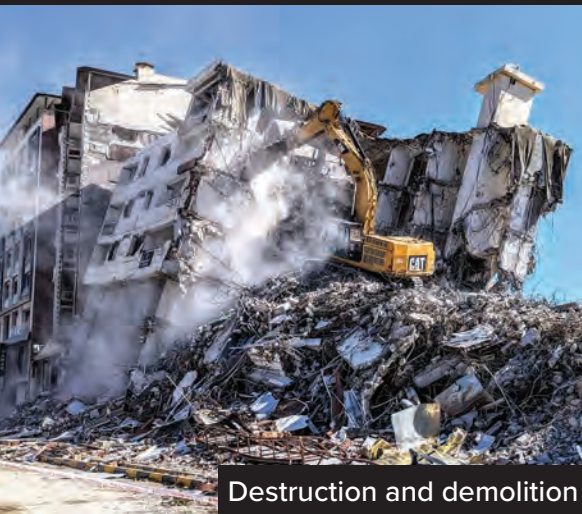
TURKEY

QUAKE RELIEF

**ALMOST 60,000 PEOPLE
WERE LEFT HOMELESS
STRUCK TURKEY AND**

The epicentre was in the city of
the southern border with Syria.

FOLLOWING UP in Antakya, Southern Turkey



Destruction and demolition



Orthodox church ruins

ANTAKYA is the modern name for the strategic New Testament city of Antioch. We read in Acts 11:26 that “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” It was the church in Antioch who sent out Paul and Barnabas on their First Missionary Journey (Acts 13). The believers in Antioch were also known for another first, sending relief to other Christians in need: “The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.” (Acts 11:29)

For many years, MSC has had faithful workers serving among Antakya’s tiny minority of modern Christians. They have seen fruit from their labours as well, as the gathered believers recently outgrew their rented church building. By the start of 2023 the Antakya church was halfway through constructing a larger building for worship and witness, made possible by the generous help of believers like you.

We thank God that on that fateful day in February when the earthquake hit, the MSC workers’ house remained standing and they escaped unharmed. Although other church members also survived, many lost their homes and had to relocate to other parts of Turkey. The quake destroyed the old church building but the new building survived. Hallelujah!

Immediately following the quake, the remaining core of church members re-gathered, obtained a vacant lot, and established a tent-covered Ministry Centre which soon became a busy hub of outreach to the devastated community. MSC immediately set up a Turkey Quake Relief fund. The Lord stirred the hearts of His people across Canada, and donations poured in. To date, **about \$450,000** has been entrusted to MSC for relief, development, and ministry among the devastated population in and around Antakya.

SINCE THE QUAKE, THE FUNDS SENT BY MSC (COMBINED WITH SUPPORT FROM CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD) have enabled our brothers & sisters in Antakya to provide tents, food, water, and clothing to thousands of stricken families all around them. Over recent months, they have also provided hundreds of families with temporary housing ASSEMBLED BY CHRISTIAN WORK GROUPS COMING FROM ALL OVER EUROPE.

LE WERE KILLED AND 1.5 MILLION S WHEN TWO MASSIVE EARTHQUAKES SYRIA ON FEBRUARY 6, 2023.

of Antakya, a city of about 500,000 near



Sunday morning service

At the same time, work has resumed on the new church building. The day will soon come when the believers can meet in the new facility and use it as their base of ongoing outreach. In fact, once completed, this will be one of the only church buildings standing in Antakya.

In the weeks and months since Sunday meetings resumed following the quake, the number of people attending has continued to grow. I had the privilege of visiting Antakya in October, and was astonished when **more than 100 people showed up** on Sunday morning. The majority of those in attendance were new people from the local community coming to learn about the Lord because of the love they were shown by the Lord's people. In a place of widespread spiritual darkness, people were now searching for the Light with newly opened hearts, all because local Christians "let their light shine." This was made possible in part because of many friends like you across Canada who have been supporting their courageous and sacrificial efforts.



Original church building



New church building

While there, I visited Syrian refugee camps scattered all over Antakya, tent cities that are home to thousands who years earlier fled war at home. The Syrians were particularly devastated by the earthquake and are now living in terrible conditions. MSC used some of the Turkey Quake Relief funds to supply tarps, blankets, and mattresses before the coming winter in support of existing ministry among these refugees. This act of love is opening hearts and building bridges in new and wonderful ways.. (continued next page)



LEFT TO RIGHT: Tarp Distribution; Mattress distribution; Doug holding a Syrian Baby, 'Youssef'.

FOLLOWING UP... (continued)

**“THE DISCIPLES,
AS EACH ONE WAS ABLE,
DECIDED TO PROVIDE HELP
FOR THE BROTHERS AND
SISTERS LIVING IN JUDEA.”**

– ACTS 11:29

Throughout this year, MSC has been strategically distributing the Turkey Quake Relief funds through the Lord's people in and around Antakya. During the early weeks and months following the quake, the first priority was to provide relief for destitute families. The focus has since shifted to providing temporary housing as the population rebuilds and clears the rubble, while continuing to aid the neediest families in the local community.

Thanks to the generous support of the Lord's people through MSC, the local believers in Antakya have ministered lovingly to many thousands of people with whom they had no previous contact. Is this not an amazing repeat of Acts 11, with Christians sending help to other Christians in need? But this time, instead of the assistance coming from the church in Antioch, it is flowing to the church in Antioch!

Something has now begun which is much more important than the loving provision of physical needs - there is an awakening of spiritual hunger and openness to the Truth! This is where we should focus our prayers when we think of the church in Antakya. Thanks to the faithful service of MSC Global Mission Workers over the years, and through the courageous witness of the Lord's people in the midst of disaster, an amazing story is happening right now in Antakya. **Let us pray that the Lord will now bring a harvest the likes of which has not been experienced in that place for a long, long time!**

Doug Anderson
Project Manager, MSC Canada

IN PRACTICE... YEAR-END GIVING INFORMATION

If you are planning to give to MSC mission workers, projects, and programs before the end of 2023, we strongly advise you not to leave your giving until the last minute.

ONLINE DONATIONS To give via credit card, PayPal, or eTransfer, simply head to msccanada.org/give. A 3% credit card fee is added to all credit card donations to cover processing fees. Online donations must be made before midnight on December 31st to be eligible for a 2023 tax receipt.

CHEQUE DONATIONS Prepare a distribution list that details who should receive the funds and send the list with a cheque for the full amount (payable to MSC Canada). The cheque must be dated December 31st or earlier and the envelope must be postmarked December 31st or earlier to receive a tax receipt for this year.

CONTACT INFORMATION Our office will be closed for the holidays from December 23, 2023 until January 2, 2024. Should you require assistance, please reach out to our staff by phone or email prior to those dates.

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