

DEAR MSC FAMILY,

When we started work last fall on the first issue of InsideMSC, we hoped we could successfully convey information about MSC's finances without any of you feeling that we were merely soliciting funds. We thank the Lord that the response was very positive, and many of you expressed appreciation at being brought into the loop.

Our hope is that as these newsletters reach you quarterly, you will understand more and more of how MSC operates, where money goes, and the incredible impact that God is making around the globe through your faithful giving.

This issue, we're focused on bringing you into the know about ACCTS Mission Shipping, a vital program run by MSC that meets practical needs and propels the Gospel message.

On behalf of the Board,

Phil Barnes



Executive Director
phil@msccanada.org



MORE THAN STUFF

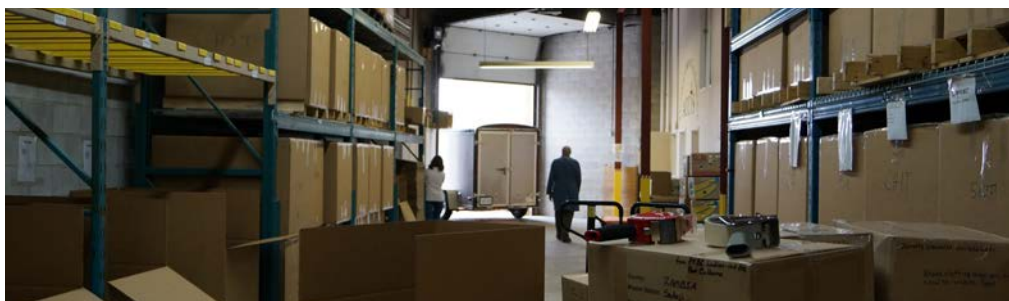
ACCTS

MISSION SHIPPING



In 1987, some folks saw the need for an organization dedicated to supplying equipment to mission hospitals and organizations. Led by Graham Langford, they chose the name ACCTS - an acronym for Answering Christ's Call to Serve. In 2002, ACCTS became a program of MSC and around the same time, Gerrit Van Essen agreed to take leadership of this growing ministry as Director. **These days, we refer to it as ACCTS Mission Shipping.**

Today, the main function of ACCTS is to ship supplies to mission workers, stations, and hospitals in Zambia and occasionally elsewhere. Needed goods and equipment are gathered at MSC's warehouse in Markham, Ontario (and also in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba) and sent in 20 or 40 foot long commercial shipping containers. Some examples of sent items include Bibles, commentaries, electronics, good quality clothing, and supplies for schools, hospitals, households, and maintenance work. Occasionally, special items are sent like solar and well drilling equipment, electrical supplies, and aircraft parts. Large items such as tractors, well drilling rigs and portable saw-mills have also been shipped in recent years.



Since 1988, over 230 containers have been shipped, mostly to Zambia. Occasionally, a special shipment has been made to such countries as Angola, Honduras, Jamaica, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zaire. While it was normal to send one container annually in the early days, today ACCTS often sends up to ten containers a year. As you can imagine, this requires a number of dedicated volunteers. ACCTS has been incredibly blessed over the years with hard-working, diligent men and women who help prepare and load shipments.

Inside this issue, we're going to show you some of the faces and places of ACCTS and take a look into the meaningful impact that curating, preparing, and sending shipping containers can have in support of missions.

INCREASING THE IMPACT

WHAT'S NEEDED NOW

This isn't an exhaustive list but contains some of the most mentioned items from a 2017 survey of mission workers in Zambia.

- **Things You Have Checked with a Worker Specifically!**
- Sterile Surgical Gear
- Canned Meat like Tuna & Chicken
- New Bibles and Picture Bibles
- New, Common Medicine like Tylenol, Aspirin, Advil, etc.
- New, Common Vitamins like C, E, and Multis.
- New, Climate Appropriate Clothing for All Ages - Especially Small Sizes
- New Umbrellas and Raincoats
- New School Supplies
- Shoes in Good Condition

WHAT'S NEVER NEEDED

(Well-meaning folks have actually sent these items!)

- **Things You Haven't Checked with a Worker or MSC Specifically!**
 - Ice Skates • Expired Medicine
 - Broken Equipment • Used Crayons
- Heavy Coats and Extreme Winter Clothing
 - High Heels • Unpaired Shoes
- Oversized Clothes (Anything larger than L is too big)
 - Used Undergarments • Junk Drawer in a Box

VOLUNTEERS



A collection of Loading Day Volunteers, 2016.

ACCTS NEEDS YOU!

ACCTS has a stable group of volunteers right now but there's always work enough for more! There are three types of volunteers involved in making everything run smoothly. They are as follows:

1 WAREHOUSE

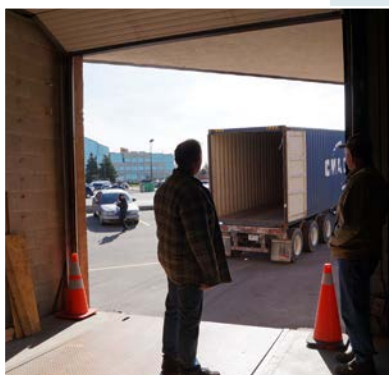
Local to Markham and Portage la Prairie, a small number of these volunteers come in regularly during business hours for the 2-3 weeks of receiving dates to accept, sort, and prepare arriving goods for shipment.



Medical supplies being sorted.



A full warehouse.



Container truck arrives.

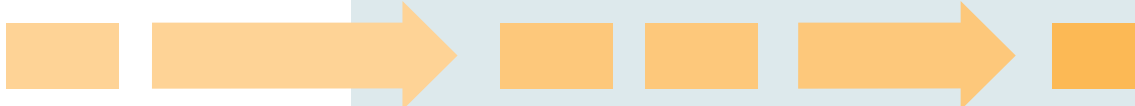


Sorting goods for shipment.



Loading...

CANADA



How YOU can make ACCTS Mission Shipping better

2 LOADING DAY

Coming from all over Ontario to Markham and from all over Manitoba to Portage la Prairie, a large number of volunteers descend on the warehouse on loading days to ensure that each container is filled without wasted space. You supply the muscle and puzzle-solving skills, we'll supply lunch!



Hard at work in the warehouse.

3 MEDICAL SUPPORT

This select team does the difficult work of sorting through all medical equipment and medicine that arrives for shipment, ensuring that what is sent is only what is needed and can be used according to national standards. Some expertise in medical fields is required.

If you're interested in volunteering with ACCTS, please email gerrit@msccanada.org



Unloading and local shipping.

BOXES

ACCTS has official boxes which you can pick up from the MSC warehouse the next time you are dropping off goods for a shipment. These boxes can also be sent to you by courier, you simply cover the cost of shipping them to you. These sturdy cardboard boxes are specially labelled for ACCTS use and are a good size and



An ACCTS box in its natural habitat.

strength for easy handling of most goods. Twelve of them fit precisely into a larger-sized box which is loaded by forklift. This method reduces pilfering at various stages and greatly decreases the time it takes to load a container. If you cannot acquire ACCTS boxes, Home Depot has size SMALL moving boxes for a very reasonable cost. This is less preferable than the boxes we provide.



Twelve ACCTS boxes fit precisely in each shipping box.

MUSENGA, ZAMBIA

HIGHER QUALITY LOWER VOLUME

ACCTS Mission Shipping helps aid the spread of the Gospel by meeting practical needs for literature and equipment while simultaneously helping to relieve suffering and poverty. The Lord's people have given very generously and faithfully to ACCTS, with over \$190,000 received last year alone to cover the costs of shipping goods. Shipping containers overseas involves considerable expense, so we are thankful that a majority of those who collect and pack goods also donate the cost associated with shipping them.

We are very aware of how global markets are rapidly evolving. While it used to make sense to send all sorts of things to Africa, these days it isn't cost-effective to send most used or poor quality goods. To give you some context, it costs about \$16,000 simply to send each container. As we seek to steward the work of ACCTS tactically, one of the most important ways you can help is by emphasizing higher quality and lower volume. It no longer makes sense to send poor quality or unnecessary items.

Whenever possible, it's best to get in touch with workers in Zambia to understand what is needed before putting in the time, effort, and money to ship something via ACCTS.

A special thanks to all of you who support the work of ACCTS Mission Shipping through your faithful and generous donations.

May the Lord bless you with an understanding joyful heart as you continue to serve our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Serving together in Him,
Gerrit Van Essen

ACCTS Director
gerrit@msccanada.org

2017 Receiving Dates
April 18 to May 4
October 10th to 27th

at rear of
101 Amber Street, Unit 16
Markham, ON L3R3B2

Receiving Times
Mondays - Thursdays
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Fridays
9:00 am to 3:30 pm

ACCTS IN PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

ACCTS also ships a couple of containers annually from Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Warehouse space is loaned to ACCTS by local merchants for receiving and shipment for the last two weeks of April and September each year. For those in Western Canada, this is the place to send your goods for shipment.



ACCTS Volunteers in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

**Q: WHEN I GIVE TO ACCTS
WHAT DOES MSC TAKE?**

A: NOTHING.

Following our last issue, a number of readers contacted us and graciously mentioned that we forgot to talk about the fact that MSC's operations do not receive funds from any donation not specifically given for that purpose.

The full amount of any donation to a worker, project, or program like ACCTS goes to where you've designated it and MSC doesn't take a cut for operational costs.

MSC is funded and enabled to operate only by your specific gifts to our operations.

msccanada.org

