



It's the dawn of a new decade.

Surely by now, you've read a number of lists recounting all the best of the 2010s, the best music, the best films, the best new innovations, and so on. Here at MSC, we've been listing and thanking God for the many ways that the 2010s were the best in our history.



"GOD GAVE THE GROWTH"

The past decade marked the highest volume of new mission workers commended and sent across cultures in our recorded history.

It also marked by far the highest quantity of individual donations received as well as total funds received in support of Local Church Driven Missions. Just like you, MSC doesn't do what it does for the numbers, we do what we do because we believe strongly that reaching the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our shared Christian mission and we want to do whatever we can to move it forward for God's glory.

The 2010s were notable for many other reasons. We were privileged to watch a significant increase in the engagement of sending local churches, the establishment of

WorkerCare to better look after the unique challenges faced by those in cross-cultural ministry, and much needed additions to our volunteer base, staff team, and National Committee.

As exceptional as these past ten years were, though, the work done and the growth seen were merely an extension of the vision and groundwork laid by so many faithful men and women over the past eighty plus years. On the reverse, MSC President Russell Sutherland shares his experience of that history as well as your important part in it.

For all there is to be thankful for, the 2010s also introduced a number of new challenges that will need to be faced in the 2020s.

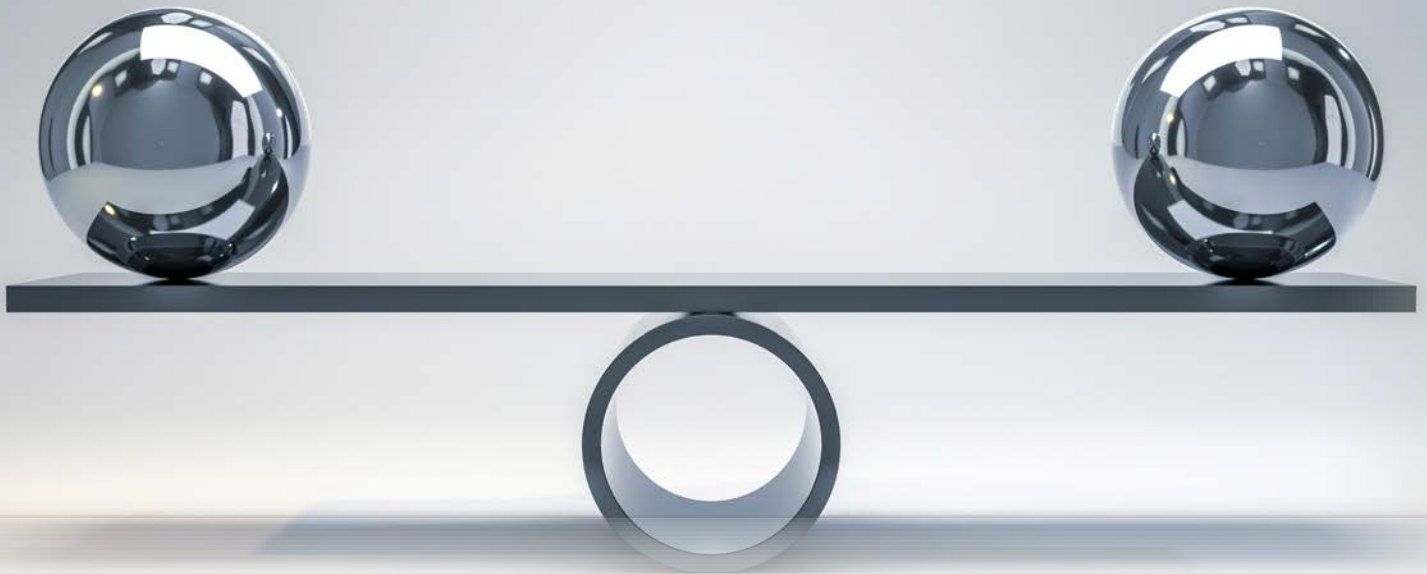
As government regulations shift and grow, so do the financial and security requirements that MSC must meet to continue operating. We'll share a bit more about that inside this issue.

So, we look back with incredible thankfulness over the past decade and the past 80+ years of Local Church Driven Missions. We also look forward to this new decade and all of the myriad opportunities it presents for reaching the world with the good news about Jesus.

We're so glad that you're a part of the MSC Family. We don't take for granted your prayers, your efforts, and your financial support throughout the 2010s and we ask you to stay engaged as we press forward together.



DECADE IN REVIEW



MSC HAS TWO INTERCONNECTED VALUES THAT REALLY MATTER AS WE ENTER THE 2020s. **FIRST**, the ideal of low overhead costs achieved through highly efficient use of operating funds. We want to be good stewards of all that the Lord has entrusted to us through His people and their generous giving. **SECOND**, the ideal of high accountability and compliance, ensuring that any money handled by MSC goes where it is intended and used as designated by donors like you.

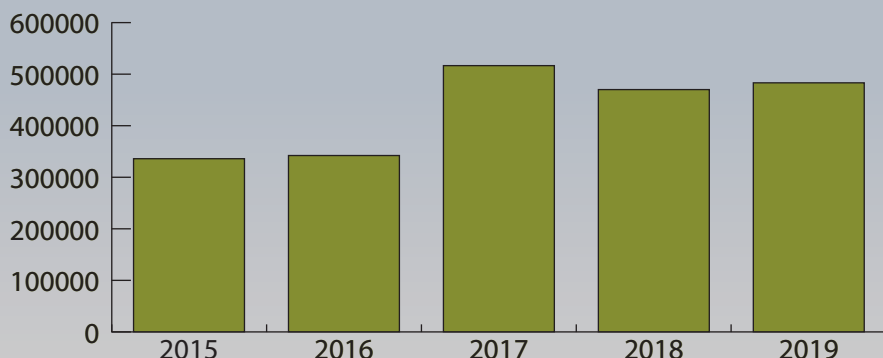
Financially, these two values are front of mind and must each be weighed carefully together. The cost of adequate accountability and compliance constantly increases as the number of workers and local churches we serve continues to rise and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requirements expand. Compliance with regulations is highly valued at MSC because we're not only concerned with our own long-term legal viability, but also that of the workers we serve.

Heading into the 2020s, we see incredible potential for the expansion of WorkerCare, improving missions training for commended workers preparing for the mission field, ways in which our warehouse facilities in Markham could be utilized all throughout the year rather than seasonally, upcoming staff needs, and so much more.

We're aware of a charity that was closed in 2019 because CRA felt that their very low Operations & Administration spending could not possibly enable them to provide the required level of accountability for the finances they were sending out of Canada.

The unfortunate reality is that, based on the best information available to us, MSC does not spend enough on Operations & Administration to satisfy CRA requirements for a charity sending money out of the country. What they expect of us (*roughly 10% of donations handled*) is considerably more than where we're at (*roughly 4% of donations handled*). Just like you, we work with the finances the Lord provides for us, and although giving to Operations has increased significantly in the past five years, we're still well below where we need to be to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of MSC.

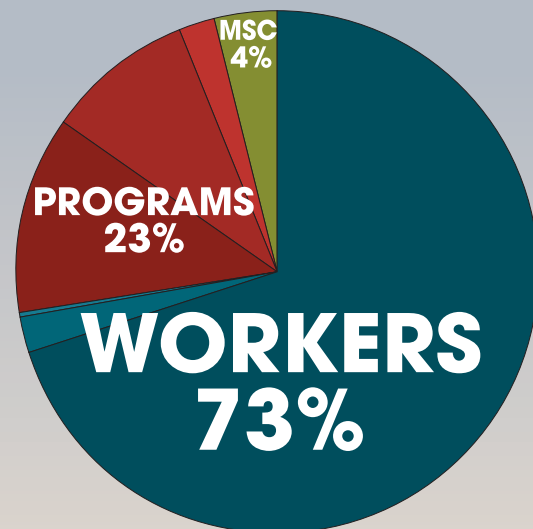
We're telling you this because you're family to us. MSC is something that we all share a part in. As we report increased spending on Operations & Administration in the coming years, you'll know why we are making necessary, valuable investments to ensure that Local Church Driven Missions continues well beyond the 2020s. We want you to know so that you can be praying with us and so that you can rejoice with us as the Lord meets these increased needs as workers serve in increasingly complex missionfields.



TOTAL GIFTS TO OPERATIONS

Giving to MSC's Operations has significantly increased in the past three years. As it has, our ability to better serve workers and sending churches has grown in turn. Among the staff there is a deep sense of gratitude for the expanded scope of work these gifts allow. Please join us in praying that this trend would continue, for God's glory.

WHERE DONORS GAVE in 2019



TOTAL DONATIONS*
\$13,891,173

*not including legacies

DID YOU KNOW?

- IN THE 2010s, MSC'S WORKERCARE VISITED

221 MISSION WORKERS IN



AROUND THE WORLD TO PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT, FELLOWSHIP, AND COUNSEL.

- IN 2019, WE HANDLED

OVER \$18M IN DONATIONS INCLUDING LEGACIES

THESE GIFTS WERE DESIGNATED TO MISSION WORKERS, PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND OUR OPERATIONS.

- OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

66 NEW OR RETURNING MISSION WORKERS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT.

THIS IS THE HIGHEST AMOUNT FOR ANY 5 YEAR PERIOD IN OUR HISTORY.

- OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

OUR SMALL FINANCIAL TEAM HAS HANDLED JUST SHORT OF **100,000** INDIVIDUAL GIFTS AVERAGING ABOUT **20,000** UNIQUE DONATIONS PER YEAR.

I've always been acutely aware of the idea of family.

I was born into what would become a relatively large tribe, being the third of eight, seven of whom were boys. As my sister often recalls: "I was raised by wolves." In my early teens, my earthly family began to disintegrate. As my parents divorced, my siblings and I were very much left on our own.

Then I met the Lord Jesus. By His saving grace and kindness, I entered into the family of God. I found a small local church and they became my new parents and siblings. They provided for me a nurturing source of love, discipline and acceptance.

Looking back, much has changed since that time: marriage, children and now grandchildren. After 30 years of church leadership, I have stepped down and now serve as elder emeritus. Many people have moved away. A whole new generation of young believers surround me, well equipped to minister to their generation with a global sense of mission and vision for the Gospel.

Over twenty five years ago, I entered into another family: MSC Canada. I had developed an interest in missions through reading and listening to reports and messages of others who had gone out to new and strange places. Since that time, much has changed in the MSC family. Many new workers have been sent out and others have returned after years of faithful service. All of those who invited me into the MSC family are now gone. New and younger faces have joined in to continue the work of serving local churches and those whom they have commended. The work done by MSC has expanded greatly to meet the growing needs of workers in a changing and challenging world of new government regulations, unique pastoral needs, and safety issues as crises occur around the world.

In the midst of all these changes, the values held by MSC have not changed: thoughtful service of local churches and their commended workers, unity of purpose in the spread of the gospel, and careful use of donations and other financial resources. I have learned much from the example of the older and wiser MSC committee members. I remain in their debt and trust that these same Christian values will continue to rule and guide us in all that we do for generations to come.

You are also vital members of the MSC family. Without your faithful support and prayers over the past decades, very little of our much needed expanded ministry could have been accomplished. We are in a close partnership and share a joint stewardship in the Gospel, to take the Good News of the Lord Jesus to the uttermost and hard places of our changing world.

In my mind, being part of the global Christian family has been a very good thing. It allows me to look back at many years of service to the Lord and his people, and like Paul **"thank God and take courage."** The Lord is not ashamed to call us friends, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters.

On behalf of the National Committee,



Russell Sutherland
President



msccanada.org

