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**Overseas Ministries Study Center**

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Executive Director



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Dear OMSC Supporter:

Joyful greetings from OMSC! We hope that you will be encouraged as you read *The Hearth*. We have much for which to give thanks! Our residential community this year is animated by the hustle and bustle of forty adults, sixteen children, and an assortment of short-term visitors who come and go from week to week. They hail from the Sudan, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Korea, Japan, China, Gaza, Iraq, Australia, Norway, and the United States.

These wonderful men, women, and children could not be here without your support. While every OMSC resident is at least partially subsidized, ten receive full scholarships that provide for travel, medical insurance, a furnished apartment, and a modest monthly stipend. Priority is given to applications from church leaders and missionaries who serve in countries where persecution of Christians is permitted, encouraged, or rewarded.

Our scholarship/subsidy program this year costs \$155,000. This comes to \$2,760 per year for each long-term OMSC resident.

While they are here these men and women bless churches and faith communities across the country. In late spring—renewed in body, mind, and spirit—they return to their countries to resume heavy leadership responsibilities. Each year we wonder where the money will come from to sustain these scholarships, and each year God has provided, as he did for the poor, sensibly anxious widow of Zeraphath in Elijah's day. "Don't be afraid," Elijah reassured her. "For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land'" (1 Kings 17:14 NIV).

In a time when the entire world—including OMSC—is obliged to "share the pain" of massive, ill-conceived investments gone awry, contributing to the needs of OMSC's residents is one of the most secure long-term investments that I know of.

May I invite you to invest with us this year?

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Bonk", is positioned above the printed name.

Jonathan J. Bonk

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