



The mission of the Fund for Assistance is to support the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, specifically, the moral-spiritual education of youth, aid to its clergy and distribution of emergency relief to its missions.



Bali



Bethany



Haiti

The orphans at Bethany School for Girls needed a van, and you said **“Yes!”**

Donors like you buy a van for Orthodox orphans in the Holy Land

A few months ago, we wrote to you about Sister Martha, the head of the Bethany school for girls. More than that, she's the unofficially adopted mother to the orphans.

The orphans need a new van. Their old workhorse is on its last legs. Your response has been unbelievable – we collected over \$40K! Now we have more than we need for the 9-seater van that Sister Martha was looking at. The surplus will be used to provide for the daily needs of the orphans: food, clothing, doctors' bills.

Thank you so much for showing so much love to Orthodox Orphans in Bethany!



Watch an interview with Sister Martha on our [facebook](#) and [YouTube Channel](#)

You led the horse to water. Then you helped it drink!

Orthodox Mission trains poverty-stricken Haitians life skills to help defeat poverty for the long term



Thanks to you, the supporters of FFA, our Orthodox brothers and sisters in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere are becoming financially independent for the first time in decades. Not only that, but you are helping to provide the community with skills that will help them for generations to come!

Haiti has been constantly battered by disasters for the last decade. In September 2004, tens of thousands were displaced by widespread flooding. In 2008, four fierce tropical storms destroyed over 60% of the country's food stock. In 2010,

a magnitude 7 earthquake destroyed most of the capital city of Port au Prince. Still reeling from the earthquake, the Orthodox community of Haiti was rocked with the tragic early death of their spiritual father, Fr. Gregoire, in November of 2015.

As though that weren't enough, the region was struck with another destructive hurricane in 2016.

Can we blame our Haitian brothers and sisters if some of them have lost hope? Why work, after all, if everything will be destroyed again anyway? But with your

help, FFA acted to stop this self-defeating cycle.

Thanks to your support, the FFA has joined with the Orthodox Mission of Haiti to present a “Congress on Work,” which included a special training session on “testifying through multimedia.” Imagine a room equipped with a dozen computers and a video projector, where 15 people are listening attentively to various courses, including rudimentary training in computer science, photography, communication, and even liturgics.

These courses provide impoverished Haitians with practical skills that they can then use to support themselves financially. But far more importantly, the acquired skills allow them to testify to the world, in multimedia form, how their spirit

can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

As the organizer of this event, reader Martin Dumais, wrote in his report to the FFA,

“Between suffering, courage, and love for the Church; between disappointment, determination, and love for family, these testimonies were able to engage participants to the path of action, work, and service.”

The participants also worshiped together, even finding time to make a pilgrimage to the parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Leogaine.

“This especially allowed participants to sympathize with each other and to show solidarity.”





In effect, you've empowered the people of Haiti to lay the foundation for the financial stability of their children and grandchildren for generations to come.

However, this project is only at its beginning. We need your help to overcome some serious hurdles, including:

- Faulty electrical infrastructure at the Institution Notre dame des Petits, which sponsors these training seminars
- Lack of necessary computers and software to implement the training programs
- Insufficient energy to power the computers
- A lack of sufficient knowledge in how to use computers [I toned this down because if the knowledge on how to use

the computers is so poor, then it's a lack of judgement to create the multimedia training center.]

Despite many other setbacks, you've helped lay a valuable foundation. Those who participated were inspired to continue their training, and they will become ambassadors of hope to their respective communities.

We hope that you will continue to be a beacon of hope to our Orthodox brothers and sisters in a region that has seen little hope in the last decade.



Pristine beaches, exotic food, and... Orthodox Christianity?

FFA supporters save Orthodox community in Bali from rent closure

Thanks to your unflagging support, the Orthodox Church is continuing to grow in the far East!

"With gratitude to God Almighty, on behalf of the ROCOR congregation in Bali, I say many thanks for the financial support from FFA." (Fr. Alexander Kobesi, ROCOR priest of Bali)

You might think that, being in a popular tourist destination, our local congregation in Bali would not lack for money. It turns out the opposite is true:

"As a popular destination of world tourism, the cost of living in Bali is quite expensive. Especially food, house rent and transportation. That's why we always ask for outside help. But we believe that with God's help all these difficulties will be overcome."

That, as you'll find out, is a tremendous understatement. Originally, Fr. Alexander looked for a cheap option to serve his flock. He found a small chapel in Singaraja, North Bali,



"At that moment I thought, if there is no money, then the only way I have is to sell my own house."

but most people who travel to Bali cannot get to Singaraja, because it is too far away. The only option was to find something in the capital of Denpasar, the tourist hub. As expected, everything in Denpasar is much more expensive.

Fr. Alexander was at his wit's end. His eager congregation wanted to have weekly services. They'd ask him regularly about a place to hold services. Here's what he had to answer them:

"I had not found a place. I traveled around Denpasar to find a cheap and comfortable place. After finding the place, the next problem was the cost of renting the premises."

At a certain point, the congregation was so behind in payments that the landlord threatened to evict them.





were ecstatic. One of them, Nina Noersadi, expressed her joy in writing:

"Thank you, Fr. Alexander and FFA, for now our services are starting regularly. I'm glad that ceremonies will be happening regularly."

However, this is only the beginning for Orthodoxy on Bali.

"I felt very ashamed," said Fr. Alexander. "At that moment I thought, if there is no money, then the only way is I have to sell my own house."

What a humble, hardworking servant of God! But God provided, through your generous help!

"In the end, the grants came from the FFA."

When the congregation found out about your unlooked-for help, they

"We are aware that the mission of ROCOR Bali can only run well and regularly if supported with sufficient funds. We are not yet independent in the funding field. We still rely on help from ROCOR."

Don't forget our brothers in beautiful Bali! Donate to help Father Alexander today. Perhaps, with your help, he will be able to purchase a church in the near future.

A 100 years from now you could still be helping your Church!

Leave a gift in your Will to your favorite charity... and you will create a personal legacy that will last forever! Our informative new brochure "A Guide to Wills and Bequests" explains everything you need to know in non-technical terms. To request your free copy, please call Alena Plavsic at (917)817-2925 or email alena@fundforassistace.org

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Our Promise

Your money – your decision: 100% of all donations directly fund the cause indicated by the donor. Stay updated on how your kindness supports the Church you love: subscribe to our email newsletter on our website:

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Fund for Assistance to the Russian
Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
P.O.Box 272
Glen Cove, NY 11542

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