

# The Cry

Volume 2 Number 1

Pentecost 2021



**Croatia:** *The REC responded vigorously to the devastating earthquake that struck Croatia in late December, assisting in both recovery and delivery of supplies. Learn more about the work in Croatia on page 2.*

In Cuba, thanks be to God —  
And, by the way, to you as well

Reformed Episcopalians responded above and beyond for the 2020 Advent Offering and raised over \$40,000 for REC Cuba!



The Cuban Standing Committee is in process of purchasing the Seminary House, and was able to provide much-needed COVID relief funds to many clergy in desperate need—as black market inflation has surged beyond 300 percent for

basic staples, such as \$20 for a pound of rice and \$30 for a dozen eggs. Well done, and thank you to all!

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# The REC ministers aid to Croatia earthquake victims

The Reformed Episcopal Church in Croatia, led by Bishop Jasmin Milić, has been assisting with efforts to aid those affected by a 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck the town of Petrinja on December 29. Numerous foreshocks and aftershocks, registering as high as 5.3, shook the region as well.

Sisak-Moslavina County sustained extensive damage and seven people, including a 12-year-old girl, died. Petrinja is situated about 30 miles south of Zagreb, the capital, which sustained minor damage.

An REC team from Karlovac, led by Father Almir Pehlić, visited villages bringing blankets, clothing, water, food and sanitary necessities. In virtually every case, displaced families saw their houses scheduled for demolition and relocated to trailers and housing containers.

The REC churches in the country escaped damage and were able to begin collecting supplies immediately in cooperation with the Red Cross of Croatia and other agencies. The REC Board of Foreign Missions sent emergency funds to purchase blankets, food, water and toilet paper to distribute in Jesus' Name. Please remember Croatia in your prayers and pray that the REC team be a light in the darkness.

Bp. Milić, meanwhile, has been recovering from COVID. "I was in isolation for two weeks," he reports. "I had problems with my sinuses and throat and a light fever but thank God it passed. I still feel tired. I have not yet regained my strength completely, but I am slowly recovering."

To assist with their relief efforts, go to our **donation form** and enter the amount you wish to donate in the line labeled "Croatia Earthquake Relief Fund."

Bp. Milić provides this report on ongoing ministry activities in the region:

**Zagreb** Last month we renewed our work in Zagreb. We did not have a space for several years and worship services

were held in the home of one of our believers. We have now rented a space in the center of Zagreb and Father Almir holds services on Saturday evenings and Tuesdays. Worship services are broadcasted via the Internet.



*Parishioners distribute supplies to earthquake victims*

**Karlovac** Karlovac is blessed with a growing and faithful congregation. Recently we added a new member to our church family and we do hope we will have another catechumen by the end of the year. We are finishing our Bible study of the Book of Genesis and soon beginning the Book of Exodus. We are still trying to raise funds to buy our own church space. In three months we will try to extend our contract for space we are currently using. Lay Reader Domagoj Rade is

assisting with pastoral and music ministry.

**Tordinici** On May 16 we will mark the 470th anniversary of the first mention of our church in Tordinici. (The Synod was held in Tordinici on May 17, 1551. The church had certainly existed at least 10 years prior but this date is the first mention of this parish). Then we will have the confirmation of several young people. We had planned a bigger celebration, but due to the pandemic we are postponing until a more favorable time. In addition to my role as pastor, Father Nenad Adžić and lay reader Vinko Kiš also serve in Tordinici.

*See CROATIA on page 3*



*Bp. Jasmin Milić lends a hand with the relief effort*

# Croatia: Day-to-day ministry goes on among the ruins

## Every church a **SENDING PARISH!**

- 1) *Missions Advocate*
- 2) *General Fund*
- 3) *Adopt-a-Missionary*

*All SENDING PARISHES will be given a tabletop missions banner and a Cycle of Prayer booklet for every family.*

## Projects and short-term missions

1. Bible/Hymnal/BCP replacement or addition for a new overseas parish.
2. Arrange a Parish School Choir tour to bless a foreign diocese.
3. Send a VBS Team or Teacher to assist a local leader.
4. Do a home-exchange and put your gardening, handyman, organizing, painting, or other skills to use as a working vacation (or as guest in a parishioner home).
5. Commit to a week of street evangelism with one of our European partners.
6. Collect a suitcase of water filters, medicines, and supplies for delivery to Cuba (bring them yourself as a tourist, once travel opens up!)
7. Volunteer to lead "Veritas-in-a-Week."
8. "Adopt-a-Priest" for the Cuba ministry.
9. Recruit prayer partners to pray through the Cycle of Prayer with you.
10. Have another skill or idea to share? email [info@rec-bfm.org](mailto:info@rec-bfm.org)!

Each of these ideas can move to its planning phase when chosen by a parish or individual. (Teams, projects, and travel require BFM endorsement before adoption.)

*Continued from page 2*

**Osijek** The students have returned to schools so our space is full of young people every day who come to copy but also sit during the break in our church yard. They also regularly take New Testaments that we leave at the door. The church has regular services that are also broadcast via the Internet.

**Kapelna** Deacon Damir Sitar from Osijek is going to Kapelna. Unfortunately, Father Bob Hitching cannot go to Kapelna due to his endangered health, but we are in regular contact. With his help, we bought another house in Kapelna that serves us for humanitarian purposes. We accommodated a young Roma couple there until they managed to move on. We have not worked on the roof of the church so far for lack of funds.

**Belgrade** Since in Serbia until recently the COVID situation was difficult, especially in Belgrade, we held services once a month. Still, we have new people visiting us and we believe that God will grant us the increase.

In addition to the above, we are still working on translating and editing *The Book of Common Prayer*. When more favorable travel opportunities are created, teams from the USA are certainly welcome to come and visit us.

**The Gresser family — ready to go again!**

*Ph.D. — Teach where needed.*



*Dr. Gresser and family are rarin' to go.*

# Roland Allen, Missionary Analyst

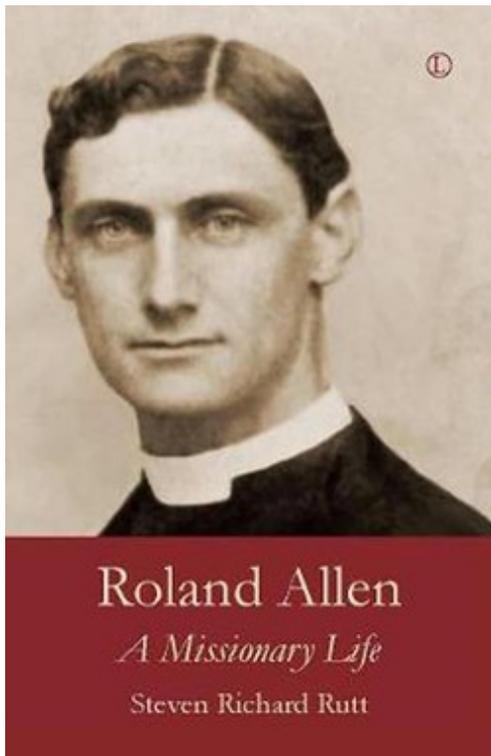
*by the Rev. Dr. Steven Richard Rutt*

## *Trusting in the Spirit, living for the word*

A century ago Roland Allen envisioned a global church emerging from indigenous Christianity. At this time the standard missionary practices in the majority world—Asia, Africa and Latin America—were managed by Western missionary societies through mission stations. Although a missionary and advocate for the sending of missionaries, Allen (1868-1947) argued that creating mission stations was totally foreign to the mission practice of St. Paul.

His clarion call for an apostolic application of indigenous church principles exposed the mission-station methodology as paternalistic to the core.

His belief in the simplicity of Pauline missiology compelled him to argue for a better way to do mission by (1) transferring missionary churches to indigenous converts without going through a process of winding down foreign leadership and influence; (2) ordaining local ministers—stipendiary and voluntary—to direct, manage and administer the sacraments for their own churches by means of an indigenous episcopate; and (3) trusting the Holy Spirit to direct these churches without foreign control. Today, these are considered mainstream practice, but this was not the case a century ago.



The primary interpretive model which shaped Allen's missiology was rooted in St. Paul's missionary principles and practice. Firstly, after his father's untimely death as a missionary in Belize (when Roland was less than 5 years old) his life was the product of a conventional Anglican churchmanship and nurtured by his mother's evangelical faith. This backdrop of an evangelical Anglican ethos explains his high view of the Scriptures. Secondly, his classical education at Oxford influenced the way he reasoned through and engaged with philosophical questions and theological doctrine.

Thirdly, his spiritual formation was enhanced by some leading fathers of the Oxford Movement, who personally influenced his thinking on sacramental theology, patristic ministry and apostolic order. Fourthly, his

## *On the midnight train to Delhi, and beyond*

During Roland Allen's first visit to India (1910-11), he was accompanied by his wife Beatrice. They spent about two months and visited Delhi, Calcutta and Madras where he was asked to preach in these urban centers and lesser locales as well. Allen met Vedanayakam Samuel Azariah and more than likely met Henry Whitehead, bishop of Madras. In 1927 he was invited back by Azariah, by now a bishop, to minister within his diocese, Dornakal, and by Bishop George C. Hubback to minister within his diocese, Assam. This visit spanned three months beginning in December 1927.

He spent most of this time answering questions and arguing in defense of ways to apply the principle of voluntary clergy within their village churches. Allen's mission theology facilitated church renewal and transformation under Bp. Azariah's leadership significantly without costly infrastructure apparatuses in Dornakal. Alas, Bp. Hubback's leadership inflexibility and a lack of missional foresight inhibited apostolic renewal in Assam.

Bp. Azariah's familiarity with Allen's writings on how to plant self-supporting, self-governing and self-propagating churches created an environment

# MISSIOLOGY

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missionary experience in China (1895-1903) was pivotal in adding competence to his missionary theology. These factors molded the way he thought and approached a contemporary application of St. Paul's missiology.

This ecclesiological ethos played a significant role in how his missionary ecclesiology developed. He specifically began to argue for a missiology which promoted independence—shaped from Pauline influence—for indigenous converts and implicitly contended for all its members to take responsibility for the church's development and maturity.

Allen's vision for the church encased a combination of Spirit and order—that is, pneumatology and ecclesiology. He believed that the Holy Spirit empowers the missionary church to apply timeless apostolic principles in any given situation, always seen through the lens of catholicity—the one, holy, catholic

## INDIA

*Continued from page 4*

of expansion for clergy, laity and diocesan boundaries. Azariah assessed the willingness of his clergymen to expand their mission base for the sake of developing *new* dioceses. Church expansion was virtually certain because of the bishop's willingness to authorize existing teachers and catechists as fully equipped priests, to ordain new voluntary clergy in all the churches and to identify pastors who were gifted as traveling evangelists rather than resident priests.

Bp. Azariah embraced Allen's principles wholeheartedly and sought ways to oversee diocesan adjustments wherever necessary. The time was right for church renewal and transformation. Since 1912, and even earlier before Azariah's episcopal consecration, historian Susan Harper said, Azariah had already "proved to be such a competent leader and administrator that, within a decade, the Synod extended his diocese to cover an area roughly the size of England." Allen's teachings in Dornakal reinforced the "clergy troops" to prepare for planting more missionary churches.

and apostolic church. His contribution to missiology stemmed from a Pauline faith and practice rooted in the Bible, a common creed, ordained ministers and the sacraments and was, therefore, fully equipped with ministry orders to function as indigenous churches.

He proposed the restoration of an ancient custom of apostolic order which he believed would advance the Church's evangelism, particularly through the laity, to pioneer regions where the church had no current witness. Allen's ongoing contributions to missionary ecclesiology are identified with (1) the historical significance for what he believed were universal apostolic principles and (2) how these principles provide flexibility within a framework of Spirit-driven catholicity to a changing missionary environment.

Apostolic Method	-----	Spirit <i>before</i> Order
Apostolic Principle	-----	Spirit <i>with</i> Order
Apostolic Order	-----	Spirit- <i>empowered</i> Order

Harper wrote that under the leadership of Bp. Azariah (1874-1945), Dornakal became the fastest growing Anglican diocese in South Asia, increasing from 56,681 in 1912 to 225,080 in 1941, a number exceeding the total of Anglican converts in Japan, Korea and China combined. In 1936 the diocese baptized in excess of 200 converts per week and a total of 11,400 converts that year. This level of growth continued throughout the decade. The Dornakal diocese was prophetically enriched by Roland Allen's indigenous church planting methods during this missionary journey in December 1927.

Because Azariah accepted Allen's principles, his diocese experienced greater freedom from dependency on foreign money and control and this spirit of indigenous church expansion spilled out into greater India.

*Dr. Rutt earned his Ph.D. from Lancaster University in England, writing his dissertation on Roland Allen. He is currently the Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at Arizona Christian University, where he is also planting a new REC100 mission on campus.*

# In Cuba, the price of a dozen eggs soars to \$30



*Cubans face severe shortages in the country's worst economic crisis since the collapse of the Soviet Union*

Cuba, like many other nations in our broken world, is struggling mightily against the third wave of the debilitating COVID pandemic. While vaccines are being developed in-country, there has been no roll-out yet for the general population.

The situation is especially desperate in Cuba due to U.S. sanctions and economic devastation stemming from a months-long lockdown that crippled the tourism industry. Conditions are the most dire since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Revolutionary in all things, Cuba has not attempted to purchase vaccines from multinational pharmaceutical makers or even to enlist in the COVAX dose-sharing program of the World Health Organization that offers free or reduced-cost vaccines to poor nations. The government has offered no cogent explanation.

Much of Cuba remains in virtual lockdown, with many areas, including Havana, under mandatory curfews from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m. In some locations seniors are required to stay in their homes round the clock.

These restrictions make it almost impossible to access essential groceries and medication even when they can be found. In at least one city with an REC presence there are no meat, fish, fresh vegetables or oil for cooking. Someone from each family must stand in a food line up to 40 hours each week just to access the

few things that may be available, often waiting over five hours with no guarantee anything will be available when he reaches the front.

Inflation is rampant. A dozen eggs that would have cost \$5 U.S. a few months ago now costs \$30. A pound of rice that sold in June 2020 for between \$1.75 and \$2 now costs between \$17 & \$20! To say Cubans are suffering would be a gross understatement. Pray for Cuba, and especially our REC brothers and sisters!

On a positive note, we see movement on the official recognition of the REC by the Cuban government. If this can be completed, visitation by Canadian and U.S. clergy and lay partners on religious visas (post-pandemic of course) would be greatly streamlined. The bishop and standing committee are striving to complete the process without compromise on the authority of Scripture.

For more on developments in Cuba, read the full Easter *Cuba Chronicles* at [www.rec-bfm.org](http://www.rec-bfm.org).

**The Rev. Canon Barclay Mayo**

# Your generosity pours out blessings on the work in Cuba

Continued from page 1

Looking to enjoy more of the healthiness of the Body of Christ in your parish growth?

1. Become friends with one domestic and one foreign parish, as a BFM CIRCLE OF THREE.
2. Marshall your missions budget and parish life to become a SENDING PARISH.
3. ADOPT-A-PRIEST in the Missionary Diocese of Cuba. (See "Donate Now" page on the BFM website. Priest—\$120/month; Deacon—\$80/month; Deaconess and Missionary Lay Reader—\$50/month; and seminar-ians—\$30/month.)

Partnering with the Anglican Network in Canada, the Board of Foreign Missions invites parishes to sponsor \$45,000 of the \$70,000 budget for the REC Missionary Diocese of Cuba.

See [www.rec-bfm.org](http://www.rec-bfm.org) for photos, interviews, and bios of the clergy you are so generously supporting!

**The Rev'd Canon John Peter Boonzaaijer**  
BFM President



**Stronger Together—Circles of Three**

## Join the BFM in the vital work of publishing the gospel to all the nations

Convinced that mission is an essential activity of the Church, the Reformed Episcopal Church Board of Foreign Missions encourages the participation of Reformed Episcopalians in ministry and service throughout the world.

- Sign up to be added to our [email list](#).
- Visit our [Donations](#) page, which provides a method for online giving.
- Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on Twitter: [@REC-BFM](#)
- Ask your Rector to appoint a "Mission Advocate" to share BFM news in your parish and have your Mission Advocate sign up for our [email list](#) and indicate that he or she is a Mission Advocate.

Planting, Building, and Restoring the Church and its Ministry

in

Croatia

Cuba

Germany

United Kingdom

(Free Church of England)

and beyond.



Board of Foreign Missions  
Supporting Reformed Episcopalians  
in Ministry Abroad

The Board challenges every Reformed Episcopalian to take part in ministry and service as you are able, and to pray for and support all who serve Christ throughout the world.

Our website, [rec-bfm.org](http://rec-bfm.org), focuses on REC mission efforts outside North America. Here are some specific ways you can become involved in supporting the work of the Board of Foreign Missions:

- Learn more about the REC BFM by visiting the "[About Us](#)" page and following the links to missionary biographies.

### A Prayer for Missions

*O GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are far off and to them that are nigh; Grant that all men everywhere may seek after thee and find thee. Bring the nations into thy fold, pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# Cycle of Prayer

for

## Reformed Episcopal Foreign Mission Works



Trinitytide  
2021

(Download from website)



### Let us Pray!

The Reformed Episcopal Church has parishes, dioceses and ministry partners around the world and invites all Reformed Episcopalians to pray for these mission works, missionaries and ministries.

While the Advent through Pentecost Cycle focused on the Free Church of England, this Trinitytide issue includes many of the works of The REC Missionary Dioceses of Cuba, Croatia, and Germany. To be a Christian this past year has been laden with much opportunity, and we pray for God's blessing upon the churches and their leaders as they labor for His harvest more than ever!

The *Cycle of Prayer* makes it simple to incorporate prayer for missions into the Daily Office as well as private prayer and includes a Litany for use in corporate worship services. Contact missionaries directly or follow their news through [www.rec-bfm.org](http://www.rec-bfm.org), where one can sign up for newsletters and support the BFM General Fund or designated missionaries, churches and projects.

If your parish has become a "Sending Parish" (see website), the BFM would like to send

a complimentary tabletop missions banner and enough copies of this *Cycle of Prayer* for each family of the parish. Send a note to [info@rec-bfm.org](mailto:info@rec-bfm.org). Thank you for praying!

**The Rev. Canon John Peter Boonzaaijer**  
President, Board of Foreign Missions

*The Cry* is a publication of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

Publisher: The Rev. Canon John Peter Boonzaaijer  
Editor: The Rev. Edward W. Fowler

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