



OPC STORM Report

Short-Term Outreach, Relief and Missions

What is our Response to Tornado Devastation?

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Phil 2:4



It is a true grace to see the love, compassion, and concern we have for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, particularly when devastation happens to one of us such as we have been seeing the past few weeks in Oklahoma and the surrounding region.

Many are wondering if the OPC will have an organized disaster response effort there. The devastation there is certainly immense, and it seems to have increased in recent days. (I personally experienced the warnings of "severe weather" and "tornado watch" while I was there on Wednesday night...a bit harrowing, indeed!)

In our disaster response efforts, we rely heavily on the local church in leading those efforts. Grace OPC in Norman, just 5-10 miles south of the devastation, is not very big and currently has no deacons. (That's not to suggest that Pastor Todd Dole and the congregation are not willing to do what they can!) Additionally, we are relieved to find that up until now we do not know of any OPC families who have been directly impacted by the tornadoes, thank the Lord! Thus, we are finding that, in these early weeks post-disaster, there is not a lot that we can do directly as a denomination, besides lifting up these folks in prayer.

We do know of Christian families who lost their homes. Many of these are connected to the Doles via their homeschool co-op. It would be wonderful to be able to minister to them. But at this point, it is simply too early for us to be even able to have much meaningful contact with them.

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Grace OPC has been thankful to receive an abundant supply of financial gifts (donations and gift cards) for use in ministering to those who are hurting. For those who desire to have a place to send donations, Grace OPC in Norman is willing to receive such donations. The Committee on Diaconal Ministries is **also willing** to receive funds designated for Tornado Relief, although we are not actively soliciting those at this time.

Please understand that we do want to help and are willing to lead in this effort at the point that we find we are able to do this in a meaningful manner. Please pray that the Lord will guide us in these matters. Pray especially for Pastor Todd Dole and the congregation in Norman, that they might know how best to minister to those the Lord brings their way.

Donations can be sent to:

Payable: *Deacons Fund*

Noted: *Tornado Relief*

Grace OPC

310 N. Findlay Ave

Norman, OK 73071

Payable: *Orthodox Presbyterian Church*

Noted: *Tornado Relief*

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Find Most Current Updates on Facebook

One way that we can keep many updated with the latest news is through the OPC Disaster Response Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/OPCDisasterResponse> . You do not need to be a Facebook subscriber to read the posts.

Is your church's opportunity listed? Would you like a team this summer or at another time to help you? Please visit www.opcstm.org for more information on opportunities to serve. If you have a project or ministry opportunity that you would like to discuss with Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator David Nakhla, please contact him by phone 562-760-7606 or e-mail at nakhla.1@opc.org.

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