STM Season 2013 - It's a wrap!

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

The church is privileged to send out workers into the fields that Christ has described as "white for harvest" (Jn 4:35). The OPC, from the very first days of her existence, has sought to faithfully respond to this call with the sending of missionaries to serve as evangelists both domestically and abroad. Currently, the OPC as a denomination through the contributions given to the Worldwide Outreach Program supports 31 church planters and 8 regional home missionaries domestically and sends 15 foreign missionary families residing in 7 foreign fields - China, Haiti, Japan, Quebec, Uganda, Ukraine, and Uruguay. This does not even include the many other church planting efforts, missionaries, and missionary associates supported by individual churches and presbyteries of the OPC!

This summer, it has been a great joy for many individual members of our congregations to come alongside these full-time laborers in their work, to share their lives, to experience some of their work, and to assist them in that work. These labors took the form of both word and deed ministries, all done in the name of Christ, with the goal of bringing glory to God and sowing the seed of the gospel among the lost. This type of experience can leave an indelible mark on the lives of the participants and we hope that, when done well, it will also be an encouragement to
our full-time laborers and a blessing to those to whom we go to serve.

Following summarizes this summer’s activity in the area of OPC short-term missions.

Domestically:

- 1 team brought a VBS program to the children on the Zoar Indian reservation (pictured above)
- 2 teams of adults and young people practiced evangelism first hand in Pastor Bill Welzien's "workshop" on Mallory Square in Key West, FL
- 12 teams spent a week at the Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, NJ, participating in nightly evangelistic programs
- The 14-person Boardwalk Chapel staff invested their whole summer in witnessing to those who were vacationing there
- Various teams and individuals participated in making good progress in refurbishing the church manse at the OPC mission work in Neon, KY
- Many, many, many countless teams brought the ministry of mercy to OPC families still trying to get back into their homes since Hurricane Sandy in Brick, NJ

Internationally:

- 1 team of 20, mostly adults, participated in running an English Camp outreach to a group of 125 mostly unbelieving Czechs in the CZECH REPUBLIC.
- 1 team of 10 young people invested 3 weeks in various forms of outreach and ministry in the CZECH REPUBLIC.
- 1 individual from the OPC was able to participate in running an English Camp outreach to University students in UKRAINE.
- 1 team of 10 continued the tsunami disaster response ministry efforts for 2 weeks in JAPAN.
- 5 teams helped to run “English for Kids” and “English for Teens” camps in QUEBEC, working with the ERQ churches in Quebec and St. Georges de Beauce
- 1 team of 9 ran several VBS programs in the churches with whom we work in HAITI
- 13 individuals invested a good portion of their summer working in various capacities in UGANDA

Please pray that the the Lord would bless these efforts in the lives of those who WENT, those who SENT and those who RECEIVED these workers; that the Lord would be glorified through the edification and sanctification had by the experience of short-term missions and through the impact of the labors of these teams.

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