STM Training Tool

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:3 (NASB)

Five years after publishing their watershed book, When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself, co-authors Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert have now applied these principles directly to the field of short-term missions in Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions: Leader’s Guide.

The authors explore the glaring woes of the multi-billion dollar STM industry that can “unintentionally harm materially poor communities and the ministries that work in them,” as well as cultural misunderstandings that arise due to the different ways in which Westerners and those they seek to serve approach things like the concept of time, degrees of directness in personal interactions, or the role of self within communities.

This excellent guide presents STM leaders with training materials to help better prepare their teams to serve in impoverished areas, as well as suggestions for post-trip reflections. It includes a “Participant’s Guide,” which is also sold separately. It provides access to a number of online videos that feature instruction, vignettes, and interviews with organizations that have successfully applied the When Helping Hurts principles.

This book is highly recommended to anyone considering STM service in the OPC, particularly if it will involve ministry to the poor!
Spring and Summer 2015 Opportunities (details at www.opcstm.org)

April-May 2015: Handy Volunteers Needed in St. Augustine, FL
Covenant Presbyterian will soon acquire a vacated building to serve as their new church home, and they have “tons of renovations to do,” and would welcome the help of OPC volunteers who’d enjoy a working getaway to this beautiful coastal city! **Contact:** Walter Muller at wdmuller@comcast.net.

May-June 2015: Work Teams Needed at the Boardwalk Chapel
The OPC’s Boardwalk Chapel (Wildwood, NJ) seeks volunteers to help with cleaning, painting, renovation, and plumbing projects to help prepare the Chapel and its ancillary buildings for the busy summer season! **Contact:** Elizabeth Horst at eghorst@gmail.com.

Apply by May 2, 2015: Summer STM Trip to Nozomi Center in Japan
The Presbytery of Ohio invites you to apply to be part of a 7-person team that will serve alongside our missionaries in Japan from July 29 to Aug. 10, 2015, where post-Tsunami relief and outreach continues at the Nozomi Center. **Contact:** Rev. Ken Montgomery at kenbmontgomery@yahoo.com.

More Summer 2015 Opportunities: (visit www.opcstm.org for all the details)

"English for Kids" Bible Camps in Quebec!
Bring a team to Quebec to help conduct “English for Kids” camps and an "English for Teens" camping trip! Teach Gospel truth while helping local French-speaking children learn English! **Contact:** Rev. Ben Westerveld at b.westerveld@hotmail.com.

Help an OP Church Present its VBS this Summer!
Our OP churches in Middletown, DE, and Schenectady, NY, are seeking volunteers of various skill levels to come and help them present their VBS programs in June and July!

**Middletown:** Pastor Bob Harting at rharting@msn.com
**Schenectady:** Mrs. Weerstra at caroline.calvaryopc@gmail.com

Serve at the Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, NJ!
The Chapel has openings for 3 women and 6 men to serve as Volunteer Staff from June through August *(musicians particularly needed)*! A couple to serve as House Parents also needed! **Contact:** Rev. Jim Zozzaro at boardwalkchapel@gmail.com

Haiti Mission Home Renovation Project Completed
Ben Hopp reports on a team that recently completed renovations to the OPC mission home in Haiti: "We are so grateful for the 10 men and 1 woman who spent their week here. They worked long hours and accomplished a lot! New kitchen cabinets, tile floors, windows, electrical circuits, etc. God very clearly brought together a team with just the skills we needed, from California, Arizona, Minnesota, Michigan, Florida, North Carolina. God is good!"

Teach English to College Students in Asia
Invest in the lives of college students who are uniquely positioned to impact this region of the world. Explore opportunities to teach English classes to college students in Asia this summer or throughout the coming school year! Qualifications, all details, and application forms can be obtained from **Rev. Douglas Clawson** at clawson.1@opc.org

Can you donate any of these items to the Boardwalk Chapel, Wildwood, NJ?
Kitchen cabinets, bar height tables, stools, large pots, gas ovens, and refrigerators are needed to help refurbish the Boardwalk Chapel’s staff housing! **Contact** Elizabeth Horst at eghorst@gmail.com if you can help!