



# OPC STORM Report

## Short-Term Outreach, Relief and Missions

## In Everything Give Thanks

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."  
1 Thess 5:16-18 (NKJV)*



Thanksgiving is a wonderful time for reflecting on the Lord's goodness to us over the past year. His gift of goodness does not always come to us wrapped in the most obvious of packages. It does not always come painted with colorful flowers and glowing sunshine. Rather, we may find that we have to peer through the dark clouds and stormy skies to discover His goodness, love, and care for us. And yet, isn't it interesting how often it is in those times of distress and trial that we find the Lord to be so near. Let me offer some reasons for thanks to the Lord pertaining to Hurricane Sandy (without even attempting to mention the many other matters for thanks!)

- He preserved the OPC with no loss of life
- He united Faith Bible Church and Redeemer OPC to become Faith Bible OPC in Brick, New Jersey
- He raised up two diligent and capable servants to act as site coordinators in New York and in New Jersey
- He led many to contribute towards the Sandy Response efforts in the amount of \$179,000.
- He established a cooperative relationship with the local PCA church in New Jersey for housing and feeding many volunteers
- He raised up hundreds of volunteers (I have lost track!) to give of their time and energies!
- He raised up a faithful brother from the RPCNA who contributed months of ground work in New Jersey
- He enabled all the family units connected with the OPC in New York to be reestablished 1 year later
- He enabled all but 2 family units connected with the OPC in New Jersey to be reestablished 1 year later

## OPC Spared in Midwest Tornadoes

Following the destructive tornadoes that ripped through the Midwest on Sunday, November 17, we were thankful to hear that our OPC congregations had escaped harm. Deacon John Voss of Covenant OPC in Orland Park, Illinois, and member of the OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries, reported:

*"The areas hardest hit were in the New Lenox and Manhattan/Wilmington area, as far as churches within the Presbytery of the Midwest. We had no one at our church directly affected. New Covenant Community Church in New Lenox, soon to be in Joliet, has one woman who was... not affected, but her parents live in Washington, Ill., which was really hard hit. However, praise God, her folks were unscathed as well as their possessions. The town is obviously hurting, but no one within the OPC has been harmed or affected..."*

Also Rob Brinks, director of Reformed Mission Services, a work of the United Reformed Churches (URCNA), reports that he knows of no URCNA churches or members affected by the tornadoes. Praise the Lord!

# Help Build a Wall in Haiti in January 2014

Are you a skilled mason or welder looking for a decidedly cross-cultural experience? Do you have free time in January 2014, and want to escape winter for a week or two? Perhaps you would consider serving in Haiti!

Ben Hopp, OPC Missionary to Haiti, has asked for help with a building project. The job: building a 525 ft long wall around the missionary property at Kaliko. Two teams of men (a total of 8 to 10 men including 2 welders and 6 to 8 masons or experienced cement/block workers) are needed to join one-on-one with our Haitian brothers in building the wall and fabricating gates for the project.

## Schedule:

Team 1: Wed., January 15 - Thurs., January 23, 2014

Team 2: Thurs., January 23 - Fri., January 31, 2014

If you are interested in joining a team, please contact David Nakhla: Ph: (562) 760-7606

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## Current Missionary Associate Openings

### **What is a Missionary Associate?**

A missionary associate (MA) is an individual who is appointed by the Committee on Foreign Missions to labor with an OPC Field Mission, without cost to the committee. The term of service is usually from 3 months to 2 years.

### **The purpose of missionary associate service:**

1. To assist the mission in its tasks (e.g., evangelistic outreach).
2. To provide an opportunity to test the MA's gifts for permanent service.
3. To enrich the MA's life for greater service as a member of their local church.

### **Qualified missionary associates are currently needed on the following fields:**

**ASIA** Individuals able to teach English at the university level (at least a Bachelor's Degree).

**JAPAN** A married couple or two singles (ideally of the same gender) to assist in the mission's various outreach activities (Learn more at [www.opcstm.org](http://www.opcstm.org), under "Global Opportunities")

**QUEBEC** An individual able to speak (or interested in learning to speak) French to assist in the outreach ministry of Eglise Reformee St-Marc de Quebec.

**UGANDA** One individual to assist with homeschooling missionary children; another individual who is skilled with his hands to assist the missionary deacons.

### **For more information on missionary associate service, or to request an application:**

Contact Rev. Douglas Clawson, Associate General Secretary, Committee on Foreign Missions at [clawson.1@opc.org](mailto:clawson.1@opc.org)

Is your church's opportunity listed? Please visit [www.opcstm.org](http://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](mailto:nakhla.1@opc.org).

