



# S.T.O.R.M. Report

Short-Term Outreach, Relief & Missions



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS AND DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

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## Thanksgiving in the Midst of Sorrow

*Thus says the LORD: Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob... Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate... Jeremiah 30:18-19 (ESV)*



The year 2019 has come with its share of sorrows in the life and ministry of our denomination, the OPC. History might prove it to be one of the most difficult years, at least in recent decades. Multiple OPC missionary families have come home from the field for various reasons, all unplanned. The news of both expected and unexpected deaths of loved ones in our denomination have stunned us, seemingly week after week. And these are just part of the sorrow. The difficult news seems to be unending. At such times, it can be difficult to find reason for thanksgiving.

The mood might have been similar at that first Thanksgiving at the Plymouth Plantation. That celebration followed an incredibly difficult year. History recounts that about half of their small community had perished the previous year ... **(continued on page 2)**

**Visit [OPCSTM.org](http://OPCSTM.org)  
or [OPCDisasterResponse.org](http://OPCDisasterResponse.org)**

For more info & opportunities to serve

**Request an email version of the full S.T.O.R.M. Report from:**

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from disease and exposure, such that the Pilgrims too might have identified that year as one of the most difficult in their lives. And yet, even against this sad backdrop, they were able to rejoice in the Lord's provision of a bountiful harvest that promised survival through the next winter.

In Christ we, too, find reason for thanksgiving. While our greatest treasure is in our Lord Himself, we also have assurance that He will restore the days the locusts have eaten. We know that He is in control of all things and in Him, all things will be made new. The Lord mercifully protected our churches from the impact of disasters in 2019, such as Hurricane Dorian, tornadoes in Dallas and Dayton, and fires in California, just to name a few. Plus, there are ample testimonies to the blessings of seeing God at work from those who participated in OPC short-term missions in 2019. You might be encouraged by re-visiting these moving testimonies at [OPCSTM.org/get-inspired/](https://www.opcstm.org/get-inspired/).

May we give thanks to the Lord for his many blessings and his continued presence in our work, even in the midst of significant sorrow this year.

### **July 8-20, 2020 – STM Opportunity**

Applications are now being accepted for the “English Camp” team that will serve in the Czech Republic next summer. OP missionaries to the Czech Republic, Jerry and Marilyn Farnik, have found a family summer camp to be a very successful means of witness. The camp is advertised as an English camp run by Christians, and English is taught using Scripture. It is a tremendous opportunity to present the Word of God, and student response and interaction are usually energetic. In order to minister to all ages and in diverse ways, it is important to put together a team to serve with boundless energy in multiple capacities. Visit [OPCSTM.org](https://www.opcstm.org) and click on “Current Opportunities” for all the details and an Application Form!

### **The Boardwalk Chapel Band is Going on Tour!**

January 3-10, 2020, the Boardwalk Chapel Band will present concerts at churches in Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

Plan to attend!

Learn more at [Facebook.com/TheBWCBand](https://www.facebook.com/TheBWCBand)

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