



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

Vol. 8, Issue 12
December 19, 2019

Short-Term Missions Year in Review

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

2019: A Year of Transitions

By David Nakhla, STM and DR Coordinator

Having come out of two hurricane seasons packed with intense sorrow, suffering, and ministry in and through our churches, what a blessing to experience a year free from a major regional disaster impacting our churches and families...a welcome transition! For many in the OPC, the completely unexpected departure of David Haney indelibly marks 2019 as a year of transition, considering his 30+ years of faithful service to the OPC. With the significant changes in the OPC's missionary corps, we can anticipate some impact on the opportunities that will be available to short-term missions in 2020.

And even in the Office of the Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator, we have experienced a transition. In November Janet Birkmann concluded her six years of service with us, and Mrs. Trish Duggan (introduced below) began work with us.

At this time of year, as we acknowledge the blessed hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ, what a comfort to know that in these times of transition with Him there is no change. He is and will be the same yesterday, today, and forever!

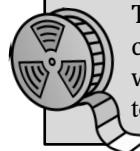
We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us in 2020!

Trish Duggan and her husband, Rich, have four children: Marisa (married in April, 2019 to Tyler DeMuro), Rich, Jr., Faith, and Chris. During her time as a full-time stay-at-home mom, she volunteered as a substitute church secretary for Faith OPC in Elmer, NJ and New Hope OPC in Bridgeton, NJ while homeschooling her son, Chris. Her previous work experience includes Eastern University where she worked as a communications assistant. Trish and her family are members of New Hope OPC in Bridgeton, NJ.



Why Go On An OPC Disaster Response Trip?

A disaster (fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, or the like) can lead to a tremendously difficult season in the lives of its victims. Sometimes the victims are members of the church. In these instances, by virtue of our belief in the doctrine of the Communion of the Saints, we are compelled to "relieve each other in outward things, according to (our) several abilities and necessities" (WCF XXVI:2). As we are able, we seek to relieve each other! Other times, the victims are not members of the church. These are opportunities for us to follow the Lord's command that we "love our neighbor as ourselves," and serve others as a reflection of the mercy and compassion that has been shown to us in Christ Jesus. Want to know more? Go to our website: www.opcdisasterresponse.org or email david.nakhla@opc.org.



The OPC Disaster Response office has created a video which captures the essence of amazing opportunities for service and witness. Go to: <https://vimeo.com/opcdisasterresponse/thehoustonstory> to take a look!

A Look Back at 2019

Here are just some of the ways volunteers have served.

- English Camp in the Czech Republic
- Menominee Mission in Zoar, Wisconsin
- Uganda
- Hurricane Florence (Disaster Response)
- English For Kids, Quebec
- Puerto Rico (Disaster Response)

Where Can You Serve in 2020?

- The Czech Republic
- Asia
- Uganda, East Africa
- Key West, Florida
- Quebec City, Canada
- Monetevideo, Uruguay
- Wildwood, NJ
- Disaster Response Team

Go to our website to see more:
www.opcstm.org

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

David Nakhla, Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator
(562) 760-7606 David.Nakhla@opc.org OPCSTM.org OPCDisasterResponse.org
Trish Duggan, Administrative Assistant, trish.duggan@opc.org
Facebook: [OPCShortTermMissions](https://www.facebook.com/OPCShortTermMissions) [OPCDisasterResponse](https://www.facebook.com/OPCDisasterResponse)



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

Vol. 8, Issue 12
December 19, 2019

Short-Term Missions Year in Review

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

2019: A Year of Transitions

By David Nakhla, STM and DR Coordinator

Having come out of two hurricane seasons packed with intense sorrow, suffering, and ministry in and through our churches, what a blessing to experience a year free from a major regional disaster impacting our churches and families...a welcome transition! For many in the OPC, the completely unexpected departure of David Haney indelibly marks 2019 as a year of transition, considering his 30+ years of faithful service to the OPC. With the significant changes in the OPC's missionary corps, we can anticipate some impact on the opportunities that will be available to short-term missions in 2020.

And even in the Office of the Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator, we have experienced a transition. In November Janet Birkmann concluded her six years of service with us, and Mrs. Trish Duggan (introduced below) began work with us.

At this time of year, as we acknowledge the blessed hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ, what a comfort to know that in these times of transition with Him there is no change. He is and will be the same yesterday, today, and forever!

We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us in 2020!

Trish Duggan and her husband, Rich, have four children: Marisa (married in April, 2019 to Tyler DeMuro), Rich, Jr., Faith, and Chris. During her time as a full-time stay-at-home mom, she volunteered as a substitute church secretary for Faith OPC in Elmer, NJ and New Hope OPC in Bridgeton, NJ while homeschooling her son, Chris. Her previous work experience includes Eastern University where she worked as a communications assistant. Trish and her family are members of New Hope OPC in Bridgeton, NJ.



Why Go On An OPC Disaster Response Trip?

A disaster (fire, flood, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, or the like) can lead to a tremendously difficult season in the lives of its victims. Sometimes the victims are members of the church. In these instances, by virtue of our belief in the doctrine of the Communion of the Saints, we are compelled to "relieve each other in outward things, according to (our) several abilities and necessities" (WCF XXVI:2). As we are able, we seek to relieve each other! Other times, the victims are not members of the church. These are opportunities for us to follow the Lord's command that we "love our neighbor as ourselves," and serve others as a reflection of the mercy and compassion that has been shown to us in Christ Jesus. Want to know more? Go to our website: www.opcdisasterresponse.org or email david.nakhla@opc.org.



The OPC Disaster Response office has created a video which captures the essence of amazing opportunities for service and witness. Go to: <https://vimeo.com/opcdisasterresponse/thehoustonstory> to take a look!

A Look Back at 2019

Here are just some of the ways volunteers have served.

- English Camp in the Czech Republic
- Menominee Mission in Zoar, Wisconsin
- Uganda
- Hurricane Florence (Disaster Response)
- English For Kids, Quebec
- Puerto Rico (Disaster Response)

Where Can You Serve in 2020?

- The Czech Republic
- Asia
- Uganda, East Africa
- Key West, Florida
- Quebec City, Canada
- Monetevideo, Uruguay
- Wildwood, NJ
- Disaster Response Team

Go to our website to see more:
www.opcstm.org

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

David Nakhla, Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator
(562) 760-7606 David.Nakhla@opc.org OPCSTM.org OPCDisasterResponse.org
Trish Duggan, Administrative Assistant, trish.duggan@opc.org
Facebook: [OPCShortTermMissions](https://www.facebook.com/OPCShortTermMissions) [OPCDisasterResponse](https://www.facebook.com/OPCDisasterResponse)