



S.T.O.R.M. Report

Short-Term Outreach, Relief & Missions



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

Vol. 9, No. 1
January 15, 2020

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

The New Year has come with the joy of looking ahead to a fresh start and new opportunities, but also with the sad realities of this lost world.

Just halfway into January, we are faced with more destruction for Puerto Rico. The already taxed and delicate infrastructure of Puerto Rico is faced with more power outages, damage and interrupted communication.

As we keep an eye on what the physical needs of the three OP Churches may be, please consider prayer as our first response. Thoughts of daily bread come to mind as we reflect on the basic needs, both spiritual and physical. Pray in earnest for Puerto Rico as they fear aftershocks and more damage, and that we might know how to best aid them.

Earthquakes in Puerto Rico

Please be in prayer for the saints in Puerto Rico. The island suffered a 6.4 magnitude earthquake on January 7. According to news sources, Puerto Rico has been experiencing tremors since December 28, 2019, and many are afraid to go inside a structure and are sleeping outdoors.

Jonathan Layana, Ruling Elder in Arroyo, PR reports on Jan. 7:
Dear Brothers and Sisters, We have had several earthquakes in these past couple of days. Today we had two (6.6 and 6). Please pray for us all in PR as we deal with the aftermath of the last earthquakes and try to keep calm.

We heard in the news that the south side of the island should be expecting more aftershocks similar or stronger than the previous for a few days. As you can imagine, there is no power. The systems are too weak and the biggest power plants are the ones more affected by the aftershocks we are experiencing.

For the grace of God we, the Church Arroyo, are well, just a little shaken up. Thank you in advance, as we are confident we will be in your prayers.

Faith OPC, Elmer, NJ Pastor, Dick Ellis reports on January 7:
I've been in contact with Bradney Lopez this morning and have learned that he and his family are safe. Their home and Arroyo itself do not appear to be physically affected by the earthquake or by any resultant tsunami off the southern coast. While they are still without power, the Internet just came back on.

He had been in touch with Carlos minutes after the quake; their call was cut off. He does not know about San Sebastian; he reports that the epicenter was near there.

Get more of this report: www.opcdisasterresponse.org or by e-mailing us at opcdisasterresponse@opc.org.

Current Short-Term Missions Opportunities

There are plenty of OPC Short-Term missions opportunities both near and far! You can find out more about these opportunities by going our website: OPCSTM.ORG or by contacting us at opshorttermmissions@opc.org.

Uganda

- Missionary Associate--Nanny for the Van Essendelfts
- Missionary Associates--various needs
- Team Uganda 2020--Summer for four weeks
- Year-Round Opportunities--Come On Your Schedule!

Uruguay

- Missionary Associates Needed--assist with outreach, evangelism and music in the worship service.

Asia

- Missionary Associates Needed--instructors of English
- Team "English House"--July 2020

Quebec

- "English for Kids" Bible Camp--three weeks in the Summer 2020 at St-Marc's Reformed Church
- Join in a "Cafe Anglais" (English Cafe)--reaching out to French-speaking citizens in the parks and malls of Quebec City!

Czech Republic

- English Camp--July 8-20, 2020

Wildwood, New Jersey

- Boardwalk Chapel--Weekends in May for work and preparation

Key West, Florida

- Evangelism Training--bring your church group for a week of evangelism training

Does Your Church Have a Need?

Churches Helping Churches

Is there a local outreach event (such as a VBS), community service project, church ministry program, or facility improvement scheme, that you could take on if you had the help of a team from another OP church or presbytery?

We are told to use our gifts in serving one another (1 Peter 4:10). When churches make their needs known, and individuals or groups from other churches respond to the call, the collaboration results in thanksgiving for an accomplishment enjoyed by both the team participants and the recipients of the help! For more information, contact David Nakhla: david.nakhla@opc.org.

The Boardwalk Chapel Band Finishes Up Its 2020 Tour

"The Boardwalk Chapel Band Tour was such an amazing experience, as we were able to see it grow from just an idea into a seven-concert tour. It was a blessing to see God work in it and through it. We loved being able to use our gifts with the family that we made this past summer at the Boardwalk Chapel. Lord willing, we will be able to do this again next year with improvements, new churches, and an even longer tour!"--Seth Jernigan and Emily Learn, Tour Coordinators

Request an email version of the full S.T.O.R.M. Report from: David Nakhla, Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator, (215) 935-1007 David.Nakhla@opc.org
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Trish Duggan, Administrative Assistant, trish.duggan@opc.org

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