



S.T.O.R.M. Report

Short-Term Outreach, Relief & Missions



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

Volume 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 January 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.

From Sabrina Layana in Arroyo, Puerto Rico on January 10:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

God bless you all. We are well! For now, the Church of Arroyo has power and water, though we expect blackouts. The island is only working mostly on one power plant. The North and the South-east of the island hardly feels what the people from the Southwest are feeling. The seismic activity is nonstop! For now, the magnitudes range in between 2 and 4.6 MANY times a day. In our home we have an earthquake detector and when they have had earthquakes of 3+ it detects it. It makes me skip few heart beats when we hear the alarm. Can you imagine how does it feel to have the earth constantly shaking under your feet?! Houses, buildings, schools get weaker each time (if not already destroyed) and people are scared to be under roofs. They prefer to camp outside, and they don't have water or power (Much of the island doesn't) Please pray for the whole island! For those in the Southwest can rest and find refuge in the Lord and that the Lord would give the rest of us the wanting and the doing and be courageous to help our fellow Puerto Ricans in this time of need.

For more information & Opportunities to serve visit
OPCSTM.org or OPCDisasterResponse.org

Facebook: OPCShortTermMissions OPCDisasterResponse Insta: @opcstm

Request an email version of the full S.T.O.R.M. Report from:
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Does Your Church Have a Need?

Orthodox Presbyterian Churches are challenged to consider creating a short-term missions opportunity!

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 church or presbytery?

We are told to use our gifts in serving one another (1 Peter 4:10). If you request a team to help out at your church, you will be creating an opportunity for those who desire to give of their time and gifts in short-term service.

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



photo by Joshua Rodriguez, member, New Hope OPC, Bridgeton

Seth Jernigan and Emily Learn, the organizers of The Boardwalk Chapel Band Tour, comment on their recently completed 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. We were able to go to so many churches who know and love the Boardwalk Chapel and share about the ministry. We were told over and over again how the audience felt blessed by the concerts and their faith was strengthened through the music. We learned a lot of planning, organization, and how to put on concerts outside of the Boardwalk Chapel Programs. Lord willing, we will be able to do this again next year with improvements, new churches, and an even longer tour!"

Churches Helping Churches

Current Short-Term Missions Opportunities



The Van Essendelft Family

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 opcsshorttermmissions@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
- "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

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