Celebrity Carpenters in Japan
by OPC deacon & disaster response volunteer, Mark Palmer

The OPC Disaster Response ministry was in need of experienced carpenters to go to Japan. My wife, Patti, noticed on Facebook their request for help to rebuild after the typhoon in October, 2019. As I waited for others to volunteer, I wondered if any were waiting for the same reason that I did, so I signed up. In the end only one other man did volunteer with me. (He was not in the OPC or an experienced carpenter--but still came to help.)

Woody Lauer (OPC missionary to Japan at the Nazomi Center) and his family were helpful in getting us started and in providing housing and translation.

We flew over and started work. “Open Doors of Japan” was heading up relief workers and it functioned as the coordinators of all the volunteers from Japan. We were Americans joining their organization. Once they heard that I had been to Japan seven years ago to rebuild after the tsunami, they were very impressed. (Extra bows!)

There were hundreds of houses needing new flooring. The typhoon had flooded the crawl spaces of homes with water and mud. Workers had already taken up the flooring to remove the mud and dry out the homes. We were the first ones to start putting back new flooring. (It is really just sub-flooring as thick grass mats that goes over it). It was also experimental as it was important to see how much we could do in a day. They had to have a plan to get flooring and...

Finish this story, read Mark’s diary of the trip and see more photos on our website: opcdisasterresponse.org/celebritycarpenters/.

About the author:
Mark Palmer and his wife, Patti, live in Harvest, Alabama and attend Providence OPC in Madison, AL. Mark has been an OPC deacon and trustee for decades and a carpenter for over 30 years.
Experience in evangelism!

Classroom training and practical bring your team to Key West to receive their evangelism training. Let them teams. There are also openings to join staff on their music and evangelism. The Chapel has openings for summer Wildwood, NJ

The Chapel has openings for summer staff on their music and evangelism teams. There are also openings to join their evangelism training. Let them know you are coming!

Quebec City

English for Kids

One week left to fill—July 13-17, 2020. Individuals and groups welcome!

Wildwood, NJ

The Chapel has openings for summer staff on their music and evangelism teams. There are also openings to join their evangelism training. Let them know you are coming!

Key West, Florida

Year-round opportunity: bring your team to Key West to receive classroom training and practical experience in evangelism!

Asia

English House

Teach English conversation and live in a university student residence for the month of July.

Missionary Associates

Missionary Associates needed to serve as full-time instructors of interactive English conversation at a university near our missionaries in Asia. This is an exciting opportunity to invest in the lives of students who are uniquely positioned to impact this region of the world! Apply by May 31.

Uruguay

The OP Uruguay Mission in Montevideo, Uruguay, is seeking Missionary Associates to assist with outreach, evangelism, and music in the worship service for at least three months. Must speak some Spanish.

Czech Republic

Team Praha

Only 7 spots left! Apply by March 15, 2020.

Czech English Camp 2020 is full! Praise the Lord and please pray for those who are new to know the comfort and encouragement of the Holy Spirit in their planning.

More information and contact e-mails can be found by going to our website: opcstm.org/opportunity

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 OPC Disaster Response

Register today with OPC Disaster Response to let us know your interest in helping when a disaster response team is being organized. After registering, you’ll receive the OPC "Disaster Response Insider Post": a newsletter that gives the latest news on what the OPC is doing in Disaster Response. There are 175 volunteers currently registered. Go to our website: opcdisasterresponse.org

Are you an OPC deacon or do you know one who may not be receiving our diaconal ministries newsletter? Let us know! Contact us: diaconalministries@opc.org.

Churches Helping Churches

Need a few extra hands for VBS, or service project? Let us know and we’ll help you gather some help.

Contact us:

David Nakhla, OPC Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator: david.nakhla@opc.org (215) 935-1007
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