



S.T.O.R.M. REPORT

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Short Term Outreach, Relief & Missions

A Newsletter From the Office of the Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response Coordinator

Volume 9, Number 3

March 25, 2020

COVID 19 : The Short-Term Missions Game Changer

by David Nakhla, Coordinator, OPC Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response

No doubt there are many wondering today what the coming summer holds, even though it's just a few short months away. Will I graduate? Can I take my family vacation? Will I still be in school given all the time lost? Will I still have a job? Can I even leave my home? And some readers of the STORM Report might be wondering, will I still be able to participate in short-term missions?

With the virus looming darkly over us, the one thing that is clear is that no one but God knows the answer to all of these questions. From our limited, human perspective, everything is up in the air and anything is possible. While some mission fields have already chosen to cancel their summer teams, for most it's simply too early to decide. Can I encourage you in the thought that the Lord, in His divine providence, has opened up a short-term mission field to you right where you are -- right in your own neighborhood?

One of my roles is to serve as the OPC's Disaster Response Coordinator. In that capacity, I am privileged to enter into a disaster that one of our churches might be facing, to advise them on how to prepare for the weeks, months, and possibly years ahead, and to coordinate assistance to bring them through it. With a local disaster, it's important for a local church to consider that most likely their ministry has instantly changed from what it was before the disaster. The normal lives their congregants once enjoyed have been stripped away. They all now suffer as affected persons, suffering the trauma of one of the

most difficult things to have lived through, and possibly suffering additional trauma as the effects of the disaster are uncovered bit by bit.

In a similar fashion, we are now living through a disaster of sorts. COVID-19 is a special kind of disaster, and the aftermath it's leaving in its wake looks quite different from a hurricane, and yet, it's dramatic nonetheless. What's so unique about this COVID-19 disaster is that it is not bound by a local or regional area. Nearly the entire world is suffering from it directly. Further, it's a disaster that is still unfolding. We can sense that the tide is rising and that it's rising fast, but it is so hard to see or measure. This is certainly evidenced by the drastic, and even draconian, measures being taken by governments around the world. These measures are incurring unknown harm to our economies and financial systems as well as our emotional well-being, but are intended to lessen the deadly impact of this virus. It is unclear what a "post-COVID-19" world will look like, but it's likely to be different from life as we knew and enjoyed just a few months ago.

As such, most of whom we know are living with a growing level of fear: fear of the unknown, the invisible, the future--the things they love most. Some may even fear death. This fear might be felt by our friends and neighbors. Do they know the love and hope that we hold in Christ?

Read this article in its entirety on our website: OPCSTM.org.

SMALL ROOFING TEAM IN HAITI

by OPC Missionary, Ben Hopp

After almost two years in the planning, we were finally able to host a construction team to complete the Kaliko Roofing Project. Unrest in the past required this team to be canceled twice. We are thankful that the Lord provided a safe window for the team, coming mainly from Wisconsin OP churches, to complete the project. The seven team members arrived just before the Coronavirus grew serious in the US and before the US Embassy in Haiti upgraded the Haiti Travel Warning to Level 4: Do Not Travel.

Read the full story about this short-term trip on our website: OPCSTM.org.

JAPAN--NEW OPPORTUNITY

Working in conjunction with the RPC Missions, this team will be laboring with OPC missionaries in Sendai to continue to aid in the rebuilding and clean-up efforts as well as ministering in three other mission fields within Japan. Most importantly the team will be laboring with the saints to provide a witness of Christ to a population that is in great need of the gospel and to know the hope only to be found in Jesus Christ. If you are 18 to 25 years old, have a servant's heart and a desire to come alongside those who have been laboring so diligently over these past five years to attend to the abundant needs in Sendai, please apply today. Contact: ProclaimChrist@rmissions.org

UGANDA

- Nanny for the VanEssendelft's nine children
- Clinic Database Designer
- Missionary Associates: working in the Reformation Book Room, childcare for missionaries, skilled maintenance work
- Preschool Teachers/Helpers for KEO

Check our website to get contact information for the above opportunities. **PLEASE NOTE: The Uganda mission (Mbale and Karamoja) has canceled their summer team opportunities for 2020 due to coronavirus limitations.**

QUEBEC CITY

English for Kids

There are still 8 slots open for individuals, couples, grandparents who enjoy children or a small group to serve during the last week of English Camp: July 13-17, 2020. Contact Pastor Ben Westerveld: b_westerveld@hotmail.com.

ASIA

English House

Teach English conversation and live in a university student residence for the month of July. There are still a couple of openings available for this opportunity.

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: Contact Rev. Douglas Clawson: douglas.clawson@opc.

Short-term Missions 2020 Opportunities

With the uncertainty of the current COVID 19 situation, the plans for OPC Short-Term Missions trips may change. Please keep updated by going to our website and on social media.

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. Contact Rev. Douglas Clawson: douglas.clawson@opc.org.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Team Praha

We rejoice that the Lord has filled our summer team! Applications for this field are now closed. English Camp 2020

Team Leader, Sherry Wagner asks, "Please pray for our team to find its confidence in the Lord and to keep the furtherance of His kingdom in the forefront of their hearts and minds as they prepare."

WILDWOOD, NJ

The Boardwalk Chapel still has openings this summer for the training weeks and regular staff! The training weeks in the beginning and end of the summer involve both theory and practice in order to equip the saints for evangelism. The Chapel also has openings on their evangelism team. Here, the staff learn how to lead small teams in conversation with Chapel visitors and people on the boardwalk. All are welcome to join for any amount of time, whether it be a week, month, or the whole summer! Contact Elizabeth with any questions or comments: boardwalkchapel@gmail.com.

KEY WEST, FLORIDA

For over 30 years, OPC Pastor Bill Welzien has been presenting the gospel in an engaging open-air fashion three times a week at the famous Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square in Key West, Florida. Bill invites you to bring your team to Key West to receive classroom training and practical experience in evangelism! Contact Rev. Bill Welzien: wwwelzien@aol.com

CHURCHES HELPING CHURCHES



Does your church need help with VBS, a maintenance project or other service project? We can pair your church with members of other churches. We can work together for God's glory!



185 volunteers so far. Please register today or get more information at opcdisasterresponse.org

Keep in touch with us:

opcstm@opc.org or opcdisasterresponse@opc.org



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