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# S.T.O.R.M. REPORT

Short Term Outreach, Relief & Missions

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

Volume 9, Number 4

April 22, 2020

## Short-Term Missions with a Long-Term Commitment

by Trish Duggan, Communications Coordinator, OPC Short-Term Missions and Disaster Response

Our usual April issue of conveying the plans and excitement for short-term mission trips are in many ways, not the same this year; it just can't be. Although some teams are still prayerfully planning summer work, some have made the very tough decision to postpone.

With all the restrictions we have right now, perhaps this is our chance to look with a more long-term focus of commitment. Here are some thoughts to consider:

- **Get to know your missionaries.**

Learn about a missionary family in a field you may have wanted to visit. Write to them to see what their life is like, what struggles they have, and perhaps become pen pals (by e-mail, Facebook, other social media, or snail mail).

- **Let your missionaries get to know you.**

Missionaries can sometimes feel isolated and left "out of the loop" of everyday life back home. Share photos and stories from your life with our missionaries the way they share theirs with us.

- **Raise support.**

You can still raise money and support short-term missions by hosting a car wash, bake sale or yard sale (online sales are great with no set-up!) Funds can also be donated to the OPC COVID-19 Pandemic Response (CPR) Fund, set up to help OPC deacons as they assist their congregations.

- **Change your focus.**

If you had planned to go overseas for a missions trip, maybe you could look a little closer to home. The Boardwalk Chapel and Quebec City missions are still hoping that they can hold their usual summer programs. You can find out more at our website: [opcstm.org](http://opcstm.org).

- **Be a missionary in your neighborhood.**

Is there someone you could help during the pandemic: an elderly or handicapped neighbor that needs help taking care of their yard or getting groceries? Calling people you know who may feel especially

lonely or anxious? Helping with neighborhood children's schoolwork via the internet?

- **Check-in with your local deacons.**  
Call a deacon in your church to find out what needs there may be and how you can help.
- **Pray.**  
Commit to praying for a neighbor, church member, your pastor, elders and deacons, missionaries (perhaps those you planned to visit), or those affected by this virus.
- **Register to be an OPC Disaster Response volunteer.**  
By registering as a volunteer, you are letting us know you are willing to take the time, when you can, to help with the physical and spiritual needs of someone who is struggling. Find out more by going to the OPC Disaster Response website.

These are just a few ideas of how we can broaden our focus for short-term missions and disaster response in these unusual times. COVID-19 is giving us an opportunity to step back and look at the larger picture in order to make a long-term commitment to the Lord's work. Please pray for OPC Short-Term Missions and OPC Disaster Response as we plan for a different looking summer of mission work.

### The Love of Christ Shown

Nearly a month ago, before COVID-19 had been known in the States, we attempted to send masks to our brothers and sisters in Asia but weren't able to because of supply issues. Now, with the virus sweeping through the United States, our brothers and sisters in Asia are sending masks to us! There are currently 7,300 masks coming to us! What a wonderful testimony, not just of the global nature of this pandemic, but of the global nature of Christ's church as one body.

If you need a mask please speak to one of your deacons and ask them to contact OPC Disaster Response Coordinator, David Nakhla: [david.nakhla@opc.org](mailto:david.nakhla@opc.org).

## JAPAN

Working in conjunction with the RP 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@rppmissions.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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, English House (for overseas visitors) is likely cancelled this summer.

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



193 volunteers registered--three additions in April thus far.

Please register today or get more information at [opcdisasterresponse.org](http://opcdisasterresponse.org)

Keep in touch with us:

## 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

Our missionaries in Czech Republic have had to cancel both Team Praha and English Camp for Kids due to COVID-19 restrictions.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:wwwelzien@aol.com)



Check out our Short-Term Missions' prayer calendar on our website: [opcstm.org](http://opcstm.org). We encourage you to take the time to look at the updates from our fields and include their requests during your prayer time. As some of our fields anticipate not being able to welcome teams and friends this summer as they normally do, would you commit to pray?

[opcstm@opc.org](mailto:opcstm@opc.org) or [opcdisasterresponse@opc.org](mailto:opcdisasterresponse@opc.org)



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