



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

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“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.” James 1:12

The Hurry Up and Wait in Midland



Not unlike other disasters, it's been a bit of a “hurry up and wait” game in Midland Michigan. Initially, the damage assessments needed to be made quickly and then soon after cleanup help came for the Moots and Kennedys. But now things have slowed down as we wait for the homes to dry out, the skilled tradespeople to come in to strategize the rebuilding plan all while volunteer schedules formulate. We're excited for all of the volunteer interest this has provoked---we'll need the help and energy for the months ahead.

The Immediate Needs

There is an immediate need for a Job Site Foreman in Midland, Michigan. Ideally, this volunteer would need to commit one to two weeks at a time, possibly tag-teaming with other foremen volunteers throughout the effort's timeline. A full description can be found on our website.

There is also a great need for skilled carpenters to pick up and continue the excellent work our first carpenter has done.

Does either of these describe you? Contact Sam Phillips: midlandvolunteers@opc.org

There are many more opportunities to come, so we have created a [calendar of volunteers](#) for the Midland effort. If you are a registered OPC DR volunteer, you can go to the calendar to see what dates are open and then fill out the form at the bottom of that page to let us know you would like to plan your trip! (Please don't

make travel plans until your time slot is confirmed!) Go to our website for more information.

We realize not all are called to leave their everyday lives to go rebuild flooded homes. But has the Lord blessed you in other ways that you can in turn share and bless others? Due to the many other matters that have gained our attention these days, we are not yet seeing the amount of giving to the Midland Flood Response Fund as we have seen given toward past disasters. And yet, the impact of this flood on the OPC is comparable to the large impact of Hurricane Harvey or Hurricane Florence. As such, any donation toward this effort will be a great blessing to those affected. Checks can be made payable to “The OPC”, designated for “The Midland Fund” on the memo line and sent to the OPC Office, 607 N. Easton Road, Bldg. E, Willow Grove, PA, 19090, adding “Midland Flood Response Fund” to the memo line.

What Has Been Happening in Midland, You May Be Asking?



In the last several weeks, since the water receded, OPC Disaster Response has been hard at work with the beginning phases of disaster response, serving two families: the Moots and the Kennedys in their time of need. OPC DR and the Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario assessed the situation and needs, oversaw demolition, provided equipment and filled several volunteer spots.

The Lord has graciously raised up volunteers to fill the jobs of three large volunteer roles: Sam Phillips as our volunteer coordinator, Mike Greene as the site coordinator and Rhonda Sarafolean as the hospitality coordinator. Each is uniquely gifted to fill these roles in this particular disaster, and we give praise and thanks to God for providing them. Currently they are working hard to coordinate the schedules of tradesmen, volunteers and housing availability for the long road ahead. As always, check on our website: opcdisasterresponse.org for photos and updated information on the work there. To donate to help in the rebuilding process, go to give.opc.org.

OPC Disaster Response CPR Fund

The Committee on Diaconal Ministries' COVID-19 Pandemic Response (CPR) Fund has collected over \$20,000 in generous donations to date! With these gifts, the Committee on Diaconal Ministries been able to respond to financial requests for assistance.

As we shared last month, gifts were sent to our brothers and sisters in Kenya and Uganda. Additionally, we have been able to send funds to Uruguay and Ethiopia.

The Richlines, in Montevideo, Uruguay, have been handing out baskets of basic food items and soap once a week. When their local diaconal funds for this ministry ran out, the Committee on Diaconal Ministries was able to contribute from the CPR Fund enough to continue this ministry for another six months. This has been a significant blessing to their community.

In Ethiopia, we have been able to send funds to provide basic food and household necessities to church members in rural areas. Due to COVID-19 regulations, many church members are unable to leave their homes and have no access to online means of communication.

News From the OPC Short-Term Mission Fields

Boardwalk Chapel: There is a 3-week training session going on right now. Anyone is welcome to contact the Chapel about attending their training sessions, or about coming for any length of time for any of their openings this summer. They are excited to see how this unusual summer plays out.

Asia: Praise the Lord for raising up a missionary associate to Asia! Due to COVID-19 regulations, and not being allowed back in the country after her service, she will be serving remotely online. She will begin teaching next week continuing through the beginning of August.

Key West, Florida: Pastor Bill Welzein reports that the beaches are open as of June 1st, and that he will be back to open-air preaching as soon as people start arriving in Mallory Square. If anyone is interested in leading a team in open-air evangelism this summer, please contact Pastor Welzein directly. He is open to having teams but will need to coordinate directly with them based on the COVID-19 regulations at the time.

Keep updated on OPC Short-Term Missions on our website: opcstm.org.

Where you can find us:

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