



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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“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” James 1:27

Taking Short-Term Missions to Your Own Backyard

In the current coronavirus climate we find ourselves living in, where gatherings are still limited, and hand sanitizer, masks, and social distancing are all strongly encouraged, many churches have had to cancel their VBS and summer camps. But not all! Some churches have been able to get creative to work around this summer's limitations.

Theophilus OPC in Anaheim, California recently hosted a virtual Camp Together. Pastor Peter Sim writes, “Basically, our VBS Coordinator created the theme and the script of the VBS video. The VBS video was made up of a variety of different segments, such as “Scripture Doodles,” “Gospel Conversations” and “Hiding God’s Memory in Our Heart.” The Scripture Doodles seemed to be a really big hit with our congregation. This was a segment in which someone drew pictures (video edited to be very fast) while the Scripture was read aloud. All these segments were pre-recorded and video-edited to make one long VBS video.”

New Hope OPC in Bridgeton, New Jersey is hosting a Virtual Art Camp this week. The Camp Coordinator, Tracey Taylor, says, “This year began with big plans that became a little more tentative in March and April and then were set aside completely in May. Unwilling to lose contact with these kids and their families, we came up with another plan. We decided to pack a “love box” for each child that would include...some art supplies for a couple of art projects.

Lake Sherwood OPC in Lake Sherwood, Florida has also shifted gears to an online format. Hayley Avery writes, “As [our] church [has tried] to figure out what the next steps [should] be, it was looking fairly bleak in terms of actually getting to have a VBS this year. This was going to be the first time in a while that [we] would host a VBS as our group of little ones was only now beginning to grow again, so it was very discouraging to think that we might not be able to do it safely this year. That was when Jaye emailed me, telling me about another church she knew of that was going to be hosting a virtual VBS. That was when things kind of got kicked into high gear...”

Read more about these amazing plans on our website: opcstm.org/2020/07/15/to-your-own-backyard/

Archeologists of Our Own Lives

by Glenn Moots, Midland resident, homeowner, OPC Member, flood victim

Our home had always been headquarters for education, vocation, fellowship, hospitality, and service. We homeschooled, established our businesses, (including e-commerce, computer repair, academic consulting, and equestrian jewelry), organized holiday service projects for elderly friends, and hosted parties for church friends and others who enjoyed the lake without having to go on vacation. Independence Day and “Welcome Summer” parties at our home became a tradition. Our lakefront home was a place of recreation, reading, writing, and praise and worship with family and friends.

All of that changed on May 19, 2020. We returned the morning after two local dams failed to discover Sanford lake fading away and the remaining water draining out. Where the lake once was, forest stumps were revealed along with debris including docks, hoists, decks, boats, golf carts, and household items. A river now ran through an eroded lake bed that hid dangerous patches of quicksand. Read more on our website: OPCDisasterResponse.org/archeologists-of-our-own-lives-2/

The OPC Disaster Response Effort in Midland, Michigan

Over the past (nearly) two months, OPC DR volunteers were on site to give advice, remove damaged possessions and restore Tom and Linda Kennedy's walkout basement. Praise the Lord for faithful servants for His purpose! Work is progressing at Glenn and Michelle Moots' home. This past week, digestive enzymes were sprayed to help avoid mold accumulation. Volunteers are most likely needed until the end of the year to aid with rebuilding of the Moots' entire home. Can you or your church help? Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Sam Phillips: midlandvolunteers@opc.org to ask questions, get information or to schedule your trip. Take a look at the volunteer schedule: opcdisasterresponse.org/midland-volunteer-schedule. Donations are also needed. Please go to: give.opc.org.

From the Short-Term Mission Fields

Boardwalk Chapel

The BWC is looking forward to their final training week: The Boardwalk Chapel 2020 Evangelism Conference. The week is all about growing in Evangelism and is led by Dr. Krabbendam, Chris Byrd, and Rev. Al Baker! Please contact boardwalkchapel@gmail.com. If you register but then are unable to attend you will be fully refunded.

Japan: The summer trip to Japan has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Quebec: Pastor Westerveld reports that while they had hoped to work out an online version of English for Kids this summer, due to some complicated and extenuating circumstances they are not going to be able to. Read more on our website: opcstm.org

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