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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

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*Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling....
Blessed are all who take refuge in him. Psalm 2:11, 12b*

Teaching Under Lockdown

One of our summer missionary associates shares her experience of teaching via online this summer. Because she has been working in a sensitive area the following testimonial does not include any identifying information.

Praise the Lord that I have had the privilege to serve as a summer missionary associate for two years in a row. Both mission trips were excellent opportunities for growing in the likeness of being God's servant and reflecting on His sovereignty. As I was teaching a college-level English course this summer, it was edifying to see God's grace for all image-bearers and His love for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). God always makes the best of all seasons to plant the seeds and watch over the growth. The freedom of sharing the gospel comes from God's sovereign rule over the world. Therefore, His truthful and powerful Word gives us confidence when facing persecution. I am so grateful for my team that has borne many fruits through their faith and beautiful testimonies.

My missionary associate service last summer was quite different than this year's. Last year I was physically on the mission field. My tasks included living in a campus dorm room with five female students and teaching an English course at a university, while assisting the mission's work at the local church and with community outreach activities. There were many opportunities to meet people and share our faith, so the mission itself required significant time and energy from every one of us. We met for team meetings and prayer time. We also worked closely with the team leader and were able to

observe his example.

As I juggled the different tasks, it was a valuable lesson to stay joyful as God matured me in faith and service. I learned to celebrate each step of the way because it was a great temptation for me to lose joy in busy work, especially when I faced personal rejections from my roommates whenever I shared the gospel. Even more than that, once I saw that serving the King of kings was itself already a joy-inducing job, I learned that faithfulness to my task as a teacher in the classroom would be a testimony to Him.

This year, with the school under lockdown, my experience was quite different. I taught a language class online from the other side of the world. My challenge was preventing class content related to our Christian faith from falling into the wrong hands while making it a priority to share the gospel through my class. I had to pre-record two-hour long lectures per day, conduct one-on-one interviews, and daily interact with test-based assessments, and use a secure internet platform to avoid the risk of being scrutinized. I prayed continually for my students as they endured the hardship of remote learning and isolation under lockdown. I prayed that God would bring fruit through this unconventional class taught during my night and their day.

My job focused on teaching language from a biblical worldview which I hoped would reveal something of God's grace to my students. Language is primarily a gift from God to all image-bearers. We all exhibit the

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Let us know you are ready to help! Register at our website: OPCDisasterResponse.org/volunteer-registry.
Donate: GIVE.OPC.org/diaconal-ministries-summary

- **Presbytery of the South:** We thank the Lord for His watchful care of the saints in OP churches in Louisiana after suffering from a second hurricane less than two months after weathering Hurricane Laura. The report is that all is well.
- **Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic:** All donations designated for the Tropical Storm Isaias effort continue to be greatly appreciated! The clean-up/decontamination work is now complete, and this project is into the rebuild stage. Last week, a construction consultant evaluated the progress on the home of David Bowles and his elderly mother. The contractor, who consulted free of charge, commended the work being accomplished and the wisdom in making some important electrical improvements with the walls open. He also advised on such topics as raising the HVAC unit, plaster and drywall, handicapped bathroom access, flooring and gutters. To date, the fund has received just over \$7,000 in donations.
- **Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario:** We are praising the Lord for his provision in Midland! The Disaster Response effort continues as drywall installation and finishing is nearly complete. Site coordinator, Mike Greene, is looking for an **experienced carpet installer and painting volunteers** in November. You know what that means—the end is in sight! Please contact Sam Phillips at Midlandvolunteers@opc.org if that sounds like you! Lord willing, the home could have an occupancy inspection by Thanksgiving!
- The Committee on Diaconal Ministries' COVID-19 Pandemic Response (CPR) Fund has received over \$52,000 in generous donations to date! With these gifts, the Committee on Diaconal Ministries has been able to respond to requests for financial assistance from Kenya, Uganda, Haiti, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Ethiopia.

Please help with these efforts! Go to our website to register or to find out more, volunteer or donate: opcdisasterresponse.org.

The Boardwalk Chapel Band 2021

The Boardwalk Chapel Band is going on tour in the Great Lakes region this winter, raising awareness and support for the Chapel as they prepare for next summer! The Band has concerts booked in Michigan, Chicago, Wisconsin, and Indiana. They are looking for churches in Ohio, Western PA, and Central PA to finish out their tour dates. If your church would like to host them this winter or would like to make a donation to the band, please e-mail them at boardwalkchapel.band@gmail.com.

To stay updated on OPC Short-Term Missions, go to our website: opcstm.org.

Continuing the Work in Midland

by Judy Hirdes, New Life OPC, Holland, MI
Our work in Midland, MI continues, following the devastating flood from the dam breakage on May 19. We drove there on August 4 to check out the Moots' home project for some details Cary needed to get all the parts ordered. We returned on August 14 and again parked our fifth

Continue reading on our website: <https://opcdisasterresponse.org/continuing-the-work-begun-in-midland/>



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