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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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*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## Three Constants in 2020

by Sarah Klazinga

**T**his year has been... unprecedented? Has anyone said that before? The large difficulties and uncertainties have magnified the small ones and made the whole year feel like one big disaster.

In January we heard that "hindsight is 2020." "What a great year this will be for reflection." "Can you believe The Roaring 20's were a century ago?" Can you believe January wasn't a century ago?

March brought a global pandemic with varying degrees of lockdown across the world. Economic uncertainty increased as the restrictions continued into April and then into May. Graduations, weddings, and vacations were cancelled or put on hold. Riots and unrest swept through the country after some extremely controversial violence making things even more uncertain and tumultuous.

There were floods, wildfires, a record hurricane season, a derecho (had anyone ever heard of such a thing until 2020?), and tornados.

Social media seemed to heighten anxiety and frustration as everyone stuck in their homes burst forth in views and reviews on every topic imaginable from masks and the ability to gather in groups, to who has won this election and how we should feel about it.

Does Scripture have anything to say about how we should live in unprecedented times?

Paul tells us three things we should be doing always, at all times, constantly and in everything. That includes even this unpredictable Year of Our Lord 2020. "Rejoice. Pray. Give thanks."

As we look back over 2020, and look forward to Thanksgiving, we rejoice in the Lord's faithfulness and goodness. This year has not taken Him by surprise; 2020 is not His "Plan B." He knew every detail of this year even before He spoke this world into existence. He is sovereign over all, and we take comfort and rejoice in that.

Because God is sovereign and good we continue to pray. Pray for our country and its leaders. Pray that the Lord will bring repentance, peace, and unity to our land

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### Ministering During Covid in the Developing World

*OPC Uganda Missionary Deacon Mark Van Essendelft on ministry in the developing world during the lockdown.*

What has it been like living during COVID-19 in Uganda? When the first cases arrived at the beginning of April, the president locked the country down tight. We had a curfew from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. All public transport was shut down: buses, taxi's and boda-bodas (motorcycle taxis). All private transport without a permit was banned by the RDC (like the county sheriff). All schools were closed. All businesses were closed down unless they were essential—

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**Let us know you are ready to help!** Register at our website: [OPCDisasterResponse.org/volunteer-registry](http://OPCDisasterResponse.org/volunteer-registry).

Donate: [GIVE.OPC.org/diaconal-ministries-summary](http://GIVE.OPC.org/diaconal-ministries-summary)

- Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic:** Work has progressed nicely due to a number of very dedicated volunteers from the OPC and Callaway Baptist Church. All plywood subfloors and the bulk of the insulation has been installed. Volunteers are on hold for the week or until the electrician, plumber and plasterer are finished. Site coordinator, Curt Sproul needs painters at the end of the month as we look toward putting the house back together! You don't have to pick the paint colors (that's the worst part), just show up with your painting clothes on and a willing spirit! Contact Gloria if you are interested: [isaiasvolunteers@opc.org](mailto:isaiasvolunteers@opc.org). Donations are appreciated: [give.opc.org](http://give.opc.org)!
- Presbytery of Michigan and Ontario:** The Moots' home is making significant progress but we still need your help to get it done in time for Christmas move-in, Lord willing! Progress is being made: a doorway and sidelight were installed by URC/RMS director Rob Brinks; painting was done by extended family, members local OPC volunteers, and OPC volunteers from Grand Rapids led by Jeff Davis. Trim was installed by OPC volunteers led by Pete Onnink; kitchen cabinet installation was done by Jim Smies and Roger Wesner, and bathroom tile was generously gifted by a friend of the Moots family. Steve Hill is on-site doing electrical and carpentry work, and Doug Baxter will finish plumbing the week of Thanksgiving. Everything is shaping up beautifully, but there are still things to do this fall and in the spring. Contact [Sam Phillips](mailto:Sam Phillips) to volunteer: [midlandvolunteers@opc.org](mailto:midlandvolunteers@opc.org).
- 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, India, Peru, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Ethiopia.

### Missionary Associate to Quebec Needed!

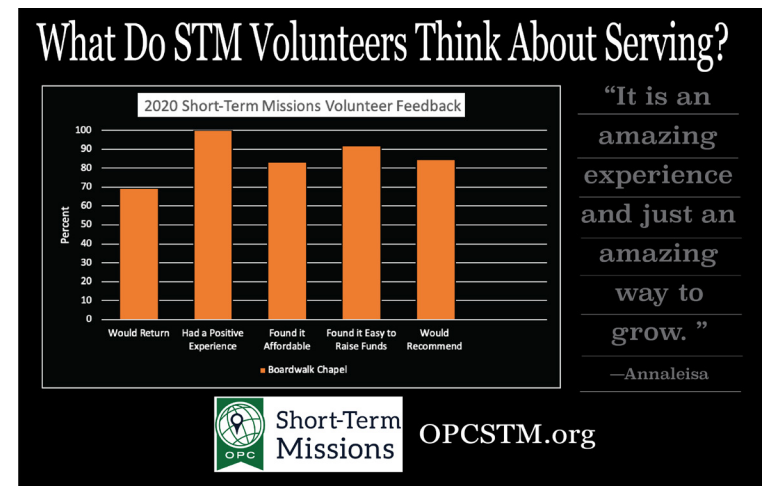
The Quebec mission is looking for a missionary associate to aid in planning their three-week summer "English for Kids" Bible Camp for the summer of 2021. Interested? Contact Pastor Ben Westerveld: [b\\_westerveld@hotmail.com](mailto:b_westerveld@hotmail.com).

### 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](mailto:boardwalkchapel.band@gmail.com).

### The Boardwalk Chapel Staff 2021 Openings!

Taking applications now for summer staff! Love music, drama or evangelism? Spend your summer at the BWC! Contact Anastasia Ferguson: [boardwalkchapel@gmail.com](mailto:boardwalkchapel@gmail.com).



"It is an amazing experience and just an amazing way to grow."

—Annaleisa

Please help with these efforts! Go to our website to register or to find out more, volunteer or donate: [opcdisasterresponse.org](http://opcdisasterresponse.org).

To stay updated on OPC Short-Term Missions, go to our website: [opcstm.org](http://opcstm.org).

Where you can find us:

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



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