



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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“With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

—Psalm 119:10-11

Don't Count Us Out, Just Yet!



English Camp for Kids, Quebec City, 2021

Calling all Canadians! This year St. Marc's Reformed Church in Quebec cannot receive Americans to help with their English Camps for Kids. So, we need your help to get the word out to your friends living in Canada. We will need about 10 volunteers. Pastor Ben will need to hear from you by April 1st, if you can help!

English Café in Quebec City

St-Marc's Reformed Church in Québec City, where OP Missionary Ben Westerveld is the Pastor, welcomes you to come to Quebec and do friendship evangelism by hosting a "Café Anglais" (English Café). This opportunity includes reaching out to French-speaking citizens in public venues and a university campus. Travel restrictions may apply during the pandemic. Be sure to contact Pastor Ben with any questions.

The Boardwalk Chapel 2021

There are many different opportunities to serve at the Boardwalk Chapel this summer:

- work groups
- church groups
- staff -- paid & volunteer positions urgently need to be filled
- training

Due to varying COVID-19 restrictions all over the world, some OPC STM fields have had to cancel their plans, while others are prayerfully deciding. Check our website regularly for updates on all of our opportunities:

opcstm.org.

OPC Short-Term Missions is down, but not quite out! It has been hit hard by the results of the mandates due to the COVID-19 virus, that is for sure. But this summer, with the vaccine distribution underway, Lord willing, we just may be able to get a few ministries in for the summer of 2021.

The Uganda Mission

Here are just some ways that individuals might be able to serve the mission:

- One to oversee the farm project
- Those willing to participate in facility maintenance
- Those willing to participate in the care and teaching of missionary children

Let us know you are ready to help! Register at our website: OPCDisasterResponse.org/volunteer-registry.

Donate: GIVE.OPC.org/diaconal-ministries-summary

Should VBS Be a Priority During COVID?

by Trish Duggan

The quick answer is, of course, yes, if at all possible.

With all the government mandates across the world, we've all slowly become accustomed to "sheltering in place", not seeing friends, not having an opportunity to fellowship and we've spent more time inside watching tv or on our devices. And we know that if we aren't actively working to have the Lord take up residence in our kids' hearts and minds, we are allowing other influences to do so. Powerful words. And so true. VBS is often one of the most convenient short-term missions for us to do!

COVID-19 has had a ripple effect in almost all aspects of our lives, wouldn't you say? Restrictions due to COVID-19 have limited worship, Sunday School, fellowship and encouragement to each other. And it's had a prominent effect on VBS—that amazing, unique way we use to introduce children to Jesus while making the church approachable and familiar.

I've been involved with our church's vacation Bible school on and off for many years. In that time I've heard stories from parents who talk about the first time they heard about Jesus and his love was at Bible school and now they know they need this influence on their kids. "With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:10-11

With COVID and the restrictions, what can VBS look like these days? Regulations are beginning to lift all over the country, but the reality is that we will probably deal with a different looking outreach again this summer. Here are just a few ideas to consider as your church may be contemplating a VBS:

- **Go virtual.**
 - Create a box of craft goodies to give out safely outdoors. Follow-up video lessons can be posted to your website each day in order to give directions for the crafts.
 - Read a Bible story or a Christian book to kids online. Send an email to the parents whose children have attended VBS in the past and give them a link to where you will be reading. Have a question-and-answer time at the end.
 - Get the teens/youth group in your church involved! Find a theater/play script and have the teens act out, either as a small group in person, or online—or both! You could do this with video or even just audio.
 - Since some Sunday school classes have been curtailed, use that curriculum! Hand worksheets out to parents at the beginning of a week and then have Bible lessons online each day.

- In-Person
 - Summer is a great time to be outside! If you have limitations to indoor gatherings where you are, take the lessons outside! Rent a tent, grab a blanket and read or act out a Bible story in the great outdoors.
 - Tent or no tent, grab some tables and teach a craft outside. It doesn't have to be long, and you could read to the children as they work.

For practical ideas, finish reading this article on our website: opcstm.org



Do you need help with your VBS? Let us get the word out to the OPC Short-Term Missions' community!
Go to OPCSTM.org.



Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic:

Leonardtown, Maryland

We praise the Lord that this effort is well on its way to completion! Site coordinator, Curt Sproul, along with deacons, members and friends at Grace and Peace OPC and Callaway Baptist Church continue working at the Bowles' home in Maryland. Donations toward this effort continue to be accepted and are very much appreciated! Please go to: give.opc.org to make a donation online.

The Committee on Diaconal Ministries' COVID-19 Pandemic Response (CPR) Fund

As COVID-19 continues to impact the world to varying degrees, many of our brothers and sisters are struggling to survive. To date, the CPR Fund has received \$93,644.19 in generous donations. Your gifts are appreciated. Find out how the donations are being disbursed on our website: opcdisasterresponse.org/opportunity/covid-19-pandemic-response-fund/.

To contribute to OPC Disaster Response, go to: give.opc.org/diaconal-ministries-summary.

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