



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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“The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.”
—Proverbs 22:4

Why Is It So Hard to Receive Help?

by Glenn Moots

Homeowner in the Midland, Michigan OPC Disaster Response Effort

It is hard to accept help from others. As Christians, we hear the direction of Paul telling us to be “cheerful givers.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). Paul also tells us (quoting Jesus), “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). We are tempted to infer from this that God loves givers more than receivers.

The Western tradition also commends giving more than receiving. Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, a landmark text, and part of the education of the Protestant Reformers, praises generosity great and small. Aristotle emphasizes that while benefactors do something noble, the same cannot be said for their beneficiaries. In his *De Officiis* (often translated *On Duties*) Cicero offers extensive advice on giving. Like Aristotle, he also emphasizes reciprocity: It is shameful to receive without giving something in turn, ideally of similar value. Hence, while giving is honorable, receiving is not—and it puts us in debt to others.

As if all this doesn’t make receiving help hard enough, Americans are expected to be self-sufficient. Our

Read the entire article on our website: opcdisasterresponse.org/why-is-it-so-hard-to-receive-help

Is it Safe for Christians to Refuse to Welcome the Stranger?

by Rev. Chris Cashen,
Pastor, Trinity Reformed Church,
Lanham, MD

A little over two weeks ago, on May 3, 2021, President Biden raised the 2021 cap on refugee resettlements in the United States fourfold: from 15,000 to 62,500. As he did so, the president stated that the previous limit “did not reflect America’s values as a nation that welcomes and supports refugees.” In the same statement, President Biden indicated that he would set the refugee admission cap at 125,000 for the 2022 fiscal year, which begins this year on October 1st.

Read entire article: opccdm.org



Short-Term Missions OPPORTUNITIES

UGANDA

- Farm project
- Facility maintenance
- Care and teach missionary children
- KEO preschool teaching assistants
- Missionary Associates

QUEBEC CITY, CANADA

- A **Missionary Associate** (M.A.) is needed to work with OP Missionary Rev. Ben Westerveld in Quebec City.
- **English Cafe**
- St-Marc’s Reformed Church in Québec City hosts an outreach English Café friendship evangelism.

BOARDWALK CHAPEL, NJ

- Street Preaching Conference (May 27-31)
- School of Evangelism (June 7-12)
- End of Summer Staff openings (beginning July 10)

Go to our website to read the details on all of these opportunities: opcstm.org.

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Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic:

Leonardtown, Maryland Site coordinator, Curt Sproul, reports that progress continues, but is slow at times. In the next few weeks, they plan to finish the kitchen cabinets, install flooring, doors, trim, bathroom fixtures and complete some plumbing hookup. After that, household items will be cleaned and returned to the home. Please continue to pray for this effort.

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

To date, the CPR Fund has received \$94,864.19 in generous donations and has disbursed \$57,695 of that to brothers and sisters around the world. 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.

