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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

Volume 10, Number 12
September 22, 2021

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”—Acts 20:24

Stirring Up Christians for Evangelism

by Emma Nakhla
member of Calvary OPC, Glenside, PA

The flashy, noisy boardwalk of Wildwood, New Jersey is far from physically dark, but it desperately needs to see the light of the gospel, and the Boardwalk Chapel provides this in such a unique and important way.

The Boardwalk Chapel has just wrapped up another fruitful summer! Over 175 Chapel volunteers representing four presbyteries, approximately eight OP and three PCA Churches from across the country, made up the largest group of participants in the Chapel’s history. One church brought a record 40 volunteers for the week!

The Chapel’s focus is deeply rooted in evangelism, and its presence on the boardwalk boldly and faithfully tells the truth of the gospel to as many of the lost as the Lord allows. Staff members take turns, Bible in hand, open air preaching to what at times may appear to fall on deaf ears.

One volunteer, Aicha Fitzgerald, put it, “It’s a place that cares so much about the Bible and making sure everyone has an opportunity to hear the gospel.” The Chapel allows the lost to hear the gospel through different forms of evangelism, as it sets itself apart from the worldly attractions.

One of the unique ways the staff evangelizes is by initiating conversations with strangers about the gospel each day. Most people visiting Wildwood are tourists,

coming from all over the country—even the world. This allows the staff an amazing opportunity to present the gospel to diverse groups of people. Annaliese Ferguson, a staff member who has been volunteering at the Chapel her entire life, explains, “People come from everywhere, which means you get to talk to so many people with so many different beliefs and share the gospel with them.” Countless conversations have been exchanged between the staff members and strangers, challenging both sides of the conversation. One volunteer, Caleb Smiley, says

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that he was struck by how open and interested people were in hearing what he had to say. He imagined he would encounter a lot of hostility in this uncomfortable task, but was encouraged to find some people are just looking for answers—exactly what the Chapel is there to provide.

At times, evangelism can be discouraging, especially if we do not see immediate results. But we can trust that the Lord will carry out his good and perfect will, and that he does use our conversations, tracts, and programs, to draw His people to Himself. Our Lord is faithful!

But, by God’s grace, at times, He generously gives encouragement. One mother relayed her gratitude in a note: “About a year ago our son was vacationing in Wildwood. His girlfriend was in a store shopping and he was standing outside in the vicinity of the store and the Chapel. A gentleman from the Chapel started a conversation with him and began to witness. That gentleman planted a seed that has flourished and our son told us recently he was

saved. We have tried for years to witness to him. My son doesn’t remember his name but that gentleman got through to him! Praise Jesus! May God bless that gentleman and the Boardwalk Chapel!”

Continue reading on our website: www.opcstm.org



Short-Term Missions OPPORTUNITIES



UKRAINE MISSION

Are you looking for an intense cross-cultural missions internship that will personally mentor you through your calling, identity in Christ, and role in God's world mission?

The mission in Ukraine plans to offer a two-month summer internship for college upperclassmen and seminary students in the summer of 2022. Check our website for more information over the coming months.

MISSIONARY TRAINING INSTITUTE SOUTH KOREA

ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers are desperately needed at the Missionary Training Institute (MTI) in South Korea!

One or two teachers are needed to serve from October 26 to December 21, 2021.

UGANDA

There aren't many short-term missions opportunities out there these days, but our missionaries in Uganda could use encouragement and help from our churches, especially during these trying times!

BOARDWALK CHAPEL, NJ

The Boardwalk Chapel is already booking teams for Summer 2022! Don't miss out: boardwalkchapel.org. Check our website for more information: OPCSTM.org

HURRICANE IDA

Earlier this month, MNA Disaster Response (PCA) invited OPC Disaster Response volunteers to aid in their effort in New Orleans. Sherry Lanier, MNA volunteer facilitator, updated us on that effort, "We have had a wonderful response to the need for volunteers! With the teams already scheduled through the end of September we will be able to complete all work orders we have received. We will be closing down our Louisiana volunteer staging site in early October." Praise the Lord for His provision!

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE (CPR) FUND

The Committee on Diaconal Ministries continues to be concerned about the economic impact of the response to COVID by various governments around the world. As such, while thankful for the \$104,404.19 received in the OPC COVID-19 Fund, the CDM continues to keep this fund open for donations in the event of other dire requests. The CDM has disbursed \$77,695 of that to brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you for your contributions and prayers! 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.

For more information on any of these opportunities, go to: OPCDisasterResponse.org.

What Chapel volunteers are saying...

We were stretched and blessed by the teaching and the chance to see the Lord working (and even much of the hostility that he guarantees in his word we will receive.) —Aiden Hathaway

Thank you to the Boardwalk Chapel for a great, well-organized and very edifying opportunity for us. We were much blessed by it. —Pastor Markus Jeromin

It has been a privilege and a joy to proclaim the good news of Jesus to a lost and dying world that swirls by the doors of the chapel each day; to sing His praises, to answer the challenges of unbelievers, to pray with the down trodden and lost who always seem to find the place. —Ron Elwell

This is an excellent opportunity to explore your spiritual gifts and find out if evangelism is one of them! —Hayden Butcher



Short-Term Missions

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