



## S.T.O.R.M. REPORT

Short Term Outreach, Relief, & Missions

A Newsletter from the office of the Short-Term Mission and Disaster Response Coordinator



May 15, 2024

# A May Marked by Storms

In the last month, the United States has experienced a series of intense storms, particularly marked by tornado activity in various regions. However, amidst the chaos and destruction, members of the OPC family have felt the Lord's protection while incurring only minimal damage.

Most recently, across the Midwest, South, Southeast, and Southwest U.S., it's been reported by news sources that over 70 confirmed tornadoes swept through communities in 15 states over consecutive days, causing many to escape their homes, and suffer widespread loss of power. Reformation OPC in Gastonia, North Carolina sustained minor damage to their building after a nearby tornado touched down. It is hoped that the damage will be covered by insurance.

Just over one week prior to the tornado activity, the Houston area suffered strong storms and downpours that damaged homes and triggered evacuations. With thankfulness to the Lord, none of the Houston area OP Churches suffered any damage.

Tornadoes also swept through Oklahoma and Nebraska in late April. No known damage to OP Churches or church families has been reported from those storms. We praise the Lord for his protection during these powerful storms.

OPC Disaster Response provides resources on what measures you or your church should take if you suffer from a weather-related disaster. Be sure to [take a look!](#)

And as hurricane season begins in June, we ask that you consider registering with OPC Disaster Response, if you haven't already. Registering lets us know that you are interested in ministering to those in need after a disaster when you are able.

Please pray for these regions as they begin restoration efforts.

Find out more at: [OPCDisasterResponse.org](https://www.opcdisasterresponse.org).

### SERVE

## VBS in Sunny California or Witnessing on the Breezy Boardwalk in New Jersey?

While almost all of our overseas short-term missions opportunities have been filled, there are still a few right here in the U.S. that remain available. Seven more people are needed to help with Vacation Bible School

at a small, OPC mission work, Thousand Oaks OPC, in California. And the Boardwalk Chapel has multiple openings for a variety of personalities! Whether you enjoy having conversations with vacationers, cooking meals, singing on stage or you'd like to learn more opportunities. Maybe one of these choices could be a good fit for you, your youth group, or other church group? Think about it, pray about it and then reach out.

## Short Term Missions Opportunities—

### Open:

#### Boardwalk Chapel 2024

The Boardwalk Chapel invites individuals and church groups to serve!

#### Churches Helping Churches

Looking to find a service project for your youth, another group, or individuals in your church? We can pair your group up with a church that could use some help but doesn't have the volunteer resources.

#### South Korea

Teach ESL at the Missionary Training Institute. Interested in traveling to South Korea and teaching English to missionaries? Two or Three ESL teachers are needed to serve in 2024.

Check out these opportunities on our website: [OPCSTM.org](https://www.opcstm.org)

## Disaster Response Opportunities—

### Ukraine Crisis Fund

As the war in Ukraine continues, the church continues to seek to minister to those who need it most. Donations will be used to support the church in their ministry of mercy.

### Register to be a Disaster Response Volunteer!

Let us know you are interested in serving so that we can call on you when the need arises. There are currently 543 registered volunteers to date!

Learn about these opportunities and more by visiting our website: [OPCDisasterResponse.org](https://www.opcdisasterresponse.org)

### UPDATE

## A Whirlwind of Activity for OPC Missionary Associate Jed Homan

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity here in Uganda, filled with both challenges and blessings. Let me share with you some of the highlights.

With the assistance of Zach [Nakhla], a visitor, we successfully completed the rewiring of one of the houses just in time for the arrival of the Grimsley family. Josh, Danielle, and their four daughters have joined us for a 1-year term as missionary associates. Josh, an Elder of the OP Church in Concho Valley, Arizona, is primarily here to assist with maintenance.

In February, David Nakhla from the Committee on Diaconal Ministries of the OPC visited briefly. He led a two-day class on the ministry of presence for members of the Mercy committee. Despite the church not yet being particularized and lacking ordained Deacons, the Mercy Committee, comprising faithful church members, has been meeting regularly to discuss how to help those in need within the church and the surrounding community. Please pray for them for continued wisdom in how to best help those needs both spiritual and physical.

Most afternoons in March were spent studying the local language, as Chloe and Leah, with the help of some locals, led an introductory class of Nkaramojoŋ for Josh, Danielle, and myself. Although the group class has concluded, please continue to pray for me as I persist in my language studies both independently and with the guidance of a tutor.

With language studies occupying the afternoons, Josh and I utilized the mornings to tackle the long-overdue task of cleaning and organizing the shop. Looking back, it was a good time that Josh and I got to get to know each other a bit, see how each other works, and get him familiarized with the tools and materials we have on hand. Even I was finding things I didn't know were here myself after 8 months on the field. We have already seen time being saved and the frustrating question of "Where is \_\_\_" being asked much less, as things now have a proper home.

Read the rest of Jed's letter on our website: [opcstm.org](https://www.opcstm.org).

Where you can find us: Facebook: OPC Disaster Response & OPC Short-Term Missions Instagram: @OPCSTM

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