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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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*“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” —Proverbs 19:17*

## Ukraine Crisis Fund Update—Working Together

by David Nakhla, Administrator for the Committee on Diaconal Ministries

The OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries rejoices in the generous and rapid response to the Ukraine Crisis Fund, now at \$288,000, giving evidence of the concern for OPC missionaries in Ukraine and all those to whom and with whom they minister. As you may know, OPC missionaries, Heero and Anya Hacquebord, serve as part of a Mission To the World (the PCA's foreign missions committee) team in Ukraine. The MTW team has had a long presence in Ukraine, dating back to the fall of the Iron Curtain in the early 90's. The Hacquebords continue to be well and find great comfort in the prayers of God's people.

Immediately following Russia's recent invasion into Ukraine, the MTW team in Ukraine launched a plan to minister both to those staying in Ukraine and to those fleeing as refugees. MTW opened a fund with the goal of raising \$2 million. After one week, that fund had grown to more than \$1 million! Seeing both the rate of funds coming in and the growing needs due to the conflict, the team raised the fund's goal to \$4 million. That fund is now at almost \$3 million. The Refugee Ministry Subcommittee of the OPC CDM met recently and determined to contribute \$70,000 from the Ukraine Crisis Fund to support the MTW team's efforts.

Another like-minded reformed denomination serving in and near this affected region is the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Central & Eastern Europe (RPCCEE). They are a small denomination of about 20 churches laboring in Hungary, Southwest Ukraine, and Romania. OPC representatives have visited the RPCCEE several times over the years and the RPCCEE has sent representatives to several OPC general assemblies. There is a real spirit of fellowship and like-mindedness between our denominations. The RPCCEE is actively ministering both to families fleeing from Ukraine into Hungary and families remaining in Ukraine. Last week,

a representative group from the OPC met with two RPCCEE pastors via Zoom and they welcomed our participation in their labors. We are in the process of working out what that might look like. Please pray for the development of this collaboration.

World Witness, the foreign missions committee of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church (ARP), has missionaries in Poland, Lithuania, Germany, and Spain. These missionaries are all actively collaborating to transport and care for Ukrainian refugees. With them, we are considering ways to come alongside them in their labors.

There are also a number of other smaller sister churches and/or organizations working in and around Ukraine, with whom the OPC has connections. We are in active communication with these churches and

organizations, as well, to see how we can come alongside and augment the work they are doing.

Finally, it is becoming apparent that this sad situation will most likely not end soon; or at least the recovering from it. As such, it will be helpful to have some funds available to be used further down the road, when all the big aid organizations have moved on and the news agencies have forgotten all about Ukraine and the needs of the Ukrainian diaspora. The CDM hopes that some of the gifts to the OPC fund will be available to meet those needs as well.

The CDM welcomes your prayers for wisdom. We would like to send a small delegation to the region soon, to meet and assess firsthand and to bring encouragement and a ministry of presence. We welcome prayers for wisdom in timing and logistics in this as well.

Thank you for showing the love of Christ in this important effort, both financially and by your faithful prayers. Updates on the Ukraine Crisis Fund can be found on the OPC Disaster Response website: [OPCDisasterResponse.org](http://OPCDisasterResponse.org).





## Opportunity to Serve in Ukraine

Mission To the World (PCA) is currently taking applications to gather basic information from people willing to serve MTW Ukraine's crisis response efforts. This form is only step one. No short term trips are planned at this time but they will be in touch as teams and trips develop. Mission to the World (PCA) is building a list of people with special skill sets and a willingness to help with efforts both in Ukraine and in bordering countries. They are also using this interest form to build and develop their crisis response teams. Find out more by going to [OPCDisasterResponse.org](http://OPCDisasterResponse.org).



## Short-Term Missions

### OPPORTUNITIES

#### THE UGANDA MISSION

**IMMEDIATE NEED** – Facilities Engineer in Karamoja, Uganda  
With the Van Essendelfts scheduled to return to the States in April, there is an immediate need for a Facilities Engineer to serve in Uganda. While short-term help is welcome, there is a longer-term need for one to go serve alongside Mark Van Essendelft upon his return to the field next January. Support package negotiable. If this would be something you would like to explore further, please don't hesitate to contact Douglas Clawson: [douglas.clawson@opc.org](mailto:douglas.clawson@opc.org) directly.

#### BOARDWALK CHAPEL, NJ

**End of April or Early May:** Work groups are invited to come to the Chapel to help get it ready for the summer season.

**May 26-30:** We need more open air preachers in our country, and we are asking God to raise up young men to this wonderful and glorious end. Men, young and old, who have a desire or growing burden to engage in open air preaching are encouraged to join us in Wildwood. You will be encouraged. You will be taught. You will be challenged. Contact the Chapel: [boardwalkchapel@gmail.com](mailto:boardwalkchapel@gmail.com).

#### CHURCHES HELPING CHURCHES

Is it overwhelming to think about gathering volunteers for projects, refugee ministry or vacation Bible school? Consider reaching out to short-term missions to ask for staffing help!

Or is an opportunity to serve a church just what you are looking for? OPC Short-Term Missions can help to pair you up with a church in need of help!

Check our website for more information on any of these opportunities: [OPCSTM.org](http://OPCSTM.org)

## OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries Update



Are you drawn to mercy ministry or do you see yourself working to help those who serve the Lord by helping others? The Committee on Diaconal Ministries of the OPC is searching for an additional part-time (20-25 hours/week) team member! The Committee is looking for an outgoing and organized person who is eager to aid the work of those who serve in mercy ministry, through our work with the OPC deacons, short-term missions and disaster response. Get all the details by going to <https://www.opccdm.org/opc-cdm-employment-opportunities/>.

### The OPC National Diaconal Summit

Deacons, have you ever attended a conference and were so charged up by it that you felt like you could tackle almost anything? That's what participants of previous National Diaconal Summits tell us.

This three-day event for deacons and deacons-in-training proves to be a rich time of instruction, encouragement and fellowship. Nearly 1,000 deacons serve in the OPC and the summit allows these men to connect as brothers, sharing their burdens and joys. The summit only comes along once every four to five years, and every summit is different, so you don't want to miss this one. The earlier registrants will have their first choice of workshops, so don't delay! All registration fees will be waived if you register by April 1, 2022--that's only 8 days away! And be sure to listen to The Reformed Deacon podcast's latest episode, "Why You Should Attend the National Diaconal Summit in June." Find it on your favorite podcast player or go to [TheReformedDeacon.org](http://TheReformedDeacon.org).

Where you can find us:

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