



S.T.O.R.M. Report

Short-Term Outreach, Relief & Missions

From the Office of the Short-Term Missions Coordinator

Vol. 4, Issue 9

September 30, 2015

The Refugee Crisis: A Man-Made Disaster

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27 (ESV)

I recently heard someone recall a quote of Stalin's - that "a single death is a tragedy;; a million deaths is a statistic" - in reference to the body of a young Syrian refugee boy that had washed up on the beach and captivated the attention and ire of the world as the current refugee crisis builds.

In many places, this is being driven by the overt slaughter of civilians, many of them singled out for being Christians or belonging to other minority groups. Even as it has been said that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church," the refugee crisis is creating opportunities for a gospel witness in places and with people that previously seemed impossible to reach.

Many hearts have been stirred to action. We have heard from some of you, asking, "How can we help? What can we do?" Please pray for the Committee on Diaconal Ministries as it considers how the OPC might become involved in this ministry. And continue to be in prayer for many who are suffering – most importantly, our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering for Christ's sake.

Can Your Church Use a Team?

Is there a project that your church could undertake if it had the help of volunteers from another OP church or presbytery? Vacation Bible School, community outreach, making improvements to your church building? In making such a need known, your church actually provides an opportunity for those who seek to share their time, gifts, and skills with others in the OPC! We can help you get the word out and look for a team! For further information, contact us at OPCShortTermMissions@opc.org.

Excerpts from Short-Term Missions Testimonials (find more at www.OPCSTM.org)

"The Boardwalk Chapel challenged me to put Christian apologetics to practical use. And it was terrifying. Following the nightly Chapel services, teams of Chapel workers stroll the boardwalk, striking up conversations with strangers about Christianity. The first few times you do this, every doubt you've ever had about the Christian faith is drawn to the forefront of your mind . . ." Katharine Olinger, Boardwalk Chapel Ministry Team

"The ministry being done in Japan is a slow and daunting feat but is greatly needed. The people of Yamamoto are gaining a deeper thirst and desire for a faith that can withstand disasters and heartbreak. Through the work done at the Nozomi Center, the Japanese can see the unique and selfless love of Christ and they want to know more . . ." Maria Crawford, Nozomi Center Service Team

"Unless someone tells them about Jesus, they are going to stay spiritually dead. We can easily formulate reasons not to proclaim Jesus. We can evaluate the risk of success and determine it is not worth it. But, we are called to fear God, not man (Matthew 10:28). God has chosen the foolish, weak, low, and despised to accomplish His ends (1 Corinthians 1:18-31) . . ." Alexander Patocs, Team Uganda

Current Opportunities for Service (get all the details at www.OPCSTM.org)

- Summer 2016: Czech Republic "English Camp"
- Help Refurbish Church Building in Utah
- Short-Term English Teachers Needed in South Korea
- English Café Evangelism in Quebec
- Year-Round Opportunities for Service in Uganda
- Evangelism Training in Key West, Florida
- Help Refurbish Church Manse in Kentucky

Request an email version of the full S.T.O.R.M. Report from:

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