



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



April 18, 2024

Continuing to Love the Souls in Neon

Deacon Mike Kelly (Heritage OPC, Wilmington, NC) and his wife, Sylvia, are back in Neon, Kentucky! They haven't truly left—not in their hearts, anyway.

As you probably remember, back in the summer of 2022, Neon Reformed OPC and the 16 counties surrounding it suffered from catastrophic floods leading to a declaration of widespread disaster zones. When Mike and Sylvia heard about this, they knew they wanted to be a part of the rebuilding. Their first visit was in September of 2022. The Kellys then committed to spending three and a half months at the beginning of 2023 in Neon, not only working on the finishing touches of Neon Reformed but also reaching out into the community to help residents there pull their lives back together. When it was time to go, it was clear they had made an impact. The mayor even honored the Kellys publicly at a town festival. Mike and Sylvia (as well as their dog, Charlie) have made quarterly trips back to Neon to continue where they left off. Sylvia says, "Lord willing, our goal is to come back once a quarter and do any diaconal work that needs to be done—at least until NRPC has their own deacons."

So, they are back, serving again right now in their adopted town of Neon. They say they make the seven-hour drive because they love the people at Neon Reformed and the town of Neon. Seth Long, an elder at Neon Reformed OPC loves having a deacon around. He's amazed by what Mike and Sylvia have been able to accomplish, not just physically, but in the unanticipated trust they've developed with the town. Long says, "Not everybody can do that in Neon, Kentucky." The folks there don't easily trust. But Mike earned that from them. "It's beautiful," Long says. He speaks from experience. Seth and his wife, Sheryl, admit they still feel like outsiders at times even after over 33 years of laboring there.

Recently, while working, Mike noticed a small kids' dance studio and gift shop was holding a fundraiser, selling chicken and dumplings to help families pay for lessons. Mike wanted to contribute so he walked over, only to be told that he was not allowed to pay! Further proof that the Kellys are well-known and loved by Neon.



UPDATES

2024 OPC Short-Term Missions



- VBS at **Thousand Oaks OPC**, California (nine more people are needed!)
- **Scotland** with RP Global
- Work Groups, Summer Staff, Junior Staff, Church Groups and School of Evangelism at the **Boardwalk Chapel**
- Register to serve with **OPC Disaster Response** (hurricane season is coming!)
- ESL in **South Korea**
- **Churches Helping Churches**



OPCSTM.ORG



- Praise the Lord for providing the right volunteers for these opportunities and please pray as they prepare.
- Childcare in Uganda (another opportunity may be opening for fall)
 - English Camp in Hungary
 - VBS in Puerto Rico (two teams!)
 - English for Kids in Quebec
 - Teams for Japan
 - Cross-Cultural Missions Training

SPOTLIGHT

VBS AT THOUSAND OAKS OPC

JULY 6-15, 2024
Thousand Oaks, California

SERVE

Short Term Missions Opportunities— 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.

Japan

The Japan Mission is happy to receive mission teams willing to assist with a variety of tasks!

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.

Scotland with RP Missions

Bible Club and possible neighborhood tract distribution.

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 539 registered volunteers to date!

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

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

David Nakhla,
OPC Short-Term Missions and
Disaster Response Coordinator
david.nakhla@opc.org

Trish Duggan,
Communications Coordinator
trish.duggan@opc.org

Allison Groot,
Administrative Assistant
allison.groot@opc.org