



In The Way

with the St-Onges

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New Work, Starting Yesterday

Last month was certainly a low point in our time as missionaries. We weren't quite sure what the future might hold. But a couple of days after I sent out my newsletter, I received a phone call from the pastoral care coordinator of the Latin American region. That led to some emails, and an offer of work from the Regional Director of Latin America, Rev. Ted Krey.

Pastor Krey and I met in seminary, where he was completing his studies just as I was beginning mine. We are both originally Canadian, although I have since acquired my US citizenship. He began his work in Venezuela, while I began serving in Philadelphia, PA. Pastor Krey now serves in the Dominican Republic, which is a country Deb and I were asked to consider serving in during my last year at seminary. I only mention these few connections (and there are more) because the Lord's plans often run so deep that they can be difficult to see. But have no doubt, they are there.

As of mid-January I have begun serving as the Area Facilitator for Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. I'll also be assisting with pastoral care for the many new missionaries going to the Latin American field of work this year. Certainly the last few months have emphasized for us the importance of continual pastoral care for our missionaries. Satan is not going to stand idly by while we bring the Gospel light to all nations on earth. When we send out missionaries, we are sending them into battle on the front line. And soldiers dealing with the heat of battle are the ones most in need of regular care.

Thanks to the many of you who have been faithfully supporting us, I was able to begin work right away. The girls will finish school in Cincinnati, and our family will be evaluated for our ability to redeploy to the field. We will have three months to think about where we might live while I serve the four families moving to the Greater Antilles, and assist Pastor Krey with any other work that needs to be done. I'll also be learning Spanish – something I've started on in the past and am excited to take up again.

Please pray for us as we begin this new chapter of service as your missionaries. May the Gospel light of Christ spread through us.

Mission Moment

"Mommy, I don't think they believe in Jesus. So I told them about him. Can we invite them to church?"

Those are real words I've heard come out of my children's mouths, not once but several times over the last few months. Sometimes you wonder whether all the things your children are hearing are sinking in. Then your daughter asks what to do about the neighbor next door who isn't a Christian. What else, but tell them about Jesus?

Jesus urged the importance of receiving little children for "to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14, ESV). Yet too many congregations see children as a nuisance, and recruiting people to teach Sunday School, help with VBS, or run the nursery is often like pulling teeth. But so often our best evangelists are children, who don't hesitate to tell their friends about Jesus and how he has saved us from our sins on the cross.

As we grow up, Satan gets a hold of us and provides all sorts of reasons for not sharing our faith. The chief reason we don't tell others about Jesus is that we've lost our childlike confidence in Christ. That's why in my new book on evangelism I spend a whole chapter strengthening our confidence in the Gospel before I talk about sharing it with others. The book, "Let's Talk About Jesus," will be available on intheway.org in the coming month.

Who will we be assisting in the Caribbean?



Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States and the LCMS has been working there for over two decades. There is currently one established congregation in Mayaguez, a small city on the west coast of the island. Two missionary families, the Rueschs and the Schullers, will be starting work there this spring. They are hoping to expand the work of Principe de Paz congregation as well as start new congregations and, perhaps, schools on the island. My work includes supporting these families pastorally, connecting them to the resources they need for their work, and providing guidance to them. You can read more at lcms.org/puertorico.

The LCMS started work in Jamaica over two decades ago, through the work of many in the LCMS. There is an established congregation, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, which is now being served by Pastor Obot Ite (his wife Abasifreke and baby Abasiofon) from the Lutheran Church of Nigeria. There is also a Lutheran Hour Ministries facilitator in Jamaica, Ancella Gregory, who continues to spread the Gospel in schools through children's bible studies. My work will be to support these missionaries pastorally and to help connect them with the resources they need. You can learn more about what's happening in Jamaica at lcms.org/jamaica.



The Cayman Islands are one of 14 British Overseas Territories, and the largest island is a 10th the size of Rhode Island. Mission work on Grand Cayman started a little over a decade ago, and resulted in the establishment of what is now Safe Harbour Lutheran Church. Since August, 2014 the congregation has been served by missionaries Rev. Leif Hasskarl, his wife Nancy, and their son Chris. My work will be to provide pastoral support to their family, and to help them as they share the Gospel to the Caymanians. You can learn more about their work by visiting lcms.org/caymanislands.

Prayer Concerns

- For the Lutheran Church - Canada, who are struggling with their mission to the people of Canada,
- For Olivia, Sophia and Deb, who may be moving for the fourth time in two years, that they would not lose heart and transition successfully,
- For the Hasskarls, Ites, Rueschs and Schullers, that they might be strengthened through us for the work that lies ahead of them,
- For Christians all around the world who gather in small, isolated groups, that they may be reminded of their unity with the rest of Christ's body

Support Us

Through Mission Central

Make checks payable to The LCMS, memo line: St-Onge Family, and send to:

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Through Synod Office

Make checks to The LCMS, memo line: St-Onge Asia Pacific Support, and send to:

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
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