



In The Way

with the St-Onges

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Santiago, Dominican Republic

It has been a busy month of traveling. I spent 10 days at the end of February at mission orientation in Santiago. I had the chance to get to know the Rueschs and Schullers, our new missionaries in Puerto Rico, whom I will be supporting. We saw first hand how witness, mercy and life together are done in the Dominican Republic missions. We were also privileged to participate in the consecration and installation of new deaconesses, a new Dominican vicar, and a new Lutheran missionary from Venezuela who will be working in the DR. I sat through a weekend "FORO," or mission support group meeting, for the DR. It is my intention to develop a FORO for each of the countries which I am supporting.

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

In the middle of March I spent four days with Rev. Leif Hasskarl, visiting Grand Cayman and learning more about the mission of Safe Harbour Lutheran Church. I preached on Sunday morning, and met with members of the council to discuss what works of mercy the Lord may be asking them to do as a congregation. We came up with a couple of good ideas, which will be pursued in the coming weeks and months.

One of the challenges of working in the Caymans is the constant turnover of expatriot and seasonal residents, and the gap between them and the local population. We prayed and discussed how these challenges might be creatively addressed. I will be returning to the Caymans at the end of May to serve the congregation while Pastor Hasskarl is back in Texas.

Kingston, Jamaica

After my four days in the Caymans, I took a short flight over to Jamaica to spend five days with Rev. Ite and his family, and our congregations in Kingston. There are two established Lutheran congregations in Jamaica; St. Andrew on the north side of the city, and Faith in the downtown area. I had the opportunity to assist and preach at both congregations on Sunday, to lead bible study for the women's group on Saturday, and discuss mission work with the congregations' leadership.

While there I also had the chance to discuss plans for building a permanent worship facility on a piece of property owned in Kingston, and to plan for a deaconess training conference in mid-May. Pray for these endeavors!

Mission Moment

It didn't look like our flight out of Columbus was going to depart. The snow was already coming down heavy at 4:30 am as I made my way to the airport. At 6:00 am we were waiting for the plane to be deiced and the runway to be plowed. Things didn't look good.

The woman beside me exclaimed, "by God's grace we'll leave this morning." Turns out she is a Christian from India, and we struck up a conversation. Although her children are also Christian, her husband remains agnostic. We talked about what it's like to share our faith with family members, and how difficult that can be.

About halfway through the flight the man in front of us turned around and asked if I was a pastor, and would I be willing to answer a question. Of course I would, I said! He asked whether or not Jesus was really God and, if he was, didn't that mean there were at least two gods, the Father and Jesus? I found myself explaining the idea of a triune God at 30,000 feet over New Jersey.

Always be ready for whatever conversations the Lord may send your way!



TL: Obot and Abas Ite, missionaries in Jamaica; **TM:** Installing new officers at Faith, Kingston; **TR:** Before service on Grand Cayman; **ML:** Preaching at Safe Harbour; **Middle:** Kids leading singing at Faith, Kingston; **BL:** The Rueschs, new missionaries in Puerto Rico; **BR:** Property for the new home of St. Andrew, Kingston, Jamaica.



Prayer Concerns

- For Deb, Olivia and Sophia as Charles is away working in his new position,
- For the Hasskarls, as they continue their work on Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands,
- For the Ites in Jamaica, in thanksgiving for their new passports and their new townhome in Kingston,
- For Charles, who will be installing the Rueschs and Schullers in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in Spanish at the end of March.

Support Us

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