

In The Way

with the St-Onges

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News from Up North

Worship at Ascension, Montreal is a multilingual experience. Yesterday a student from Wichita, Kansas arrived at Concordia University (not LCMS), and looked up our congregation. Owing to the second bout of massive construction in front of the building, he ended up missing bible study and sat through the end of the French-language service. After teaching and leading the English service, I attended the Mandarin-language service, and a service led in one of the languages of Pakistan. At the latter, I ran into one of our Armenian members. Speaking only two languages well seems wholly inadequate for the work here!

We are beginning some children's ministry, adult instruction for three new members, and a ministry to the teens of the Chinese congregation. I'm beginning the process of building bridges to the Pakistani community as well. We are planning a bilingual, possibly trilingual, Reformation service. There is much to do: the challenge is taking one step at a time. We pray that the Lord will bless those efforts.

News from Down South

The biggest news from the Caribbean is the hope of starting a Foro, or missionary forum, for Jamaica. The LCMS owns a piece of land in uptown Kingston, on Upper Waterloo Road. Ironically, it's less than half a mile from the Canadian High Commission. Plans have been drawn up for the construction of a modest worship / fellowship space on the land, with parking and office space for Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) and our mission staff. However the construction cost is beyond the means of the St. Andrew's congregation, approximately \$120,000 US.

In partnership with Rev. Peter Kirby of LHM, we hope to find partner Districts, congregations and individuals in the US and Canada who will work with us to construct this Lutheran facility for Jamaica. If you are interested in participating in a Foro for Jamaica, please email me: charles.stonge@lcmsintl.org. Our family intends to make a contribution towards this work, and hope you will consider whether you would like to as well.

Mission Moment

"You've got your work cut out for you, pastor." I was walking the alley behind the church building in Montreal, and ran into Rudy and Martine. Rudy owns two of the apartment complexes there, and Martine is one of the tenants. She was French-Canadian; I'm not sure of Rudy's background.

Not sure of where the comment was coming from, I explored a little further. Rudy is an admitted atheist, and Martine a lapsed Roman Catholic. We had a good conversation; hopefully an opening for further ones in the future.

"What do you know about Islam?" The young man was attending the Pakistani service at Ascension. He was passionate about his faith, and not just generalities but details.

He told me how he explained to two Jehovah's Witnesses that, basically, they were little different from Muslims. They had never thought about their beliefs that way! Would that we were all so well trained in sharing our faith in Christ.



It's been difficult getting to the church building this month, with surrounding roads and sidewalks ripped up. But whether in French, English, or Mandarin, the Lord is drawing his own to himself.

The Canadian election is two months away. Ascension's Member of Parliament is Justin Trudeau, leader of the Liberal party, and so one of three men who may end up also leading the country. Deb was surprised to see that all our political posters include pictures of the candidates, and sometimes of party leaders as well. On the bottom right is a picture from Olivia's 11th birthday, including three members of Ascension who happen to live around the corner!



Words from Deborah

One of the blessings (luxuries) of this particular move has been the extended summer break for the girls. Often we parents are counting the days to the start of the next school year the day after the last day of school. Not so for us. We have had time to say good-bye as well as time to say bonjour. We have been learning where to shop, trying new brands, and discovering similarities. Our biggest struggle was finding a green highlighter without having to buy 12. (FYI: Pharmaprix). We have enjoyed our local pool (and learned that wearing swim caps is tolerable), biked on "real" (and super nice) bike paths, and sat in enough traffic to explain why sometimes it really is better to take the train. Next hurdle: School! Thank you for your support and prayers during this learning curve.

Prayer Concerns

- For Synod staff in St. Louis, as they strive with fewer resources to place more and more missionaries in the world,
- For Abasifreke Ite, wife of Pastor Ite in Jamaica, who is having surgery August 26,
- For all our missionaries in the Caribbean during hurricane season, that they would be kept safe,
- For Olivia and Sophia, as they begin learning French, and for Deborah and the girls, as their residency is processed.

Support Us

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

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
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or

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