

# In The Way

October 2015

The St-Onge Family

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## The Work Up North

We were pleased to have two adult baptisms, an adult confirmation, and a reception into membership at Ascension this month. Yanson had been baptized Mormon; his eldest son Akwasi had not been baptized at all. Yanson's two younger children, previously baptized in a Roman Catholic church, were also received. Our adult confirmand, Gail, was joined by her husband Bruce who had been raised Lutheran but hadn't attended since his teenage years.

I've also begun a young adult bible study and outreach, which meets at a coffee shop near the Université de Montréal at the St-Joseph Oratory. It's predominantly French, with a good bit of English thrown in for our anglophone ("English-speaking") attendee. I'm also helping Pastor David Somers, the LCC Québec missionary, on the Luther2017 outreach project.

## The Work Down South

In mid-October I travelled to Kingston, Jamaica again to be part of the deaconess training conducted by Sister Kathryn Ziegler. We had nine participants, including a young man from Nigeria interested in mission work. Nsikak is studying medicine at the University of the West Indies, but was raised Lutheran back in Africa. I will be helping coordinate some "pre-sem" and pastoral theology training for both him, to see if he remains interested, and for Pastor Ite. Theological education is an important part of my work as an area facilitator.

I've also been assisting Pastor Hasskarl in the Caymans and Pastor Ruesch in Puerto Rico in the development of mission plans for their islands, as well as providing some support from the Schullers as Richard continues his recovery in Houston, TX. Being a bridge between Director Ted Krey and our field missionaries is a second important part of my current work.

Via "Skype" (video conference) I taught a unit on mentorship for some of our new Latin America missionaries, and will do so again in a couple of weeks (it's on the web). We have an ever-growing number of servants coming to Latin America, and I play a role in helping transition them to the field and support them while they are there, wherever in the "south" they may be!

## The Call

I have been extended a call from the Board for International Mission to continue serving as area facilitator in the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC), work I've been doing since January. As you've been reading, this work involves supervision of missionaries, helping with theological education, coordination of work with partner churches and other RSOs, crisis intervention and pastoral care.

In the LAC we have worked hard to make sure that our directors and facilitators, in addition to their "managerial" responsibilities, also get to be missionaries. For pastors, that means we get to teach and preach, and put into practice what we are asking others to do in the field.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as pastor and missionary in Montréal, serving Ascension (SELC) and assisting with the Chinese and French missions here. I have had the chance to put my French to use immediately, as well as my experience serving in China.

While Montréal may seem far from my "area," the reality is that most of my "facilitator" work is done from a distance and that travel between the islands almost always has to be done via the continent. Travel from Canada to the Caribbean, when it needs to happen, is often cheaper and faster (less immigration hassles) than through Miami or other US hubs.

So while this arrangement may seem strange, the reality is that it seems to be working very well and is already bearing fruit (see the pictures on page 2)!



## Words from Deborah

Celebrating 50 years of God's grace was the highlight of the month for me. We were blessed that my parents, my youngest sister, and my niece were able to join us for the celebration. Some of you may remember that my mother-in-law and I share a birthday, so we joined with the St-Onge's in Ottawa to have birthday cake and a Canadian Thanksgiving feast. For Olivia, it was a longtime dream come true that "worlds collided" and all her cousins were together at Nana's house.

During our drives around Quebec and Ontario we were captivated by the beauty of the leaves. Reflection on the passage of time can bring contentment if you believe you are where the Lord has led you and would have you serving at this stage of your life.

In case any one is wondering, I have begun to tackle my office. Sophia and Olivia have started tutoring in French and are making progress on language learning. Olivia has surprised us by enthusiastically joining student council and (much to Mom's delight) the recorder ensemble. She's playing alto!!!! Thank you all for your continued prayer support as we transition to this new culture and find successes along the way.

**Pictures:** Top: deaconess training in Kingston, Jamaica in mid-October; Middle: preaching at Faith Lutheran Church in Kingston on October 18; Bottom: two adult baptisms, one confirmation, and three receptions by transfer at Ascension, Montréal this month.



## Prayer Concerns

For the many people I have met in Québec who have been hurt by the legalism of the churches here, that we might offer them a place where the Gospel of Jesus predominates and refreshes,

For the evangelists and deaconesses being trained in Jamaica, that they might bear fruit; for the outreach plans in Grand Cayman and Puerto Rico, that they may also be blest by the Spirit of Christ,

For Olivia and Sophia, as they make up lost time in learning French, and for Deborah, that her good skills in French might continue to grow.

## Support Us

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

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

**or**

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