

In The Way

December 2015

The St-Onge Family

244 21e Avenue

Deux-Montagnes, QC J7R 4H1, Canada

charles.stonge@lcsintl.org

intheway.org



The Work Up North

This has been a mostly "work up north" month as we moved through our first Advent and Christmas in Montreal. We helped keep some old traditions in place, such as helping to decorate the Ascension sanctuary for the holy days. I helped a group of our young adults come to do that in early December.

We also added a soup dinner to our midweek services. We were pleased to see so many people, all new members, volunteer to cook soup and bring bread and dessert for the dozen or more people that showed up. We were all pleasantly surprised at the higher than expected turnout. I also prepared two postcards that we sent to over 100 families in the month leading up to Christmas, inviting them to worship with us. That has born fruit with many of our immigrant families, several of whom we had dinner with in the two months before Christmas.

Deb played piano and our whole family assisted with a dinner reaching out to visually impaired Montrealers, most of whom were of Haitian background. Deb also played for our midweek services, and will be playing for both the French and English services the first Sunday in January. She's keeping busy, as are our girls. I led Christmas Eve and Day services in English, and attended the French Christmas Eve service as well.

And... we have adopted a cat. Never a dull moment with us!

The Work Down South

Although the focus was on the north this month, the opposite will be true next month. I'll be leading sessions at our orientation in the Dominican Republic, helping with deaconess, evangelist and leader training in Jamaica, and making a visit to the Ruesch family in Puerto Rico to explore future mission opportunities. Please continue praying for the Schullers as Richard continues his recuperation.

Installations!

It is my hope and tentative plan to be officially installed as Area Facilitator the last Sunday of February in the Dominican Republic, and as pastor at Ascension the first or second Saturday in March. Stay tuned!

Happy New Year!

And what a year it's been. One year ago today we were unsure of where we would be going. Our partner church in Canada had declined to find a placement for me, and we were left wondering what the future might hold.

A year later we have finished almost half a year of service in Montreal, Quebec and to our fellow servants in the Caribbean. We have a place to call home, the girls are settled in school, Deb is getting back into some music and getting to know neighbours, and we have a sense each morning of what the Lord would like us to do.

What will 2016 hold in store? We know that it is already in Christ's hands. While we may not know the way, He does, and we can trust Him to guide us.

Thank ALL of you for your support these last years. We are happy to be part of a group of people through whom the Lord is living and active, bringing His forgiving Word to all nations on earth. Merry Christmas to you all!





Pictures:

Top Left: with Rev. Dan Herb at Messiah, Middletown, OH; **Top Middle:** Deb and Garreth, student and Ascension attendee, helping with music; **Top Bottom:** Blind Outreach dinner.

Prayer Concerns

For Nsika and Melissa, as they begin or continue training to be effective workers in Christ's kingdom in Jamaica,

For Richard Schuller, that his recovery might continue and that he and Gema might soon return to the mission field,

For Deb, Olivia and Sophia, who will be alone for a good part of January as Charles travels, they will be kept safe as winter settles in,

For Charles, for safe travels in January.

Support this Work

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

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

or

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 790089
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