

In The Way

January 2016

The St-Onge Family

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intheway.org



Installation Dates

Installation as Area Facilitator: Sunday, February 28, Santiago, D.R. at one of our local congregations. Rev. Ted Krey, our Regional Director, will officiate.

Installation as Mission Pastor: Saturday, March 12, at 10:30 AM at 865 Jarry W., Montreal, QC, Canada. Luncheon to follow. Rev. Andrew Dzuorvcik, SELC District President, will officiate.

Up North

It's been a quiet month for work up north, since I've been engaged most of the month with work in the south. Deb did a great job using the snowblower – so far I've missed both major snow storms of the year and am pretty disappointed! I've connected with most of the congregation's shut-ins at this point, and have visited several families for meals and devotions. As I settle in, I'm beginning to give more intentional thought to what our outreach is going to look like going forward. More on that in the coming months!

Down South

I spent three days in Santiago, D.R. reconnecting with our regional team and discussing Caribbean mission strategy. I also presented on "Working in the Field" and "Mentoring" for the orientation of three new Latin American missionary families. We also had a farewell service for Sister Katie, who will be getting married in February and moving to Argentina.

With the help and leadership of Sisters Katie Ziegler and Danelle Putnam, we finished a first unit of deaconess training in Kingston, Jamaica on January 17. I preached at both St. Andrew and Faith, and began some evangelistic training with a young member of Faith studying medicine in Kingston.

In Puerto Rico, Rev. Matt Ruesch and I met to consider plans for the expansion of work around Mayaguez. We are developing a forum (FORO) of districts, congregations, and groups interested in work on the island and wanting to help support it as it moves forward.

I've also been helping Rev. Richard Schuller and Gema as they end their period of disability and look towards a return to the field. All told, a rather busy month.

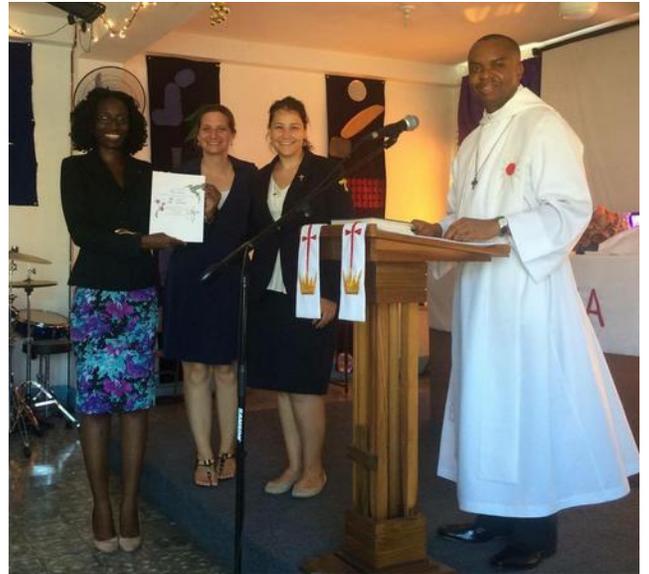
The Sojourner

Syed helped me get my glasses the other day at CostCo here in Montreal. Originally from Lebanon, he spoke excellent French and English (and probably other languages as well). When it came to the place on my form for "occupation" I of course said "missionary." Which led to a wide ranging discussion on the US and Canadian immigrant policy among other things, including Christianity.

"Are you Catholic?" "Yes and no," I answered. I gave him what's become my usual answer to that question. "We question Rome's teaching that God blesses us based on what we've earned or deserved. We believe God already has everything – and chooses to forgive our sins as a gift without cost through Jesus Christ."

That is the simple message we have been called to share with the world: that God in and through and for the sake of Jesus Christ, gives us pardon and peace as a gift. It's not much more complicated than that.





Pictures:

Left Top: Certificates of completion given to women at St. Andrew, Kingston; **Left Middle:** Deaconess and evangelist training in Jamaica; **Left Bottom:** The St-Onge's support missionary Daniel Fickenscher; **Right Top:** with the Rueschs in Mayaguez, PR; **Right Bottom:** Certificate of completion for Melissa Thompson at Faith, Kingston. **Bottom:** Preaching at St. Andrew's, Jamaica.

Prayer Concerns

For the new leaders begin raised up in Kingston, Jamaica, that the Lord might strengthen and encourage them,
 For Richard Schuller, that his recovery might continue and that he and Gema might soon return to the mission field,
 For the effects of the Zika virus in Latin America, that our Lord might give us guidance as we deal with new health issues,
 For the Lord to prepare us for new mission opportunities in Montreal and throughout the Caribbean.

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
 St. Louis, MO 63179-0089