

In The Way

April 2016

The St-Onge Family

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Work Up North

Lots of exciting things are starting to develop at Ascension and in Montreal. In an effort to better work together in ministry, the English congregational council now includes official representatives from both the French and Chinese Lutheran congregations. We spent over half of our April meeting discussing how to use 2017 as a real "Year of Outreach" for our congregations.

It will be a momentous year: the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 theses, the 375th birthday of Montreal, the 150th birthday of Canada, and the 50th anniversary of Expo 67. Pastor David Somers, who leads French mission work on behalf of the Lutheran Church – Canada, got us up to speed on some of the preparatory work he has already done.

Work Down South

At the end of March I met up with Pastor Richard and Mrs. Gema Schuller for their first days back in Puerto Rico. On our way back to Mayaguez, we stopped in Ponce, Puerto Rico for lunch and prayer in this newest mission site on the island. We spent a day back in Ponce in the company of Pastor Matt Ruesch house hunting with the Schullers. As of the end of April, the Schullers have officially moved to Ponce and are getting ready to begin outreach to the second largest city in Puerto Rico! Pastor Ruesch is also working toward plans for a third church start in Rincon, a community just north of Mayaguez on the west coast of the island. I have been assisting both of them in finding Foro partners to walk alongside them in all this work (see back: **Mission Moment – What is a Foro?**).

These last two weeks I've made three trips in a row.

The Canadian Bible Society has offered us use of their visitors' area and display windows in a major downtown underground mall beneath the Anglican Cathedral. I'm planning a major canvassing effort of the neighborhood around the church, with a population of 35,000. The English congregation is planning to hang a huge banner on our bell tower based on the German "Reformation Year" design boldly proclaiming that "In the beginning was the Word" in French and English.

In the short term, I've begun preparing three young people – and hopefully two new adults – for the Lord's Supper. Our group consists of one Russian-American-Canadian, one from Ghana, and three Pakistanis.

April 18-20 I attended the SELC church workers conference in Racine, WI. I was able to share what the Lord is doing not only in Montreal but also in Puerto Rico, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. As a bonus, I met up with Pastor Ken and Mrs. Lois Ballas, former servants at Ascension.

From Racine I traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, where I continued enrichment work with Pastor Obot and Mrs. Abasifreke Ite, and Deaconess-in-Training Melissa Thompson. I also met with St. Andrew Lutheran Church to discuss options for moving out of their leased house into a building of their own!

I finished off in the Dominican Republic, where I met up with Pastor Leif Hasskarl from the Caymans. We discussed possibilities for a permanent facility for Safe Harbour Lutheran Church, worshipped together, and reconnected with regional staff.



Mission Moment

What is a Foro?

Imagine if you could be an active partner in a mission of your Synod, seeing first hand what is happening, providing feedback and advice, and seeing exactly where your mission support is going. Being a Foro, or Forum, partner gives you exactly that opportunity!

This is not a substitute for gifts to the national church or to the support of missionaries. Instead, it is an opportunity to be involved in a very hands-on way with a specific mission field, and the specific work going on in that place. Foro partners visit once or twice a year on site, see the churches being planted, and even participate in short term mission work in that place if they desire.

The first Foro meeting for Puerto Rico will be held the last weekend of September this year. Foros for the Caymans and Jamaica are also in development. **Would you like to know more? Please send me an email, or call 438-490-3698.**



Top Left: Olivia and Sophia at Mountainview Elementary movie night. Only one of Sophia's classmates is a professing Christian. **Middle Left:** With Richard and Gema Schuller, celebrating their first meal back in Puerto Rico after a long recovery. **Bottom Left:** DR regional team farewell party for Daniel Fickenscher. **Top Right:** With Pastor Ken and Lois Ballas, former servants at Ascension. **Middle Right:** Puerto Rico team supper in Mayaguez. **Bottom Right:** Children at Faith Lutheran Church in Kingston, Jamaica. Abasifreke Ite in the background.

Prayer Concerns

For the work of missionaries in Puerto Rico, that the Word might bring many to know Christ as their salvation and hope for resurrection,

For St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Kingston, Jamaica, as we seek to find them a more suitable and permanent worship facility,

For our mission to the Cayman Islands, as we explore options for establishing a permanent physical presence,

For the Lord to raise up Foro partners to help us in the work of mission.

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
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