

# In The Way

June 2016

The St-Onge Family  
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## Work Up North

In mid-July I had the opportunity to travel to three communities in northwest Ontario. I worked with a pilot/pastor and two vacation bible school teams who are part of LAMP, the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. We were able to fly to Sandy Lake and Big Trout Lake from Red Lake to share the treasures of the Gospel with around 130 children plus adults in both remote native communities, accessible only by air. It also gave me some great ideas for outreach in Montreal and, specifically, our neighbourhood of Parc-Extension. Anyone have a week next July to help us reach the kids of our area through a VBS, and the adults as well?

Pastor Hu, the minister for our Chinese congregation at Ascension, was forced to return a month early from Asia. While not planned, we are glad that he was simply asked to leave and did not end up in a more dire situation.

At the end of July I had the opportunity to meet with a native Canadian healer who is also an Anglican church minister. A member of the Mi'kmac tribe whose wife is also native, he gave some more insight into the troubled relationship between native Canadians and the Church. Most importantly, I received some valuable insight into the mistakes missionaries want to avoid as they bring the Gospel to those whose culture differs from their own.

## Work Down South

Deb and I both traveled to Mill Neck, NY on Long Island to meet with Mike Killian, the president of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations. We also caught up with Deaconess Tiffany Manor, who works with both the New England District and the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf. President Killian has a plan to reach out to the deaf in the Caribbean, and we talked about how we might be able to work together in countries such as Jamaica. We have plans to meet together in the south in the winter to investigate opportunities together.

Deb joined me on the (longer than planned) drive to see things for herself, but also to renew her visitor record for her stay in Canada. We pray it will be her last renewal before she receives her residency!

## Mission Moment

"No man is an island" wrote John Donne, an idea the English pastor gleaned from Christ's own teachings. I am struck daily by the profound truth of this statement.

Two months ago I began a podcast of my sermons. I passed the link along to a young woman in Cameroon, Africa who knew a member of our church years ago. To my surprise, she listened to almost every sermon in a span of a few days and began offering her comments on them. One example: *"Jesus taught that it's More blessed to give than to receive, but We must first receive from him before We can truly give. I gave my entire life to our Lord Jesus Christ being young, 11 years ago, it's my very first time to hear this kind of révélation"* (unedited). How easily our work in one country overflows to others in these latter days!

A new member of Ascension, from Ghana, was so happy to hear that Lutheran congregations do indeed exist back home in Accra. Through my contacts with our missionaries in Africa, I was able to get him the address and name of a pastor close to him. He had been afraid of attending worship on his trip back home; now he was looking forward to it.

Here in Montreal, we have been blessed recently with visitors from Calgary, St. Louis, and even from as far away as Germany.

No Christian – or Christian church – is an island. The work we do where we are connects us with the Body of Christ around the world in ways that are always joyful and surprising.





**Top Left:** In Sandy Lake, Ontario. **Bottom Left:** With visitors from Cincinnati at the foot of the cross of Montreal – which after decades may be converted into the middle "t" of "MtL." **Top Right:** Deborah outside the ministry center of Lutheran Friends of the Deaf at Mill Neck, NY. **Bottom Right:** With a team of VBS volunteers from the US and Ontario, at work in Sandy Lake, Ontario.

## Prayer Concerns

For the work of Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, that we may find ways to partner together in our work in the Caribbean,

For my hearing, as I have discovered hearing loss in my right ear (thanks to our friends at Mill Neck, who volunteered to test me!),

For our family, as we enjoy a couple of days of family time together here at the end of the month, camping in eastern Quebec, and

For the Area Facilitators of the Latin America region, as we gather in the Dominican Republic in a few days.

## Support this Work

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

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