

In The Way

September 2016

The St-Onge Family
244 21e Avenue, Deux-Montagnes, QC J7R 4H1, Canada
charles.stonge@lcmsintl.org
intheway.org

Work Down South

It has been a very busy month moving things forward in the Caribbean. At the end of August I was in the Caymans, and we continue moving forward with plans for an early childhood center. On the mission field we think in terms of two to three year time frames, so that means submitting requests for new missionaries already this fall.

In early September I spent several days in Jamaica, shuttling between mission sites, government and appraiser's offices with Ancella Gregory of Lutheran Hour Ministries and with Rev. Obot Ite. The property owned in Kingston by Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica has been appraised and has increased quite a bit in value since it was purchased in the early 2000s. This may enable us to sell it and purchase a pre-existing and less expensive structure to serve as a permanent worship site and ministry facility. Pastor Ite and I also visited with a family north of the town of Old Harbour, and explored the possibility of beginning a third congregation to the west of Kingston. We are also planning and praying for the arrival of a new missionary from Nigeria to Jamaica in the near future. Last, I will be serving as a mentor to Rev. Ite as he uses the LCMS' SMP program as an opportunity for continuing education.

Puerto Rico held its first FORO, a meeting of partners and missionaries interested in furthering the work in the commonwealth. We discussed the church planting work in Ponce, and prepared for the expansion of work in Mayaguez, the addition of a worship site in Rincon, and a request for new missionaries to the island.

I've also been helping, via video conference, with the training of new missionaries coming on to the Latin American field!

Work Up North

Worship services, bible studies, and teen ministry continue in Montreal, under my care and with the work of Deborah as well. She is working with a group of Chinese and French Lutherans to prepare for a trilingual Reformation worship service in 2017. We were also blessed to have two baptisms on the Sunday before Labour Day (Canadian spelling!). Both babies are first cousins, born hours apart on July 29!

Mission Moment

It was an early morning flight out of Montreal, and I had the chance to catch a mid-morning breakfast in Miami. Being by myself, I was seated at the bar and struck up a conversation with the bartender. On finding out I was a pastor his first question was, "What do you think of the Pope?" My stock answer to that question (which I'm asked quite a bit) is simple: "He's really nice. And he doesn't preach the Gospel." The bartender's answer was the same one I get almost every time I give my answer: "What's the Gospel?" You can't get a better opening than that! And he was as surprised as everyone I meet by the answer.

My taxi driver to the airport in Montreal the other week was, as many taxi drivers in Montreal are, a Muslim. We struck up a conversation about religion and faith. He couldn't understand why so many preferred hate to love. "In my hometown in Morocco, the kids from the church, mosque and synagogue all played together. Why doesn't that happen?" I pointed out that, at least for me, God is love – the sacrificial love of Christ – and I cannot help but love others in his name. When God dies for his people – all people - how can we still hate?



We Need Your Continued Support!

Although the road to "here" has been rocky, we are amazed at how God is using all of us in Montreal, and Charles in the Caribbean, to further his work. Working with so many cultures in so many countries is certainly a challenge. But we believe the Lord has gifted us for this work, and has prepared us for this time and place. **But we need your help to continue! Please consider a recurring monthly gift of \$40 - \$10 a week – to enable us to continue in this ministry.** You can also help us organize a visit to your family, bible study, women's or men's group, or congregation. Here's where I'm planning to be:

Nov 5, Saturday afternoon: Mission Central, IA
Nov 6, Sunday morning: Immanuel, Clarinda, IA
Nov 7-18: planning visits in IA, NE and MN

Nov 27, Sunday morning: Memorial, Houston, TX
Nov 28-Dec 9: planning visits in TX, AL and TN

Jan 1, Sunday morning: Messiah, Middletown, OH
Jan 2-8: planning visits in Ohio



From Right Top: Visiting a family being catechized north of Old Harbour, Jamaica; visiting with two seminarians and their wives, former parishioners from Houston, TX preparing to serve the Lord in a new way; in Rincon, PR, a potential site for a third congregation in Puerto Rico; **Below:** three of our young families with two new members of the Body of Christ in Montreal!



Prayer Concerns

For our support network reconnect this fall and winter, that the Lord would continue to support the work He has called us to do,

For the projects ongoing throughout the Caribbean, that the Lord would guide our thoughts and actions to see that work develop,

For Deb, Olivia and Sophia, as I travel away from them, that the Lord would guard them with His holy angels,

For myself, that the Lord would strengthen and renew me during this busy time, and keep me focused on the cross of our Lord.

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

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089