

In The Way

June 2017

The St-Onge Family
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Work Down South

The first weekend of June I preached for Rev. Leif Hasskarl's last service as missionary to the Cayman Islands, and accompanied him and Nancy on their last bible study and visit with the Cuban refugees with whom they have been working. Both were very emotional events.

We were able to bring cake and ice cream into the refugee camp to share with everyone, including the camp guards who were happy to join in! We shared the blessings of knowing God as Three Persons in One Essence. Pastor Hasskarl used John 1:1-4 and I reflected on 1 John 4:7-12.

Pastor Hasskarl's last service was also emotional, and many members of the congregation joined us for a lunch afterward. The congregation presented the Hasskarls with a personalized "Island Time" clock.

In mid-June I participated in the annual leadership retreat and board meeting of Lutherans for Life in Nebraska. I discussed making Spanish materials available for use on the mission field. Pastor Salemink, the executive director, will be participating in our August regional team meetings in the Dominican Republic.

On June 25 I participated in the ordination of 15 new pastors for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti. This brings the number of pastors in that church body to over three dozen, serving many more congregations and schools. I came at the invitation of President Bernard, with whom I attended seminary many years ago. It was my first official trip as the Latin American region's pastoral liaison to Haiti.

Work Up North

On June 18 we installed Fort Wayne seminarian David Keating, from Long Island, NY, as our summer vicar. He'll be learning about ministry in a multicultural, multilingual, inner-city and international context. On June 25 he jumped in with both feet, leading the Service of the Word. Rev. Marco Jacobsen, a pastor from the Lutheran Church of Brazil who is studying in Montreal, led the Service of the Sacrament. It was a truly international morning! See pictures online.

We are looking forward to receiving a short-term mission team from Vandalia Hills, Alabama in three weeks to help with our Children's Summer Week. Our banner has gone up on the front of the church: you can see a picture on the back side of the newsletter.

Mission Moment

"Do you know what Christianity is really all about?" When you are working in a post-Christian context, in a culture surrounded by church buildings that are empty on Sunday morning, that's an important question to ask. When I'm sharing the faith with Quebecers I try and ask and answer that question every time I get.

We had a drop by our bible study table at Central Station the other week. He was (pleasantly) surprised that we were reading Scripture and discussing it publicly! But I made sure he knew we weren't just reading the Bible: we were learning about Christ, the Son of God, who saved us by his death.

Over lunch and dinner on Sunday on Haiti, I spoke with pastors who shared the same commitment to preaching Christ Jesus crucified for our forgiveness. Later in the evening, I heard one of the pastors preaching on Romans 8. His theme? "Cling to Christ, for in him there is no more condemnation."

I spent one breakfast in Port-au-Prince with a mission group from Compassion International. In a way, they turned the tables on my question, asking me what I knew about Jesus! Don't assume people know what Christianity is about. Ask.



A Picture's Worth of Words...



TOP: Ordination service for 15 new pastors in Haiti. BOTTOM: With Vicar David Keating, setting up our VBS sign for July. MANY more pictures at intheway.org.

Network Support

We're still about 10% short, a month, on support for our work. I will be traveling to Indiana, Tennessee, and Texas in mid-September through early-October to meet with some new possible supporters. If your congregation is in those areas, or you know of people who would like to meet with me, please email, call, or otherwise drop me a line. My info is in the banner of the newsletter on the front page.

A big thanks to **Cynthia Champa, Elizabeth Hoepner, Sarah Martin, Tom Nebel, and Janice and Steve Tackett** who are serving as part of my "Mission Support Team" in helping keep our work supported. They are helping me organize visits and otherwise keep connected with all of you, our faithful supporters! **And we can never forget Gary Theiss, Brent Smith and all the volunteers at Mission Central in Iowa**, who have been part of our Support Team from the very beginning. The Lord has shaped and formed all of us to work together for the good of the Kingdom of Christ.

Prayer Concerns

For help reducing our current "red ink" of \$30,000, that we might be able to focus less on finances and more on evangelism and mission,

For the new pastors called to proclaim the Gospel across the nation of Haiti, that they might not lose heart in the face of tremendous growth but also challenges,

For our summer outreach push in Montreal, that the Lord would speak his Gospel through us to many people.

Support this Work

You can donate online at lcms.org/givenow/stonge. Or you may send a cheque, payable to **The LCMS**, to the addresses below. Include **St-Onge – LAC** in the memo line.

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