

In The Way

August 2017

The St-Onge Family
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Work Up North

There is always a certain battle-weariness when you're serving in an area that is not universally open to the Gospel. While not hostile to Christianity as some are in the west, or as governments can be in the Middle East or Asia, Québec suffers from many years of intentional secularization. Many immigrant groups have been targeted for attacks in the last few months not because of their skin colour or language, but because they are bringing religion – any religion – with them. Christian immigrants are as suspect as Islamic immigrants in some ways.

Much of this is due to a profound confusion about the essence of Christianity. People associate religion with morality and moralizing, especially by hypocritical people who say to do one thing but then do another. Consider, for example, the sexual and physical abuse of native children by Christian residential schools, and the abuse of children in their own parishes by priests.

These challenges can be overcome, but not without hard work. People need to meet Christians who see Jesus as a Saviour from their own sins as well as the sins of others. They need to hear sermons about a God who died and rose for us to give us hope in the midst of despair. They need to discover Christians and a Christianity different from what they've experienced before. Our efforts in Montréal over the next two years will be focused on connecting non-Christians to real Christians, and on proclaiming the true and faithful Gospel in new places and in new ways not limited to Sunday morning.

Work Down South

I spent the first half of August in the Dominican Republic for regional team and region-wide conferences. These were great opportunities to reflect on where we've come from and where the Lord is leading us in the coming year.

As I write this newsletter, I am serving as the interim pastor for Faith and St. Andrew Lutheran Churches in Kingston, Jamaica. I am covering for Pastor Obot Ite, who is on furlough, for three Sundays; August 27, September 3 and September 10. I'll also be leading mid-week bible studies and getting progress reports on our Kingston ministry centre. This is giving me a much more in-depth perspective on life in this Caribbean capital city.

It has also meant adjusting my plans for some mid-year visits in the US. Many of those will need to wait until next year. But I look forward to staying in touch by newsletter, on Facebook, and by any other means possible!

Happy 4th Anniversary!

In June of 2013 we began our service as missionaries of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. A few months later we began writing regular, monthly newsletters to our supporters. But this month probably best represents our 4th anniversary of service. In August 2013 we had sold our house, much of our furniture and possessions, and had moved to Ohio to begin support raising for our work in Asia.

Four years later, I've finished two and a half years of unofficial, and one and half years of official, service as your missionary in Montréal, Québec and area facilitator for the Caribbean. Olivia is starting her second year of école secondaire; Sophia her third year at Mountainview Elementary. Deb has kept involved with music both at our congregation in Montréal, playing for both French and English services, and also helping out with music this year at our Latin American missions conference in the Dominican Republic.

May the Lord grant us many more years of faithful service!



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: Regional team meeting at our new Latin American seminary in Santiago, Dominican Republic; **Middle Left:** Some of our French congregation in Montreal after Sunday service in August; **Bottom Left:** Chinese teen bible study, beginning our new "lectionary worship" series; **Right:** Deb St-Onge and Rev. Ted Krey preparing for Divine Service at our annual Latin American regional conference.

Prayer Concerns

For the mission to Quebec, that we might be able to do more and take advantage of the windows opening around us;

For our ministry to the people of Jamaica, that we might find the resources to continue and expand our ministry here;

For those in southeastern Texas recovering from the devastating flooding caused by Harvey, including many of our supporters. We are praying for you!

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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