

In The Way

November 2017

The St-Onge Family

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Work Up North

This month saw two projects at Ascension begin to move forward significantly. The first is a way to expand our ministry, given the amount of time I spend away from Montreal. The Lord sent us a Brazilian pastor who is studying for his PhD in sociology at the Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM). Our council approved a resolution to call him as an assistant pastor of Ascension in January. He will be able to cover some of the worship services and bible studies in Montréal during my absence.

Second, the Lord sent us an English as a Second Language teacher from Indonesia. Susia joined our congregation in October, and has been working with me to restart one of Ascension's more successful past outreaches into the Parc-Extension arrondissement (borough). In the past, the ESL program was led by the pastor. With my reduced time, I was unable to keep the program going and suggested we wait on the Lord for the right time to begin again. That time will come in February of 2018!

Work Down South

I spent nine days at the beginning of the month traveling in support of the work going on in Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Latin America in general. November 6-7 I helped lead the third Foro meeting for Puerto Rico in Des Moines, Iowa. A special shout-out and thanks to Pastor Dahlke, his wife Amy and the people of Shepherd of the Valley for hosting the gathering. During that time we adjusted our strategic plan to account for the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and to take into account the huge outpouring of support for disaster relief in the commonwealth.

On November 8 Pastor Ted Krey, the Director of Latin America, and I met with President Snow and Mission Facilitator Boring of the Nebraska District in Seward. This was a connection that came out of our first Foro meeting in Kingston in October. There was, in the past, a deep connection between many in the Nebraska District and the work in Jamaica. We are hoping to revive that connection. A congregation of the Nebraska District will host our next Foro.

On November 10 I met with the board of Lutherans for Life and continued to encourage LFLs work in Latin America and around the world. The next day I left for Puerto Rico, where we began implementing some of the strategic plan that came out of our Foro meeting in Iowa. The Lord continues to bless the work in the Caribbean and continues opening doors.

Mission Moment

"Come and see." Those three words in the Gospel of John also capture the simplest form of evangelism. We are blessed to have students attending our services from three of Montreal's four largest universities. One new student soon showed up one Sunday with a friend. "Come and see."

The twin daughters of our Chinese pastor started coming to the young adult bible study on Wednesday nights. When they wondered (only a little) about why we were meeting out in the open, in a public place, I pointed out that walking into a church building can be the hardest thing for a non-Christian to do. They loved the idea, and immediately the next week started bringing a non-Christian friend. "Come and see."

Two years ago I baptized and confirmed in the faith a man who now sits on our church council. He started bringing his girlfriend, who just two months ago joined the congregation herself. "Come and see."

How can we witness to Christ? It can be as simple as a three word invitation: "Come and see."



"New-letters"

With the start of the new Foro in Jamaica, and the departure of Rev. Ruesch who played a key role in the Puerto Rico Foro, I have taken on the responsibility of communications with both of the islands' Foro partners.

To simplify that work, I have started two new newsletters that I will be sending out every four to five weeks or as specific needs arise.

If you are interested in following the work in Jamaica more closely, and perhaps joining us as part of a short term team, visit:

[http://intheway.org/lac/
friends-of-jamaica/](http://intheway.org/lac/friends-of-jamaica/)

I also write a newsletter for the Puerto Rico Foro, updating people on our progress in disaster response and in meeting the immediate needs of people on the ground. To sign up for that newsletter, or just to check in, visit:

[http://intheway.org/lac/
puerto-rico-foro/](http://intheway.org/lac/puerto-rico-foro/)

A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top: Puerto Rico Foro partners meet in Des Moines, Iowa. *Left:* Many blue roofs showing the temporary fixes to structures in Puerto Rico. *Bottom:* Tree damage is extensive across Puerto Rico, even in Ponce where the hurricane damage was less severe than elsewhere.

Prayer Concerns

For my dad, who will soon be undergoing an undetermined treatment course for cancer, that the Lord would watch over him and us in these days;

For our celebration of Advent in the Caribbean and in Quebec, that we might always be prepared for Christ's return, whether he comes for us personally or for the whole world;

For those who have volunteered their time for service in the Kingdom, that the Lord would bless their generosity.

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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