

In The Way

December 2017

Special One Page Edition

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Joyeux Noël, Felix Navidad & Merry Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for and supported us this calendar year! You have all been a true blessing to us as we continue the work the Lord has given us to do in the "north" and in the "south." It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and we do so in every remembrance of you.

December has been a relatively quiet month. When Christmas Day rolls around, I will have been at home for three straight weeks. That has not happened for months, and we all count that a blessing.

The one trip I made this month was to visit The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills, Alabama. I spoke with the congregation about the work going on in Montreal and in the Caribbean. Pastor Mike Ahlemeyer and Vicar Kyle were very welcoming and set up many of the arrangements. I also met with their Pastor Emeritus, Cliff Hellmers, who is himself active in mission work. We're hoping to continue our partnership with Vestavia Hills on many levels: personal, short term team support in Montreal, and also possible short term team support and work in the Caribbean.

Disaster Response efforts for Puerto Rico have occupied a significant portion of my "south" time. I've been directing two contract employees and an LCMS missionary temporarily redeployed to Puerto Rico, along with the Rev. Richard Schuller who continues his efforts in Ponce. We have signed a lease for a disaster response home / worship center in Ponce, which gives Fuente de Vida its first real location in the city.

Work on the ministry centre in Jamaica continues, and we are nearing the end of the paperwork required to purchase and register the facility as a place of worship. I will be having some final documents notarized in the next day or two.

In Montreal, we had two mid-week Advent soup and service nights that, despite the bad weather this month, have been well-attended. Plans are underway to begin English as a Second Language classes on February 5, and to vote on extending a call to Rev. Marco Antonio Jacobsen of Brazil on January 28.

We will, of course, be celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Sunday, in French, English and Chinese, followed by Christmas Eve services in French and English, and a Christmas Day service in English as well. The St-Onges will then be spending a week with family before a very packed winter work season begins January 5.

