

In The Way

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Work Up North

In addition to our ESL outreach, I've also been working slowly at an internet outreach to Montreal, making use of free Google Ad dollars and the resources of a group called CV Outreach. I now have emails each week from the city who email me asking questions about the faith.

To more effectively share the Word with them, and work on connecting them to the Church, I've started a weekly devotional email called "Mid-Week with Christ." The same devotion goes on our Ascension Facebook page and will be read by the students in our English language classes as well. Anyone can sign up for the devotion at homewithchrist.com/mid-week.

Work In The Middle?

Some of you know me through my work in science and religion issues. I've published articles on this in the Lutheran Witness, wrote a book for CPH, and led many workshops. I led a workshop at the University of Wisconsin on the topic February 6, will do so again in Kitchener, Ontario on May 25, and am helping the LCMS with an evangelism unit on "scientism" for the "Every One a Witness" program.

Work Down South

As I write this newsletter I am near the end of a two and a half week "immersion course" in Spanish. I'm staying in an apartment not far from our regional office, where I've been taking one on one Spanish instruction almost every day for four hours. This will, Lord willing, jump my abilities in Spanish a little further ahead.

While here I took the quick jump (one hour) to Puerto Rico to dedicate our two new disaster response centers and officially open our newest church plant, *Fuente de Vida*, now preaching Christ in its new location downtown. I've also been participating in the Foro for the Dominican Republic, learning more about helping partners work together to share the Gospel in a particular country. As the leader of the Foros for Jamaica and Puerto Rico, this has been great training.

Mission Moment

There are three ways in which the Gospel is spread. One is through one on one contact with friends, neighbors and colleagues. Another is in group settings; worship services, bible studies, youth group activities and men's breakfasts. The last is through outreach into our communities. Lutherans can be trained (although sometimes it's hard!) to be good at the two former, but sometimes we struggle with reaching out to our neighborhoods with the Gospel.

Ascension is in a one-square-mile borough of 36,000 people of whom over 60% are immigrants. Many come to Canada with little English. The government here teaches French for free but isn't very interested in teaching North America's (pun intended) *lingua franca*. Here is where the Body of Christ can meet a temporary need and share the real need for Jesus at the same time.

That doesn't mean it isn't a lot of work. It has taken a year of thought, planning and prayer to make our ESL outreach a reality. The Lord sent us the right teacher, a Lutheran from Indonesia seeking asylum. Then he raised up the volunteers, and provided the funding. I was excited and terrified at the same time to meet the 12 people from all over the world who came to our first class: then was surprised that almost all of them spoke Spanish! The Lord works all things well, doesn't he?

Although it took a lot of preparation, we are now reaching out to the world in our community with the Gospel. Pray for us as we teach English and, in many languages, share the one truth of Christ.



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: Strengthening the faith of our young people at the University of Wisconsin. **Middle Left:** Our first English outreach class at Ascension, Montreal. **Bottom Left:** Dedicating the new disaster outreach center in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. **Right:** Proclaiming Christ and teaching English: being a witness and showing mercy in Montreal.

Prayer Concerns

For my father Denis, as he continues his treatments for cancer;

For those who sacrifice financially for the sake of Christ's mission, that the Lord would bind us together in His work and give us joy;

For Fuente de Vida and the Rev. Richard and Gema Schuller, that their work will be blessed and draw many in Ponce to Christ;

For Ascension's English outreach and for our associate pastor-elect Rev. Marco Antonio Jacobsen, that through them Jesus will be proclaimed to many.

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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