

In The Way

June 2018

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We held our last English outreach of the year on Monday, June 18. Deb and I both joined the dozen students and volunteers for a night of games, fellowship and Christian witness. I led a two-day workshop for Lutheran military chaplains in Cornwall, Ontario. I continued helping our expanding Chinese Sunday School by teaching a Sunday lesson in French. Come July, I will also be preaching through a translator for the Sunday Chinese services while pastor Rev. Chunlin Hu takes vacation.

Our disaster response work in Puerto Rico has expanded into roof repair, with two homes receiving a shipment of building materials. More roofs will be restored in the coming weeks. I also chaired our annual Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica meeting in Kingston, delivering 29 new Lutheran Service Books to replace old and ageing song books being used at Faith and St. Andrew. Pastor Ite was extremely appreciative – he's been wanting to switch to the LSB ever since seeing for the first time a number of years ago! I had the opportunity to meet with Jackie Rychel of Ministry in Mission to discuss what role I can play in furthering our mission work in Haiti, including offering theological education to the new, young pastors there.

Although our official furlough does not start until the fall, I had the opportunity to preach at a mission festival in Atkinson, Nebraska organized by Leif Hasskarl, our former missionary in the Cayman Islands. I also led worship and presented at one of our supporting congregations, Messiah Lutheran, in Middletown, Ohio. I was ordained fifteen years ago at Messiah, and the congregation held a celebration in honor of that milestone. A special thanks to Rev. Dan and Bernice Herb for their continued support of LCMS missions! I also presented on our work at the Ohio District LWML convention, and at Redeemer Lutheran in Sidney, Ohio, another long-time supporting congregation.

Mission Moment

I received an email from "Nell" through our online outreach program. She lives on the south shore of Montreal, and was struggling with a debilitating disease. She wondered if it wouldn't be better to take her life, and if God would still let her into heaven if she committed suicide. I reached out to her with the word of God, and through a few conversations was pleased to hear she was looking for a church to give her hope and for Christian friends to support her in her condition.

Deb was speaking to a Christian friend the other day who had a relative dying from cancer and had entered hospice care. She asked if he had long to live, and there was a long pause. He had already set the day of his death.

Physician-assisted death is the law in Canada, and Quebec was the first to legalize it. Even Christians mistakenly look to the government for clues on what is good and what is wrong. But what is sinful is not always "illegal," and legal does not mean holy. In these days when we celebrate our national holidays, let us continue to hold up the holiness of God and the righteousness we receive only as a gift through Jesus Christ!



National Holiday, June 24



Canada Day, July 1



Independence Day, July 4

A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top: Deb orders her first ever "hot chicken sandwich" – not quite what she expected! **Top Right:** Members of Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica hold up their new LSB hymnals in our temporary ministry centre sanctuary. **Middle Right:** Teaching Sunday School during Chinese worship, in French. **Bottom Right:** One of our Mexican students gets some pictiornary help from teacher Gail at our English outreach game night.

Prayer Concerns

For those desiring to do short-term work in the south, that we might find ways to accommodate their desire to serve,

For our work in the Cayman Islands, as we look for supporters and partners to keep that work moving forward,

For our English and internet outreach ministries in Quebec, that we might bring the hope of Christ to those who are feeling hopeless.

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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