

In The Way

October 2018

The St-Onge Family in Mission

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intheway.org

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In Puerto Rico

Although I was only in Puerto Rico four days this month, the island territory of the US dominated the first half of the month. On Sunday, October 14, I preached at Principe de Paz in Mayaguez, installed Rev. Anthony DiLiberto as a missionary, commissioned Ruth Maita as a teacher, and participated in the confirmation of a new member's faith. In the afternoon in Ponce I set apart Christel Neuendorf as a deaconess, and participated in the confirmation of nine additional new members of Fuente de Vida.

At the same time, we began the process of bidding Godspeed to Pastor Richard and Gema Schuller. They will be moving at the end of November to Caruthers, California, where Pastor Schuller will be installed as pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

The following week I participated in the LCMS Disaster Response Conference, where I spoke about our team's work in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. William Torres, our lay evangelist and Puerto Rican seminarian, prepared a great set of slides.

In Montreal

Ascension continues to look for ways to reach out to the community and the Greater Montreal area with the Gospel. I answer about 5 "cold call" emails a week through our evangelism website; our English outreach continues with both a beginner and intermediate class; our social media presence continues to grow; and Pastor Marco Jacobsen and I will be meeting this Friday to consider a possible second service on Sundays.

When I returned to Montreal from Texas last week, I saw signs through the airport reminding me to "Declare Cannabis Products to Customs." Yes, marijuana is now completely legal in Canada. Deb has taken to saying, "We just legalized pot and the lines to the stores stretch for a city block: do you think they need the Gospel?"

Mission Moment

Missionaries try to understand the ins and outs of the cultures in which they work. But what if you are ministering to a multitude of cultures across multiple countries? In a presentation last week someone asked how I keep all the unique features of each culture straight. The answer is that I don't, and can't. There are simply too many! It is easier to look for the commonalities.

One thing that unites all people on earth is a thirst for family, for friendship. Our hearts want to belong, while at the same time the sin that clings within drives us apart. Whether I am working with a young woman who has just moved to Montreal from Asia, an older woman from Trinidad, or a middle aged man from Quebec, I know that wanting to belong is common to them all.

Deb started emailing two of our younger members who miss worship every second week because they are with their mother. One off-Sunday this month they showed up. They had called their Dad and asked why he couldn't just pick them up and bring to church! They knew they were missed, and they therefore they knew they belonged.

One missionary I've been working with was struggling with sharing the Gospel. I told him to ask one simple question: "Do you have a church family?" If the answer was no, invite them to join yours!

In Christ we have been made members of one another. And that transcends all cultures.



Network Support

Here are the next upcoming planned visits for the Fall:

November 9: 5:00 PM

Latimer, IA

November 10: 1:30 PM

Mission Central, Mapleton, IA

November 11: 9:30 AM

Immanuel, Clarinda, IA

November 12: 12:00 PM

Sioux City, IA

November 12, 6:00 PM

St. John, Yankton, SD

November 13: 1:30 PM

Central School, Newhall, IA

November 14: 5:00 PM

Holy Cross, St. Cloud, MN

November 17-18

St. Martin, Winona, MN

November 30-December 2

Memorial, Houston, TX

December 3, 6:15 PM

Concordia U, Austin, TX

December 5, 5:30 PM

Grace, Elgin, TX

December 6, TBD

Messiah, Keller, TX

December 10, TBD

Resurrection, Waterville, ME

A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: "Kids Table" at our annual Reformation potluck. Top Right: Installing Rev. Anthony DiLiberto. Center Right: Commissioning Ruth Maita as an LCMS Teacher. Bottom: Celebrating the Reformation at Ascension Lutheran Church.



Prayer Concerns

For Pastor Richard Schuller, who has accepted the call to California, and the DiLiberto family, newly arrived in Puerto Rico,

For those newly attending Ascension, including Cynthia, Narendra, John, Alexandra, Elijah, Jason, Kun, Guoliang, Rong, Alexandre, Jacqueline and Matthias,

For a new full-time missionary for the Cayman Islands, that the Lord might raise up a servant to proclaim the Gospel there.

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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