

# In The Way

November 2018

The St-Onge Family in Mission

charles.stonge@lcms.org

intheway.org

244 21e Avenue

Deux-Montagnes, QC

J7R 4H1 Canada



## Work Down South

In the middle of presentations on our mission work I took time to meet with our newest pastor-in-training in Jamaica, Claudious Dell. I got him hooked up with a smartphone and a laptop computer, and thus set up to begin his final months of training before, we pray, ordination into the ministry. Claudious has been working in Westmoreland Parish, and has been part of the Lutheran mission in Jamaica since almost the very beginning. Pray for Claudious' studies, and for me as I help supervise his training.

## Work Up North

I also had the chance, in between presentations, to host our circuit visitor Rev. James Douthwaite and our District President Rev. Wally Vinovskis in Montreal. We met with Pastor Jacobsen for lunch, and with members of our council, to discuss the next steps for our mission in Montreal. You have been reading about my work helping establish partnership circles – Foros – for Jamaica and Puerto Rico. In 2019 it will be Montreal's turn. Look for more news on this in the coming months!

## On the Road

Most of November has been spent traveling as part of my biennial network reconnect time. November 10 our whole family was at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, meeting with Old Missionary Gary and many not-normal Lutherans from around the area. November 11 we worshipped together with the saints at Immanuel, Clarinda, Iowa.

I dropped off the family in Omaha so Deb could get the kids back to school, and continued on myself to Sioux City, IA; Yankton, SD; Newhall, IA; St. Cloud, MN; Hutchinson, MN; Granite Falls, MN, and Winona, MN. I had the chance to talk to seniors, middle school kids, youth groups and every age group in between. I even got to meet Uncle Si Robertson of Duck Dynasty (see reverse). A HUGE thank you to everyone who opened their homes and churches to a missionary!

## Mission Moment

It is 6 am, and I'm scraping off the last bit of ice from the windshield before heading out for another drive across the American prairies. It is peaceful and quiet, and I'm watching the sun rise and shine through the crisp, cold air.

I'm doing something I don't always have time to do – reflecting on the past, planning for the future. It is easy in pastoral and mission work to get caught up in the day to day. To see tree after tree after tree but never think about the forest. Or to stand back and look at the forest and be overwhelmed, not sure what to do next. I treasure these quiet hours in the car just thinking and praying for guidance.

How do I balance the work in the north with my supervision of work in the south? How do I balance time with family with time proclaiming Christ and helping others to do so? How do I balance feeding others with being fed myself? Sometimes retreating to a mountaintop to pray looks like driving across the seemingly unending expanse of the prairie.

By mid-December this biennial "pause" in the work will come to a close and it will be "back to the field." Here am I Lord – I am ready for you to send me, again. Amen!



## Network Support

Here are the next upcoming planned visits for the winter and spring:

**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, 7:00 PM**  
Resurrection, Waterville, ME

**December 12, 10:00 AM**  
Immanuel, Bristol, CT

**December 12, 7:00 PM**  
St. Paul, Greenwich, CT

**December 30, 9:00 AM**  
Peace, Cincinnati, OH

**April 27, 2019**  
Calvary, Mechanicsburg, PA

**April 28, 2019**  
St. Athanasius, Vienna, VA

## A Picture's Worth of Words...



**Top Left:** Claudious Dell, ready for studies and already sharing the Gospel in Jamaica! **Top Right:** National flag of Quebec flying at St. Martin Lutheran Church in Winona, MN. **Middle:** Sharing the mission with a bunch of not-normal people in Mapleton, IA. **Bottom:** With long-time encouragers Paula and Vanessa Paulson – and Uncle Si Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" – at Chick-Fil-A in St. Cloud, MN.

## Prayer Concerns

For restoration to health, as I recover from a cold virus, and Deb and Sophia recover from sprained ankles,

For the mission to Montreal, that we might focus on those things that are profitable for our congregation's growth,

For new missionaries in Puerto Rico and new pastor-in-training in Jamaica, and our volunteers serving the Caymans, that all might be blessed by Christ this Christmas season.

## Support this Work

You can donate online at [lcms.org/givenow/stonge](https://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.

Mission Central  
40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861