



## Work Up North

On January 18 we had our first "mission team" meeting at Ascension in Montreal. The goal of the meeting was to continue "priming the pump" of the congregation's evangelism work. We discussed our presence on the internet, how to grow our English language outreach, how to be a welcoming congregation, and how to make the Gospel more known in our neighborhood and in Montreal as a whole.

We have been blessed to have many new folks join us in worship, some desiring baptism and others who have already been baptized desiring to join us at the Lord's Supper. Our newest visitors include people from India, from China and from Nepal. We had our first adult baptism of the year on January 13, and expect another in February.

I believe our commitment to sharing the truth of the Gospel with others is being blessed by the Lord, and we are having added to our number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:47).

## Work Down South

This month I celebrated my fourth anniversary of leading the Synod's work across the Caribbean. I attended our semi-annual regional team meeting in Santiago, and reflected on the changes in our mission fields in that time. Two new area facilitators like myself are now assisting our director, Pastor Ted Krey. Our new director of short term teams, Erin Mackenzie, is helping us bring the Gospel to more people in Jamaica and in Puerto Rico. Our communications team is expanding our reach on the web and on Facebook, helping our small local congregations connect with people through the internet.

I visited our congregation in the Cayman Islands, now being served by their eighth interim pastor. We may have identified a new five-year pastor to serve the Caymans: pray that the Lord is answering our prayers in this regard!

I also joined the rest of our team in Puerto Rico for our first official team conference. Our speaker, Rev. Dr. Richard Marrs of Doxology, helped us think about what it means to serve in the midst of disaster. We also hope to be dedicating a new outreach space in Ponce in the coming weeks.

## Mission Moment

A young man started attending services a few weeks ago. He had been attending church for a while, but had never been baptized. In an email conversation he revealed that he did not think he was ready for baptism because his life was not perfect and he still struggled with sin.

I pointed out to him that this is what the gift of baptism is all about: Christ sealing us with the Holy Spirit and working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight (Hebrews 13:21). Last Sunday, he asked when we could meet so that he could be baptized into Christ and receive that gift!

Three weeks ago, while at our regional team meeting in Santiago, I received an email from two of our Chinese members. A friend they had been bringing with them to worship, a Chinese law student at the Université de Montréal, wanted to be baptized. Could we baptize Claire on Sunday?

We continue to be blessed here in Montreal as the Lord draws more people to himself through the proclamation of the Gospel.



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



**Top Left:** Changing a flat with Rev. Tony Alter in Grand Cayman. **Bottom Left:** Leading devotions at our Puerto Rican conference. **Top Right:** Preaching at Safe Harbour, Grand Cayman. **Middle Right:** Welcoming Claire through the waters of Holy Baptism. **Bottom Right:** Some of the leaders of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

### Prayer Concerns

For the strengthening of our new and young Puerto Rico mission team, that they not lose heart but know that their labors in the Lord are never in vain;

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

For the sending of a long-term missionary to the Cayman Islands, that the Lord would direct a faithful shepherd for the people of Safe Harbour Lutheran Church.

### 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