

# In The Way

February 2019

The St-Onge Family in Mission

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## Work Up North

Our English outreach classes restarted at the beginning of February, in the midst of the cold and ice of Quebec. Thanks to a vigorous Facebook campaign our numbers went up significantly, with almost two dozen attending the first class. Many are Muslims, with a group from Algeria joining recently. Others are from Africa, from Latin America, and from France. Pray for us as we share English and Jesus with these people the Lord is sending us from around the world. Pray for Gail, Susia, Bruce, Veronica, Spencer and Kathryn who volunteer their time to teach and assist each week.

On Sunday, February 17 we baptized baby Isaac Blaauw, fourth child of Ben and Julie Blaauw, who drive 30 minutes each way to come to worship, every Sunday. The next Sunday we heard three adults confirm their faith and join us in the Lord's Supper. One is a young woman I recently baptized, and the other two are from Nepal and were themselves baptized at an evangelical church in December of last year. "I dreamed of Jesus," said Nirjala, who had been a Hindu. She's already helping on our altar guild and with our women's ministry!

## Work Down South

At the beginning of February I spent five days in Jamaica, working with our short term team director, Erin Mackenzie, and our local missionaries. We are fast-tracking ministry centre renovations in the hopes of creating space for a second missionary and housing for the short-term teams we are expecting this summer and into the fall.

I also spent time in study with Claudious Dell as he continues preparation for ordination. We took a day to drive both him and Ancella Gregory, our Lutheran Hour director, to Westmoreland Parish. We saw the centre where Claudious has been gathering the people of Bath Mountain for bible study and worship, and where we hope to plant another congregation. We also visited the local school, where Ancella is starting a bible club.

One island over, Haiti has been suffering through a period of terrible unrest. I was able to work with Jackie Rychel of Ministry in Mission to get a relief grant to the leadership of the church body there. Please pray for the many regional leaders, pastors and people who are suffering the effects of government corruption and a sense of hopelessness within the population.

## Mission Moment

From Delphine, a request for prayers for "my horrible life." "Sometimes I feel so alone that I cry" wrote Victoria. Nat asked for prayers because "I feel so stupid and lost. I feel like God is mad at me... please pray for my heavy heart." Gilbert said "all I ever wanted is love... I don't think I can find it in the human race... I feel alone... I'd rather die than keep going."

These are just a few of the people I've corresponded with as part of our internet outreach program in Montreal. Most of the people are local to the city – some are quite far flung, revealing the depth of the need for missions and evangelism all across this province. "It is a dark place," a Christian confided to my wife recently. There is no question that it is.

Many do not write back, but some do, and some even speak on the phone. Delphine and I corresponded back and forth, and she is now receiving my weekly devotions by email. Many have liked our page on Facebook and hear our sermons that way. Please pray for us as we seek to bring the Gospel of Jesus to these souls.



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



**Top Left:** Isaac Blaauw, surrounded by parents and siblings, receives the gift of Holy Baptism. **Bottom Left:** Junior confirmation class, including Sophia St-Onge, making St-Valentin cards for shutins. **Top Right:** Receiving three new Christians to the Lord's Supper by confirmation of their faith. **Bottom Right:** Pastor St-Onge, Claudious Dell, Erin Mackenzie, and Ancella Gregory at the Bath Mountain mission location in Westmoreland Parish, Jamaica.

## Prayer Concerns

For Victoria, Brad, Amilcar, Delphine, Haydee, Enko, Cynthia, Tammy's family, Gilbert and Valerie, that Christ may bring them life through the Gospel we share with them,

For those who have joined our baptized fellowship since November, including Cynthia, John, Romeo, Nirjala, Isaac and Claire, and for those who are starting instruction for confirmation, including Coco and Dimitri, that the Word of God may dwell richly in them.

## 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.

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