

In The Way

March 2019

The St-Onge Family in Mission

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intheway.org

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Work Up North

This month was almost a perfect fifty-fifty split between work up north and down south. Here in Canada, I led two workshops on religion and science outside Toronto. The first was a men's retreat for Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Kitchener, Ontario held in nearby Guelph. Many of the men brought sons, friends and other non-Christians who had left the faith because of challenges from so-called scientific theories. The second was a Higher Things retreat in Waterloo on the same topic, with several dozen youth and adults in attendance.

In mid-March Deb helped organize another game day, bringing together folks from the French and English worshipping communities. We also invited students taking our English classes on Monday night, and were pleased to welcome some them.

We've also had two mission team meetings now for Montreal, and are beginning to put our strategic plan together. This will be presented to our new partners Sept 12-13 when we meet in the city. We expect to welcome the mission executives of the SELC and English District at that meeting, as well as our circuit visitor, and guests from Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston, TX.

Work Down South

The strategic plans for 2019-2022 have been presented in Jamaica and Puerto Rico, and a presentation to the folks in the Caymans is coming soon. I helped lead the Puerto Rico FORO in Mayaguez and Ponce March 23-24, which included close to 30 participants and mission workers. We are on track to provide materials for the repair of a hundred more roofs this year, which includes bringing the Gospel to a hundred more families through this effort alone. In addition to presenting our strategic plan update and financials for Puerto Rico, I also set apart Rev. James Neuendorf for mission work in Ponce and cut the ribbon for the new Lutheran Hour office.

From Puerto Rico I went to Jamaica, where Erin Mackenzie (our LAC short term teams director) and I met up with two old friends from Houston, TX, Jim Hunt and John Listi. Over the course of several days we built four bunk beds for the ministry centre team wing, replaced the hot water heater and several locks, and generally moved repairs forward. I also spent six hours teaching Law and Gospel to two students and a man investigating Christianity (see Mission Moment). This afternoon I led our annual Lutheran Ministries in Jamaica meeting and, tomorrow, I will be at a meeting regarding the possibility of having a Lutheran school in the downtown area.

Mission Moment

As many of you know, some of my greatest joy comes from teaching and preaching the faith. While helping with our ministry centre renovations I had the pleasure of teaching two days on the distinction between Law and Gospel. For the many people here who see church as a place of pure moralism or experientialism, this is a very important topic.

Pastor Ite, our pastor in Jamaica, brought an English professor who has been attending his bible studies to one of the classes. Vivien asked some very pointed questions that obviously weighed heavily. "How do you know there is a God?" "Who is the true God?" "What Christian church is the right one, and how can I know for sure?" I spent an hour and a half listening to his questions and answering them, in the proceed (hopefully!) giving the two other students, Claudius and Henry, a sense of how to answer them in a way that will draw people to Jesus.

Vivien has not yet attended a worship service – but we pray that day will come soon!



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: Prayers with FORO partners before travels home. **Bottom Left:** Speaking at the semi-annual FORO partners meeting. **Top Right:** "Team Bunk Bed" celebrates mission accomplished. Thanks to Jim Hunt and John Listi for coming! **Bottom Right:** It has been a LONG winter in Montreal. We will be thankful to have our parking back soon. See many more pictures of this month's work at intheway.org.

Prayer Concerns

For Vivien, that he would know the truth, and that the truth would set him free,

For our team in Puerto Rico, that the Lord would sustain them in their work,

For Pastor Ite and the Lutheran Christians in Jamaica, that they would continue to be bold in sharing the Gospel in this place,

For my father, that the Lord would sustain him as he continues his treatments for kidney cancer.

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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