

In The Way

May 2019

The St-Onge Family in Mission

charles.stonge@lcms.org

intheway.org

244 21e Avenue

Deux-Montagnes, QC

J7R 4H1 Canada



Work Up North

The first weekend of May I led sixteen folks through the *Every One His Witness* core module. We ate well and enjoyed great fellowship, thanks to a mercy center grant from our regional office. I also attended our annual church workers' conference in Cleveland, OH, focusing on worker wellness.

Our mission team met for the third time to review the skeleton of a strategic plan. This plan will be presented to our new partners this fall, as we meet September 12-14 for our first ever Montreal FORO "Forum." I am asking (pleading?) for a missionary, in the form of a pastor, deaconess or vicar, to assist with the the work here. My duties moving the Lord's mission forward in the Caribbean leave me with much less time than is needed for the work and opportunities in Montreal. Please pray that this request may become a reality! Some of the elements of our plan include expanding our outreach to refugees and immigrants, starting new services either in Spanish or Portuguese, and expanding our internet presence.

Regular bible classes, visits, and even a funeral also happened during May. Sometimes in our zeal to report on "big things," we forget to talk about the "little things" that make up the ministry and the mission! Rest assured that those continue as well.

Work Down South

On May 19-20 the leaders of the regional team spent time with our directors of international and national mission, as well as our Chief Mission Officer Rev. Kevin Robson. It was great to dialog together about our mission in Christ to the people of the US as well as those around the world.

A four-day symposia on the consolation of God followed at our seminary in Santiago. Representatives from every confessional Lutheran church in the western hemisphere (except Canada, who couldn't send a representative) were present. I was part of a discussion on a plan for pastoral formation in Haiti. The leaders there would very much like a teacher who can speak French rather than someone working through a translator. That is something I may be helping with in the future. My next trip south will not be for a whole month, so the family is glad to have me home!

Mission Moment

Our home field of service, Quebec, has been embroiled in a debate over the secular identity of the nation these last few weeks. A bill has been proposed that would ban the wearing of all religious symbols for police officers, court officials, and teachers: anyone deemed to be "in a position of coercion." The hot topic in the media has been what, if any, influence religion should have on people's moral behavior.

On Sunday afternoon, after my last bible study, I visited one of our elderly members in hospital. His caregiver, a Muslim woman, recorded my devotions which included the singing of the Nunc Dimittis and "The King of Love, My Shepherd Is." Although she spoke French, not English, she was moved by the service and asked "for a copy." I was not planning on witnessing to a Muslim on Sunday, but one must always be ready to give an answer for our hope!

Sophia had her graduating class trip to Ottawa this last week. Before lunch a classmate blurted out, "We forgot to say grace!" The whole group laughed, and he admitted that it was something his grandparents made him do. Sophia shrunk back, once again reminded of how much our faith puts us on the outside here.



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: With Rev. Marvin Donaire, President of the Lutheran Synod of Nicaragua. **Middle Left:** French, English and Chinese members at our Every One His Witness workshop in Montreal. **Bottom Left:** At the seminary, school, church and group home in Palmar Arriba, a suburb of Santiago, DR. **Top Right:** Deaconess Cheryl Naumann celebrates 40 years of work in ministry at the Spanish America symposia in the Dominican Republic. **Bottom Right:** The Saturday afternoon group during the Every One His Witness workshop in Montreal.

Prayer Concerns

For the elderly whose families are disconnected from the church, that they might not be forgotten during their last days,

For the Lutherans working to create a basic school in downtown Kingston, that we would find the funding to do so,

For my uncle, who is in hospital in southern Ontario for fluid in his chest cavity and in serious condition,

For those travelling this summer, especially on mission trips, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to many through them.

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.

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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