

In The Way

November 2019

The St-Onge Family in Mission

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intheway.org

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Work Up North

This will be my first month in over three years with absolutely no trips by plane. That comment may seem more appropriate for "Work Down South," but it has enabled me to focus on Montreal and on our family. Being gone from home 10-15 days a month is stressful on everyone and on me, and it is good to just be "home" for a rest. It's been a time to focus on basic mission and ministry: visits to shut-ins and new prospective members, outreach emails and phone calls, preaching, teaching and even some administration.

Mid-month we received a visit from Deaconess Kristin Wassilak of Concordia-Chicago, who came to see what Ascension would be like as a deaconess internship site. We are hoping that one of her students, who is marrying a Canadian next year, will spend her internship year helping with our immigrant outreach program, our growing Sunday School, and generally learning about service in a multilingual, multicultural neighborhood and church community.

Ascension also hosted the annual general meeting of the Parc-Extension Historical Society. It was an opportunity to meet an interesting cross-section of our community, including our mayor, another local pastor (from Jamaica!) and others. One board member even joined us for worship the following Sunday.

Two of the visits I enjoyed this month were with students who regularly attend worship. One studies physics, the other classics. The classics student is arranging for me to speak about theology and science at McGill University in January as part of a weekly outreach event by the Christian community in campus.

Work Down South

On November 15, after months of work, the team in Puerto Rico acquired a campus for disaster response ministry and worship services in Ponce. In short order worship services and mercy workshops will move from our rental property to the new location a few blocks away on the southside of downtown. Rev. Neuendorf has reported great interest in the arrival of a new church to the area. We pray that this new property will help us reach many with the Gospel who are still recovering from Hurricane Maria and her economic aftermath. I look forward to helping dedicate the facility at our March FORO meeting.

Mission Moment

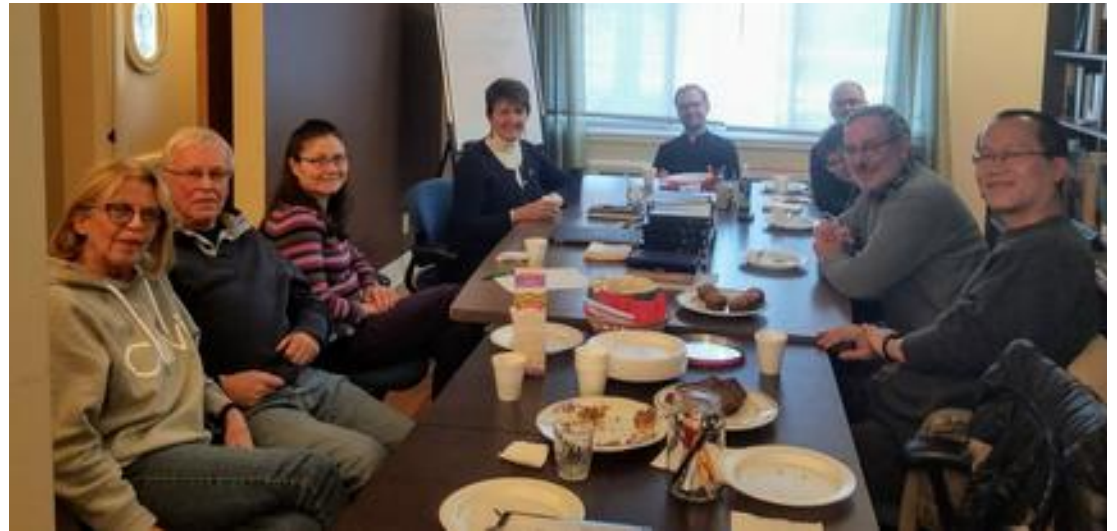
"Physician, heal yourself" (Luke 4:23). That's a proverb quoted by Jesus to the hometown crowd puzzled and angered by his preaching. Like all proverbs, it expresses a basic truth. What do we think of the mechanic who can't change his own oil? Or the nutritional expert struggling with obesity? We prefer experts whose expertise has helped themselves.

We expect pastors to offer us spiritual comfort in times of distress; to proclaim the Good News when we need it and the Law when we need that; to be ready to pray for us whenever the need arises. But do pastors care for themselves? In their spiritual care for others, do they neglect to care for their own spirit?

It is good to remember that pastors, missionaries, teachers and deaconesses also need spiritual care. They, too, need the Gospel preached to them. Take a mission moment this week and offer to pray with those who so often pray for you.



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: "Date Night" with Olivia, enjoying Quebec's national dish: poutine. **Top Right:** English outreach class at Ascension. **Middle Right:** The mission team meets with Deaconess Wassilak (fourth from left). **Bottom Right:** Proposed location for our new LED sign to reach our community with the Gospel in as many languages as possible. **SPECIAL THANKS to a VERY SPECIAL DONOR who made this part of our strategic plan a possibility!**

Prayer Concerns

For Charles' father Denis, receiving care at home but suffering from the effects of cancer, and for his mother Betty as she cares for him,

For our missionaries in Puerto Rico, that they not grow weary of doing good but find joy in their callings,

For Abasifreke Ite and the whole Ite family, for good health and encouragement in their faithful service in Jamaica.

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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