

# In The Way

April 2020

The St-Onge Family in Mission  
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## Work Up North

It has been over a month since Ascension was able to gather together for worship in the flesh. But that has not stopped the Spirit from being among us through the Word. I led online worship every night during Holy Week using Zoom. Our first service we had close to twenty people, and it grew every night from there.

By Saturday night for our "Latin America-wide" Easter Vigil, close to seventy of us were joining together to celebrate God's gift to us in Christ. Leading us in the twelve vigil readings were missionaries from Belize, the Cayman Islands, Panama, Spain, and the Dominican Republic. We had a circuit visitor from Middletown, OH and a district president from Macungie, PA. Worshippers joined from both Canadian coasts, from the Caribbean, and from various US states. We were far apart, but the promise of the Gospel drew us together.

On Monday April 20 I led my first funeral during the lockdown for a member who died of COVID-19. I was able to be at the graveside to proclaim Christ's promise of resurrection, and I led worship with music provided by Deb and voices by our girls for an online funeral service that afternoon. These are not ordinary times. But Christ came among us precisely for times such as these.

Deaconess intern Kate Phillips in the Dominican has been helping me with an increased volume of outreach emails. We did some extra online training to help our outreach be as fruitful as possible.

## Work Down South

Much of my work for the missions in the Caribbean was already being done from my computer. In some ways, that part of my vocation has not changed much. The part that has changed is being home a lot more!

Pastor Ron Hodel, who with his wife Gail had been serving in the Caymans, took an evacuation flight home on April 17. Since then, the people of Safe Harbour have been attending worship virtually with God's people in Montreal.

On Saturday, April 25 I led a virtual FORO meeting for Jamaica. The gathering of partners from the across the US was focused on Parade Gardens Lutheran School, and how to support that work when schools in Jamaica are allowed to reopen. Eleven us met "virtually" to hear about this exciting opportunity to share God's love with the little children of downtown Kingston.

## Kids' Korner

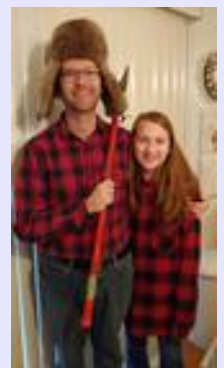
*An occasional update from the St-Onge missionary children.*

Hello! My name is Sophia St-Onge. To cope with this virus, every week on Tuesday at 2 PM I have a bible study with all the girl missionaries. We do a bible verse and then a craft. There are people from Canada, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Puerto Rico, and Texas and lots of other places.

My dad does a bible study on Wednesday at 7 PM on Zoom and on Sundays at 9:30 AM before services.

I love doing school at home because I can see my cat a lot more. I also get to see my Dad more because he is not travelling as much as he normally would.

*Sophia and Pastor Dad celebrating "twins day" as part of missionary spirit week.*

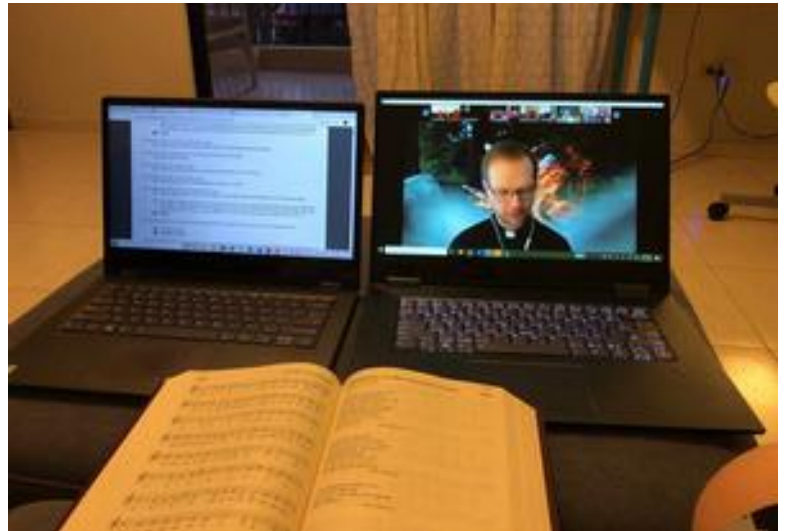


# When Words are All We Have

Scenes from Easter Vigil 2020

*A time will come and truth reveal  
 The glory of eternal God:  
 Jesus the Son, the living Word  
 When beauty's colours fade away  
 And earthly pages find decay  
 The Word divine, always the same  
 His Word shall live forever  
 The Word is a sword that pierces the heart  
 The truth is a light that cuts through the dark  
 Of this world  
 Nations shall rise and nations shall fall,  
 But nothing shall stand in the way of the Word  
 The Word is a sword that pierces the heart  
 The Truth is a light that cuts through the dark  
 Of this world*

- "Kells" by Iona (1992)



## Prayer Concerns

For the power of the Word, that hearts made anxious and minds brought low might hear it and live,

For all pastors seeking new ways to proclaim Christ's Word, that they might be encouraged to be bold in their task,

For all of us, that we might bear a faithful Christian witness to our friends, family and communities, remembering that we ought to help and support our neighbors in every physical need.

## 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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