

In The Way

June 2021

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A Family "Montreal Mission Moment"

Deborah St-Onge

It's graduation time! Congratulation to those of you sharing this joy with family and friends. This is a chance to reflect on hard work accomplished and plans for the future. It's a big deal!

In Quebec, students graduate high school at grade 11. That means senior pictures, prom, graduation announcements and parties, right? Well, not like what most of you probably imagine. Throughout the year I have asked questions about these things and received answers that indicate that this milestone is not celebrated the same here. In fact, Olivia's graduation will take place on October 22. This is not because of COVID. This is because - I am not totally sure. No one here seems to know why English high schools hold graduations in October. One of Olivia's classmates likened it to more of a "homecoming" event. It's the closest answer to a "reason" that we have.

A missionary challenge is always to balance your home culture with your field culture. Contented missionaries embrace the best of both. We had special senior pictures taken and mailed graduation announcements. We will also joyfully attend the ceremony being held two months after she has started college. We are grateful to be serving where a good education is possible. Praise the Lord who does all things well.

Note from Charles: Olivia will be attending Marianopolis College near downtown Montreal starting in August. She will be studying Commerce, and Lord willing will graduate with a DEC - Diplôme d'études collégiales – or the equivalent of the 1st year of university in the US or English Canada.

Work Down South

This month I spoke with an LCMS family in the Virgin Islands who have been attending our worship services virtually since last spring. Their grandchildren have been faithful participants in our kids club as well. We are beginning earnest discussions about a mission to these island territories of the US just a half hour flight from Puerto Rico. I hope to visit the family in the fall with our Puerto Rico team lead Rev. James Neuendorf. Even during COVID, the Lord has been at work opening new opportunities for ministry!

Mission Moment

One of the exciting things about serving on the mission field is that one never knows what Sunday morning will bring. The only certain thing is that the Lord will teach both pastor and people of Christ in often unexpected ways.

Saturday afternoon a woman called the church and spoke with our deaconess' husband about coming for Baptism on Sunday. Sure enough, an entire Indian family, of Sikh background, showed up halfway through our Sunday service asking if they could be baptized.

They joined our newly baptized Chinese member and his friends for our instruction class after worship and, afterwards, I asked them about their request. They had read parts of the Gospel in India, and begun attending worship services. In 2019 they moved to Canada, just weeks before most of the country locked down due to COVID. Seeing our new sign (!) and realizing our church was open and having services, they decided to attend.

I will be meeting with the whole family and some of their friends this week. We hope to baptize the parents and children at an upcoming service, and prepare the adults for the Lord's Supper.



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top right: Olivia celebrates graduation with a Canadian favourite, a Beaver Tail (or "queue de castor") in Old Montreal.

Bottom right: Christianity's true competition in Montreal are les Canadiens, playing in the Stanley Cup this year for the first time since 1993. **Above:** Our Montreal mission team: Olivia, Sophia, and Deborah St-Onge, Avery Prozenko holding Suzie Stone with Emilie Stoller-Prozenko behind, Philippe Morel one of our new and very active members, and Ruth and Lyman Stone.

Prayer Concerns

For those preparing for Baptism and confirmation of faith at Ascension, that the Lord would stir up his Spirit within them,

For our city and community as we move out of the pandemic and back to more normalcy, that the Evil One not turn us against one another but that Christ's love would prevail,

For our family as we prepare for a small break this summer, that we would return to the field refreshed and excited to serve.

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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