

## Work Up North

This month marks our sixth anniversary of service in Montreal, and my sixth and half year anniversary of service as area facilitator. Here up north we have seen many changes. Looking out over our worshipping congregation – in person and on screen – is to see almost two dozen people that have become part of our fellowship since we arrived.

It is to remember those whom we have laid to rest, and those who have moved on to other cities, provinces and countries.

It is to see a council and mission team made up of young people stepping forward to work, new members stepping up to lead, and older members encouraging them all.

It is to marvel at our new sign, podcasts, YouTube channels and Facebook pages that proclaim the Gospel to so many.

What will the next year bring? We do not know, except that Christ will lead us. We will be putting together a new strategic plan for 2022-2025 to present next year. With Jesus' guidance, we will continue being the Good News Place in Parc-Extension and the greater Montreal area.

## Work Down South

After more than a year of no-travel, it is hard to imagine being with our missionaries in the Caribbean in person again. But as borders begin reopening and travel is restored, I expect to be in Puerto Rico a couple of times before Reformation Day, as well as assisting at our Jamaica FORO meeting in Omaha, Nebraska and our SELC circuit meeting in Emporia, Virginia.

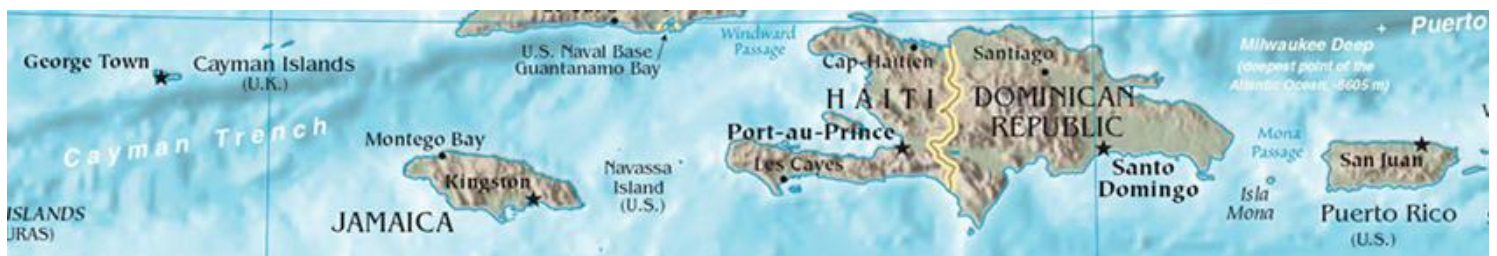
This will also be a year of reviewing our strategic plans for the Caymans and Jamaica and our hopes for pastoral formation in Haiti. We pray that 2021-2022 will be a return to something more akin to "normal" in my work!

## Mission Moment

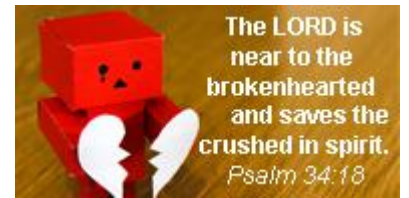
The mission of the church is a participation in the mission of Christ. What is Christ's mission? To proclaim Good News of the forgiveness of sins in His name, and to make followers from all nations. That's it: that's the mission.

In her mission, the church is a follower, not a leader. The church is servant, not a master. Christ is at work in the world, governing her through his people. He is also at work in bringing the Gospel to all people through the church. The church does not dictate how and when this happens. Nor does the church use force – emotional or physical – to make it happen. But the church is drawn into the current of the Spirit that is moving where and when he wills, drawing people all over to Christ.

So it is with the two confirmations, three adult baptisms and two child baptisms we have had in the last six months. This is not our work. It is Jesus', and we are privileged to be his hands, feet and voice.



## A Picture's Worth of Words



**Top right:** The confirmation of Guorong, baptized two months ago, and the baptisms of the Singh family. We now have a quarter of our congregation of Chinese background, and about a quarter of Indian / Pakistani background. **Top left:** Some of the signs people have seen in front of Ascension. "Jesus donne" (French) – Jesus gives what we need, not what we want and "Quien dices" (Spanish) – Who do you say that Jesus is? **Bottom Left:** Guorong's confirmation during our service on July 4. Not a holiday in Canada, but definitely a holy day in our congregation!

## Prayer Concerns

For rest, as we reconnect with family and friends in the United States for the first time since late 2019,

For the world, that Christ would lead the nations to peace and not war, that trust in swords would turn to trust in our Savior,

For the many who have lost loved ones to COVID this year, especially missionary families in South America and pastors and their families in the United States, that God would wipe away every tear from their eyes.

## Support this Work

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