

In The Way

August 2021

The St-Onge Family
charles.stonge@lcms.org
intheway.org
244 21e Avenue
Deux-Montagnes, QC
J7R 4H1 Canada

Work Up North

We once again find ourselves in a summer between pandemic "waves." There is light at the end of the tunnel: we have singing again in worship! Hymns and many parts of the liturgy have been reintroduced. Deb will be stepping back as "pinch-hit" organist and our regular musician will be at our (new) organ bench in September. Attendance is creeping back up, including close to 50 this last Sunday for a combined Baptism and funeral service.

You've never attended one of those? I've never led one. But we baptized the child of a new East Indian family, and did the English commendation for a long time member whose Wednesday funeral will be in Urdu at the extended family's wish. I centered my message on the role of Baptism throughout our lives. We may receive Baptism as a child, but its gift finds its real fulfillment at the moment of our deaths.

This was the second of two funerals in a 10-day period. We lost two older men to sudden heart attacks within days of each other. In neither case was the extended family Lutheran, and in one case few in the family were practicing Christians. In the case of the latter I proclaimed the Gospel in which a husband, father, uncle and grandfather had taken his stand, and had at least one man remark that they'd never heard a sermon quite like that before. We hope we might see some who attended again, but that is in the Lord's hands (see: Mission Moment!)

We have three community open houses and a FORO planned for the next three months. We pray that conditions will permit all of them to go ahead!

Work Down South

The hurricane season has been quiet so far. The Caymans saw flooding and the passage of a tropical storm, but came through relatively unscathed. The movement of tectonic plates in the Caribbean has not been as quiet. I have participated in some of the planning for relief efforts in Haiti after the latest strong earthquake. Donations to support that work can be made through LCMS Disaster Response.

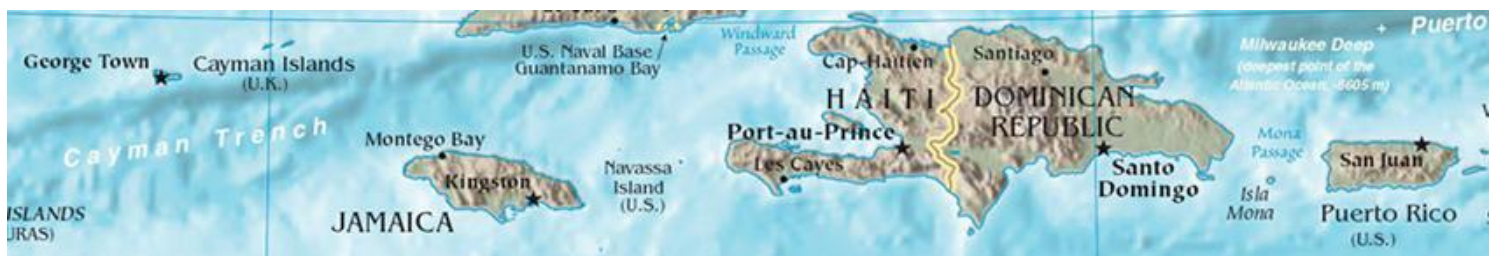
I will be in Puerto Rico next week to plan out what the next phase of our mission on the island will look like. With a new pastor and his family to be installed on Sunday (Rev. Adam Lehman), and the loss of our project manager (James Krey), there will be more changes afoot. But always foremost in our minds is keeping the main thing the main thing: telling people in as many ways as possible the Good News of Jesus.

Mission Moment

Mission work is about nothing if it is not about patience. The patience to make a million mistakes while learning a new language. The patience of working through a new bureaucracy in a strange country. The patience of explaining things about Jesus that seem obvious to lifelong Christians but are bewildering to a Sikh, a Muslim or Hindu. And the patience of waiting on the work of the Holy Spirit.

There are conversations as a missionary that I started years ago that are only now bearing some fruit, like the man who writes a Facebook message and says that he has become convinced of the Lutheran teaching about Christianity. Such a thing happened this month. Or the son attending his father's funeral who engaged in a deep conversation about what our church believes, teaches and confesses.

One never knows how or when the Spirit will move. We can only wait on the Lord with, yes, patience.



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top left: A federal election was just called for September 20. At left is Justin Trudeau, Liberal Party leader and at right, Justin Trudeau, candidate for the Papineau riding where the church building is located. Even the Prime Minister has to be elected as a member of parliament. **Top right:** Emilie and I are finally able to get out and make visits – until my travel south takes me away again? **Bottom far left:** The baptism of our Albert during our August 22 service. **Bottom left:** Olivia starts "CEGEP" at Marianapolis College. In Quebec, CEGEP is a 2-3 year program that covers 12th grade and the first year of university, or a trade certificate.

Prayer Concerns

For Josephine and Emily, who lost their lifelong husbands suddenly this month, that they may find comfort in the communion of saints,

For the Caribbean, that her people would be protected from further storms and earthquakes,

For those traveling for work and for missions, that they would be kept healthy and able to do work pleasing to the Lord.

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