

In The Way

November 2021

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Work Up North

We have moved suddenly from "winter is coming" to "winter is here." A New Christian Year has begun, and we have started the journey through Advent to Christmas. It has been a good month here in our Montreal mission. At the end of October, just after our last newsletter, we welcomed a previously unchurched man into Christ's fellowship through the rite of confirmation. Because of health issues and lack of a car, he is not able yet to travel by transit (two hours) to our church building. So Deaconess Emilie, her husband Avery, and I brought the church to him.

The second Sunday of November, one of our members who joined at the beginning of the pandemic was reunited with his wife and daughter from India. We received Shital into fellowship with us, and rejoiced together that Shardul is no longer living here alone!

On November 17 we hosted our third open house of the fall. Two public relations officers from our Montreal police service spoke to over 30 people, half members and half from our local community. We provided translation into Urdu, Greek and English for attendees. Much of the meeting focused on fraud, especially how scammers will take advantage of immigrants, and on reporting domestic abuse. "We serve the whole community," they said, "regardless of status. Never be afraid to call the police."

On the very last Sunday of November, the first Sunday of Advent, a young woman who had been visiting with us asked to be baptized. We are praying for Deepika as she prepares to be received by Christ in Holy Baptism.

Work Down South

Deb and I had a safe trip to Kentucky, where I spoke to the people of Holy Cross Lutheran in Shelbyville and preached at the annual Reformation service in the afternoon at Grace, New Albany, IN.

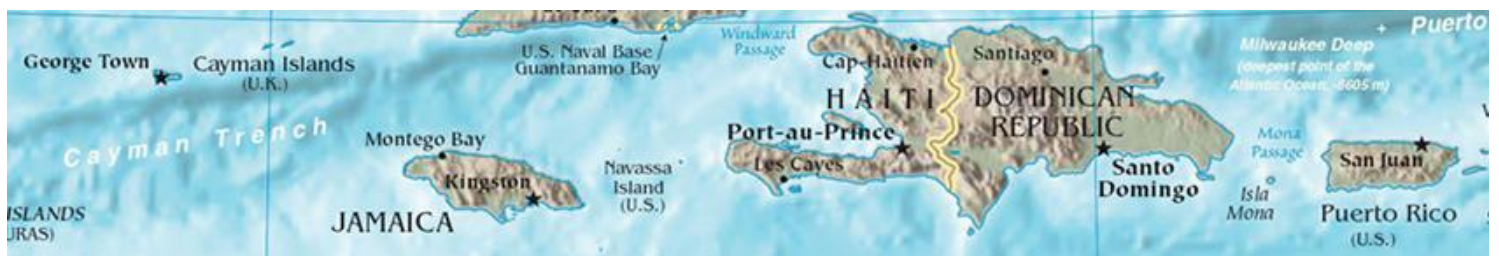
It was also a month of grief: Rev. Obot Ite's wife and my friend, Abasifreke, was called home by our Lord on November 20. Pastor Ite and their young daughter, Goodness, are being cared for by several members of our missionary community. Keep Pastor Obot and Goodness in your prayers.

Mission Moment

If my years in ministry have taught me anything, it is that mission takes the whole Body. A pastor is essential, but I'm not convinced he is sufficient, for the task the Lord is carrying out through us. Why else would our Lord give us the counsel and warning of Acts 6:1-7?

A generous donor in Texas provided us with a sign. Others have provided us with a talented, young deaconess. Two lay mission workers labour alongside the congregation. Almost every member is putting their specific gifts and talents to work in some way. Open houses, English classes, fellowship events and, of course, Lutheran preaching and worship are bearing the fruit of new families and adult converts.

This last Sunday a young woman asked, during a young adult fellowship, what was to prevent her from being baptized. Was it the sign that convinced her to stop at our Gospel outpost in Parc-Extension? The outside "cider ministry" of one of our workers that brought her into a service? The preaching of God's Word that brought her to Christ? The fellowship of our young adults that led her to Baptism? The answer is yes. "The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor." 1 Corinthians 3:8.



A Picture's Worth of Words



← **Tweet**



Cynthia Dawn Ultra @CynthiaDawnRoy · Nov 25

It's official. My pastor has to leave Canada because he cannot speak French.

The changing language laws in Quebec is making us lose our pastor. My church (200+ people) is devastated. Our whole town and community is affected.

Pray for HCC. Pray for Pastor Hudson.



92

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547



Top left: Open House with the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM). **Middle left:** A Canada-themed baby shower for Josephine Stone. Mother Ruth and father Lyman are expecting their second daughter, and a sister for Suzie, on December 17. **Bottom left:** Quebec's new language laws are impacting mission work across the province. **Top right:** Shardul and Ascension welcome his wife, Shital and daughter, Shannon. They are the fifth family from India who have joined us since March of 2020. **Bottom right:** We heard Larry's confirmation of faith on October 27, with the congregation joining us via Zoom. Pictured are Pastor St-Onge, Larry, Avery Prozenko and Deaconess Emilie Stoller-Prozenko.

Prayer Concerns

For Donald Follstaedt, Deborah's father, who is in poor health and under nursing care in Monroe, Ohio,

For Deb and her family, who have lost two uncles this month, one to complications from COVID,

For Rev. Obot and Goodness Ite on the loss of his wife and her mother, that the Lord would comfort them in their grief,

For the newly Baptized and newly confirmed at Ascension, that they would grow strong in faith in Christ.

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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