

In The Way

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The St-Onge Family
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Work Up North

It was big month in Montreal, with the installation of the Rev. Marco Antonio Jacobsen as an associate pastor. He has already been helping with mission work in French and English here in Montreal and in French in Quebec City. Pastor Jacobsen is a Brazilian Lutheran pastor studying for a Ph.D. at the Université de Québec à Montréal.

Assisting at the installation were eight pastors, including our SELC President and Circuit Visitor, the Lutheran Church – Canada East District President and Mission Executive, the Rev. Walta Clethius from Haiti who is studying in Québec City, and Rev. Chunlin Hu our missionary to the Chinese community in Montréal. Deb St-Onge and Rena Couture from our French congregation provided special music!

Work Down South

The work we are doing in Puerto Rico continues to expand as we look towards bringing new workers to the field. The disaster response will be entering a new phase as we seek to help harden key buildings in our communities from more electrical grid failures. Gustavo Maita will be ordained in Venezuela on April 8, and we look forward to having him serve as a second pastor and missionary after his installation on April 15. I spent three days with the team in mid-March, developing a new partnership with Lutheran Hour for work on the island.

I also spent a few days in the Cayman Islands meeting with supporters and members of Safe Harbour. We are working to put together a list of folks willing to support this mission and help it move forward. The Rev. Carl Krueger and his wife Diane hosted me and the meetings. They will be finishing their time on island after Easter, to be followed by the Rev. Jonathan Fisk in mid-April.

April will be equally busy. I will be leading Foro meetings for Jamaica and Puerto Rico, serving the people of Safe Harbour on April 8, and attending our SELC convention April 26-28 where I will be one of the guest preachers.

Mission Moment

Do you have religious artwork hanging in your home? Do you have any Christian sayings or Biblical quotes on display? Is your Bible or devotional book out where it can be seen (and used by you!). If so, you are bearing a silent witness. You are letting others know that they have entered a Christian home.

Our neighbor had a school assignment to photograph various religious items and observances. His sister, who has spent time in our home, approached us to see if we would be willing to allow him to use some of our things. Are you kidding? When he arrived, he mentioned that he didn't really know anybody else to ask. He photographed some of our wall art. He needed some pictures of jewelry, so I was happy to show my crosses from Africa, Russia, China, and Grand Cayman and explain that not only were they a sign of my faith, they also serve as personal reminders to pray for the people in those countries while I am wearing them.

He also needed pictures of people praying. I told him we had just finished our family devotions and would be happy to "reenact" that for him. We explained that we did devotions every night after dinner and concluded with prayer. The only prayer he has observed is with a Muslim friend from scouts. It was nice to share that we pray as an expression of trust in God to look after our needs and that we also pray multiple times a day. (before meals, at devotions, at bedtime, as needs arise throughout the day, etc.). I ended his visit with an invitation to come back if he had any questions or ever wanted to know more. I am curious as to what the others in his class will present and whether or not anyone was able to share things from their own family. Praise be to God that we have such lovely items to express our faith and were able to use them to share Christ!



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Above: Receiving gifts from the Dominican Republic and Ascension. **Top Right:** The Hu, Jacobsen and St-Onge families, ministering in Quebec. **Middle Left:** Meeting with Nilo Figur and Ricardo Arguello of Lutheran Hour, Latin America. **Bottom Left:** Meeting with members at Safe Harbour, Cayman Islands. **Bottom:** Messiah, Middletown, OH displays flags of all their missionaries, including the six nations in which the St-Onges live and work!



Prayer Concerns

For my father Denis, as he continues his treatments for cancer;

For those who have so generously given to us in the last three months, putting our mission account **in the black** for the first time since 2016;

For the ministry of Rev. Jacobsen, that he might be a blessing to the work in French and English in Montreal and Quebec City;

For the partner meetings for Jamaica, Caymans and Puerto Rico in the next two weeks, that the mission might be blessed.

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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