

In The Way

April 2019

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Work Up North

At the beginning of April we hosted Arthur Just and his wife, Linda, for three days of visits in Montreal. Dr. Just is our head of operations for Latin America and Charles' former seminary professor, and the Justs had a first hand introduction to the mission field that is Quebec. As happens with many of our LCMS visitors, they arrived wondering why we would have a missionary here at all, and left wondering why we don't have more. It is our prayer that we will continue expanding the work here with another missionary or two in the next few years.

This year was warm enough, and Palm Sunday late enough, that we were able to begin the procession of palms outside. We held our annual bilingual (French and English) Holy Thursday service, and Charles put together a rough hewn cross for our Good Friday service. Deb, Sophia and Olivia sang the part of the choir for the Good Friday Reproaches, which we did for the first time. Easter morning was celebrated with an 8 AM service followed by a continental breakfast.

Charles continued adult instruction with four young adults, as well as with our three young people who will confirm their faith in June. He was also invited to speak about the Reformation at Sophia's school!

Work Down South

Although it is not *very* "down south," we will all be going to Harrisburg, PA for an LWML zone rally on April 27. Charles will be speaking, and the rest of the family will be appearing as "missionaries of honor." On Sunday, Charles will be preaching at St. Athanasius Lutheran Church in Vienna, VA, one of our supporting congregations and home of our circuit visitor, Rev. James Douthwaite, and his family.

There is not currently a quiet island in the Caribbean, mission-wise. A more permanent mission direction for the Caymans continues to take shape. Charles is working hard to find donors to support a possible new Lutheran school in downtown Kingston, Jamaica. Budgets, short-term team coordination and building acquisition plans in Puerto Rico have meant many online videoconference meetings. Even Haiti has been on Charles' plate, with increasing discussions on how to support theological education in that country as it continues to struggle with so much poverty and violence. Charles will also be presenting next month on Puerto Rico at the first "conference of the Americas" in the Dominican Republic.

Mission Moment

There are four young adults with whom I have had meetings in the last couple of months. Their backgrounds are as varied as the city in which we live and work. One has a Greek father and Mexican mother, and speaks Spanish, English and a little Greek – as well as a little French!

Another comes to us from India, where he was recently baptized in a Telegu Lutheran Church. His dad Googled "Montreal" and "Lutheran" to find him a good church, and came up with my name! We hope he will confirm his faith soon and join us in the Lord's Supper.

Another young woman I've been meeting with comes from Asia, and is in Montreal to study law. She is still learning about Christ, and we pray that the Spirit will open her heart to his instruction.

One last young man who has been with us for a few months is, sadly, moving back home to Toronto. His father is Catholic and his mother evangelical, but he wanted to learn more about the Lutheran church after reading "The Spirituality of the Cross" by Gene Veith.



A Picture's Worth of Words...



Top Left: Speaking to Sophia's Ethics, Religion and Culture class. **Middle Left:** Teaching some of the Chinese students at Ascension. **Bottom Left:** Winter's last gasp, April 9. We lost power for 12 hours soon after due to freezing rain. **Top Right:** Dr. Just, enjoying some maple toffee at the sugar bush – a spring tradition in Québec. **Bottom Right:** no trip to Québec is complete without a plate of poutine, a local dish made of fries, cheese curds and gravy. This one had pulled pork as well.

Prayer Concerns

For Sean, Stephen, Coco and Dimitri, that they would come to better know the Christ who has died that they might live,

For the Lutherans working to create a basic school in downtown Kingston, that we would find the funding to do so,

For my father, that the Lord would sustain him as he continues his treatments for kidney cancer,

For those who will be attending the "Every One His Witness" workshop next month, that they might boldly share their faith.

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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