



Work Up North

I give thanks for the extra day we have in February and the chance to get this newsletter out on time! I returned only a couple of hours ago from Haiti and the Cayman Islands (see below). The Lord has done much work this month up north and down south, and here are some highlights.

After several visits and conversations, and many weeks attending our services, we have three more adult confirmands who will join our fellowship on March 1, and two young girls who will be baptized in the coming weeks as well. These are members of two Indian immigrant families from various traditions.

I am also pleased to announce that Emilie Stoller will be serving her deaconess internship with us at Ascension. She will be installed on Sunday, June 14, just a few days after her marriage to Avery Prozenko. Avery will be moving to Montreal from Halifax, Nova Scotia in March to look for work, and to help out around the church as a "sexton" for our building. Emilie will be working to expand our English as Another Language programme. She will also be assisting in our children's ministry alongside my wife, Deborah, and generally putting into practice the skills she has learned at Concordia-Chicago.

Our mission team is also making good progress on a new changeable message outreach sign for the building, and hope to have a possibility selected before April. This will be a great opportunity to engage the thousands of people who walk by our church building every day and want to know what we are all about.

Work Down South

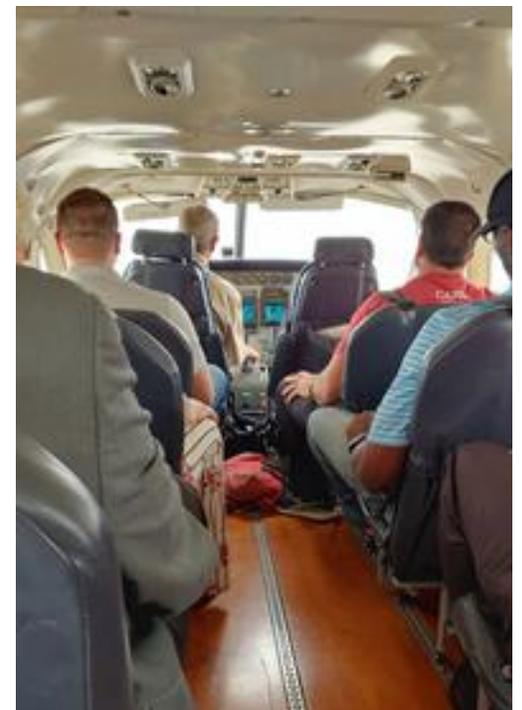
At the beginning of the month I spent five days in Puerto Rico with our missionary team, which has now grown to eighteen: six children out of - and one in - the womb, two spouses, and nine workers. We discussed the next steps in our church planting work and in the disaster response effort which now includes responding to earthquakes. I helped plan a much needed respite weekend for the team which they are enjoying right now. It includes time with our regional chaplain as well as with a pastor trained in providing counsel to disaster responders.

Last weekend I was in the Cayman Islands, where I spent a couple of days with our current interim missionaries. We continue the search for a full-time missionary for the Cayman Islands and hope we are getting close to identifying the right man and family. I've also been setting up the next few months of interim service, and could use a retired pastor who would like to serve 3-4 weeks during the summer.

From the Caymans I travelled to Haiti for the dedication of four church buildings and conversation on theological education with the leaders of the ELCH. The church buildings were reconstructed after Hurricane Matthew with help from LCMS Disaster Response. I joined Rev. Jacob Deal, a fellow SELC District pastor who did a lot of the legwork on the ground, as well as Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson of LCMS Disaster Response and Jackie Rychel and her husband Mark of Ministry in Mission. We drove from Les Cayes in the south to the far western shore of Haiti and the towns of Carcasse, Les Irois, Anse d'Hainault, and Dame-Marie. Over three days we dedicated four buildings – and even included the marriage of one of the church's pastors in one dedication service! Be sure to check out pictures and a slideshow at intheway.org



A Picture's Worth of Words



Top Left: The new elders for Ascension, Montreal for 2020. **Top Right:** Preparing a ribbon for cutting in Les Irois, Haiti. **Bottom Left:** Thanks to Missionary Aviation Fellowship for a great flight from Port au Prince to Les Cayes, cutting six hours off a twelve hour drive. **Bottom Right:** Our pastoral team in Puerto Rico considers next steps over Puerto Rican Chinese food in Ponce – Revs. Gustavo Maita, James Neuendorf, and Anthony DiLiberto (Charles St-Onge taking the picture!)

Prayer Concerns

For Mia Daley, a child in Kingston, Jamaica connected to our ministry, who was hit by a stray bullet that may have left her paralyzed, that the Lord would grant her complete healing,

For the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti, that the Lord would prosper their preaching of the Gospel,

For our ministry in the Cayman Islands, that the Lord would send a shepherd and missionary for the people there.

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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