

In The Way

September 2020

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The Network Reconnect Edition

September has been busy for three reasons. The first is that the work down south is shifting again. I've been helping our team in Puerto Rico adjust to the loss of Pastor Anthony DiLiberto who took a call to the mainland, and working with Pastor James Neuendorf our new team lead. They will be having an online FORO October 10. Jamaica is working at improving their new school, and they will have another virtual FORO October 17. I've been working with the new missionary for the Caymans, Pastor Gerald Paul and his wife Heidi, as he builds his network. We will be meeting up in person on October 27 (more on that in a minute)

The second factor is the growth in the work up north. We continue alternating between online Zoom services and in-person communion services. This might seem like the worst of both worlds. But one new LCMS member from the US said that our online services have built, rather than detracted from, community. We get to sing together, share together, and interact (albeit virtually). We give thanks to God that even though Montreal has now passed into a Code Red for COVID, places of worship can still gather with 25 attendees or less. With Thanksgiving coming up October 11, we may need two services as our in-person attendance is now increasing to over 25. With online attendance holding at around 30, that means our average attendance has increased since March 2020. Our English classes and online Bible studies also continue, as does the posting of sermons and services online via YouTube and podcasts.

The third factor, of course, is the planning of a network reconnect. That trip will now take place October 22 through November 18, Lord willing. I'll be preaching in four different states over that four week period, presenting at Mission Central and a couple of places in Texas, and meeting up with as many of you as I can. From Ohio to Indiana, Iowa to Minnesota, Kansas to Texas, and Alabama to Tennessee, I will be passing through twenty states and two provinces and doing around 30 individual or group meetings. Total distance, 9,700 miles. That's how much your support means to us! Where will I be? How can I do this? Check out page two.

Mission Moment

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Cor. 3:6). That is a basic mission principle. Certainly we would all like to be the harvesters! But if seeds are never planted, and no one waters, the harvest will be very poor indeed.

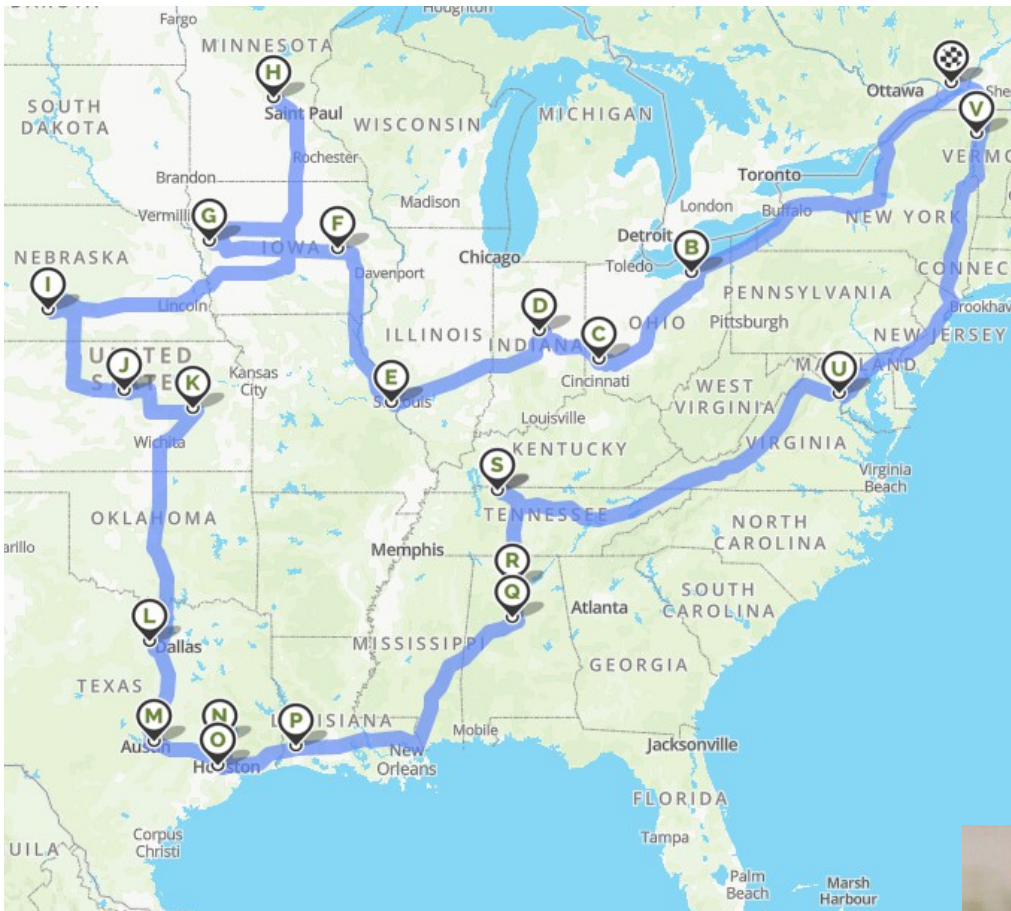
This has been a month of seed planting. Our email evangelism through CV Outreach is expanding into French soon, and we have a small team helping with translation work.

Emilie Prozenko has done a great job getting our English classes up and running virtually. She is managing a list of several dozen people who are interested in attending. We started with a unified class on Tuesdays, but will split into beginners on Tuesdays and intermediate on Thursdays next month. We are meeting all sorts of new people who have no connection with the church.

That doesn't mean there has been no harvest. Even now, in the midst of COVID, I'm teaching an adult confirmation class. But God is always the one who grants the growth.



A Picture's Worth of Reconnect



GROUP EVENTS ONLY

C: Saturday, October 24
Peace, Cincinnati, OH

C: Sunday, October 25
Redeemer, Sidney, OH

G: Saturday, October 31
Mission Central, Mapleton, IA

H: Sunday, November 1
Hosanna, Buffalo, MN

M: Sunday, November 8
Grace, Elgin, TX

O: Tuesday, November 10
Memorial, Houston, TX

S: Sunday, November 15
Grace, Clarksville, TN

Want to see me but your home is not a letter on the map? Let me know!

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY VISIT ALL ONE'S FRIENDS

WITHOUT DRIVING AT LEAST 9,700 MILES

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Prayer Concerns

For strength to not lose heart or grow weary of doing good during this time of pandemic,

For all missionaries serving away from their homes, especially those who have lost loved ones, that they might be comforted by the presence of Christ,

For Safe Harbour Lutheran Church in the Cayman Islands, that her members may remain faithful while they await a new undershepherd.

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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