

HUMANITARIAN

F O U N D A T I O N F U N D



FUNDING FOR MORE BOOK OF MORMON TRANSLATIONS

“They were walking with one leg, now they are running on two.” It is easy for that picture to be painted in your mind as you read that phrase—the stark difference between someone operating under their full capabilities and someone who simply can’t.

These words were given to a brother as he listened to a minister discuss having the Book of Mormon available in his own language for the first time. It was 2010; The Church of Jesus Christ had established itself in the country of India over 30

years prior, but now, for the first time, they had the Book of Mormon in the Tamil language. In the intervening time since the Church brought the Restored Gospel to India in the early 1980s, some members had committed their lives to Christ and endured to the end without being able to read for themselves the very truth they had accepted. They had gone over three decades on one leg, as it were, but now had the capability of not only using both legs but also being able to run.

The understanding contained in and available through the Book of Mormon is central to the Restoration. It is the key that unlocks our understanding of the fullness of God’s promises

to Israel. As the psalmist said, “Truth shall spring out of the Earth” (Ps. 85:11). It is that truth that allows us to better understand our day and time.


The Gospel in its fullness has continued to spread to other people, countries, and tongues. Unfortunately, that spread has created a disparity among Church members who do not all have the opportunity to read the Book of Mormon in their native tongue. Throughout the world, people have heard the Restoration story and given their lives to Christ, at times without having the privilege of reading the plain and precious truth.

The Language Translation Committee (LTC), a

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NEED FOR HELP TO COMPLETE AGRIC NSIMA, GHANA BUILDING

By Brother Mark Naro
Ghana/Nigeria
Committee Chair

The congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ that meets at Agric Nsima in Ghana are in the process of constructing a building on donated land. The owner of their former building had other plans for the property and they were required to vacate. They have some basic building supplies but still need to raise approximately US\$70,000 to complete the church building on the new site. We are soliciting donations through the HFF from anyone who feels to assist our brothers and sisters with this project in Agric Nsima. 

CHAPTER 1

- 1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- 3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
- 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.
- 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
- 6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
- 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament:

باب 1

- 1 خدائے ابتدا میں زمین و آسمان کو پیدا کیا۔
- 2 اور زمین ویران اور سنسان تھی اور گہراو کے اوپر اندھیرا تھا اور خدا کی رُوح پانی کی سطح پر خنیش کرتی تھی۔
- 3 اور خدائے کہا کہ روشنی ہو جا اور روشنی ہو گئی۔
- 4 اور خدائے کہا کہ روشنی اچھی ہے اور خدائے روشنی کو تاریکی سے جدا کیا
- 5 اور خدائے روشنی کو دن کہا اور تاریکی کو رات اور شام ہوئی اور صبح ہوئی۔ سو پہلا دن ہوا۔
- 6 اور خدا نے کہا کہ پانیوں کے درمیان فضا ہو تاکہ پانی پانی سے جدا ہو جائے۔
- 7 پس خدائے فضا کو بنایا اور فضا کے نیچے کے پانی کو فضا کے اوپر کے پانی سے جدا کیا اور ایسا ہی ہوا۔
- 8 اور خدائے فضا کو آسمان کہا اور شام ہوئی اور صبح ہوئی۔ سو دوسرا دن ہوا۔
- 9 اور خدائے کہا کہ آسمان کے نیچے کا پانی ایک جگہ جمع ہو کر خشکی نظر آئے

First page of English and translated Bibles side by side.



Five-year-old church building in Rwimbogo. The new structure would be fired brick construction.

WORSHIP HALL REBUILD NEEDED IN RWIMBOGO, BURUNDI

By Brother John Gray

Donations are needed to reconstruct a Church for one of our thriving congregations in Burundi. The building is located in the mountains by the city of Rwimbogo. It is about a four-hour drive by automobile from the city into a mountainous area that is heavily impacted by twice-yearly rainy seasons. The Church was built on donated land that had belonged

to the family of the presiding elder and leader of the Church in Burundi, Bro. Deo Niyonzima, for many generations.

The existing building was erected in 2015 using mud brick. Unlike fired

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Restroom building (left) shows fired brick's durability in comparison to mud brick. Buildings are the same age.



FUNDING FOR MORE BOOK OF MORMON TRANSLATIONS

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sub-committee of the General Church Operations Support Committee (OSC), continues to work at providing members of the Church throughout the world with the Book of Mormon in their own language. To date, the Book of Mormon has been printed in Italian for Italy; Spanish for Mexico and South and Central America; Swahili for Kenya and Tanzania; Tamil for India; Chichewa for Malawi; and in our most recent translation, Visayan for the Philippines.

A renewed focus and effort have been placed on getting quality translations into the hands of our ministry and members in foreign countries. We revised and streamlined our process (see second part of this article), and have been able to put high-quality, cost-effective books into the hands of our brothers and sisters across the globe. Since 2010 we have increased the number of Church members who have the Book of Mormon in their native language by over 300 percent. Currently, about 75 percent of our total Church membership has the Book of Mormon available to them to read in their own language.

Just as the work of the Church has continued to grow, so has our work as a committee. Currently, we have one major translation in process and continue to assist various International Missionary Operating Committee (IMOC) sectors in assessing their needs. We are also beginning to assist with the translation and publication of some of the Church's current

literature in other languages as we look for opportunities to develop our available literature library and meet the expanding needs of our brothers and sisters in foreign lands.

The amazing thing about this effort has been that we as a committee were able to seamlessly complete all this work based on a donation request submitted to the General Church in October 2011 for every member to consider donating to this cause. We were inundated with donations and generosity that allowed us to carry on with our work, uninterrupted, for nearly a decade without a single request to the General Church for funding from the budget.

At this time, as we near the completion of another translated work, we are asking that you again consider a donation to help carry on this work, especially since the total cost for each Book of Mormon project, from initial translation through printing, is approximately US\$30,000. It was your generosity and financial commitment to the Church that allowed us to make such a sizable difference over the past decade; however, there is still much work left to complete and we

are asking again for your assistance.

As we continue to focus on using our available resources to translate and edit, we also realize that there are likely many members throughout the General Church who have a passion for language. The LTC has many opportunities available. If you have a desire to assist, feel free to contact Brother Jeremy Nicklow (Jeremy.Nicklow@thechurchofjesuschrist.org) or Brother Chris Gehly (Chris.Gehly@thechurchofjesuschrist.org). Donations can be made to the Language Translation Committee through the Humanitarian Foundation Fund.

As our committee seeks to provide our members with the capability of "running on both legs," we are asking you to continue to assist us in this work.

STREAMLINING THE TRANSLATION PROCESS

The LTC began over a decade ago to look at the current process of translating, as it was becoming difficult to keep up with the growth of the International Church following that process. We were seeing the

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Translation in progress.



WORSHIP HALL REBUILD IN RWIMBOGO, BURUNDI


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brick, which has a longevity of 30 to 40 years, mud brick generally lasts for about five years. Unfortunately when the church building was constructed, due to the meager incomes of the saints and funds available at the time, the less costly mud brick

material was selected.

The building itself was received with pride and gratefully accepted at the time of its opening; however, in this rainy climate over the past 5 years—the life expectancy for mud brick—the building has begun to deteriorate (see photos), causing safety concerns for everyone, especially women and children, who

attend services there.

Due to the rapid deterioration of the building, we are soliciting donations totaling \$7,800 through the HFF, so that a new, safe building can be erected, using fired brick construction, to house the saints and their families in Rwimbogo, keeping the seasonal rains that exist there from hindering their spiritual welfare. 

BOOK OF MORMON TRANSLATIONS

Continued from page 3

Church expand into new areas, sometimes with growth numbering in the thousands, with new members who were not able to access the Book of Mormon in their own language. The growth outpacing our ability to provide forced us to examine the way we translated to see what we could do to begin catching up.

While rapid growth provided many hurdles for the missionaries going out into the foreign fields, as God's hand was in the matter it also began to provide us more opportunities. The idea was proposed and approved to utilize our own members and ministry in the foreign fields who spoke English, i.e., were bilingual, to aid in the translation work. This idea continued to grow and soon a new process was created.

We now seek out English-speaking ministry and ordained officers in the geographical areas where expansion is taking place. They have an inherent grasp of the Gospel and can translate the English Book of Mormon into their own language in a better and more

easily understood way than taking a purely “academic” approach. The combination of their fluency in the native language, their ability to speak English, and an intimate knowledge of the doctrine of the Church can result in a translation that we often aren't able to match using professional translation companies.


To ensure a quality product, we have set up a series of checkpoints within the translation process. Working with the General Church Presidency, the

advancing correctly from an academic and professional standpoint, while maintaining the personal knowledge of the Gospel that our translators in the Church provide.

This change in process has allowed us to streamline what we do and how we do it. We have encountered obstacles and difficulties as we began to maneuver with this new process, but it has provided us with richer translations in a more cost-effective and efficient way. The work is currently

*...as God's hand was in the
matter it also began to provide
us more opportunities.*

LTC identified and selected a set of key scriptural passages that were of the highest priority for accuracy in interpretation. Once each checkpoint is reached, we pause the translation process and send the original and translated text to an editing company to have it checked from a professional perspective. This allows us to make sure that the translation is

done by a committee of three here in the United States working under the direction of the OSC and alongside the IMOC. We often work with the field committee chairman, and directly with our in-country ministry doing the translation. Once it's all complete, we coordinate the printing and shipping of the books to our brothers and sisters in the foreign fields. 

SEED MONEY FOR CHURCH STORE IN MUBONE, BURUNDI

By Brother Chatman Young

When the Church building in Mubone, Burundi was constructed, a store was built as part of the Church complex with the idea that the Church in this location would become self-sustaining. This is the desire and goal of the International Missions Operating Committee (IMOC) for our churches abroad, as we ask the question, "Are You With Us?" The reply here in Burundi was in the affirmative, "Yes We Are." The saints there have demonstrated their commitment, and we are requesting funding to start up the operation of this store.

By way of background, in early 2019, the Burundi Government mandated that all of the spiritual organizations (churches) that were meeting in residential buildings had to cease and desist from this practice, so it became an emergency situation for our Church to either rent, purchase, or construct a church building of our own.

A request went out through the HFF Newsletter, and thanks to the generous response of donations, we were able to construct a wonderful edifice. With the help of God, and the determination of the saints there, we fashioned a new building wherein we could yield up our prayers to God's Throne of Grace, and He heard us and delivered as we used His Word, "Ask, and ye shall receive." Today we are able to meet in our own church building.



Mubone church complex with store building at far right

The saints' humble desire was to propose a small building to the government as our new meeting place, but today we have an edifice that draws the attention of the villagers in the communities surrounding Mubone, whereas our previous meeting place was almost invisible to all who

passed by.

When our Presiding Elder Bro. Deo Niyonzima designed the new church compound, he pleasantly surprised us with his foresight and vision when he included, in conjunction with the church, a neighborhood store as part

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I would like to donate to the following:

Native American Works \$ _____
 Book of Mormon Translation \$ _____
 Burundi / Mubone / Rwimbogo
 (Please Circle) \$ _____
 Colombia \$ _____
 Dominica \$ _____
 DR Congo / Zambia
 (Please Circle) \$ _____
 Agric Nsima, Ghana— See Cover \$ _____
 Guatemala \$ _____
 Ecuador \$ _____
 India \$ _____
 Italy \$ _____
 Kenya / Tanzania \$ _____
 Liberia \$ _____

Please fill in the amounts for each work that you want to donate to and return in envelope provided.

Malawi / Mozambique
 (Please Circle) \$ _____
 Mexico \$ _____
 Muncey / Six Nations / San Carlos
 (Please Circle) \$ _____
 Nepal / Himalayan
 (Please Circle) \$ _____
 Nigeria \$ _____
 Peru \$ _____
 Philippines \$ _____
 Rwanda \$ _____
 Venezuela \$ _____
 Other / Special \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION FUND
 P.O. Box 956, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054



CHURCH STORE IN MUBONE, BURUNDI

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of the overall design.

Bro. Deo's rationale for having a Church store on the campus is to provide a facility where merchandise can be sold at a reasonable price to local customers, and profits from sales can be used to sustain Church operational costs, and eventually assist in offsetting some of the children's school fees, or aiding the needy. Other missions of our Church may be able to use this model as a template as well.

There is a saying that "It takes a village"; this store can empower the Church by showing local authorities and residents that not only is the Church there for worship services, but we


are also doing something to develop the area and enhance local villagers' quality of life by providing daily needs near their homes. It is refreshing to know that we as a Church, indeed a spiritual organization, have the proper tools and desires in place to develop a community outreach program that is very much needed in the Mubone area. Overall, Burundi is the second poorest nation in Africa. It is a landlocked, resource-poor country in an early stage of economic development; predominantly agricultural, with only a few basic industries. Its economic health depends on the coffee crop, which accounts for 80 percent of foreign exchange earnings.

The store on the Church

compound will be able to provide a job to one or two Church members as it continues to grow and service the neighborhood. It will make available to Church members and neighbors basic things that they have had to purchase from markets or other shops far away, such as cleaning supplies, drinking water, candies, bread and butter, papers, sugar, canned foods, food following fasting services at church, oil, juice, etc. The store will sell a variety of foodstuffs at discounted prices, as it will not have the overhead expenses that most stores have since the Church owns and operates it. Here, in one of the poorest countries on the African continent, the store will make it possible for us to

hold food giveaways to our members during seasons when food and funds are scarce. The Church will also be able to operate an outreach program using proceeds from sales of store merchandise.

The store is planned to operate five days per week. For it to be a viable business entity, bookkeeping and reporting of profit statements will be audited by a reputable appointed Treasurer and Secretary to the Treasurer, to assure proper accounting using established audit principles.

The vision of a community store having been established, the store has been built but currently sits empty. There is a need for startup funding for this effort, in the requested amount of \$6,500. The funds would be used to purchase shelves as well as commodities to sell to the eagerly awaiting customers. We thank you in advance for your kindness and consideration, and we look forward to making this vision soon become a reality. 



Another view of the store building (right) on the Mubone church compound.

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We invite comments and inquiries from our readers:

**Humanitarian
Foundation Fund
P.O. Box 956
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054**