

MISSIONARY

F O U N D A T I O N

Discovering the Church in Nepal

by Brother Jerry Morle

Not all roads lead to Kathmandu and the ones that do are demanding, even dangerous. But should you choose to follow one of those roads, you will find our Church and God's love among a people with little else. Their desires are simple - serve God in a land unfamiliar with Him, and share His love with all who will have it. Their expectation is that we in America not only share their desires but will help to fulfill them.

Brothers George Kovacic, Ron Giovannone, Ken Staley and I decided to take one of those roads March 1, 2006. Twenty-five hours of flying later, we arrived no worse for the wear in Kathmandu. The moment I walked into the airport terminal, I knew I was a stranger in a foreign land. As this was my first trip abroad, I relied on the experience of my brothers to guide me through the maze of immigration, currency exchange, and antiquated terminals. They would prove to be worthy and admirable guides.

I experienced many things for the first time: virtually uncontrolled traffic, poverty on a scale I had never imagined, a 4 star hotel where power outages routinely occurred 3-4 times a day, shopping where nothing has a price tag because everything is negotiable, and armed soldiers on every corner, warily eying everyone, especially foreigners. Somehow, though, I wasn't afraid. We were not here on vacation - we had come for a reason.

That reason was to help our brothers and sisters in this far-away land fulfill their desires. We would



Nepali brothers, sisters, and friends singing with Brother Ken Staley

teach them more about the Restored Gospel, presenting seminars and classes to both the ministry and the general congregation. We would explore the various programs they felt would benefit the Church in Nepal. Most of all, we would love them. We would reinforce our commitment to supporting them and put in motion plans to help move the Gospel forward. Understanding that the Gospel will not spread around the world overnight, we work one day at a time, struggling with challenges and sharing in joys.

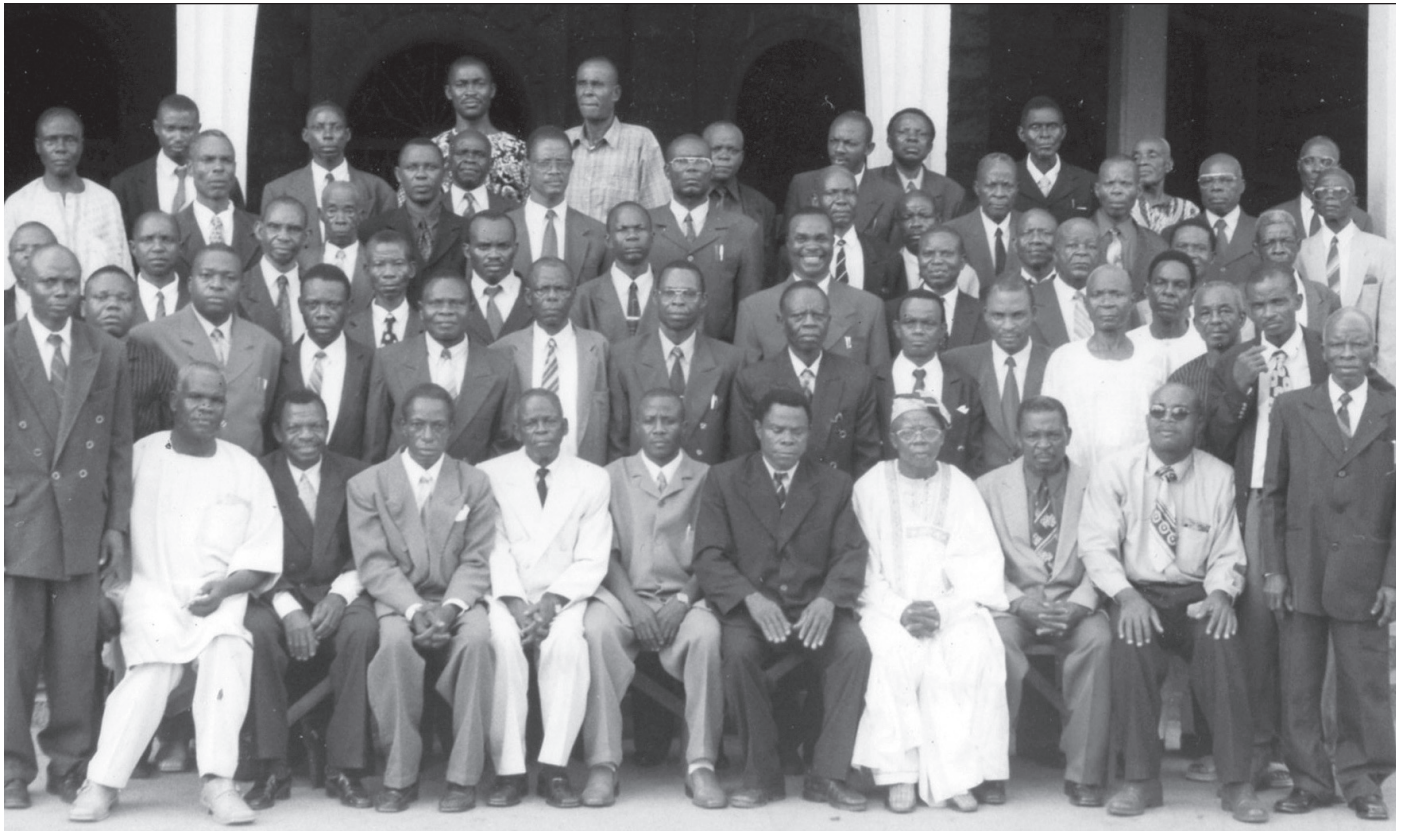
One of the joys we shared was the love of God. The moment I was greeted in the hotel lobby by a dozen Nepali brothers and sisters, I felt like I was home in Fort Worth. Warm smiles, open arms, and hopeful eyes immediately told me these were God's people. The Spirit of God immediately came into that lobby as we were welcomed and got acquainted. These are

young, energetic Saints. They have found a God who is alive, unlike the Hindu gods they had worshipped for years. Once they experienced answered prayer from a living God, they were converted and could not wait to share the experience with others. While we were there, five brothers went into the waters of baptism to start a new life - five more testimonies of answered prayers from a living God.

Another joy shared was their dedication to spreading the Gospel. The members are determined to take the message of Jesus Christ into the streets of Kathmandu whenever they have the opportunity. Our first Sabbath meeting found us in front of over 100 souls, of which nearly 80 were unbaptized. The members told everyone they knew that brothers from America were coming to Nepal to preach and teach the Gospel; and everyone was welcome to hear the good news. Visitors were told

that, in The Church of Jesus Christ, ministers anoint with blessed oil all those who are afflicted and pray a fervent prayer of faith over them. In faith believing, eight blind people were anointed during that meeting. Amazingly, many did not request that their eyesight be restored. Rather, they wanted God to bless their lives so they could simply be productive and not a burden. Our hearts broke at their requests and presenting them to the Lord was easy. The next day, one of those who had been anointed sought out Brother Isaac, one of our ministers, and testified to him that the headaches and tension he had been enduring stopped the evening after he had been anointed. Needless to say, he was elated giving God the honor and glory. Testimonies like this strengthen a person's faith, encouraging them to grow closer to the Lord and help spread the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

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The ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria. These brothers serve 54 branches/missions and over 3,200 members.

A TESTIMONY OF BROTHER NATHAN CHARLIE UQUAK ATAI OTORO BRANCH, NIGERIA

Dear fellow brethren in Christ,
I am here today to give thanks unto my God and Lord of the universe because of His wonderful love to me. I was sick in bed for almost eight months lying sick with swollen legs, (with) itches, bites, and small drops of water (blisters which) at interval of times gave me uncomfortable moments of time in my life. I prayed God that he would rather take away my life to His home instead of my physical body (being) tormented and lamentations to my soul. Doctors from different hospitals tried their best and could not succeed to get me healed. Roots, herbs, and leaves of plants were also applied in the treatments and yet there was no rescue for my life which was remaining in the bondage of pains.

At the greatest time of my sorrows with pains I asked my wife

to return me home from where I stayed for the treatment. On my arrival at the midday and towards the evening time I sent for Evangelist George Frank Arthur, the National Church Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria. The man of God had no hesitation in responding to the invitation.

Before God, and at the presence of the Evangelist George, my wife, and children, I invited God by prayers to witness the lamenting testimonies I made before these persons. My testimony was that God almighty might witness now if I, Nathan Charlie Uquak, in the course of my life had performed or dealt wickedly against someone's life, be ye a child or adult, then cause me to continue to suffer and die under the torment of my life and soul; but if not, may you have sympathy on my tormented life as I am requesting Evangelist George Arthur to pray for me.

After having been anointed, Evangelist George Frank Arthur prayed and said "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, whom by thy power and authority invested

upon me which made me what I am now, having given Brother Nathan the spirit to invite me to anoint and pray for him which I am performing now, Oh Lord God may you answer my prayers and

was able to put on my shoes. Then I was completely made whole through the powerful prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

The next moment was for me to have my bath, get dressed

*... I was completely
made whole through the
powerful prayers...*

reward Nathan Charlie the recovery of his good health in accordance with his petitions he had placed before thee in Jesus name. Amen", Then he paused little while and repeated the same Amen. Again all of us repeated Amen with the Evangelist.

Ever since in my life I had never experienced such a wonderful immediate reaction. Before some hours in the night time I discovered that the drops of water on my legs had stopped and the itches too had subsided. The swollen legs had started to return to normal shape. The following morning I

and mounted on my motorcycle which had remained intact for a very longtime. I kicked off the machine and it responded. I had a ride to meet with the man of God, Evangelist George Arthur, to express to him how wonderful the Lord had answered his prayers. He thanked God for the Lord's wonderful healings.

May the good Lord continue to show His goodness and kindness unto His begotten Children in Jesus name, Amen.

Nathan Charlie Uquak and family. 

A Labor of Love Translating the Book of Mormon

by Evangelist Mark Kovacic and
the Kenya Committee

Sometimes we forget that the Book of Mormon is an English language book. The Lord had it translated from Reformed Egyptian characters to English – nothing in between. Now our duty is to share it with the world which means translating it into other languages.

In Kenya, the national language is Swahili. Many of the tribes located in Kenya have their own tribal tongue or dialect, but the nation as a whole reads and speaks Swahili. In a neighboring nation, Tanzania, the people speak Swahili also. There are over 60 million Swahili-speaking people who need the latter day record which will 'establish the truth of the first' and 'confound false doctrines.'

Therefore, in the mid 1990's, the Kenya Committee and brothers in Kenya began a quest to have the Book of Mormon translated into Swahili. The work was slow and challenging. Brother Stephen Osaka started the work and managed it through its many stages, all the while maintaining his many other Church responsibilities. This extraordinary translation effort was comparable in many ways to the original effort by Joseph Smith Jr. during the 1820's. Finally when a good manuscript was finished in 2004, we turned the work over to Brother Josphat Mugambi. Brother Josphat's language skills made him an ideal candidate to perform a final proofreading and verification of the completed work.

In an e-mail, the brothers doing the translation stated:

"Brother, we are laboring in diligence and love for the great scripture and the glorious Church of Jesus Christ so that all the Swahili speaking countries of the entire world will enjoy and be happy in ease of reading and understanding the holy scriptures fully in this book. We also know

whatever we do in service to God is not in vain for God will reward us bountifully."

The Church's procedure regarding translation work done in a foreign country is to have it tested here in America by a university linguist for linguistic accuracy. After that was done and found to be correct, we shared the comments of the linguist with the brothers in Kenya and they wrote back as follows:

"In performing this work, we are not doing it for the brothers either in Kenya, U.S.A., or any other person or persons; rather [we are doing it for] the creator God, because it's His scripture and we must serve Him in truth and sincerity and we know that the best reward is from God."

They added, "Brother, we have been very, very careful in compiling...the files after completion. We have also taken a lot of time making sure that this work is smartly done without [finishing] early and without making errors any more."

During this time, the brothers experienced personal and financial set backs. A child born to Brother

Josphat and Sister Jane passed away after only a few months of life. Brother Stephen's family endured financial difficulties and Brother Josphat had also lost his job and was trying to start a new business, which did not succeed. In spite of these difficulties, they continued to work on the translation and proofreading process, with a vision of a final manuscript that


ready to be printed.

Now Brother Stephen and the other brothers in Kenya face a new hurdle - getting the funds to print The Book of Mormon in Swahili for the nations of Kenya and Tanzania, for current members and for members yet to come. Would you like to help? Now is the time to step up and share the latter day scriptures with the dying souls

*...we are not doing it for the
brothers either in Kenya, U.S.A,
or any other person or persons;
rather [we are doing it for]
the creator God,
because it's His scripture...*

the Lord and the Church would be proud of.

As a final step to ensure the accuracy and quality of the translation, we had a linguistics Professor at the University of Nairobi review the entire manuscript. Upon completion of his effort, he verified the translation was accurate and

of men and women in these two nations of East Africa. Simply use the donation form and note on it that the funds are for the Swahili Book of Mormon. We need to raise \$18,000 to print 3,000 copies in the Swahili language. May God Bless your efforts. 

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

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F O U N D A T I O N

I would like to donate to the following:

*"What shall I render unto
the Lord for all his
benefits toward me?"*

PSALMS 116:12

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

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Continued from cover

Unfortunately, with joy there must also be sorrow. We learned our brothers and sisters were being evicted from their meeting place because the landlord was bothered by the joyful singing. Although he needed to wait until the contract expired, he made life difficult by his verbal harassment and by turning off the electricity and water during services. The brothers and sisters had to leave that building and are now attempting to find a new meeting place.

Another obstacle our Saints face comes after death. While their soul may have a mansion in paradise, their bodies have no resting place. In Nepal, 90% of the population are Hindus who practice ritual cremation of their dead; so there are no funeral homes and no public cemeteries.

The only cemeteries that exist are private. Furthermore, Hindus will not even handle Christians who want to be cremated. Finding land for a cemetery has been hard and finding the money to pay for it even harder.

*Warm smiles, open arms,
and hopeful eyes immediately told
me these were God's people.*

Finally, we learned just after we left that the presiding elder, Brother Madan, was fired from his job because he believes in the Book of Mormon. Refusing to renounce his belief, he was terminated. Somewhat ironically, he had worked at a Christian school. Being a Christian and believing in the Book of Mormon may prove to be a difficult obstacle to overcome in a kingdom that does not respect basic civil liberties or equal opportunity protections. Yet he remains

undaunted, determined to trust in the living God he serves.

The Nepal committee of the IMOC works diligently to support this ever growing, ever challenging work. Communications are difficult at best. Talking by phone

is prohibitively expensive, so we rely on fax or e-mail. However, our brothers cannot afford their own telephone service. Consequently, they also do not have fax machines or computers and must visit businesses where these services can be rented. The committee has been making trips there about twice a year, but travel has been dangerous because of severe political unrest. Finally, the language barrier is also an issue. Although the ministers speak broken English, their un-

derstanding of our language, as well as how the Church operates, often slows the communication process.

Your prayers and support are urgently needed. We have experienced that our Lord has storehouses of blessings, both natural and spiritual, which He is willing to pour out upon His people. We humbly ask that you pray for God's direction of our committee, for wisdom for the Nepali elders, and for God's blessing on all their concerns. **MF**

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P.O. Box 80, Fairless Hills, PA 19030

This newsletter is printed by
Lee Printing Company
and is mailed by
The Church Print House
to members and friends of
The Church of Jesus Christ

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