

# MISSIONARY

F O U N D A T I O N



A new member is baptized in Chihuahua

## Rebuilding the Chihuahua Mission: Both Spiritually and Naturally

by Brothers Rick Calabro,  
Thomas P. Liberto, Stacey  
Light, and Sister Erin Light

During a recent crisp, winter week, three Brothers from the Mexico Field Committee traveled to the Chihuahua Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ located in Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, Mexico to visit the Saints there and to assess the physical condition of the church building. As somewhat expected, what they discovered is encouraging with regards to the things of the

Spirit but not so encouraging with regards to the physical needs of the mission.

After many years of inconsistent spiritual leadership in Chihuahua, because of the difficult living conditions where the Church is located, some members have either left the Church or strayed. However, some very faithful members remained strong and continued in their desire to serve the Lord in this part of the vineyard. These members attended week after week to pray and sing songs, even with no Minister present.

Because of this and the need for consistent spiritual leadership in Chihuahua, Evangelist Hector Gastelum, President of the Church in Mexico, relocated his family from the warm, relatively comfort-

able state of Sinaloa, Mexico to Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua where the weather is harsh, the living conditions are humble, and jobs are scarce, making it difficult to earn suitable wages. Although this relocation has been a sacrifice for them, Brother Hector and his entire family are committed to rebuilding this mission, both spiritually and naturally, with the support of the Lord. As a result of their commitment, over the last six months there are already six new members in the mission. The core group is small (approximately 15 members), but they are upholding the Church and results are beginning to be realized.

On the first day of the trip the group gathered during an afternoon meeting to discuss

the necessity of the Chihuahua Mission's being successful. The Brothers encouraged the nearly 30 people gathered to keep strong in the Gospel and to begin inviting friends and relatives now that there is leadership within the mission. Again, the group confirmed they are committed to the Gospel and want to see the Church continue to grow so that many in the region will have the opportunity to come to Jesus Christ for salvation.

The Saints and friends met at a Sister's home on a Saturday afternoon for a blessed teaching, singing, and testimony service. That evening they all traveled to another Sister's home located on a ranch one hour from the mission. Again, the focus of the time

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## Let the Book of Mormon Cry Go Forth

by Brother Josh Gehly

The Book of Mormon has been an essential factor in bringing countless souls to Jesus Christ. From its first translation in 1829 to the present, the Nephite Record has inspired many, like

hearing the truth of the Restored Gospel, without ever reading the Book of Mormon. Joseph Smith was used to translate the Book of Mormon into English. Today, The Church of Jesus Christ has published the Book of Mormon in less than five languages. The Church is commissioned by God to take the Restored Gospel to the world. With thousands of written languages around the

moves forward today more rapidly than our eyes have ever witnessed. The works in Asia and Africa have exploded at amazing rates. Souls are repenting and coming to Christ as the Word goes forth among them. As a testimony to this, a Nepalese woman had a blood issue for years prior to meeting with our missionaries. The Brothers shared the Restored Gospel and



Countless children like these two boys have never heard stories from the Book of Mormon. Now is our time to give them a chance...

*He that hath an ear,  
let him hear what the Spirit saith...*  
(Revelation 3:6)

a voice crying from the dust, to repent and follow the Gospel of Christ. It was a cry described by Oliver Cowdery as "...the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this (my) bosom!" What a glorious occasion! The Book of Mormon gave the Church a hope, not just of the Restored Gospel, but of a restored Israel. Mormon's abridgement proclaims glad tidings to the House of Israel and to the world. Our duty as Saints of God is to deliver this message and this inspired book to the world.

*He that hath an ear,  
let him hear what  
the Spirit saith...*  
(Revelation 3:6)

Millions now in sin and shame are dying, listen to their sad and bitter cry. Hasten, Brother, hasten to the rescue. (Saints Hymnal, #205 "Speak, My Lord") Oh Saints, these words never carried more truth than in this day and time. Millions today die without ever hearing the truth of Jesus Christ. They die without ever

globe and billions of people who have never heard of the Restored Gospel, we have a great work ahead of us. Saints, how can two books become one in the hands of God's people if we do not translate the Book of Mormon into their language? They

the Book of Mormon, asking her to pray about the truth of the Book of Mormon. She arose the next morning, Book of Mormon in hand, completely healed. Praise God! This woman believed the Book of Mormon without ever having read it. Unfortunately,

language. Over half of the Church cannot read a large portion of the Word of God.

Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia are new African works God has given the Church. Many in these countries speak the language of Chichewa. In a little over two years, this group of saints numbers approximately 1,500. That's over 10% of entire

*And they shall cry from the dust; yea,  
even repentance unto their brethren,  
even after many generations have gone  
by them. And it shall come to pass that  
their cry shall go, even according to  
the simpleness of their words.*  
(2 Nephi 3:20)

surely cannot. By not having translations available, we silence the Spirit of God written by the prophets.

The Church of Jesus Christ

to this day she is still unable to read it. In fact, over 50% of The Church of Jesus Christ membership does not have the Book of Mormon translated into their

The Church of Jesus Christ today. One out of every ten members of the Church speaks Chichewa;

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## Rebuilding the Chihuahua Mission:

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together was on singing songs of praise and sharing experiences of how God is calling many to the Gospel. They also expressed their happiness that God sent a Minister to continue the work in Chihuahua.

The subject of the Sunday preaching service was "Follow Me" from Matthew Chapter 4. II Nephi Chapter 31 was also referenced and the theme expanded to "Building The Church upon the Rock of Christ".

The Spirit of God was present in every meeting. The Lord led the group in all things and it was evident He will provide a means and a way if we have faith.

The field committee members examined the Church building during the trip and it was discovered the structure is not in good condition. Specifically, the roof leaks and water often floods the building causing damage to Church property and materials. Chihuahua is located at an elevation where it snows during the winter months and the roof is not strong enough to support this weight. Because the building is constructed of adobe brick, like many structures in Cuauhtémoc, the walls are cracking and are not strong enough to support a suitable roof to keep out the elements. The building's foundation is also cracked and there are numerous areas where water pools on the floor after a heavy rain.

These conditions are obviously not acceptable as a place for the Saints to serve the Lord. The Mexico Field Committee is determined to correct the situation as quickly as possible, but this will take many resources. After much consideration and investigation, the committee has determined the cost of repairs to the building will far exceed the cost



Some of the Brothers and Sisters in Chihuahua after an evening service

to purchase a new lot for a new building. Therefore, the committee believes the best possible solution is to relocate the mission to an area of new growth, closer to main roads and closer to where most of the members live.

With Brother Hector's presence and dedication to serving the mission in Chihuahua, and with the Lord's support, the Mexico Field Committee believes the congregation will continue to grow and flourish. We thank God

for His goodness as the Church in Chihuahua is rebuilt both naturally and spiritually; and we look forward to witnessing much success throughout all of Mexico as the focus on spreading the Gospel continues. **MF**

### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

# MISSIONARY

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

PSALMS 116:12

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## Book of Mormon Cry Go Forth

Continued from page 2

but these same members cannot read the Book of Mormon except for a very small number who can read English. These are truly Saints with faith. They accept a book they cannot read.

*And they shall cry from the dust; yea, even repentance unto their brethren, even after many generations have gone by them. And it shall come to pass that their cry shall go, even according to the simpleness of their words.*  
(2 Nephi 3:20)

*These are truly Saints with faith. They accept a book they cannot read.*

There are many Saints in The Church of Jesus Christ which have never read the Book of Mormon. They have obeyed the cry to repent without ever hearing the cries from the prophets in the Book of Mormon. The Book of Mormon has been used as a marvelous work and a wonder. Let's unite as Saints in Christ

to help our fellow brothers and sisters receive this gift. We know this pure and unadulterated Gospel will one day cover the earth even as the waters cover the sea. Let us unite to help spread this knowledge by translating the Book of Mormon into as many languages as possible. Our duty as Saints of God is to deliver this

message to the world.

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