

MISSIONARY

F O U N D A T I O N



Brothers, Sisters, and Friends in Rwanda

Testimony of Brother Alexander Rudatsikira Rwanda, Africa.

Note: Brother Alexander Rudatsikira is the Director of The Church of Jesus Christ in the country of Rwanda.

It was during the month of April 2005 that I was introduced by an acquaintance of mine to a man by the name of Chatman Young. After being aware that both of us are believers (in Christ) we started sharing the word of God as any believer can do. I mentioned to him that I delight in sharing the gospel with people, especially those who do not attend church, by meeting them at their homes. I have received many opportunities to attend different churches where I am welcomed to be a guest speaker at Sunday worship

services.

After spending some time with each other on that particular day, Chatman went back to his office and I returned back to my home. During his stay in Rwanda we kept writing each other on the internet and two days later he phoned and asked me to meet with him again. He came to my home during lunchtime and we kept sharing the word of God and sharing about our experiences with Christ. Just before he left my home he introduced me his church "the Church of Jesus Christ" - but I did not care about the story of his church. I felt satisfied with what we shared as our personal spiritual life experiences and nothing else.

When Chatman returned back in America, we kept writing to each other, always sharing about our Christian lives. One day I received a message from a man introducing himself by the

name of Joel Gehly. He said he was planning to visit Rwanda with Chatman and they would like to assist me in preaching the gospel to people. I did not understand what they meant by coming to Rwanda just to meet with me and help me to preach. They arrived in Kigali, Rwanda on a Wednesday, in the month of August 2005, but still I did not know what they came for. They called me by phone from the Iris Hotel where they were staying, asking that I meet with them the next day which was Thursday morning. At the invitation of Joel and Chatman to meet with them, I asked a very close friend of mine by the name of Jean Pierre to come along with me. He tried to resist in accompanying me, but I insisted which finally persuaded him to come with me.

When we arrived at the hotel, both Jean Pierre and I were introduced to Joel. While sharing

breakfast that morning, he asked me to tell him about myself and my ministry - how I was serving the Lord. I told him about my life and that of my family, my experience with Christ in my ministry through "door-to-door" evangelism. In turn, he told Jean Pierre and me about himself and about the Church of Jesus Christ and its beliefs. After two days of discussions on the church and doctrine, these brothers wanted to know what we thought about the church. My response was that I appreciated the church doctrine but Jean Pierre and I were not prepared to make any decisions without praying to the Lord about everything we heard. We wanted to receive from the Lord what He would tell us about these people and the church, because we often heard each religion making claims to be the best.

Fortunately, after one night and

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a day of praying for an answer, we received a number of visions and dreams about these two people who had been speaking with us. These dreams and visions came to prove to Brother Pierre

from this group including my wife, one of my children, Brother Jean Pierre, and I were baptized.

I came to realize that The Church of Jesus Christ believes exactly what I believed personally even though most of the churches here, including the church I was attending, don't practice or obey what the Lord commanded His church to do; such as, performing

interesting book, which I never heard about before, called the Book of Mormon.

My activities as a Minister and Representative of the Church.

My activities as a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ are to preach repentance, baptism, and forgiveness of sins. I baptize those who have a repentant Spirit, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and I confirm them by the laying on of hands for receiving the Holy Ghost. Partaking of Holy Communion with those already baptized is truly a blessing, knowing that Christ died to redeem our souls. This ordinance has given me a greater meaning of what the death and resurrection of Christ means. I teach our Brothers and Sisters the doctrine of the church in order to bring them to a greater understanding of what God has prepared for those who love and serve Him. Worship helps members to focus on God; fellowship helps them face life's problems; discipleship helps fortify their faith; ministry helps them to find their talents; and evangelism helps them fulfill their mission.

As a Representative of the Church

I am not only an ordained Minister but I am also a representative of the church to our Government. I have a lot of responsibilities at

the national level. Our government accepts the freedom of worship but controls very closely all church activities. There are a lot of requirements to fulfill. Some churches are obliged by our government to stop their activities. As a church, we focus on spiritual matters while our government focuses on matters of social, economic, and societal development. I am translating the Book of Mormon and the Faith and Doctrine from English to Kinyarwanda, which is our National language. The plan we have for the church in the future is mainly to spread the Restored Gospel message over all the country of Rwanda as the Lord would guide us, because we work under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We want the people of our country to experience the same blessings that we have enjoyed.

Need for Church Buildings and Branches.

We also pray that in the future we may have our own church buildings. This would help us to be more stable. Often times, as the church meetings are moved from one place to another, we lose members and visitors who cannot afford to pay the costs to travel to the worship services. The Church of Jesus Christ should have a plot of ground for future

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and me that the Lord was telling us we must be converted to the Church of Jesus Christ and serve Him in this Church. We shared these visions and dreams with these brothers, and together, we thanked the Lord for revealing His will. We have learned from Him to do everything under His guidance through revelation, visions, and dreams. This is how we came to know the Church, accept its Faith and Doctrine, and then be baptized.

After being in common accord with everything we had discussed with each other, we visited several families where I usually go to share the gospel. One visit we made was to a place known as the Faith Association, a group of 450 persons living with the HIV/AIDS virus. I visit with the patients of this association twice a month to conduct prayer and preaching services. We also visited another group of more than 10 people with whom I have been having regularly scheduled worship services in my home every Sunday afternoon. Within one week, nine people

baptism in open water, feet washing, having regular communion, and so forth. Our church tries to follow the teachings and practices of the first church of Jesus Christ which Jesus himself established prior to returning to His father. I came to discover in The Church of Jesus Christ the belief of an



Meeting in a Mud Hut in Rwanda

Jaimashi Nepalese for Praise the Lord!!

By Evangelist
Leonard A. Lovalvo


On the day of the birth of Jesus, the angel of Lord appeared to the shepherds and told them that he was bringing "good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." On August 30, 2006, Evangelists Anthony Ricci and Leonard A. Lovalvo brought those same good tidings of great joy to the people who live in the northeastern states of Sikkim, India and West Bengal, India. On this trip, we not only brought them the news of the birth of Jesus, but that the Gospel was restored, and that salvation is obtainable through faith, repentance, and baptism under the priesthood authority of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sikkim, India is in the Himalayan Mountains, and presents many beautiful and majestic views. However, there wasn't any site as spectacular as the scene of the crowd of brothers, sisters, children, and friends standing on the side of the road waiting for our arrival. With broad smiles and with hands pressed together, they bowed and said, "Jaimashi" in the Nepalese language, which means, "Praise the Lord." We were so overcome and humbled by their welcome that tears of joy welled up in our eyes.

The generous hospitality of those we visited was simply wonderful. Their modest homes and limited resources did not prevent them from exhibiting the deep love they have for God and for us. During our visit to the village of Limchung in Sikkim, we were invited to dinner at Brother Gideon and Sister Esther's home that first night and to Brother Manasay and Sister Mary's home the second night. They treated us with such great love and regard, and we felt so honored to be guests in their homes. After the baptisms and confirmations at Khorabari, the

Saints had prepared dinner and insisted we stay.

The children of Sikkim and Khorabari were so excited and happy to see us. They looked on us with such great admiration and love that on every occasion they wanted to gather around us. Generally, during our meetings, we would have the children brought together and we would pray for them, and after prayer they would rush forward to have us shake their hands or to touch their heads. This was truly a moving experience for both Brother Tony and me. Their singing was especially remarkable and enjoyable as they sang with such enthusiasm and happiness. They sang mainly in their language and one song in English with the words, "I Want To Talk To Jesus, Hello".

As we left this part of the world and these beloved brothers, sisters, friends, and children, we left a part of our heart also. One elderly sister said to us as we departed Limchung, "I probably will not see you again in this life". That broke our hearts and immediately inspired a desire to return. 

Kenya School Uniform Program

Are you willing to help a child? It won't take much of your time. It won't require a lot of your resources.

A few years ago when Brother Paul Liberto, Sister Orletta Liberto and their family visited the Kenya Mission and attended the dedication of the Headquarters building in Ogembo, they were blessed with a wonderful inspiration. During the course of the visit, they learned that many of the children of the saints (and others) are not able to attend school due to not being able to afford a school uniform - which is a mandatory requirement. A school uniform consists of a shirt and pants which are color-coordinated for the school and grade level. If available, socks and shoes may also be added. The total cost of a uniform is \$15 per child and a child typically requires two uniforms per school year, for a total of \$30 per child.

The Liberto family was inspired with the feeling that in addition to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, another great thing we could give the Kenyan children was the oppor-

tunity to attend school - not only for their personal self-improvement but also to further advance the country of Kenya and The Church of Jesus Christ. They felt such a commitment to this project that the Liberto family began to raise funds for this purpose. Recently, we provided Brother Stephen Osaka, Kenya Director, those funds to initiate the Kenya School Uniform Program. It has begun as a pilot project, focusing on children of the saints who otherwise would not be able to attend school due to the extreme poverty. After the pilot, we will assess the "lessons learned", make any adjustments and improvements, and go forward to utilize the funds which have been donated. Please pray that this program will be a blessing to the children and their families.

Are you able to help a child? If so, please earmark your donations for the Kenya School Uniform Program. May God bless your efforts.

The Kenya Committee
Brother Wayne Martorana,
Chairman



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

MISSIONARY

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.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
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P.O. Box 80, Fairless Hills, PA 19030

Native American Works	\$ _____
Colombia	\$ _____
Dominica	\$ _____
Ghana	\$ _____
Guatemala	\$ _____
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Mexico	\$ _____
Muncey / Grand River / Six Nations (Please Circle)	\$ _____
New Works	\$ _____
Nigeria	\$ _____
Peru	\$ _____
Philippines	\$ _____
Venezuela	\$ _____
Missionary Foundation Fund	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



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construction of a church building and other projects. As the days go by, land becomes more and more expensive.

In the future we plan to help vulnerable people – those prone to diseases among our church members and our society in general. This is what our government focuses on and expects from the denominations established in the country. The Church of Jesus Christ presently has two branches in Rwanda, one in Kigali the capital city and one “up country” east of Rwanda in a village called Rukira. We have 58 baptized members with a total attendance of about 150 persons.

What are my feelings about our Church Missionaries?

I am thankful for all of our mis-

sionaries who have visited with us here in Rwanda. They possess a good spirit that is characterized by the love of God while working under the authority of the Holy Ghost. We desire to invite more brothers to come and spend time with us and perhaps some sisters could also plan to visit in the future. All are welcome.

Our Needs

There is a need of having more Church literature translated in our language. This would help our people to learn more about the Restored Gospel and have a good solid foundation for their faith. There are many denominations being established here in Rwanda with different kinds of teachings and beliefs. Our Brothers and Sisters need to understand the differences. We preach and teach, but they need to read for themselves. We are praying that the Book of Mormon may be translated so that our

people can read it in their native language.

As is the case in many countries in Africa, our country suffers hunger because of the lack of enough rain to grow crops. The epidemic of HIV/AIDS has affected some of our members who were raped in the 1994 genocide massacre. There is also a great need for assisting people in different areas such as: school fees for orphans or poor children, food for poor people, and shelters for those who do not have a place to live or to stay. Rwanda has been going through difficult times since the 1994 genocide when more than 1,000,000 innocent men, women, and children lost their lives in 100 days. Our country has been destroyed economically and socially; but, by the grace of God and with the assistance of different organizations whose hearts were touched by the crisis, our country has begun to rebuild

that which we lost. The Lord has taught us to forgive those who committed these horrible crimes. We praise God for The Church of Jesus Christ being introduced to us for it has brought about a new meaning in all of our lives. God bless each of you, our beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

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