

# HUMANITARIAN

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



## SECTION - THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST



The Brothers and Sisters in Liberia

### A Recent Missionary trip to the country of Liberia, West Africa

Submitted by  
Evangelist Joseph Perri

**I**t has been said recently that the power of the enemy of our soul is going to come after us from every side. This was experienced in my life through an accident that occurred prior to a trip scheduled for the mission field of Liberia. I am of the firm belief this accident happened to discourage me from making the trip. As a result, our trip was postponed. I had surgery and through prayer, God

healed my body. Within a number of weeks preparations were made to proceed with the trip to Liberia.

Because the trip was delayed, the brothers and sisters in Liberia were very disappointed. On behalf of the membership, a young Brother named Jackson Warlo, called me every day wanting to know how I was progressing. He would at times sing a song and did not end any of his calls unless he prayed. I was really touched by the concern and love he and the brothers and sisters of Liberia had for me. I also want to thank all of the Brothers and Sisters in America who sent cards and prayed for my healing.

On the 21st of August 2012, Brother Philip Arcuri and I began our trip. After arriving, it rained

every day for the first nine days; however that did not stop us from doing the work we were in Liberia to perform. The ordained brothers were transported to our hotel for training on the topics of Apostasy, Restoration, Book of Mormon, Faith & Doctrine, Ordinances and the Structure of the Church. After the rains ended, we visited in the homes of our Brothers and Sisters. Because of the condition of the building in which our church membership meet, we were only able to gather for one full day of Sunday worship. Presently the membership of the mission is 32 and we enjoyed fellowship with the Saints. Also, there are a number of visitors who, having been touched by the Spirit of God, have requested

baptism but must wait because the heavy rains have caused the river to overflow and the current to be very strong.

In addition, one primary objective was to obtain the registration of the Church from the Liberian Government. This was accomplished and now The Church of Jesus Christ can officially operate in the country of Liberia.

As noted above, many Sunday and weekday meetings are postponed because of the deterioration of the building – a badly leaking roof leading to cement falling from the ceiling. Many of our members and visitors are afraid to meet in the building because of its condition. The Liberia church trustees

*Continued on page 4*



## La Terre de Mille Collines (The Land of a Thousand Hills)

by Brothers Bob McDonnell and Chatman Young

The Country of Rwanda is called "La Terre de Mille Collines", translated as "The Land of a Thousand Hills", which stands as a reminder of the words expressed in Psalms 50:10 that reads "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." What man owns, he owns under God.

In April, 1994 a terrible genocide reared its ugly head in the Country of Rwanda where approximately one million of the Tutsi tribe were killed and many others wounded and mentally scarred. Innocent families were devastated and lived in constant fear. When the genocide reached its crescendo and finally ended, the Hutu and Tutsi people once again sought after a peaceful resolution of their differences and many people thanked God for the cessation of that terrible period.

Considering the foregoing, who would have ever thought that The Church of Jesus Christ would be established in that land; bringing the Gospel to all who would hear. God's plan is not our plan and His ways are not our ways, blessed be the name of the Lord. I am amazed at the forgiving spirit of the people of Rwanda. Under the leadership of their current President, Paul Kagame, and more importantly, by the power and hand of the Lord, the future there continues to look brighter. Their President has made a strong appeal to the Rwandan people to become united as Rwandans and not identify themselves as Hutu or Tutsi. I personally believe that God has touched the hearts of the people that there is now peace in the land.

During June of 2012, Brothers Bob McDonnell and Chatman Young visited the countries of Rwanda and Burundi to fellowship with, teach, and encourage the Saints there. We were rewarded

with a plethora of blessings.

During the first Sunday service of our visit to Rwanda, Sister Anny testified that she had recently given birth to a baby girl whose name is Etia. She continued by telling us that Etia was considered to be a miracle baby because, early on in her pregnancy, Sister Anny was diagnosed with a troublesome tumor. She was seen by five doctors and all of the doctors advised her to abort the fetus. However, Sister Anny placed her trust in God, requesting the prayers of the Saints for both herself and her baby.

The scripture tells us that "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16) and so it was in this case when four of the five doctors stated that the baby would never survive and removed themselves from the case. The one remaining doctor also stated that the child would never be born alive because of the tumor; but if it did survive, he would pray to the same God as Sister Anny.

I am not sure whether the doctor prayed to our God, but I do know during our Sunday service we all witnessed a healthy baby girl by the name of Etia (which means "God with us" in the Kinyarwanda language) being blessed by Brother Bob McDonnell. Sister Anny still has the tumor and is waiting for an operation to remove it. The Saints in Kigali are still praying to God in the name of Jesus Christ to remove the tumor.

Brother Alexandre also related to us a powerful experience with the conversion and baptism of Sister Beatrice. Beatrice attended church services with her children but her husband, Celestine, was not a believer and stayed home.

After Sister Beatrice asked for her baptism but prior to her scheduled baptism, Brother Alexander was prompted by the Holy Spirit to visit with Celestine. Brother Alex did not know how this man would react when asked for a visit. Celestine was a very popular man who liked to have people over to his home and have parties. Brother Alex called him and asked whether he



Brother Claude, Sister Anny and their baby Etia

could stop by to visit. Even though Celestine had a house full of guests, he told Alex to come by in about an hour. Celestine had to act sick or upset so the people would get the hint and leave the party early that night.

Once the guests were gone they called for Brother Alex who arrived with a bible and a song book for Celestine. He read Psalms 103 and spent one hour explaining the scriptures. Brother Alex asked whether he could pray for Celestine, who agreed to having prayer. Brother Alex laid hands on him and offered the prayer. This visit was on a Saturday night and when Brother Alex asked if he could come back on Monday, Celestine said that another visit would be nice.

Celestine got very ill later that night and was rushed to the hospital. He gave Sister Beatrice all of his valuables and said "I don't think I will be coming home." Sister Beatrice asked him "What about your soul, if you were to die?" He said "I repented."

She was amazed! She asked, "When did you repent?" Celestine said "When your pastor was praying for me I asked God for forgiveness and I repented." Celestine passed away the next morning.

Even with this tragedy in her life, Sister Beatrice went forth with her baptism the following Sunday. In Africa they say "God is good – All the time" and "All the time – God is good." Well, God did not let Sister Beatrice down.

Sister Rhoda, the wife of Brother

Alexander, had a dream prior to the baptism of Sister Beatrice and the death of Celestine. In the dream she saw Beatrice's husband also being baptized the same day. This seemed very strange since he had not requested baptism. Sister Rhoda did not know what to think but just kept this dream to herself to see what God had in store. After Sister Rhoda testified of the dream, Sister Beatrice found strength and courage in the dream knowing that God is all powerful and He is merciful to those who sincerely repent. Mosiah 27: 24 reads as follows: "For, said he, I have repented of my sins, and have been redeemed of the Lord; behold I am born of the Spirit."

The following Sunday, Brothers Alexandre, Bob, and Chatman traveled to the city of Rukira where they were met by Brother Damascene who is the Presiding Elder of that branch. Upon arrival at the church building, we saw a 3 foot by 15 foot sign with the words inscribed "The Church of Jesus Christ", welcoming all to come and worship with the Saints.

As we entered the church building we were warmly greeted by over 160 members and visitors from the surrounding villages. We enjoyed all of the choir selections and after preaching and sharing the word of God, we were blessed to ordain a new teacher in the Rukira Branch.

Prior to leaving Rukira, Brother Damascene pointed out two small fields of pineapples growing on Church property. The branch has

*Continued on page 3*



## A Celebration to Remember

by Sister Ruth Gehly

In 1937 a young sister named Jane Dotson of the Muncey Canada Reserve had a burning desire within her heart to be a living witness for the gospel of Jesus Christ. This desire led her to strike out on a journey that would change the course of history in behalf of the Kingdom of God. With small means and no transportation, she began walking to reach her destination of Grand River - 100 miles away and the home of her uncle, Hugh Beaver. Along the way, a car pulled over and the driver offered to give her a ride. Even though he had not planned to travel the complete distance to her uncle's home, the driver generously delivered her to her destination. After exiting the car Jane turned to thank the driver, but to her amazement the car and its driver had completely disappeared. Ultimately, Hugh and his wife, Lillian, welcomed both their niece and the gospel into their home and their hearts. Shortly thereafter, Brothers William Cadman and Thurman Furnier, both fully convicted that the gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached to the seed of Joseph, arranged for the church to begin holding meetings and become established on the Six Nations Reservation.

Just as this young woman greatly desired to share the gospel on this special reservation, saints from the US and Canada also greatly desired to gather to reflect upon and celebrate the history of a 75 year missionary endeavor directly tied to the covenant given by God to Abraham - an everlasting covenant offering salvation through Jesus Christ to all mankind coupled with a birthright promise to his chosen people, the House of Israel through the seed of Joseph. This covenant is being fulfilled in part by those who belong to the Six Nations Reserve and have tasted of His sweet goodness by answering His call.

Beautiful singing and heartfelt testimonies set the tone for remembrance and appreciation of those who, through the years, have nurtured this marvelous work. Presentations served as encouraging reminders of the great promises in store for Joseph and all those who love and serve God - a message of hope and deliverance that will culminate in a condition of righteousness that allows the Kingdom of God to flourish on this great land of America. Acknowledgement of the church's contribution to the surrounding community was expressed by a member of the Tribal Council. The day included haunting melodies sung in native tongue accompanied by native instruments; prayers offered in native language; sweet hymns of praise and thanksgiving; pictures of faces and days gone by; and meaningful preaching echoed a message of peace and hope to the nearly 100 in attendance - many who were visitors from the reservation.

Truly the outreach made in this place has not been in vain. Rather, it has been part of God's destiny to restore His chosen people as rightful heirs to His kingdom established in the promised land of America. And God continues to manifest himself in mighty ways today just as He did when He began this work in 1937...

- a little child's earaches healed within minutes of the touch of holy oil

- severe chest pains of a heart attack completely removed through faith and prayer
- a sister, bedridden for long intervals for many years due to vertigo, held tight to the Book of Mormon in the hospital praying for God to reveal himself to her as she faced surgery. Following surgery the doctors were stunned to find their patient completely stable with perfect hearing intact.
- a brother preparing to travel to the celebration, found a folder never noticed before containing handwritten notes by his father of the history of Six Nations
- the presence of light shining down during the Saturday presentations
- the word of the Lord given... *"Thus saith the Lord, 'I will gather my people and when you speak to them they will hear my voice...Thus saith the Lord'"*

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the ongoing missionary work in Six Nations, we honor all the brothers and sisters who have spent countless hours in defense of this latter day work: preaching, teaching, ministering, serving, sharing meals and fellowship, anointing, driving, and hosting vacation Bible schools. And as we consider the great harvest that lies ahead, we pray for our dear brother and resident elder, Marvin Green, and all those who

will continue to assist as nursing mothers and fathers in leading by example and gently guiding an ancient covenant people back to God - encouraging and teaching them how they too can become "doers" of the word. HFF

## La Terre de Mille Collines

Continued from page 2

hopes that one day they will have sufficient land to produce enough pineapple to sell and become self-sustaining. It was estimated that a large piece of land could be purchased for approximately \$2,500. Our prayer is that God will make a way for donations to flow into the Rwanda work to bring this well deserving project to fruition.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Humanitarian Foundation Fund (HFF). Through their generosity and efforts, we have been able to provide health insurance to many of our brothers and sisters who can then receive medical care. This is a great need in Rwanda because most people are very poor. The HFF has also been providing insurance for individuals with HIV/AIDS, to assist them in the purchase of their life giving medication.

May God bless all of the readers of this article. Please pray for our brothers and sisters and all of the people of Rwanda and Burundi, as the Lord continues to move His hand in these counties. HFF

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## A Recent Missionary trip to the country of Liberia, West Africa

Continued from cover

have searched to find another rental building but were not able to find one. Our hope and prayer is that we can buy land and build a church building for our Brothers and Sisters of this mission field.

Because of The Church of Jesus Christ, lives have been changed. For example, two young brothers, who were raised in non-Christian families, were invited to come and listen to the Faith and Doctrine of the Church. After hearing preaching on the Restoration, they accepted it and were baptized. Brother Anthony is an ordained Deacon and Brother Morris is the mission secretary. When Brother Morris went back to his father and mother



The current meeting place in Liberia


and told them about the church he had found, their reply to their son was "As long as you are happy with what you have accepted, we are very happy for you."

The young people of the mission are very active. They meet at least once a week to canvass nearby homes, talking to people about the Church and inviting them to attend the meetings. Unfortunately, because of the condition of the building, many people have made it known they are hesitant to attend.

We have great hopes that when we construct a building, there will be many more who will embrace and accept the faith of The Church.

During our recent visit, we asked our brothers to look for land that would be suitable for constructing a church building. They found two lots on the main road in the village and have negotiated a purchase price that is reasonable. Please consider making a donation to help purchase this land and construct a church building for the membership

of this mission. This is the prayer of our Brothers and Sisters in Liberia – that they would have a place of worship where everyone could come and hear the Word of Truth.

We ask that you, our beloved brothers and sisters in America, hold up in prayer before the throne of God the Saints of the Liberia, West Africa mission. They are holding onto the Faith of The Church and are serving God under very difficult living conditions. May God bless you. 

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