

HUMANITARIAN

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



AN UNEXPECTED TRIP TO MONTANA

by Sister Diane Surdock

When I left San Diego on April 16, 2015 for the General Church conference followed by a three-week vacation, I didn't realize the plan God had for me.

I was sitting in the Italian Committee meeting at conference, and Sister Caryl DiBattista said that she needed to speak to me. I asked if I was in trouble, and she said, "Maybe!"

She then told me that she never has dreams, but she had a dream that I was in the car with her and her husband, Brother John, headed for the Flathead Reserve in Montana. I'd been interested in visiting the mission ever since I met Brother Patrick and Sister Melissa DiBattista in 2013. We became immediate friends, and they invited me to visit them. When this opportunity came up, I felt it was from God.

I'd made many plans to visit with dear sisters and friends during my three-week trip after conference, and going to Montana would mean changing some of those plans and rearranging my flights. I checked with all my sisters and friends, and they were in total agreement that I should go to Montana if it was God's will. I proceeded to change my flights, and I even had enough airline points leftover for a round-trip ticket that allowed me to be in the Tse Bonito Branch for Vacation Bible School in June to lead the children's choir.

During conference, I felt God's blessings. I reflected on how God had been changing me and purifying me these past six months so that I can work for Him. With God's help and much prayer by the



Gateway to the Flathead Reservation in Montana

ministry, I'd successfully changed many things in my life that had held me hostage for years.

Approximately two weeks after conference, Brother John and Sister Caryl DiBattista and I left for Montana, trusting God in faith to orchestrate our adventure.

We drove to Hamilton, and I felt the love of the saints there when we met up with Brother Patrick DiBattista and his wife, Sister Melissa, and Brother Ron Mazzeo. I soaked up the joy and laughter we shared and looked for ways that I could be of encouragement through praise and song. I felt God directing me to sing to create an atmosphere of peace. God's presence was so overwhelming at times that I couldn't contain it.

I enjoyed learning about the previous trips to the Flathead Reservation, especially how Brothers Pat and John and Sisters Melissa

and Caryl worked so hard to put together and deliver layettes and backpacks to a local store that serves the community — I'd just heard a report at conference about this particular labor of love.

It was no coincidence that Sister Caryl had that dream because Brother Pat and Sister Melissa weren't able to come on this particular trip to the reserve. I felt God wanted to use me as a helping hand to Brother John and Sister Caryl.

After a beautiful Sunday service, the three of us embarked on the two-hour drive to the Flathead Salish / Kootenai Reservation with excitement and anticipation. I knew I was with a holy man of God and his wife who had experience working in this missionary field, so I watched and followed their lead.

They introduced me to many

people: tribal leaders, store clerks, educational coordinators, and 80 students who attended Brother John's classes. We had hearts that were ready to serve the many needs of the declining segment of the population, bound by drugs, alcohol, broken homes, and other challenges. Brother John's presentations were filled with professional information, love, concern for their welfare, and practical teachings. He never hesitated to say he was a minister of The Church of Jesus Christ and always offered prayer. I saw many men and women ask to be anointed with oil and sit under his heartfelt prayers as the Spirit fell on them.

Doors opened so many times to shake hands and offer an embrace, an encouraging word, or a smile. We were led in many instances only to find another door opening to share the love of God, as we listened and blended our hearts with the greatest to the least.

We met with an Anglo lady who had taught art on the reservation for 35 years. Even though she was a stranger to us, she opened her heart about her husband who passed away. Brother John prayed for her and asked me to sing "He Touched Me." As I started singing, she closed her eyes and crossed her hands. Afterward, she said she felt a beautiful spirit, as that was the same song sung at her mother's and sister's funerals.

After we left the reservation, we encouraged one another to continue in faith believing that God has a bigger plan for all of us and for Flathead and Hamilton. I know that if God wills me to return, I have made many new friendships there. I'm proud to be a part of the NAOC and to help fulfill the divine commission of the Church. Please accept this as my heartfelt memory of a blessed time in Christ. **HF**



MISSIONARY TRIP TO ZAMBIA

by Brother Joseph Perri

Our committee would like to share with our Brothers and Sisters and all who read the IMOC Newsletter some of the blessings God gave to us which we enjoyed while on our recent missionary trip to Zambia.

It was a blessing to visit, see, and talk with many of the brothers and sisters we have come to know over the years of our travels to this country. We were also privileged to meet many visiting friends who have been attending our worship services.

The first Sunday's worship service was attended to by a seating capacity of 365 adults inside our church building and many standing outside and at the entrance way to hear the encouraging message of the Gospel and the Love of Jesus Christ. This number did not include children. Hymns and choruses were sung by the adult and junior choir's which were enjoyable to hear.

We were blest with the ordination of Brother Alfred Chinengo as a Pastor of the Solwezi mission. It was very encouraging for us to hear the news there were 24 converts who requested baptism in this mission with another opportunity for the Church of Jesus Christ to be established in the village of Kambanjhi.

In the copper mining town of

Kitwe a new mission called Kitwe Kawama was established with a number of brothers and sisters. It was our privilege to hold a worship service and meet a number of visitors that have been attending our church services in this area. Several expressed a desire to be baptized.

In the village of Chingola where we first established the church in 2007, we were blest to witness 10 baptisms and we attended to the ordination of one Deacon and two Deaconess.

A number of training classes were held with the ordained Pastors. The Book of Mormon is being requested in every mission we attended. Brothers Chalwe our Church President and Mulenga an ordained Pastor have been spending time translating the Book of Mormon, and hopefully we expect to have the book ready for printing in their Bemba vernacular within a year.

During our visit we heard some experiences of healing to the honor and Glory of God.

1. A brother bore testimony that when he was younger he contracted T B. He had it for a number of years and eventually lost his voice where he could not talk. He mentioned attending churches and asked for prayer, but received no results. Being much discouraged he felt God had forsaken him, he would have to live the rest of his life with T B and unable to talk. One day he met a member of our church and was invited to attend worship services. He requested

to be anointed and prayed for because of his illness. He was anointed and immediately healed of T B; his voice returned and has since joined the adult choir of the Chililabombwe branch. Our brother praised God for restoring his voice that he wanted to praise God in song by joining the choir to sing.

2. A sister bore testimony that when she became pregnant, an examination by scope showed the fetus was growing outside of the amniotic sac. It was also in the wrong position for growth, so the doctor mentioned an operation was necessary to place the fetus into the sac and in the proper position. Our sister expressed that she did not want an operation, upon hearing that the doctor told her the baby would die. However she had one thing in mind that she would request the ministry of our church to anoint and pray for her that God would correct the problem as stated. She requested Brother Chalwe to anoint and pray for her that the baby would be placed in the sac in the right position to grow. God answered the prayer of Brother Chalwe and when our sister returned back to the doctor, a scope was taken and to the amazement of the doctor, the baby was in the sac and in the proper position for growth. The doctor asked our sister what happened and she told him about being prayed for and God corrected the problem. He wanted to know the name of the church and where it was located.

3. In Zambia for some unknown reason many children are born with brain disorders. A baby boy was born to a woman but with a brain disorder. His name is Alphonso. The mother had a difficult time raising the child as he grew, he would get very violent. She took her baby boy to a number of doctors, but none of them could help the child. They would tell the mother he would have to be committed to an institution, but that was not what she wanted to hear. Finally she started taking him to pastors of different churches, but none of them gave her any hope the child would be normal. Several pastors

said he was born with the Devil in him. With all hope gone she decided to take him to a church camp she heard of where ministers were present. She appealed for their help; and one of the ministers took the child from his mother to a wood pile where he obtained a stick from the pile of wood and began to beat the boy. When the mother saw that she wanted to know why he was beating the boy with the stick, he told her he was trying to beat the devil and illness out of the boy. She cried and begged the minister to give the child back to her. In some mysterious way she found our church in the village of Solwezi and was told there was a branch of the church in Chililabombwe. There was no Pastor of our church in Solwezi at the time, so she made her way to Chililabombwe some 200 plus miles away. She was told there was in Pastor of our church in that village who would anoint with oil, pray for the person and they would be healed. When she arrived in Chililabombwe she immediately contacted Brother Chalwe and told him the problem she was having with her son. Brother Chalwe listened and asked the boy's mother if she wanted him anointed and prayed for. She fell at the knees of Brother Chalwe crying uncontrollably pleading for help for her son that our brother would pray for God to heal him. The prayer that was offered was answered, God healed the young boy, he began to speak and act normal. The mother has since returned back to their home in Solwezi and is attending worship services of our church at this mission and is among those requesting baptism.

4. We heard of another experience of a woman who had a child, but because of the difficulty she had carrying the child and during the delivery, the doctor advised and warned her not to become pregnant anymore, if she did, she and the baby could die. Well as it turned out she became pregnant with another baby. She carried the child for the full 9 months and the time of delivering the child arrived. The husband of this woman took



Future seamstresses and tailors watch a sewing demonstration. Funds are needed to establish a sewing school in Zambia.

her to the hospital and when the doctor saw her, he told her husband she and the baby would die. With this sad news, the husband called Brother Chalwe and told him what the doctor stated and requested he come to the hospital and anoint his wife. When Brother Chalwe arrived at the hospital he asked permission of the doctor if he could go into the room where this woman was. The doctor gave permission for him to go into the room and pray, but the doctor stated to brother Chalwe, that she would not survive. Brother Chalwe anointed and prayed for this woman that God would allow her to deliver her baby without any difficulty. Within 30 minutes she delivered a healthy baby boy. The doctor went to the waiting room where Brother Chalwe was waiting to hear the news of the delivery and told him the women delivered a normal healthy baby boy. He wanted to know what church he was from and where it was located. The God we serve is a great and a wonderful GOD, full of compassion and LOVE towards his creation.

We heard of brothers who were Alcoholics whose lives were ruined but turned around with prayer by the priesthood of the church. We also heard of broken marriages that were mended, the husband and wife now living peaceably and happy together. All who bore testimony gave praise to God for deliverance and stated they would never go back to the life they experienced that brought them to experience the lives explained above. The Church of Jesus Christ in Zambia is blest with growth and experiences of healing.

When we established our church in Zambia and received our registration certificate to operate our church legally in that country, the government requested if we were given a registration certificate they would expect us to provide a Humanitarian project for the people of their country. A number of projects have come to the forefront of our discussion, trying to find one we could afford. It has been a number of years since we received our registration certificate and we do not have a project established. Periodic

inquiries have been made by the Zambian government to see how we as a church are progressing. We have constructed a church building for the saints to worship in, in the village of Chililabombwe with the assistance of a loan from the General Finance committee however this is not considered a humanitarian project. Our current Zambia budget does not allow us to fund a project for our church membership in Zambia; therefore we are appealing to our brothers and sisters of the church who can help us to raise funds for a sewing project. The funds that are needed will provide sewing machines and material to operate a class to the young women and men who want to learn a trade as a seamstress and tailor and help them establish a trade so they can begin to earn a livelihood.


The proposal provided and we received to begin a sewing class for 30 students will cost \$4,000.00 U S dollars. This would purchase 14 Manual sewing machines and 1 Electric machine. The machines are made by the Singer Sewing Machine Co in Europe and can be purchased locally in the mining town of Kitwe. Add another \$500.00 for material. The total amount needed is \$4,500.00 to operate a sewing class that would be considered a Humanitarian project and would satisfy the Zambian government. Our church President in Zambia Brother Chalwe would provide responsible people to oversee this project and report to him on the progress being made by the class.

Classes: 2 Classes per day of 15 students in each class.

Hours: 4 hours per class per

day.- 8 AM to 12:00 Noon - 5 days per week. 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM - 5 days per week.

Course: Approximately 6 to 8 months to complete. Once the class is complete the students will be expected to go out and find a job as a seamstress or tailor.

Our initial start for the Sewing Class to begin is needed by purchasing the machines. This is important and classes would be held in a local rented building provided and paid for by our church membership. A seamstress also will be employed by our church membership. Please help us with your kind donation to begin this project. Your check payable to the HFF in any amount will be greatly appreciated. When sending your donation to the HFF, specify it to be for the sewing project in Zambia. 

RESULTS

Everybody, in some way, wants to see results. Winston Churchill said, "however beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results." If you are a sports fan and your favorite team spends millions of dollars to recruit a fabulous player, you expect that player to perform like a star, above the rest, and lead their team to the championship.

Do we have similar expectations in The Church of Jesus Christ? Do you look for results from your tithes and donations? Before you answer

let's discuss what donations are.

Donation is a word we use today to mean an act or instance of presenting something as a gift, grant, or contribution. It is a subset of tithes, which are a tenth part of personal income "set apart as an offering to God for works of mercy."

Donations to The Church through your home branch fund the operations of the local, regional, and general church operations. They are critical. The results of these types of donations are harder to see, but they are there. For example, our Faith and Doctrine emphasizes the sharing of the Restored Gospel message, first

with all people, and then with Native Americans. The work among them (and all of Israel) is an important work. But what makes this work, like many charitable efforts, difficult to measure is the lack of metrics, score keeping, or tallies.

The Scriptures tell us that our responsibility is to share our knowledge of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ with all of the world. Specifically, the Prophet Lehi said, "How great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth...[of the] grace of the Holy Messiah, who layeth down his life according

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I would like to donate to the following:

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

Native American Works	\$ _____	Kenya / Tanzania	\$ _____
Book of Mormon Translation	\$ _____	Liberia	\$ _____
Burundi / Rwanda (Please Circle)	\$ _____	Malawi / Mozambique (Please Circle)	\$ _____
Colombia	\$ _____	Mexico	\$ _____
Dominica	\$ _____	Muncey / Six Nations (Please Circle)	\$ _____
DR Congo / Zambia (Please Circle)	\$ _____	Nepal/Himalayan (Please Circle)	\$ _____
Ghana	\$ _____	Nigeria	\$ _____
Guatemala	\$ _____	Peru	\$ _____
Ecuador	\$ _____	Philippines	\$ _____
India / India Orphans (Please Circle)	\$ _____	Venezuela	\$ _____
Italy	\$ _____		

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

TOTAL \$ _____



RESULTS

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to the flesh, and taketh it again by the power of the Spirit, that he may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, being the first that should rise. (2 Nephi 2:8) We are also given the task to take the Word of God and the hope and expectations of the Restoration to Israel, as it is written, "And it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall commence his work among all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people, to bring about the restoration of his people upon the earth." (2 Nephi 30:8) Finally, included in this work is the responsibility to take the Restored Gospel to Native Americans. (2 Nephi 3:11 and 2 Nephi 30:5)

We would like to share with you how we measure success/results in the Oklahoma Outreach work because we are most familiar with it. In less than six years 10


ministers completed 12 trips to 37 tribes. We have spoken with over 600 tribal leaders, friends, and their families. These are not mere light-hearted conversations or small talk, but in-depth conversations, formal presentations, sermons in homes and churches, classes to groups, hymns of praise and hope. We have also anointed the afflicted (and witnessed their healing), and prayed for those in need. We have laughed with some, we have wept with others. We shifted from being visitors, to friends, to family.

The feedback we have received include such statements as: your message is getting through and we are discussing it among the tribal leaders; God has sent you to us; we thank God that you are here; we appreciate your efforts; it is a noble work that you are doing; thank you for your message of hope; can you come and speak to us again; and please pray for us.

Sometimes the work is like rolling a large rock – it takes strength, courage, endurance, and patience, but once momentum is achieved it becomes somewhat easier. The goal is not to lose momentum, but to press on to the tipping point, that point where there are a people accepting of the Restored Gospel. In the case of Oklahoma Outreach we need to keep the momentum by pushing and striving for greater results.

The brothers who completed trips to Oklahoma have dedicated a lot of personal time, taken vacations from their jobs (each trip is seven to eight days long), been absent from their families, and contributed their own funds to help cover the costs. Additionally, they have accepted – through the Lord's blessings – the physical stress and spiritual diligence required, not only for the visits, but the activities before, after and in between visits.

If you have been assisting the work of God through your prayers and donations, please don't stop until we reach the tipping point. If you haven't, would you consider assisting with this important effort? Will you be an Aaron or a Hur (Exodus 17:12)? Will you bring your prayers, tithes, offerings, and donations to the storehouse of the Lord to assure the continuation of the Great Work of God among His ancient covenant people?

Yes, your team is successful and achieving important results; don't let the fruit languish on the vine – please donate freely! (Joel 1:12; Ezra 2:68; Malachi 3:10) 

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FOUNDATION FUND

We invite comments and inquiries from our readers:

**Humanitarian
Foundation Fund
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