

# HUMANITARIAN

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



## SECTION - THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

### Maracaibo Venezuela

Submitted by  
Brother Donald Ross

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo, my wife, Sister Joyce Ross and I journeyed to Maracaibo, Venezuela from April 26-30, 2012. The Lord was very good to us.

The Chavez family joyfully met us at the airport. A wonderful reunion with our Brothers and Sisters was held; we rejoiced in our testimonies and in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Friday, we spent additional time with the Chavez family, speaking with Sister Berkys Carolina Almanza (Brother Jose Chavez's wife) and his brother, Brother Angel Chavez. We spoke about The Church of Jesus Christ and the goodness and mercies of Jesus Christ. During that afternoon, we met a group of young women who were attending a medical conference at the hotel where we were staying. We introduced ourselves and spent at least three hours, with wonderful liberty telling them about the Restored Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ. We explained our beliefs, the Book of Mormon and emphasized that we are a separate and distinct group, not affiliated with any other restoration group or faith. They listened intently, never making any disparaging remarks about the Book of Mormon or our faith. There was a beautiful spirit throughout the conversation. In the evening, we had more conversation with the Chavez family, focusing on the goodness of the Lord and His rich blessings and mercy.

The entire day on Saturday was



Sister Joyce Ross washing the feet of Sister Berkys Carolina Almanza

devoted to spiritual discussion and instruction with Brothers Jose and Angel Chavez, Sister Berkys Carolina Almanza and Daysi and Angel Chavez, parents of our Brothers. We truly were blessed in our instruction and conversation. We instructed Sister Berkys Carolina Almanza on the office of a Deaconess and gave her a Spanish Deaconess Manual. She listened attentively and accepted the calling. She has been doing a wonderful work, bearing her testimony to many friends.

A beautiful experience came true during the afternoon. My wife took ill soon after our 2007 trip to Maracaibo. The Chavez family was aware of my wife's illness and like many others in The Church, prayed

for her health and recovery. Two years ago, Daysi Chavez dreamed that she saw Sister Joyce Ross sitting in the Chavez living room once more. The dream came true Saturday afternoon! Tears of joy

were shed. Daysi Chavez was reminded of her experience and that we serve a God of miracles. She was encouraged to seek the Lord and baptism. She is a

*Continued on page 4*

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## Maracaibo Venezuela

Continued from cover

wonderful and humble woman.

Sunday Services were conducted at the Hotel del Lago. The entire Chavez family was present along with the family of Magali Hernandez.

Brother Panfilo DiCenzo opened our meeting using Luke 9:18-21. He was truly inspired. Brother DiCenzo stressed that Church is not a building, but a Church is comprised of members, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, sons and daughters of Jesus Christ, the humble and obedient Son of God.

Before ordaining Sister Berkys Carolina Almanza a Deaconess, the calling, office, and ordination procedure were explained to the attendees. Sister Joyce Ross was privileged to wash Sister Berkys Carolina Almanza's feet. Brother Don Ross ordained her into the office of a Deaconess.

Following the ordination, Sister Joyce Ross instructed and assisted Sister Almanza in setting

the communion table. There was absolute silence from the attendees as they listened intently to the instruction and watched the solemn setting of the communion table. Communion was served.

Sunday evening was spent visiting friends of the Chavez family with approximately 25 people at the home of Felipe and Carolina Cioppola which included young boys, Daniel, Abraham and Isaac! The evening was devoted to explaining our faith and The Church of Jesus Christ. Our evening and visit was truly blessed of the Lord.


One of the friends of the Cioppola family stated they we took a big chance in coming to Venezuela because President Hugo Chavez does not want missionaries coming to Venezuela. We trusted in the Lord for His protection and our safety.

We thank the Lord for His blessings, goodness and mercies. Our trip was wonderful and a spiritual blessing to all. The work in Maracaibo is stable with much potential. They are a humble and loving people.



Enjoying Fellowship with the Saints in Maracaibo, Venezuela

The people of Venezuela need our prayers. The political environment has made it extremely expensive to live there. Inflation is rampant. The only commodity that is inexpensive is gasoline. Because of the cost of living and political environment, many people from Venezuela have moved to other countries. Please, remember

our Brothers, Sisters, and Friends in Venezuela along with all the Venezuelan people. Thank you and God bless you all. 

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## A MIRACLE BEYOND BELIEF

by the India Committee

As missionaries going into foreign fields, we look forward to hearing experiences received by the hand of God which verify that the power of the restoration is taking hold and that "signs" are following the Church members. Such a testimony came to our attention on the last trip to India.

Brother James, once an independent minister who heard of The Church of Jesus Christ by the testimony of late Brother Dev, gave the following testimony:

During your September 2010 trip, I brought my family before you (the American missionaries) and you prayed for us. At that time, a vision was given of a personage standing behind us who was covering my family with his arms. With that we knew that the blessings of God would be upon us and something good was going to happen.

Following your departure, one Sunday morning we awoke with the rising sun and prepared some tea for all. When the tea was ready, we brought some to the room of my mother-in-law and laid it by her bedside and said to her "Here is your tea" and left the room to allow her to awaken.

After a while, noticing that she did not come out of her room, we sent someone in to determine why. We tried to awaken her but she did not respond. We shook her and called her name, but nothing happened. One of the family members, having some medical training, said she was not breathing nor could he detect any heartbeat or pulse. With that, my wife began to weep and cry with the loss of her mother.

I then said to her "Why do you weep? Did she not give her life to Christ? Did she not live a long and good life? And has she not returned unto the Lord on His day, the day of the week that we celebrate His resurrection?" With

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that some comfort was provided to us and we prepared for the morning's church service.

At about 10:00am, we went into the church building and began our meeting, not telling the

congregation what had happened, not wanting to take away from our duty to give out the Word of God to the saints, nor take away from worshiping our risen Lord. (Note: As Brother James was telling us

this part, I asked myself how many others would have still conducted or attended a church service in the face of such an event)

At the end of the service, our

*Continued on page 4*

# HUMANITARIAN

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**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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**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



## A MIRACLE BEYOND BELIEF

Continued from Page 3

brother finally told the congregation what had happened that morning. With that announcement, our members were saddened, but soon became upset that they had not shared this news earlier. After some conversation, it was decided that they should bring the body in the church and pray together.

They prayed intently for more than an hour. Suddenly something wonderful happened....the woman rose from the dead! All were startled by this at first but they began to realize what had just happened and the praises of God and great joy filled the room as they embraced the one who once was dead but was now alive.

After coming back to life, they


learned that she could no longer speak. This condition continued for three months; then one day while they were given to fasting and prayer, she started speaking words again. When she did, she asked them if they knew what had happened. They all said, "Of course we do....you died and came back to life." She then told them that there was more to the story and began to describe her experience as follows:

"On that day, I was taken to a different place. That place that was so bright I could hardly see yet I could still see around me. In that place I felt tremendous peace and love and joy, more than I had ever felt in this life, a place from which I did not want to return. Then I could see standing all around me, the silhouettes of many people. Soon one of them came up to me and asked me

why I was there. I told him that I thought that I had died and been sent to this place. The man said to me that this was true, but he also said that it was not yet my time. He told me that I must go back and tell them what I have seen. With that, the next thing I knew, I was before the congregation of saints on earth."

After this happened, as the scripture says, it was "noised abroad" or in other words, everyone heard the story. What a beautiful testimony. What evidence given to the saints that there is a place prepared for those who believe and are faithful. As Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I

will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3)

This is a story that should be shared with everyone, especially those who have no hope; that all might know the truth of the resurrected Christ, the Restored Gospel, and the promises of His Word. If this has been a blessing to you, pass it on. 

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and inquiries  
from our readers:**

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