

# HUMANITARIAN

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



## SECTION - THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST



Brothers and Sisters in Ecuador

### AS THE WORD SPREADS, THE WORK GROWS

**ECUADOR**  
**October 2011 & March 2012**  
**by Brother Ken Lombardo**

One never knows when setting out on a mission trip just how the Lord will direct your paths, but you certainly expect that He will guide you the way He wants you to go to accomplish His purposes. And certainly every soul in the world needs the Lord and needs to hear the Restored Gospel; so you set out with an open mind and heart, with hope and with a plan.

Brother Kevin Murphy received a vision of a dove flying and he heard the voice of God say, "My spirit will fall upon all those that hear the truth of my Gospel. BE BOLD, speak the truth of my Gospel, thus saith the Lord God of Israel."

October 2011, Brother Daniel Mora and I set out on a five day trip to visit the saints in Ecuador. Our hope was that individuals who had previously showed interest in the Church would desire baptism. Sister Mariana (a deaconess) and her husband, Brother Jaime, have been the primary saints there, being among the first to be baptized. On previous trips, Brother Jaime's father, 80-year-old Jose Socasi, had spoken of his possible desire

for baptism and we arrived with the hope that he might ask.

While counseling Jose during our visit with him and his family, we spoke of his need for baptism. He had recently been diagnosed with stomach cancer and his family had been told by the doctors that there was nothing they could do for him. During our visit with Jose, he mentioned that his life was in God's hands. When we asked about baptism, he said that it was his desire to be baptized. However, no plan was set since the previous baptism site was a rushing river and he felt his age and condition would prevent him from being able to be baptized there. He had suggested a different site with which Brother Daniel was

unfamiliar; and without examining it, we were unsure of its viability.

At the evening service a wonderful spirit filled the room. We talked about redeeming the time - wanting to take advantage of Jose's desire (with his failing health) and our presence there. Jose said that he wanted to be baptized the next day. As we rejoiced in the prospect of seeing another soul in Ecuador come to Jesus, Sister Mariana's father, Adolpho, said he wanted to be baptized as well! Praise God.

Jose owns and drives a bus for his living. The next morning we all gathered at their home, loaded the bus with food and people, and drove an hour to an

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## AS THE WORD SPREADS, THE WORK GROWS

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ecological park. It was simply a gorgeous place to baptize with a small, stream-fed pool.

Brother Dan baptized 80-year-old Brother Jose and I baptized 74-year-old Brother Adolpho (this was my first baptism in the field). It was a marvelous day. Brother Jose's wife and daughters were present and were shown "the way of the Lord more perfectly." We hope and pray that one day they might come to the waters of regeneration as well.

Many more wonderful things happened by way of witnessing that weekend, including re-connecting with a young woman, Maria Fernanda Arbolero, whom the brothers and sisters had met on previous trips. Although the saints had visited Maria and anointed her sister and father (both of whom were healed), we had lost touch with her. On our final day we were able to meet Maria and she expressed how certain they were that it was the Lord who had healed her sister and father by way of anointing. She also remarked how her dear friends have a mother who has a heart problem and was facing surgery. Maria called them and within one hour, Steve and Lorena Aguerre arrived with his mother, Doña Loli.

We witnessed to them that The Church of Jesus Christ follows James 5 in anointing the sick with oil and how God answers the prayers

of the faithful. Loli expressed herself in tears that she was frightened because the doctors were advising her to have open-heart surgery to repair a heart murmur. Her son also expressed himself emotionally that there was a lot of stress regarding this situation and that they had faith that this anointing would make a difference.

Brother Dan anointed her offering a powerful prayer. After the anointing, they told us of a friend of theirs named Xiomara, who had inoperable tumors behind her eyes and was in a hospital on the other side of the city. Not being able to visit Xiomara, we showed them in the scriptures where handkerchiefs were anointed and the sick were healed. We anointed a handkerchief for Xiomara and gave it to Steve and Lorena to deliver to her.

Brother Daniel and I returned 4 months later (March 2012) having heard good news on almost every front. Our plan was to reconnect with all of those with whom we'd met in October, and follow God's Spirit where it led.

Although we found Brother Jose lying in a bed in a weakened state, we felt happy to hear him reflect on his baptism and how grateful he was. As the week progressed, he came to church twice, and drove the bus for us. He showed great strength. He credits God with this and is thankful for every day God gives him.

Brother Jose's daughter, Yolanda, attended every meeting and embraced every message with tears, clearly showing that she



Brother Ken Lombardo baptizing Brother Adolpho Perez.

was being touched by the Spirit. We met with many others and had great times of testimony and blessing, and saw many respond positively. However without an elder, they don't meet with any regularity. We taught and encouraged them to do so, to study the word together, to uplift and love one another, that they might grow and prepare their minds to receive God's blessings when the brothers return.

We held two Sunday services, a Wednesday night meeting and a Friday night fellowship meeting, along with many visits and counsels. In every place we went, we prayed for the sick. At every occasion, we'd draw out the people's faith by explaining James 5 and asking them if they believed God could answer. People always answered "Yes!"

Brother Daniel engaged the entire group in a wonderful "seminar" with visual aids that helped to describe Jesus' love for us, and how we need to seek His truth and righteousness. Before the evening ended, we anointed almost everyone there, including the children. We could see how, as we were being bold in presenting the gospel to people, God was revealing to us that there is much fruit in store for us.

I had a small experience on the second Sunday before the

church service. The meeting was scheduled for 10am, and it was 9:55 and no one had arrived. I was tempted to be discouraged. I stood at the doorway of the meeting room (a tiny repurposed storefront) and faced the sprawling vista of the city of Quito, and was impressed with its giant size and our tiny size. I began to ask God if this was a big waste of time, we traveling so far for so few, and would it ever bear fruit. At that moment across the street, I saw a white dove land on the top of a telephone pole. Coincidence, you might think, but for me at that moment, I knew it was God showing me His mighty hand in this work. I was instantly reminded of Brother Kevin's experience, and was uplifted and encouraged to trust in Him.

At that meeting Sister Mariana's 17-year-old daughter, Maria Fernanda, whom Brother Dan had counseled all week and trained to take on the children for a Sunday School, had read the scriptures and prepared her mind to engage the 5 children. After Sunday School, these children made a presentation. They held up their artwork and excitedly screamed their answers to Maria's questions. Maria felt empowered. And Brother Daniel and I shed tears, realizing that there is a bright future for The Church of Jesus Christ in Ecuador. **HF**



At our friend Maria Fernanda Arbolero's home on "seminar" night.



## The Philippines Mission at Pagadian City

The Pagadian City mission of The Church of Jesus Christ was established on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines in April of 2009 when six members of the Abraham family were baptized. Being led by the Spirit of God, Brother Edison Abraham was ordained into the Ministry to lead this little mission. Since that time, the church there has not grown much. We have always encouraged Brother Ed to continue to fast and pray that God would direct his efforts. During the last day of our 2011 trip, Brother Edison expressed to us that he felt inspired to work with the children in his neighborhood. When he told us that The Lord instructed him to call this effort "The Youth In Action" we knew he was being directed by the Spirit of God.

Soon thereafter, a Sunday School was organized and began to meet on Sunday mornings. Brother Ed, his wife, daughter and son-in-law would teach the children a lesson, sing some songs, do an art project and then they would feed them lunch. These children come from very poor families and for many of them this would be the only good meal they would eat during the week. Many of these kids have to provide for themselves and their siblings because their parents do not. Some of Brother Edison's neighbors criticized him for doing this, saying the children were only coming for a free meal. Our brother's response was that if they were, that is okay, but he was going to feed them spiritually first. Since then many of the parents have remarked that they have never seen and felt the kind of love that is being shown to their children before. We know that the love of God can soften even the hardest heart.

As we arrived at our meeting place in Pagadian City this year, we were greeted by the Abraham



Brother Edison Abraham and his Sunday School class

family ... and more than thirty children. The Lord blessed us as we listened intently to the children's program that was presented in remembrance of the birth, death and resurrection of our Lord,

Jesus Christ. We thank God for His inspiration and direction of Brother Edison and know; "But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of

heaven." (Matthew 19:14) We are confident that God will perform a great work through our brother in Pagadian City because his desire is to humbly follow the inspiration

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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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## The Philippines Mission

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and direction of the Holy Spirit.

In the Philippines, like in all the mission fields, there is not only a great need for the preaching of The Gospel of Jesus Christ, but there are many natural needs as well. Many times our hearts are broken because of the needs of the people. There are the needs of feeding and clothing the children, of providing a means for them to receive an education and of giving them some assistance to provide for themselves and their families. We try to be prepared spiritually to do as Christ instructed his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20; "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all na-


*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"*

tions, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Unfortunately, we are not always equipped to assist in natural and financial ways.

The IMOC Philippine Team

asks that you pray for the work of The Church in Pagadian City, in other areas of the Philippine Islands and The great work of The Lord throughout the entire world; foreign and domestic. Our ministers in all countries make great sacrifices of their time and resources to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's encourage them with our prayers, love and

support. May God bless you all.

"Thus saith the Lord: In an acceptable time have I heard thee, O isles of the sea, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee; and I will preserve thee, and give thee my servant (Jesus Christ) for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;" (1 Nephi 21:8) 

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