

HUMANITARIAN

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



THE GIFT

by Brother Chip Smith

As we think about the gifts that we have received or given, we should be reminded of the beautiful "GIFT" we have been given: The Gospel of Jesus Christ Restored in these the latter days. During a missionary trip to the Philippines, brothers Chat Young and Chip Smith were reminded of how fortunate they are to know the TRUTH of the Gospel. During the trip the brothers were able to meet with a woman named Joy, who had been communicating with the Philippine Team for over a year. Little did any of us know that this was all in God's plan.

Through an unfortunate circumstance, Joy and her husband lost their business. This led Joy to relocate to Davao City on the island of Mindanao, where we have several missions. The brothers arranged to meet with Joy to further discuss the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share God's love. We can say that from the very moment we met Joy, the

Spirit of God was with us. Our initial greeting was no handshake, no nod of the head; it was an embrace of hugs and tears. It was as if we were greeting a fellow member of the Church.

After several hours of testimony, prayers, and tears, we asked Joy to pray about what was shared and He would reveal the truth. The Spirit came down on Joy as she looked at the brothers and began to cry. She said, "Do you understand the GIFT that you have?" She said, "You have the Gospel Restored, the TRUTH."

Joy shared her testimony of how she was studying and realized she did not have the truth in her life and began to search. She told us of her near-death experience, how she begged God to allow her to find the TRUE CHURCH before He called her home. Joy was rushed to the hospital for a heart condition and actually stopped breathing. While lying there she rehearsed her plea with God. She said she remembers seeing the "light" and asked (screamed) for God to allow her to find the TRUE CHURCH before He took her home. Joy told



Joy after her Baptism

us, "I have found the TRUE CHURCH."

The following day we met Joy and began our 2-plus-hour ride up to the mission of Pantukan. Many saints and young children greeted us. We continued on to the waters of baptism and baptized our sister into The Church of Jesus Christ. Following the baptism Brother Chatman Young conferred the gift of the Holy Ghost on our sister by the laying on of hands.

We continued our service with the ordinance of feet washing, which our new sister had never witnessed. As we concluded our service Sister Joy asked if we used

bottled mineral water for feet washing. One of the sisters said no, and pointed to the well where they get their water. Sister Joy said she had never felt such PURE water.

As we departed the mission, the brothers were approached by a young lady who had been attending our Church services since birth. She explained that she and her brothers had been touched, and wanted to be baptized. The following morning, we journeyed back up the mountain of God to the mission of Pantukan for the baptisms of the three young converts.

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Her first feet washing that same day

THE GIFT

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As we continued our trip we witnessed many blessings of God, and saw how He takes care of the spiritual needs of His people. Many of our members live in one-room homes that house many family members and friends. This one-room home serves many purposes and needs. Our members often struggle with some of the basics of life that we often take for granted: running water, indoor plumbing, toilets, showers, kitchens, and electricity. During this trip we witnessed the process of obtaining water for feet washing, cooking, and in place of indoor plumbing. Though this may be very time-consuming, they still soldier on. In many missions, the lack of funds prevents them from having access to the main water connection.

In addition, many of the saints struggle to stay employed due to the country's

economy. On one of our prior trips, one young elder told us that if he could make \$10.00 per week he could sustain his wife and children. We shared that testimony and the financial burdens of our members with a passenger on our most recent flight to the Philippines. Along with prayers, tears, and testimonies during this initial leg of the trip, we started "Project Frieda." This individual donated funds to purchase chickens and start a project to help the mission provide food to the membership and village. Through her generosity and love, the Herndon

Sunday School Sonbeams adopted Project Frieda to help raise funds to feed the chickens. We thank God for touching her heart and helping feed His people.

While the brothers were concluding their work in the Philippines, God had not finished touching the hearts of those He calls. On our last night on the island of Mindanao we met for dinner with Sister Joy and a friend from work. Sister Joy's friend, Donna, wanted to know more about this GIFT that Sister Joy had received and what makes her so happy. The brothers began from the beginning of The Church of Jesus Christ to the present day. Our new friend said she felt something different inside that she had never felt before, and desired to learn more. We explained to her that it was the Spirit of God that she was feeling, and we asked that she pray about what she had heard and felt.



Donna (left) heard the Gospel and desired baptism

She had a look of concern on her face before we departed the restaurant. Donna asked if we were still leaving the next morning. Both of the brothers felt the Spirit express to them, "Who are you to deny baptism?" Just as we read in Acts 8:36 & 37 "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." As mortal men, we witnessed this scripture come to life. Donna believed and asked to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. The next morning Sister Joy and Donna met us in the hotel lobby. Due to our flight leaving in two hours, we brothers greeted them and explained the process as we walked from the lobby to the waters of baptism. Following the baptism our sister



New members grew up attending our Church

received that GIFT, the Gift of Holy Ghost.

As we reflect on our trip, the brothers agree that the spirit of repentance, unity, forgiveness, and baptism were in all of the sermons, fellowship, and gatherings. A statement was made prior to our trip: We pray that God would open doors that were once closed. He opened doors that were once closed, and many more doors we had never seen. We read in Matthew 7:7 & 8, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

There are approximately 7,100 islands in the Philippines; The Church of Jesus Christ is established on two of them. We as a Church have a great work to do, many doors that need to be opened, and we ask that when you feel the Lord near that you remember our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. If you would like to make a donation to the work in the Philippines, please make it payable to:

Humanitarian Fund –
Philippines work
P.O. Box 956
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054



The Church of Jesus Christ congregation at Agric Nsima, Ghana.

AGRIC NSIMA, GHANA

by Brother Mark Naro

This is the congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ that meets at Agric Nsima in Ghana.

The building they are currently meeting in is going to

be torn down by the owner, who has another project in mind for the property. They have received their notice to vacate, and have obtained a parcel of land to build on.

They have some basic building supplies such as gravel and bricks, but will need to raise approximately US\$79,000 to construct a church building on the land

they have secured. We are soliciting donations through the HFF from anyone who feels to assist our brothers and sisters with this project in Agric Nsima.

God Bless,
Brother Mark Naro
Ghana/Nigeria
Committee Chair



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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION FUND
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TOTAL \$ _____



GOD WORKING IN AYEGO VILLAGE, KENYA


by Brother Randy Lee

When we made a trip to Kenya, Africa several years ago, we visited Ayego Village, a seven-hour drive from Nairobi. We were awe-struck at the lifestyle and struggles that our Church members there must endure. Brother Art Gehly and I were holding a meeting,

preaching the gospel, when a woman brought a young lady forward for prayer. The request for prayer was easy to understand as you looked upon the child. The situation was grave, as the child had a birth defect resulting in her eyes being noticeably larger than normal. The request for prayer was that her eyes would stay in, meaning that this poor young lady's eyes would sometimes protrude from their sockets. Her friends at school would either be fearful, or make fun of her when this happened.

We anointed her, and shortly afterward had to leave for Tanzania, trusting that the Lord had heard our prayers. When I returned two years later, I was happy to see that God had provided a healing, that this girl's eyes did not pop out after our prayers. Thank God!

Our Church is growing in this area, and we have staked out property for a mission to be built. Brothers, sisters, and friends, the work in this part of Kenya has many needs. Our Church buildings in these areas need many basic items, like doors, windows,

chairs, Bibles, and Books of Mormon. If this work finds a place in your heart and you wish to give, any amount will help to support those who have so little, and would be greatly appreciated in advancing this work. 

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We invite comments and inquiries from our readers:

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