

MISSIONARY

F O U N D A T I O N



Brother Emmanuel interpreting for Sister Susan as she gives her Ladies' Circle report

The Church of Jesus Christ in Malawi and Mozambique

by Brother Art Gehly, Jr.

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

When I reflect on the conference in Mzimba, Malawi during November 1-4 2007, what is most vivid in my mind's eye is the humble spirit of a spiritually blessed congregation from Malawi and Mozambique. Below are two examples which exemplify the love, dedication, and spiritual strength we witnessed.

Brother Kenneth George from Mozambique had been the only Elder serving congregations totaling 250 members. (Two ad-

ditional Elders were ordained at the conference to assist Brother Kenneth.) Brother Kenneth is a young man wholly dedicated to God's service. On various occasions, he had been advised to not go to new villages to spread the Gospel. Brother Kenneth humbly replied, "When people ask you to baptize them to save their soul, how can you deny them?" He hasn't been denying these saints and The Church of Jesus Christ in Mozambique is growing quickly.

Brother Kenneth is a man of very little means. In order to visit one of the congregations he serves, Brother Kenneth must walk for 12 hours. He simply doesn't have the money to rent a bicycle, let alone buy one. When he gave his report on the Church in Mozambique, Brother Kenneth stated that the needs of the Church there include: additional laborers, transportation to service the membership, Bibles and the Book of Mormon in their

language; and, if possible, roofs for the brick or thatched church buildings.

The needs and the requests for assistance were almost identical from the three Districts in Malawi. Consider what is being asked... tools for God's service! How can we deny these basic requirements for spreading the Gospel? Before leaving Malawi, projects were put in place to provide a bicycle for every Elder, to purchase numerous Bibles in the primary language of Chichewa, to translate the Book of Mormon into Chichewa, and a promise that, if a local congregation will fire bricks and build a modest church building, funds will be provided to buy iron sheets for the roof.

Sister Susan Mgomzulu (wife of Brother Wilson Mgomzulu, who was appointed National Church Director) is the Head Deaconess in Malawi and the newly elected President of the Malawi Ladies'

Uplift Circle. Sister Susan is a servant of God. During the four-day National Conference, over 120 people were fed three hot meals per day (cooked on an open fire). Although many brothers and sisters worked together to make the conference a success, Sister Susan gave her all. On a typical day, she was up at 4:00 am to start the fire and prepare breakfast and then would work throughout the day serving the needs of her brothers and sisters. Evening meetings lasted until 9:30 pm and then Sister Susan would sweep the conference building floor and rearrange the chairs for the morning meeting. On Saturday night, prior to the Headquarters Building Dedication service (attended by over 200 people), she was up until the early morning hours washing the floors so the building would look its best. Others helped her,

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The Book of Mormon is the Word of God

That was the message delivered by Brothers Jason Monaghan and Mark Kovacic during their March 2007 visit with the Saints in Kenya.

Unlike prior visits, the purpose of this visit was specifically designed to emphasize Book of Mormon instruction among the ordained brothers since the book had been translated and printed in Kiswahili, the national language of the people of Kenya and Tanzania.

The Brothers conducted five solid days of Restoration and Book of Mormon training with about 20 Elders, Teachers, and Deacons at the Church Headquarters building. They discovered that, like many Americans, the Kenyan brothers learn much quicker and retain much more by being involved in the training (kinetic education) and with visual aids (extensive use of pictures and poster boards) rather than by simply telling them. Even role playing was used to emphasize some of the points, such as the translation and scribing of the Book of Mormon. The brothers even had an opportunity to explain the name Monongahela - where it came from, what it means, and how it distinguishes us from other churches.

An in-depth discussion took place in which the focus was the Book of Mormon Witnesses, their statements, and their lives. About their statements, it was noted

how God provided the evidence for the three witnesses and that they were to testify to the world about what they saw and heard. It was also pointed out how the eight witnesses "hefted" the plates and touched the pages. The brothers were enthralled in all of these descriptions.

Another session was conducted where the brothers were split into two groups and one group chal-

lenged the others about what doctrines were found in the Bible and if they could be found in the Book of Mormon. When they saw the agreement between the two books Brother Jason would have them greet each other. At the end, we had a big group hug saying in Swahili "cocoo bariana" which means "We Agree"! The brothers recognized the value of this activity, hugging each other and saying "We Agree".

At the conclusion of all of this intense training, many of the Kenyan brothers said they would now "boldly" teach the Book of Mormon to the members and the young people. We noticed that by the end of the week they had stopped saying Nephite Record. Now they understood who Mormon was and why the book bore his name. Brothers Jason and Mark stated, "We were inspired by their new-found confidence." Brother

Joseph Nyabuto, the second counselor of the church, gave a stirring talk at the end of one session saying that "With these teachings we can strengthen and grow the Church." Another brother said he now wants to share the Book of Mormon with others because he has the confidence to answer their questions.

Besides the training of the brothers, the Lord's Supper was

As always, it was a blessing for the American brothers to meet with the Deaconesses and discuss their efforts and the work of the Ladies Uplift Circle in Kenya. Brother Jason said, "We were heartened by their activities and the activities of the young people, which in most villages meet every Saturday."

Of course no visit would be complete without the American brothers singing a couple of hymns.

"With these teachings we can strengthen and grow the Church."

shared, followed by feet washing. Again, the American brothers were inspired by the seriousness and dedication they witnessed in their Kenyan counterparts. In particular, after explaining the Deacon's duties, Brother Jason set the example for the other Deacons, which was invaluable.

As a side note, each day that the brothers all met for training they fellowshiped at lunch time together by enjoying a repast of bread and soda. A brother related a vision he had about two months prior to the brothers visiting in which he saw the brothers coming from America. He asked the Lord why they were coming and the Lord said, "To teach you the Gospel." In addition to the gift of revelation, the Brothers saw spiritual development. Brother Charles' wife had passed away and he has persevered, caring for his children alone and continuing to fill his leadership roles in the Church.

So as to emphasize the Restoration, Brothers Jason and Mark sang Redeemer of Israel one day and The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning and An Angel Came Down the next day.

The brothers also distributed a number of Scripture covers that were donated by Saints in the America. The brothers in Kenya were truly appreciative of the covers and the thoughtfulness of the Saints. (see photo below)

During this visit, Brother Francis Ogoti, in his rugged Toyota Corolla, acted as the brother's driver and protector. He watched over them every step of the way and provided for the care of the brothers during the training sessions. He was also the one who, after the brothers headed back to America, was beaten and robbed by some highway thugs. If it wasn't for some "Good Samaritans" our brother may not have survived until today.

Finally, what can be said about the miracles of God? Brother Charles related how an old, blind brother from a local village, who had asthma, was healed of it after he was anointed last year by the visiting American brothers. We praise God for safe travel, miracles, gifts (of teaching, discernment, interpreting dreams, etc.) and blessings that he showered down upon all the Saints in Kenya and our traveling brothers.



A Sojourn in Kenya

By Sister Meredieth Martin

Brothers and Sisters, I recently spent a few months in Kenya where I saw unimaginable natural beauty and felt a peace in spirit that I've never experienced before. The fellowship with the saints and the people informs me that we can have Zion in our times if we but turn our heart unswervingly to the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel.

To write of God's glory and the joy of His presence is difficult, simply because it is all about love. The poet exclaims, "To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky." I truly felt that love, and I pray that we can experience it here in this land of America.

My experience in Africa was of tremendous value to my spiritual growth and greatly deepened my love of God, His creation, and His

*"To write the love
of God above would
drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll
contain the whole,
though stretched
from sky to sky."*

people. I lived in a village, which brought to mind the Garden of Eden. Peace, sweet peace prevailed. I was surrounded by a variety of fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers. The scenery was really beautiful beyond description.

I resided with Sister Nina Osaka. I was blessed to observe her deep faith, wisdom, and love

of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The brothers, sisters, and friends walked miles to visit. We sat on the grass under the trees, shelling corn by hand, sharing experiences, and singing hymns of praise to God. The beautiful

often sang Sing Glory, Sing Glory, Sing Glory! Our God Has Done Wonderful Things, which brings me to a bittersweet experience. We spent much time with a sickly five-year-old child whose name was Holly. She was always trying

*We were instructed
to sing glory, sing glory,
sing glory! our God has done
wonderful things.*

children looked into our eyes with love and a longing to be loved. The elderly shared their wisdom and revealed their strength and ability to get along through struggles, hardship, and poverty. What a glorious time we had!

The young people came in the evenings to sing with us. We

to teach me Swahili, unsuccessfully I might add. Many times in quiet moments, I could hear her singing the song mentioned above. On one occasion we asked her to spell her name and take out one of the "L" letters. She figured it out and said, "Holy." We explained to her that she

was holy indeed. Henceforth, she referred to herself as "Holy."

Holly was being taken to the hospital in Nairobi, accompanied by her mother and one of the brothers in the church, when she passed away. Needless to say, all were sad and brokenhearted. Two days later she appeared to this brother, her uncle, in a dream beautifully dressed in white. She spoke to him and said, "Uncle, sing glory, sing glory, sing glory" and then disappeared. He received great comfort, joy, and peace. And we were instructed to sing glory, sing glory, sing glory! our God has done wonderful things. Brothers and sisters, He truly has done wonderful things for me. Praise God!

I visited several branches of the church and found much love, dedication, and devotion among the saints. The brothers and sisters sent this message, "Tell the brothers and sisters in America that we love them very, very much, because of the precious blood of Jesus."

May God richly bless His people.

MF

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*"What shall I render unto
the Lord for all his
benefits toward me?"*

PSALMS 116:12

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Malawi and Mozambique

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but I saw no one who so completely served the needs of their fellow saints.

When Sister Susan gave her Ladies' Circle report, she told how the sisters visit the sick and the downtrodden. She reported how the Ladies' Circle (even before officially organized) would provide food to those who were hungry and encouragement to those who were hurting and feeling helpless. When Sister Susan expressed the needs of the Ladies' Circle, her heart broke as she described the work being done with individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS (an epidemic in much of Africa) and she requested funds to help expand the work being done.

There is a great love in The Church of Jesus Christ throughout



Brother Kefasi and Brother Kenneth

the world, and that love is quite evident in Malawi and Mozambique. The brothers and sisters desire to share the Restored Gospel with their fellow countrymen, but they also desire to provide aid to those in need. This is a poor country where 90% of the population

make their living from the land and whose lives are dependent on the sun and the rain. The saints there recognize the need to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to share of their substance, no matter how limited.

"Jesus said unto him, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with

all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

If you have a desire to give of your gifts to the work in Malawi or Mozambique, please do so. If you feel the call to serve the Lord in Malawi, contact Brother Lyle Criscuolo. Please pray for this work and for all of the works of The Church of Jesus Christ

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