

HUMANITARIAN

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



Sowing Seeds in Colombia

by Evangelist Richard Scaglione Sr.

(A follow-up of an article in the November 2013 Gospel News)

No matter how good the seed is, it will not produce fruit if the soil is poor. The missionaries realized this when they carried the Gospel to Armenia, Colombia, and established a mission there. The anticipation quickly faded. Our Elder, Brother Pedro Cuellar, was baptized a few years ago along with his wife and daughter. A meeting place was rented with favorable expectations, and a large sign above the door obviously went unnoticed by those passing by. Meetings were held every Sunday. Equipment was purchased that would send our hymns out into the neighborhood. Brother Pedro opened the church every Wednesday in case anyone would stop by to investigate. There was no interest.

A Sunday School was held after the preaching service, and as many as twenty children once attended. However, it was learned that their parents dropped them off and then went to their own churches. Also, when futbol (soccer) season came, all of the youngsters deserted us for the practices held on Sunday. We relied on God's Spirit for direction, and it was quickly agreed to close the mission and develop an "out-reach ministry." Instead of expecting the people to come to us, we would go to them. Visits had previously been made to other cities – Cali, Tulua, Colato, and Santander – and we ministered to their needs as they requested, both natural and spiritual. The Gospel was shared at every opportunity. We anointed them for various afflictions, prayed for them, and sang our hymns.



Cesar Augusto Yule Ceballos is baptized in Colombia

More important, we were able to show our love, which was sincerely appreciated. Many invitations were extended for us to return soon, which we did on other trips.

Santander proved to be the most fertile ground. Sister Jimena Mott's family lived there and was familiar with our Church. It was now the perfect time to re-focus our efforts. The church furniture was moved from Armenia to Santander. Places were temporarily rented to hold the Sunday and weekday meetings. The family members were helpful in handing out invitations to attend our meetings, as well as by word of mouth. Those who came enjoyed the Spirit of God in the speaking, testimonies, singing, and more importantly, the fellowship which shared our love and sincerity. Our seeds were beginning to produce the anticipated fruit. It was difficult to keep up with all of the invitations to visit families and friends. Every effort was made to meet the requests. Our seeds were beginning to grow into tiny sprouts as we waited for

the anticipated fruit to appear. It did not take long, because God had His plans ready.

An unexpected surprise came early in the year when our elder in Venezuela, Brother José Chavez, his wife Carolina (a deaconess), and their son left Maracaibo and moved to Cali. This gave Brother Pedro someone to help with the work. Brother Pedro and Sister Blanca had moved to the northern city of Santa Marta, but he traveled to Santander to assist Brother Chavez.

The May 2015 trip brought the fruit we had prayed for. Sister Jimena's uncle, Juan Carlos, and his wife Francy requested baptism. Due to their living arrangement, Church law required their marriage be solemnized before they could be baptized. Brother Pedro and Brother Juan Revis conducted a beautiful wedding ceremony witnessed by a large number of family members and friends. The next day they were baptized, along with Juan Carlos's father, Diego, and the three were confirmed at

the water's edge. They enjoyed their first communion as many observed what was explained regarding the Church's ordinances according to the Scriptures.

Brother Juan Carlos was encouraged to hold meetings in between the elders' visits and read the Scripture using both the Bible and Book of Mormon. Those in attendance bore their testimonies and sang hymns to glorify the Lord. Brother Juan Carlos has faithfully been doing this. After observing how God was using him, the Colombia Committee and the IMOC agreed to ordain him as a teacher. This was done during the October 2015 trip. On this trip, a man named Cesar had an experience which led him to ask for baptism. He related a miracle that happened 15 years ago when he was in the army. He was involved in a terrible accident and everyone thought he was dead. He and his mother said they knew God had spared his life. Their home became a daily stop for the missionaries, where experiences and testimonies were shared with the family. More seeds were planted in this fertile soil.

A new meeting place has been rented for a nominal cost and now serves as our mission in Santander. Attendance is growing, with many new contacts enjoying God's blessings. Meetings are held every Sunday and also on Friday evenings. In the Santander Mission we now have two visiting elders, one teacher, two deaconesses, and nine baptized members. The good seed has now been planted in this good soil as we now wait for the fruit.

Note: This article covers missionary trips from November 2013 to October 2015. It is amazing how much has been accomplished in two short years. God is good!! **HF**



NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH


by Sister Francine Jackson

The Native American Outreach Committee (NAOC) under the General Church has made a renewed commitment to focus on spreading the Gospel among the Seed of Joseph. Currently, there are five approved works: Alberta, Canada; Montana; Oklahoma; North and South Dakota; and Oaxaca, Mexico. Currently, trips are planned for northern Ontario, Washington State, and Minnesota. NAOC work also continues in many regions of the Church.

A Humanitarian Committee has been formed with Sisters Fran Jackson as Coordinator and Patty Gruver as Assistant. Humanitarian aid donated thus far includes layettes, book bags, school supplies, hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, children's clothing, books, and slippers. God has revealed that He is pleased with these efforts and is opening doors and opportunities for the Church to spread the Gospel among the Seed of Joseph. It is truly an exciting time as we begin to see His plan and will unfolding among His chosen people.

Donations to the NAOC humanitarian outreach have been gratefully received from both the General Ladies' Uplift Circle and the GMBA. However, there is still a great need to build a reserve of funds to accomplish the goal of fulfilling as many requests as possible from our brothers in the missionary fields.

Should the Lord place it upon your heart to assist monetarily in this effort, support may be sent to the HFF. To ensure that funds are directed to the NAOC Humanitarian Committee, PLEASE designate "NAOC Humanitarian Fund" on the memo line of your check.

Your continued prayers are coveted as we wait upon the Lord for His direction, that all of our endeavors may bring Honor and Glory to Him. May God Bless you for your desire to be a part of and assist in the Humanitarian efforts of the Church. 



Missionaries from the U.S. (back row) with saints and children from Guatemala

GUATEMALA – A RICH HISTORY, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Guatemala, "El Pais de la Eterna Primavera" (the country of eternal spring), 50 to 60 percent of whose over 16 million people are of Mayan heritage, has been a part of The Church of Jesus Christ's missionary efforts since 1987. The first baptisms in the country took place in May 1988. During those baptisms, several people witnessed a man dressed very humbly, without shoes, standing at the waters' edge. He was touched by the baptisms and was weeping uncontrollably. He helped dry each of the new converts as they came out of the water, and then the messenger disappeared. Over the years, many were blessed in the area of Guatemala City, the nation's capital, with approximately 40 baptisms taking place.

Also during this time, experiences began to come forth regarding an area in the western part of Guatemala in a town named San Mateo in the Quezaltenango area. Resources have not permitted de-

velopment of this work. However, in 2015, the Lord began providing powerful experiences regarding this area. Beginning in May there was a vision given; a brother saw a map, beige in color, on an architect's table. The right forearm and hand of a man holding a pencil proceeded to circle Guatemala City on the map. The hand then moved and circled a city west of the capital. The name of the city was not seen. The vision ended.

The experiences continued throughout the week, and our brother was given a vision in which the same map was seen again. The second city (in the same location as Quetzaltenango) was circled in red pencil during this experience. Our brother then saw the face of a man whom he had never met before, while the Spirit spoke and told our brother that he would meet this man soon.

While praying for God's direction and guidance for the work of the Church in Guatemala as a whole, another brother had a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ appearing in the midst of beautiful green valley with a staff used to herd sheep. He then saw many white sheep scattered throughout the valleys,

and the Lord called the sheep to come to Him.

During a Skype conversation with Brother Francisco Dominguez' family in San Mateo, to his astonishment, Brother Bryan Griffith saw the man seen in the second of these three visions, Brother Victor, an astonishing experience that confirmed the Lord's leading regarding San Mateo. The culmination of the experience was the word of the Lord coming forth:

"Thus saith the Lord: Hear now the words of your Father, the Creator, the Master of All. Yes, Yes, I am revealing and guiding you. Follow My lead, for I will provide the way. I will guide you. Yet you must follow Me. Know now that evil is about, but My power is greater: My power is greater. I will continue to grow the work in the land southward. Continue to show love and compassion. For I will reclaim My people, I will reclaim them. Prepare now to see My glory in these the latter days. Thus saith the Lord."


Many more experiences came forth during the summer, and the Guatemala Committee felt the Lord was guiding them to pursue a work in this area. As the committee

gathered for a Skype call at the 2015 GMBA Campout, the committee was blessed to speak with those interested in San Mateo.

At the conclusion of the call, a prayer was offered for the work. As we stood in a circle holding hands, a vision was had of a ball of fire, about the size of a bowling ball, at the feet of the brothers and sisters in the U.S. It circled round at the center of our feet, and then ascended into the southern sky. The ball was then seen in the home of Brother Victor, and the vision ended.

The Church of Jesus Christ has been dedicated to the work in Guatemala for nearly thirty years, enjoying wonderful experiences and the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon the committee and the people of the country beyond measure and with enduring consistency.

We are excited about new doors opening, but also delighted that the Lord continues to show His love to the people of Guatemala City as well. The following experience is evidence of the Lord's mindfulness: The missionary group arrived at a home in Guatemala City during a power outage. While speaking about Christ being the Light of the world, strangely the lights in the house came on, at the exact moment we stated that He is the Light of the world, and desires that the Light of the Gospel shine bright in Guatemala.

The committee has a great desire to honor the leading of our Lord Jesus Christ, and believes that these new experiences and opportunities in San Mateo are a call to action. The plan includes ongoing visits, monthly lessons with the people via the Internet, and a month-long trip. In order to do this, your financial support is necessary. In this time of unfortunate budget cuts, we cannot accomplish our goals without your help. A donation to the HFF earmarked for Guatemala New Works will go toward providing what is needed to accomplish some of these goals. Above all, your prayers are humbly sought. 



San Demetrio, Italy building before renovations



San Demetrio, Italy building after stabilization and renovation

THE CHURCH IN SAN DEMETRIO, CALABRIA, ITALY

Just a little over five years ago our church building in San Demetrio suffered damages as a result of an earthquake. To our chagrin, it caused the back of the church to sink, and threw the entire building out of square. Large cracks appeared throughout the building, and doors and windows could not be opened or closed. The building is very old, but was constructed like a fortress, of poured concrete and

stucco on a steep hillside.

With some investigation, we found the building to be unsafe. We could not afford to purchase another building, nor do we have a congregation large enough to support a mortgage. So with determination and the Lord's help, we had the church repaired. The rear wall needed to be raised with jacks, and large concrete slabs poured into the space beneath to hold the wall stable and level.

As this work was being done, another safety issue was found, this time in the roof. The lumber that supported the roof was made up of a series of heavy old tree

limbs that over time had become dry-rotted and weak. There was no way that we could allow this condition to remain. Finally, coordinating with the General Church Trustees, the IMOC, the Italian Committee, and the contractors, the work was finished. It turned out "amazingly." We could once again hold services in our sturdy old building.

With the physical building finished, God had plans to call additional laborers. Brother Franchesco Oliva, son of our late elder, Salvatore Oliva, was called and ordained into the min-

Continued on page 4

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THE CHURCH IN SAN DEMETRIO, CALABRIA, ITALY

Continued from page 3

istry. In addition, Sister Bombina Buonofiglio, daughter of our late evangelist, Giuseppe Buonofiglio, was ordained a deaconess. With these ordinations, we are now able to keep the church open during the winter when our presiding elder, Brother Gianni Marino, and his wife return to Germany, their home of record, to comply with German retirement laws.

As you may have surmised, we need help to pay off the debt incurred. Our annual operating budget from the General Church Spending Plan is not sufficient to cover this unexpected capital expenditure, so we took out loans with the General Church, with an outstanding balance of US \$50,000, which we are paying



Elder Gianni Marino presides over the San Demetrio, Italy mission.

on monthly through donations. We depend on the donations that come through the HFF to make these payments.

Please help us, and may God bless you generously.

*Brother Alex Gentile,
Brother John DiBattista
Brother Tony Micale* 

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inquiries from our readers:**

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