

HUMANITARIAN

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



Sister Marianna's Baptism

A Promise Kept

by Evangelist Anthony Ricci

In the land of Ecuador in the year 2007, our very first sister was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. A bus was rented to transport our group to the waters site to witness what had not been witnessed in this land for about two thousand years—a minister with the priesthood authority raising his hand saying, “Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.” What a wonderful, wonderful day!

This article is not about that day

or even about our beloved sister that was baptized. It is about a couple who witnessed the baptism on the hill while our people stood by the water's edge rejoicing. We have, along with many of you, seen numerous baptisms, and we have rejoiced—but when this couple saw it—it changed their lives!!

Our friend Jaime was hired to drive his bus and take our people to the baptism. Typically, the bus driver likes to bring his wife along for the ride. This occasion was no different and Jaime's wife Marianna came along for the ride. As is usual for a mission trip, it never works out as easy as is planned—this trip only took about nine hours! Business as usual---so we thought! It was

not until our next trip in February 2008 we found out what happened.

Arriving in Ecuador on a Saturday night—we prayed about the Sunday Church Service. On Sunday—who should walk into our meeting but Jaime. He said his wife was sick or she would have been there also. Jaime is a very quiet man, but he still invited us to come to his home during the week, which we quickly accepted. After a few days of visits to our group—we made the visit to his home.

We found a humble home, a home without all the amenities, but a home filled with the love and hospitality of God. This writer will testify, when coming into this home,

we knew something was different. In this little home at the top of a hill overlooking Quito-- Jaime, Marianna, and their 3 daughters welcomed us. What little they had, they shared with us. Marianna began to tell us how much she loved God and how wonderful He was to her family. She then began to recount the day of the baptism. She said when she saw our Sister come out of the water—she said it was like watching her rise from the dead and she saw such a difference in her. Marianna said she desired to know more about this people and when she heard we were coming back---she had to speak to us. She said she never

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My Testimony

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saw such things. What power in The Church of Jesus Christ! What a powerful, powerful change happens to us when we come forth from the water! Praise to our Risen Christ!

Marianna then began to tell us that twelve years ago a different church came to her home and she gave her life to Christ. There was no doubt this woman loved God, there was no doubt this woman was blessed, but by the inspiration of God, we told her there is a difference between the men in her home now and the ones that were there twelve years ago. We began to open the scriptures and rehearsed to her the power of the Resurrection and the blessed Restoration Story. The Spirit of God filled this little home. Marianna began to weep and asked to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ! Oh how we rejoiced—because the old blessed story is true! We told Marianna to make sure she understood who we were and gave her a Book of Mormon to read with the promise that, when we come back, if the desire was still there we would baptize her. She still had not been to one of our meetings.

Three long months and we finally came back to Quito in May of 2008. All those months did was strengthen the resolve of Marianna. It fueled her desire, and she loved the Gospel more

than when we last saw her. What a privilege this writer had to take our beloved Sister Marianna into the waters of regeneration. To see how Jesus works and find this woman and her family is beyond my level of comprehension. I can only say as Enos did—"How is it done Lord?" The best thing—this is just the beginning!

All this time Jaime said very little. He was happy for his wife, but he just remained silent. He and his children would attend all the meetings and visits, yet he just stayed quiet as he listened to Sister Marianna tell her conversion story. It was the last Thursday before we were to leave and we were in their home for lunch when Marianna began to tell their testimony. She told us ten years ago she and her daughters (now 19, 16, and 10 years old) lost control of a vehicle and began to roll upside down, down the mountain—she said she began to cry to God to spare her life and the lives of her children. She testified how they left the crash unharmed.

She told us four years ago Jaime had a brain aneurysm and was given up for dead. She said in one hospital the doctor already said he was dead. She begged the doctor and begged God to do something. She took him to another hospital where the doctor said he had an aneurysm and, although not dead, would be in a matter of time. She said she began to beg the doctor to do something. She said she told the



Sister Marianna!!


doctor she prayed and God would hear her prayers. He was moved by her faith and said he would treat Jaime. Unbelievably, Jaime was beginning to pull through. He told her because of her faith—Jaime came through. In her humble and meek way, she corrected the doctor and said because her God hears and answers prayers, Jaime came through. It was during this time she made a promise to God. She promised God, if Jaime would come through; she would dedicate her life to serving Him and never forget the poor in Quito-- a promise that touches and reaches lives every year.

As Sister Marianna told us this, we began to realize and told Jaime he was spared all this time—so at this moment, in this home, he would have the chance to come to Christ. We told him the brothers came to Ecuador with no contacts, just led by the Spirit, which is why we were there. We told him there is a reason why we are not in the home down the street, or across town—but in his home. Jaime, the man who says nothing, stood on his feet and said he needed to be baptized! All of sudden this quite man was talkative! He was energized! He was truly set free!! Brother Jaime was baptized the following Saturday.

Let us go back to the promise to never forget the poor in Quito. Every Christmas morning, I am blessed to be with my wife and our three children. We enjoy opening gifts with family, relaxing, and enjoying the blessings of God. On Christmas

Morning--Jaime, Marianna, and their three girls, for the last four years, pass out candy to the poor children in Quito. They spend the months of November and December making little bags of candy and every Dec. 25th at 6:30 in the morning they begin to give to the less fortunate. One thousand families later, yes one thousand families later—at about 6:30pm---they finish. Can you picture this scene as the children receive, maybe the only Christmas gift they will receive? How great is the Love of God—that even before our brother and sister knew The Church—HE knew them! HE preserved them! HE provided for them!

Dear readers, this testimony touched my heart. This family truly has nothing. Yet because of the promise, they look forward to this wonderful event. The Church of Jesus Christ is established in the home of this wonderful family. One thousand families will now see a difference in this family. Imagine, if you would, if we could reach 2,000 or 3,000 homes with this effort.

I only hope dear friends, you could feel a portion of the Spirit that we feel when we fellowship with this wonderful family. I hope that in reading these few words you too would feel what I have felt. I pray that God touches your heart regarding the work in Ecuador and in all of South America and the rest of the world. The work is great. The need is great. We solicit your love, your prayers, and your support. As always—PRAISE TO OUR RISEN SAVIOR AND TO THE WORK! 



Brother Jaime, Sister Marianna, and family

Kenya Land Purchase Request

We have an extremely important need for you to consider for the work of the Lord in Kenya and we are requesting your assistance. There continue to be many blessings, experiences, and miracles in Kenya. One recent experience is as follows: Brother Joseph Nyabuto, an Elder, was involved in a very bad car accident. The vehicles collided head-on on a sharp bend and many people died. Brother Joseph came out of the vehicle without any injuries or problems while the man sitting next to him died later at a hospital. We continue to thank God for His protection upon our Brother's life and for His benevolence.

Background information:

Several months ago, as an aftermath of the Kenya Presidential election, there was an outbreak of violence, rioting, looting, and killing rarely ever seen in this peace-loving nation. As a result, many of the Kenyans living in the larger cities moved into the rural areas in pursuit of peace, security, and stability for their families. Consequently, land in the villages was quickly being purchased in large quantities, causing land prices to skyrocket - more than doubling within a few months.

Impact: This condition has significantly and negatively affected the Kisii province, where most of the Brothers, Sisters, and church buildings are located. As a result, there is an immediate need to purchase the properties (previously leased) where our church buildings are located. To not move quickly and decisively will mean risk losing the church meeting places for most of the 700+ Kenyan saints.

Request: The average purchase price per property is \$3,000 - \$3,500. Can you assist the church and the saints in Kenya by making a donation to help purchase property? The Lord will bless and reward your generosity, love, and concern for your fellow saints.



Saints in Kenya

The church locations needing assistance are Esaka, Ombiri, Matongo, Kenyena, Itibo, Igorera and Bosingi.

We are one family and fold of God, regardless of location, na-

tionality, or ethnic background. Are we willing to mourn with those that mourn and rejoice with those that rejoice, as the scripture requires? Let us translate that loving care and concern into action so that

we can salvage each building and property where the saints in Kenya are currently located.

May God Bless and reward your efforts,

The Kenya Committee 

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

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.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION FUND
P.O. Box 956, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Native American Works	\$ _____
Book of Mormon Translation	\$ _____
Colombia	\$ _____
Dominica	\$ _____
Ghana	\$ _____
Guatemala	\$ _____
India / India Orphans (Please Circle)	\$ _____
Italy	\$ _____
Kenya	\$ _____
Mexico	\$ _____
Muncey / Grand River / Six Nations (Please Circle)	\$ _____
Nepal	\$ _____
New Works	\$ _____
Nigeria	\$ _____
Peru	\$ _____
Philippines	\$ _____
Venezuela	\$ _____
Humanitarian Foundation Fund	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



Church Registration in Rwanda, Africa

The task of obtaining a Registration Certificate to legally operate in a foreign country has become a long process. We must translate our church constitution into the official language of the country and present it to a number of officials who must approve and place the government seal on each page of the document.

The Rwandan government changed their procedure of reviewing registration applications because many of the organizations which applied and received certificates were not fulfilling the constitution - they were exploiting the people for their own gain.

Our Church President in Rwanda, Brother Alexander Rudatsikira, recently met with a Government official and presented our church constitution which outlines the Faith of our church, its operations in being a non-profit

organization, and the intent not only to preach the Restored Gospel and bring souls to the knowledge of Jesus Christ but also our willingness to help and assist the Rwandan people with a Humanitarian Project.

When Brother Alexander notified us of this request, an appeal for prayer was made. The request was to ask God for approval to be granted. Brother Alexander was to present our Church Constitution during many interviews with government officials.

Brothers Alexander, Jean Pierre Habimana, and Damascene Twizeyimana met with a Government Attorney where they signed their names to the constitution as founders of The Church of Jesus Christ in Rwanda. The Government Attorney reviewed, approved, signed, and placed the Government seal on each page of our Church Constitution. We can say with the Rwandan Church membership "Imana Ishimwe" which means Praise God in the Rwandan language.


Brother Alexander must have four additional meetings with other government officials who will review our Church Constitution. If the officials are satisfied with our constitution, they will sign and place the government seal on each page. It is unknown how long this process will take.

God is able to perform His work for the good of His Church in a miraculous way as He has in all periods of time. On behalf of the Africa Sector, the IMOC, and the Rwanda Church membership, please dedicate time in prayer for this cause until we receive notification from the Rwandan Government that the Registration Certificate has been issued to the Church.

The Government officials who issue a Registration Certificate to the Church will monitor that we observe our Church Constitution and put in place a Humanitarian project. Failure to do this will constitute a forfeiture of the right to continue operating in Rwanda.

We need funding to complete the Church Registration and to start a Humanitarian project as we have stated in our Constitution. A contribution in any amount will help us fund these worthwhile causes and will be greatly appreciated.

May God bless each of you and the Church membership throughout the world.

Respectfully,
Evangelists J. Joseph Perri
and Bob McDonnell 

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We invite comments and inquiries from our readers:

**Humanitarian Foundation Fund
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