

HUMANITARIAN

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



SECTION - THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST



Zambia Mission Building

The Zambia Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ

Submitted by
by Evangelist J. Joseph Perri

During 2012 we made a missionary trip to the mission field in Zambia with a specific purpose of dedicating the first newly constructed Church building, ordaining Brother Desmond Silwamba as an Elder, as well as continued training of the officers of the Church. With the rapid growth of the Chillabombwe branch, we were very blessed to be able to construct a beautiful building, a

photo of which is shown above. There were over 400 adults and children in attendance for the ordination and dedication service. Many thanks to all who have donated funds to the Zambia mission. Your continued financial support and prayers are most appreciated.

Below are a few experiences of God's love and healing power, as well as a note of thanks from the President of the Church in Zambia, Brother Malama Chalwe.

- A sister stood before the congregation and told of how God blessed her with a daughter; however the girl was born with a mental problem. She related that she took her daughter to a number of doctors to see if she

could get some help; however the doctors all wanted to put her daughter in an institution for the mentally retarded. Instead she began to take her daughter to witch doctors according to their tribal custom. One day this woman met a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, who invited her to attend a church service. She was invited to "come and see", worship in a church where miracles are performed, and have her daughter anointed by the Elders of the Church. This woman, who eventually was baptized, brought her daughter to church and had her anointed with blessed oil. God heard the plea that was made and healed this girl completely. She is a beautiful girl of about 15

years who bore her testimony to the Honor and Glory of God for the miracle performed in her life.

- A brother who is now the caretaker of the church building in Chillabombwe stood before the congregation and related a great experience. He bore testimony that a few years ago, he was bitten by some kind of insect that paralyzed him, where he could not walk or move his hands or body. He became totally incapacitated and thought he was going to die. He was taken to doctors who said that they could do nothing for him. This man and his family were introduced to Brother Chalwe, who asked if he could

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The Church of Jesus Christ in Maracaibo, Venezuela January 2013

by Brother Donald Ross

Venezuela, also known as "Little Venice," is a land of natural beauty - both in its geography and people. The countryside is breathtaking. The people are humble, soft spoken, and loving.

Unfortunately, the economy is in dire straits and the country has become a land of those who are either wealthy or poor. Food is being rationed; and what is available is extremely expensive. It is sad to witness the transformation in the economy during the past few years.

Despite these hardships, the members of The Church of Jesus Christ in Maracaibo, Venezuela are strong in the faith. The Ministry, Brother Jose Chavez and Brother Angel Chavez are active; preaching and testifying to family, friends, and neighbors. Sister Carolina Chavez, a Deaconess, is constantly telling her female friends and neighbors about The Church. The spiritual activities of our Brothers and Sister have made it possible for US missionaries to visit a number of homes in the vicinity; to introduce themselves and The Church of Jesus Christ.

When Brother Panfilo DiCenzo and I first arrived, we spent a considerable amount of time with Brother Jose, his wife, Sister Carolina, and Brother Angel. Our discussion, as always, centered on their efforts to spread the Restored Gospel and the responsibilities of their offices. Instruction is a necessary and vital part of every missionary trip. The instruction always includes reinforcement of the Faith and Doctrine, the importance of using both The Bible and the Book of Mormon, and encouragement to be bold in telling people about The Church of Jesus Christ - showing the love of God in all their interactions and conversations with their friends, family, and neighbors.

The next day we met in the humble home of Daysi Hernandez and Angel Chavez, parents of Brothers Jose and Angel Chavez. As always, we received a warm and loving welcome. While there, we were advised that a relative was very ill and that the family had requested prayer on her behalf. Immediately, Brothers Jose, Angel, Panfilo, and I went to the hospital. Upon arrival, we found the entire family in the hallway. The doctor was in the room with the patient who was unconscious. Panfilo and I introduced ourselves to the family, who were very gracious and receptive. After the doctor left, we entered the patient's room along with all of the relatives who were there - twelve or so individuals. As we entered the room, the patient regained consciousness.

We then explained the method of anointing to everyone, using James 5: 14-15. The family listened intently to our explanation. Brother Panfilo DiCenzo humbly expressed himself that when we were in the elevator, he was prompted by the Spirit of the Lord to offer prayer prior to the anointing. He offered prayer that the Lord would bless the anointing, and the Brother who would perform the ordinance.

Brother Jose Chavez was encouraged to take the lead and anointing his relative. The reasoning was to emphasize to the family that they have Ministers in their country available to them at all times whether for prayer, counseling, or to answer any of their questions about The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Jose performed the anointing and offered a powerful prayer. When the anointing concluded, I felt prompted by the Spirit of the Lord to gently kiss the ill relative on the cheek and I softly said to her, Dios Bendiga. She responded back to me, Dios Bendiga! The family was stunned. We stayed a while longer, talking to the family. It was obvious they were very pleased, receptive, and thankful for our visit and prayer.

We were told later that afternoon that the ill patient had called the entire family into the room and told them she felt the Spirit of the Lord



Brothers Jose Chavez, Don Ross, and Angel Chavez

as a result of the prayer, that she was at peace with no fear! She began to instruct them how to love and respect one another as family, to be good to one another, to be gracious to one another and to inquire about The Church of Jesus Christ. The family was shocked. A few hours later, she passed away in peace. We truly serve a living God. He answers our prayers.

As a result of this anointing and experience, Mr. Angel Chavez asked that when we return, we visit his family in the village of El Palo. Another relative, Raphael, also from the village of El Palo, asked that we visit him and his family when we turn to Maracaibo. They want us to tell their families about The Church of Jesus Christ. We committed ourselves to visit these families.

The next day we visited Freddie Colina and his wife, Carolina Diaz, friends of the Chavez family. They have three sons: Daniel, Abraham and Isaac. Their son Isaac is autistic. When visiting them in April 2012, we anointed Isaac. We wish to share with you that he has dramatically improved and is far more quiet and relaxed - for which we thank the Lord. Freddie and Carolina were interested in understanding the Church's belief in the Book of Mormon. Much time was spent discussing this subject and our visit was blessed.

We also investigated two community centers in the neighborhood to consider their viability for holding services. Both facilities will need some work to make them acceptable for use. Brothers Jose and Angel will determine the costs to improve the centers and how to contract for their use for Wednesday

and Sunday Services.

Our Sunday Service was blessed and we enjoyed a beautiful Spirit. The communion table was set by Sister Carolina Chavez. Brother Jose Chavez opened the service. He used the Book of Moroni, emphasizing the authority of Jesus Christ and its necessity to preach Jesus Christ and the Restored Gospel. He shared that we do not go to a seminary to become a Minister but are called after the Holy Order of the Son of God, and given the authority by the Lord to preach His Gospel. It was a beautiful service. It is obvious that Brother Jose is a student of the Book of Mormon. The embossed gold lettering on the front cover of his book is practically gone!

Allow me to share with you a question that was posed to me and the comments shared by Brother Jose Chavez, the Presiding Elder in Maracaibo.

He asked, **"Brother Don, who translated the Book of Mormon into Spanish?"** I told him that if my memory served me well, it was done in Peru by Mr. Alberto Garcia. Brother Jose Chavez's response was, **"Brother Don, it is an excellent translation! I followed the entire translation by reading a chapter from the English Book of Mormon and then I would immediately read the same chapter in the Spanish Book of Mormon. I did this process for the entire book! The translation is excellent, Bueno!"**

We thanked the Chavez family for their love and hospitality. As we departed, Mr. Angel Chavez stated, "Our house is your house!" Our trip was blessed. **HF**

Native American Language Preservation

By Evangelist Wayne Martorana & Oklahoma Mission Team

Approximately 600 BC, a righteous and visionary man by the name of Lehi, along with his family, was commanded to leave the city of Jerusalem - for their welfare and safety, since the city was going to be destroyed. They were obedient and departed, fleeing into the wilderness as the first step of God's desire to bring them to a land of promise (the Americas) wherein God had a plan for both them and future generations. However, before departing for the Americas, Lehi was instructed by God in a dream to return to Jerusalem to obtain something very important - plates (records) of brass which contained both a spiritual and a temporal history and promises of their ancestors; which were essential to them and their descendants. They understood, "And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers; And also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets..." (1 Nephi 3: 19-20)

Through God's orchestration of this plan, and Nephi's (one of Lehi's sons) obedience, the seemingly impossible task of obtaining the plates was accomplished. As God's plan developed, the last person standing between Nephi and the plates was Laban, who was delivered into Nephi's hands. Although unusual, Nephi was instructed to kill Laban to obtain the plates, since he would not have relinquished them freely. In retrospect, Nephi understood, "Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring about his righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief." 1 Nephi 4: 12-13

Now, let's fast-forward several

"And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers; And also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets..."

hundred years to Fall 2012 during the latest outreach effort to the Native Americans in the state of Oklahoma.

Unnoticed by most passers-by, there is an old house in a small Oklahoma town that is the meeting place of the world's only living experts of a unique language and culture of one Native American tribe. Something remarkable is happening inside this home (converted to a learning center), as Native speakers of this ancient language are conversing and passing on their vast knowledge to younger learners. We had the wonderful opportunity to experience this interactive learning first-hand and found it to be very effective. Only five tribal elders, who were raised as monolingual

speakers, are living today and, age-wise, they are all in their 80's and 90's. Each of the five elders is gifted in different aspects of the language. Some are more fluid story-tellers, while others are more exact in pronunciation or remember particular uses of a term. They are motivated by a deep sense that they are the last keepers of their ancient language, which will be lost forever, if they do not act quickly to pass it to the next generations.

Each morning the learning center is filled with the fluent speech of both elder and younger language learners. While in the afternoon, there are 30 school-age children and youth who attend the daily afternoon language program. The success of the

program is indicated by the fact that the children are once again speaking their native language, naturally and freely. Some of the younger language instructors for the children are recent college graduates. They note, "There is not an internet search engine that can answer any question about their language." Their language is purely an oral or verbal account, with very little written documentation passed through the generations. The remaining tribal elders are the only resource and serve as living encyclopedias.

Each day, this Native American tribe is in a race against time to glean new treasures from the minds of the elders while they still can. Truly these elders are precious gifts and resources that far exceed any tangible treasure for this tribe.

This is just one specific account of a Native American tribe's heroic language preservation efforts. Virtually each of the 38 federally-recognized tribes in Oklahoma has a similar language preservation project and coordinator. In conclusion, it has been said, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Likewise, "A language is a terrible thing to lose."

Please consider making a donation to the Native American Operating Committee (NAOC) and the Oklahoma Native American work. Your funds are used to share the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who would hear. HF

I would like to donate to the following:

Please fill in the amounts for each work that you want to donate to and return in envelope provided.

Native American Works	\$ _____	Kenya	\$ _____
Book of Mormon Translation	\$ _____	Liberia	\$ _____
Burundi / Rwanda (Please Circle)	\$ _____	Malawi / Mozambique (Please Circle)	\$ _____
Colombia	\$ _____	Mexico	\$ _____
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Guatemala	\$ _____	Peru	\$ _____
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TOTAL \$ _____



The Zambia Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ

Continued from cover

anoint him. He agreed and Brother Chalwe offered a prayer that God would have compassion towards this man and restore him back to health. The great God whom we serve heard the prayer and honored the anointing by healing this man! He and his wife were both baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ.

- Sister Jane Kalinda was unable to move her right arm and shoulder. She was holding it as though it was paralyzed. She requested prayer and was anointed. As soon as the prayer concluded, she rose from her chair and shook hands with the Priest-



Zambia Church Choir

hood using her right hand. When the congregation saw this, they clapped their hands and shouted praises to God for an immediate healing of Sister Jane.

A note of thanks from Brother Chalwe

My message to the Church in America is, please continue to pray for us, that we may keep the promise made the day of our baptism to serve God all of our life, that we will also keep the Gospel pure as it was delivered to us. I also thank you for the support

you have given to us by sending missionaries to visit, teach and encourage us here in Zambia, also for providing funds for us to construct our own church building. My prayer is God will continue giving us courage and the ability to teach the Restored Gospel throughout Zambia and share the same fellowship with other Pastors from different countries. God Bless you. HF

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