

# The Gospel News

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## Native American Outreach Presents Its Goals to the Church's General Priesthood

By Brothers Peter Benyola and Jameson Staley

At General Church Conference on Saturday, October 14, 2006, held at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA, the recently re-organized Native American Outreach presented its goals to the general priesthood. The NAO has been described by the President of the Church as a resource committee to provide more visibility of and to the Native American and First Nation peoples and to solicit involvement and information to stir up the missionary spirit regarding the Seed of Joseph.

The Committee prefaced their presentation by citing II Nephi 29:8, "And when the two nations run together the testimony of the two nations will run together, also." The Committee thanked all those who have persevered in working among the Seed of Joseph these past years. Then they outlined the goals as follows.

The first goal of the NAO is *renewing* the emphasis of taking the Restored Gospel to the House of Joseph, as described in the Scriptures, published in the Church's Faith and Doctrine, written and spoken by

many Apostles, and carried out by many ministers and saints. The second goal is *expanding* the approach to reach as many Native Americans/First Nations as possible in a systematic, coordinated, cohesive, and inspired manner.

The Native American Outreach presents a five-phase approach to accomplish these tasks:

- *Spreading the Seed*—The use of a variety of media.
- *Saints Witnessing*—Giving personal testimonies and attendance at worship services.
- *Nations Running Together-Side By Side*—Native and non-Native members teaming.
- *Discipleship/Mentorship*—Building strong Native American members and leaders.
- *Coordination with the Choice Seer*—II Nephi 3 describes this exciting phase well.

The design for Native American Outreach is a WIN-WIN, success-oriented approach for all members to feel confident that they can contribute in a positive way.

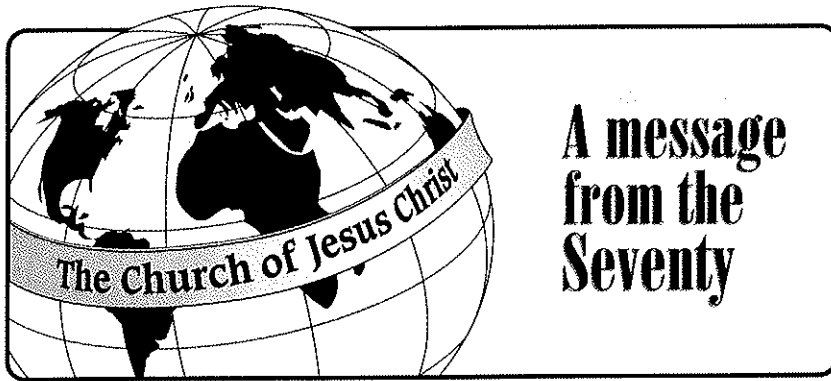
The NAO is responsible for coordinating efforts throughout the

Church in the USA and Canada, and between Regions; public relations and media, including development and publishing of flyers, brochures and pamphlets; publishing articles directed to the saints and a journal directed to Native Americans; creating, maintaining and sharing an information database; gathering and disseminating reports, and creating and maintaining a Church website designed to provide information to the Native Americans.

Saturday evening, the Committee and all other interested members met to discuss plans and goals and next steps. Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. offered the meeting's closing prayer, asking the Lord to bless the Native American work, that the Committee might have success in its mission to spread the Gospel and that the Native American people would accept who they are and reclaim God's promises. As those words were being prayed, the Word of the Lord was spoken, "If you find my people, you will have success." Ending his prayer, Brother Bob recalled the Word of the Lord given to Apostle Isaac Smith in 1976, "Follow my Spirit, and it will lead you to Israel."

The NAO has chosen the first Monday of every month as a day of fasting and prayer for its work. Most importantly, the NAO needs the

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## Missionary Trip to Valle Guanape, Venezuela

*By Brother Richard Nath*

From September 20-25, 2006, Brothers Bob Nicklow, Sr., Frank Palacios, and I traveled to Valle Guanape, Venezuela to encourage and uplift the brothers and sisters there. It was the nineteenth trip made to Venezuela since the work of The Church of Jesus Christ began there in 1996.

Several experiences were had prior to the trip, one of which occurred in the Fort Worth, Texas Branch on August 27. I was able to attend that Sunday and I asked for prayer by the ministry for the upcoming trip. I also asked the Branch to pray for my wife, Tracy, while I was gone, since her biggest fear was that a hurricane would hit while she was home alone in Houston. After the prayer was offered, Brother Robert Gonzalez testified of an experience he had during the prayer. He said that while I was being prayed for, he started to cry and shake. He asked God why this was happening. He then looked up and saw me rise from the chair, with a man in white next to me. The man took my hand in His and said, "Have no fear for you or your wife, for I will be with you." With that, all of us knew that the trip would be a safe and successful one.

A second experience, very similar to the first, was had by Sister Rose Palacios. She was told by one of her natural sisters from the Fort Worth Branch about my request for prayer for the trip and for Tracy. While Sister Rose was praying for

Tracy, the Word of the Lord came forth: "Do not fear, your wife is not alone, I will take care of her and all will turn out well and you will come home safe, saith the Lord." We thank God for these experiences, and the peace and comfort that came with them.

While I had no problems making it to Miami, Florida it was an eventful day of traveling for Brothers Bob and Frank on September 20. Both were delayed in getting to the airport hotel as Brother Bob's plane had to divert to Ft. Myers due to weather, and Brother Frank was involved in a traffic accident on his way from Ft. Lauderdale to Miami. Brother George Katsaras had picked up Brother Frank, and while in route was hit from behind. While Brother Frank was unharmed, Brother George had a lot of pain in his neck and jaw. He was transported to the hospital where he underwent testing for his injuries. It was later found that he required surgery and was released the following Monday. We thank God that He took care of Brother George and his family through his ordeal. While waiting at the hospital with Brother George's sons, Brother Frank anointed a woman with an injured hand. He was then brought to the hotel by Brother Pete Katsaras. By 9:00 p.m., all the brothers were together at the hotel, and after eating, finished the night with a word of prayer.

After awaking early in the

morning, we embarked for Venezuela. Thanks to the Lord, there were no problems traveling to or in the country. Around 3:00 p.m. we arrived in Barcelona and were met by Brother Raul Bicelis and Chicho, the driver of the van that was rented for transport to and from Barcelona. A stop was made at a convenience store in Barcelona for gas and cold drinks. While there, Brothers Bob and Frank anointed a man with throat cancer.

Upon arriving at the Bicelis' home, we were greeted by Sister Alicia and their son Alex, and immediately felt their hospitality and the love of God. After dinner, we sat down with Brother Raul on the front porch and discussed the state of the Mission. We talked about the meetings that would be held during the weekend and the young people. Some of them are showing strong interest in the Restored Gospel. A suggestion was given to Brother Raul that he hold a meeting with them to pose questions to them, or to see if they have any questions for him about the Restored Gospel. The rest of the evening was spent discussing experiences and the things of God.

Friday morning was started with breakfast prepared by Sister Alicia. Then we went to the town of Valle Guanape to get some items for the weekend. While there, we met up with Brother Esnel Calcurian, the other Elder who attends the Mission. All of us went back to the house, and while Brother Raul ran some errands, the rest of us sat on the porch and fellowshipped. Sister Alicia mentioned that sometime in the fall the family will be moving to Caracas for about a year. This will be done so Alex can receive a different treatment for his autism. She said that Brother Raul will be able to come back to the house on weekends, and that she will be able to come with him occasionally.

We then spoke to Brother Esnel about the people of the region. Brother Bob suggested that pamphlets be passed out to the people of the area, giving them information about the Church and a place for their ministerial needs. Brother Bob

noticed that there are only two other churches in a 20 minute radius. He said, "These people will need a minister sometime in their lives, and they need the Lord."

Brother Bob then asked us if we had ever seen an angel before. None of us had, but Brother Bob had; the night before. He said that it did not say anything; it just stood next to his bed. He said he reached out to touch it and his hand went through it, as if it were foam. Before falling back to sleep, Brother Bob felt that was God's way of showing us He was with us during the trip.

At supper, Brother Raul said that while he was running his errands in town, he met a man who was depressed. The man said that his daughter was sick in Barcelona. Brother Raul told him to have faith and trust in the Lord, and his daughter would get better. The man asked for a ride to the clinic in Valle Guanape, so Brother Raul took him there. When they arrived, the girl's doctor in Barcelona called. She was doing better, and the prognosis was that she would continue to improve. The man was given the location of the Mission, and he said he would come in the future.

We took some time after the meal to discuss the goals and objectives of the Mission with Brothers Raul and Esnel; mainly baptisms, marriages, blessings of children, and teaching about parent/child relationships. Sister Alicia, the Mission's Presiding Deaconess and secretary, then had some questions for us. She asked what should be done with any money that is donated locally and how they should donate? These questions were in response to the recent conference call by the Venezuela Field Committee about giving. She was instructed to keep track of the money and record it, and use it for the needs of the Mission. As for giving, the members were instructed to give what they could.

After discussing other Church business with the Mission officers that were present, the rest of the evening was spent in fellowship talking about more experiences and the Church.

A feet washing service was held on Saturday afternoon for the membership with all but one being in attendance. After the opening prayer, the sisters of the Mission offered a beautiful song. Then, Sister Carmen Quiaro and Brother Oscar Lamoos were anointed. Brother Bob then opened the meeting with the first instructions by the Lord to the people of this land; baptism. He reinforced to the congregation that they had done the right thing by being baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ, and had followed the Lord's commandments. Brother Bob continued using the Gospel of John where Christ washed the disciple's feet. Brother Raul, myself, and Brother Frank followed Brother Bob with a few remarks each.

When the feet washing portion of the service began, Brother Oscar began to feel even worse than he had earlier. He had not taken his blood pressure medication for a few days, and it was really starting to affect him. He asked to be anointed again, and he began to feel better and was able to enjoy the ordinance. By the end of the service, he was praising God saying that he felt he was about to die, but the Lord healed him.

A beautiful spirit was had among us during the service. All the sisters testified that they felt a spirit of peace flow over them while they washed feet. For three of them, it was the first time. Closing prayer was offered and we enjoyed a time of fellowship.

During the fellowship time, the ordained officers of the Mission, along with those of us making the trip, approached Sister Fidelia Antonia-Leal about being ordained a Deaconess. She was asked if she had any experiences, and she said yes. She had a dream where she saw the communion table being set by Sisters Alicia and Catalina Quiaro. She asked within herself if there would always only be two Deaconesses. With that, she had the desire to be one. Sister Alicia stated that she had been thinking about the move to Caracas, and the need that would be present for the members in Valle Guanape. So she made it a matter of

prayer, and felt that the Lord put Sister Fidelia on her heart. She then had a dream that Sister Fidelia would be ordained. Neither of the sisters knew about each other's dreams until this point. After hearing these experiences, seeing the need that was present, and after consulting with the Venezuela Field Committee Chairman, the decision was made by the ministry to ordain Sister Fidelia during the Sunday service into the office of a Deaconess.

After the membership was taken home, we sat down with Brother Raul and discussed the Apostles' letters to the Church. Brother Raul was also given the *Welcome Pamphlet* in Spanish to give to any visitors that attend. The flyer suggestion was discussed again, and Brother Raul agreed that it is a good idea. It will continue to be looked into.

Sister Rose Palacios called to see how everyone was doing, and to let them know about a dream that she had received. She said that she saw large white clouds over everyone during the Sunday service, with rays of blessings coming down. It was a nice way to end the day and prepare for the Sabbath.

Prior to the meeting beginning, we were told that Brother Oscar had been taken to the hospital during the night. While it was unclear why, Brothers Raul and Esnel were going to go and anoint him after the missionaries left at the end of the service.

The Sunday Service was begun around 10:00 a.m., with over 70 in attendance. The congregation sang, *There is Power in the Blood*, which was followed by the setting of the communion table by Sister Catalina. After Brother Esnel opened in prayer, the children's choir sang three songs with the young people/adult choir following them with two songs. Then one of the young women who attends regularly, Raibelis, asked if she could read a message that she had written to the congregation and the missionaries. The following is her letter in

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## Trip to Venezuela

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both Spanish and English:

“Buenos Dias queridos hermanos ante todo darle las gracias al señor Jesucristo por permitir que nuestros hermanos esten en este dias compartiendo con nosotros y decirle que ocupan un lugar muy especial en nuestros corazones.

“Tambien inviter a todos los visitantes, amigos presentes a que sigan asistiendo a la iglesia, porque en el mundo no van a encontra un lugar donde tengas una paz y un gozo que quiciera que permaneciera siempr, por ejemplo yo que desde que llege a la iglesia e sentido una paz y una alegria en mi corazon alesta con los hermanos en la iglesia, solo el señor puede dar esa sensacion de plenitude interior porque el mundo solo te ofrece la perdicion.

“Por tal motivo cada persona tiene la oportunidad de recibir un descanso para el alma, solo entrando a un reposo, que es Cristo, recibendolo como su unico Salvador personal, lavando sus pecados en la sangre de Cristo y siendo baustizado en el nombre del señor.

“Aprovechen la oportunidad, decidásen a, que cuano se cierran las puertas se terminan las oportuñades el tiempo pasa, solo le puedo decir que no se van a equivocar si reciben al señor porque es le major camino que podemos seguir, se que no es facil transitar por el, pero teniendo lo importante: la fe, el amor de dios y las constancia todo se puede persevermos hasta el fin y mantengamos la fe viva y forlalecidad asi que nunca desmaye tu fe.”

“Good morning beloved brothers. Before anything else, I want to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for permitting our brothers to share this day with us and tell them they hold a special place in our hearts.

“Also [I want] to invite all the visitors and friends that are present to continue coming to church; because in the world you will not find a place where you will have peace and joy, which you always want to remain. For example, since I arrived I have felt a

peace and happiness in my heart to be with the brothers in the Church. Only the Lord can give that sensation of inner fullness of joy because the world can only offer ruin.

“For this reason each person has the opportunity to receive rest for the soul only entering the rest, which is Christ, receiving Him as your only personal Savior, washing your sins in the blood of Christ and be baptized in the name of the Lord.

“Take this opportunity to make a decision because time passes and when the doors close the opportunity ends. I can only tell you, you are not making a mistake if you receive the Lord. It is the best road you can take. I know it is not easy to walk with Him, but having the most important: faith, the love of God and the certainty all can persevere until the end and keep the faith alive and strong so that your faith will never faint.”

Needless to say, you could feel the Spirit of God in her testimony. Brother Bob then opened the preaching portion of the service, stating that Raibelis had given the inspiration that she had, and now he would give the Word of God. Brother Bob used the Parable of the Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24). He said man has made many great suppers, for fellowship and for nourishment. At this particular time the lord of the house sent his servant out to invite people to the feast, to let them know that the dinner was ready and to come and eat. The people that were invited made excuses, and said they could not come. “Three people visited, three excuses,” Brother Bob said. The servant went back to his lord and told him what happened. The lord was upset that all the work would be for naught. He told the servant to go out and get the poor and the sick. The servant did so, and brought them all in; old, young, poor, and ill. Society calls them outcasts, but they came and ate. There was still room at the supper, so the lord sent the servant back out again to get more. However, he told him NOT to invite again those that had already said no.

Brother Bob said that God has the invitation out all over the world, and that the food in the story is the

Word of God. He said that he was thankful to see everyone who was in attendance, and that he, along with the rest of the ministry, were the servants. He said that the Word tells you how to live. He continued by saying that Christ has prepared a place for us to go after death, to enjoy eternity. The only way to get there is to believe and listen to Him. There is a pattern to be followed, no matter what age we are. God has a place for all that is worthy of it. There is no greater reward than the Kingdom of Heaven. However, there is another side as well. Damnation will come to those who do not listen to the Word of God. Brother Bob finished by telling the congregation to listen to the local ministry and what they say. He encouraged them to find the Lord and listen to Him. He will visit in multiple ways.

Brother Bob was then followed by myself and Brothers Raul and Esnel. Then the ministry was given the opportunity to bless two little children. Brother Bob blessed Daniel Alfonso Quiaro, while Brother Frank blessed Yeilis Andreina Quiaro.

After the blessings, the congregation was given the opportunity to come forward for prayer or anointing. Sister Carmen Lamoos and Brother Esnel's son, Renoldi, were both anointed for afflictions that they had. While Brother Raul was speaking, a young girl fainted due to the heat. Brother Frank anointed the girl and she revived. After the anointings, the communion portion of the service was conducted with Brother Raul officiating.

Upon finishing with communion, it was time to ordain Sister Fidelia into the office of a Deaconess. Brother Bob read the duties of a Deaconess to the congregation, and asked Sister Fidelia to come forward. Her feet were washed to set her apart by Sister Alicia. Then Brother Bob explained that the ministry kneels first before ordaining, to ask God to show who should ordain her. After the prayer was offered, Brother Bob ordained Sister Fidelia.

We missionaries were then asked to give a few closing remarks. All of

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As we begin the new year of 2007, God's people continue to patiently wait, and keep the hope alive for a breakthrough to a better day upon this land and throughout the world. To do this, we must immerse ourselves in the basic truths of the Restoration, and remind ourselves of our purpose, and the purpose of The Church of Jesus Christ in these, the very last of days.

*"And it came to pass that I saw among the nations of the Gentiles the foundation of a great church. And the angel said unto me: Behold the foundation of a church which is most abominable above all other churches, which slayeth the saints of God, yea, and tortureth them and bind them down, and yoketh them with a yoke of iron, and bringeth them down into captivity. And it came to pass that I beheld this great and abominable church; and I saw the devil that he was the foundation of it" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:4-6).*

Long before the Pilgrims came to America for religious freedom, a wicked church rose up, from which they wanted to escape; thus the reason God brought them to America, the Promised Land.

*"And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my bretheren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my bretheren, who were in the promised land" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:12).*

This man is probably Christopher Columbus who discovered the Promised Land, and uncovered a people who were already here, who he called Indians. They were actually the descendents of Joseph, one of the sons of Jacob, or Israel, who were separated from their brothers (the Jews and the other 10 tribes of Israel). They too came to the Promised Land years before, since God had promised this land for them.

*"And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:19).*

The Revolutionary War was won by these Pilgrims or Gentiles, through the power of God. Because they wanted to serve God in truth, He was with them. The United States became the most powerful country in the world, even to this day, because of God's blessings upon it. But the devil was busy...

*"Wherefore, thou seeest that after the book hath gone forth through the hands of the great and abominable church, that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book, which is the book of the Lamb of God" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:28).*

This "book," or the Bible, had many plain and precious things removed by that great and abominable church which managed to influence the Gentiles who had come to America. Confusion set in. Numerous churches developed because of the different opinions on scripture, and without those plain and precious things, there was no way to say which church was right and which was wrong. As a result there are thousands of churches today.

*"...I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them, in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious" (1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 13:34).*

If you read this whole scripture, you will see that those plain and precious things were given back to mankind, by God, through The Book of Mormon. One Church emerged again—The Church of Jesus Christ in 1830. It stands today.

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# The Children's Corner

By Sister Jan Bork



Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you ever look at someone else who is having an adventure, trying something new, or working really hard to learn something and wonder "Why can't I do that?" Did you ever start to think about trying to be better or braver than you really are and then stop yourself because of your fears?

In church one Sunday, our minister, Brother Dino DiMelis, told us three powerful words to ask ourselves when we want to know what to do to change. The words to ask yourself are "Why not me?"

Think about it, why can't you try to do something new? The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." That means, with prayer and effort you CAN learn and be better and braver.

Brother Dino said that these three words are the words David in the Bible lived by when he went to fight the huge giant Goliath. Everyone was afraid. This huge soldier, Goliath, was walking back and forth mocking God's people of Israel. He challenged everyone to come and fight him.

David was mad that this bad man was saying wrong things about God. He went to King Saul and said, "God saved me when a bear attacked my sheep. God saved me from wolves. God will save me now."

David's brothers tried to talk him out of trying to go and fight, but David loved and served God. When he saw that no one else was stepping up to fight for God, he volunteered! He was physically just a boy, but God could work with him to kill the evil giant.

When Esther was chosen to be the new Queen of Persia, her husband

had strict rules about never coming into his throne room unless you were invited. He had divorced his first wife who had displeased him. Days and weeks went by in the great palace when Esther never saw her busy husband.

But one day, bad news came to her from her Uncle Mordecai. A powerful man named Haman hated all Jews. He had talked the King into signing a law to murder all the Jews in the land and take their money and property. Haman especially hated Esther's Uncle Mordecai for not admiring him. Haman did not realize that Queen Esther was related to Mordecai and was also Jewish.

There was only one thing to do. Some brave person had to go unto the King and talk him out of letting Haman's armies kill all the Jews. Some brave person had to say to himself, "Why not me?" Mordecai told Esther she must be the one.

She hesitated at first and reminded her uncle that anyone who came into the King's inner chambers would be put to death unless the King raised his scepter, and Mordecai told her, "Don't think that you will escape. If you try to hide and save yourself, God will send someone else to save the Jews and you will die. Maybe this is the reason God has put you in the royal palace."

Esther answered, "I and my friends will fast and pray for three days. Ask the Jews in the city to also fast and pray for three days and nights. I will go. If I perish [die], then I perish."

Esther was willing to change and risk her life for the Lord. She dressed in her most beautiful clothes and went

into the King's part of the palace. God had touched his heart and the King was very pleased to see Esther. He listened to her plea as she begged him not to let the Jews be killed. The King listened. He ordered wicked Haman to be killed and changed the law telling people to kill the Jews. Esther saved her people by praying to God and asking herself the three powerful words, "Why NOT me?"

We can change our lives just like Queen Esther and David. All we have to do is pray and praise God and think about God's question, "Why not me?" Who knows what new friends you will

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## WORD SEARCH

PHILIPPIANS	STRENGTHENS
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Missionary  
Benevolent  
Association

## Midwest Area MBA Visits Great Lakes Region

On this past Labor Day weekend things could not have been easier when a handful of saints from the Midwest Area MBA set off to the Great Lakes Region. Hours before the rising sun, the saints began their journey from the vast fields of Ohio to the mesmeric sights of Niagara Falls. They spent some time there, but soon set off to their true destination, the Muncey Reservation in Ontario, Canada.

This trip had been planned

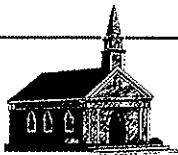
previously with one main objective in mind, and that was to have some of the Midwest Choir members present a shortened version of the past area program *Joseph*. Many tears were shed as the choir sang the *Songs of Zion* and talked about the blessing of Joseph of Old and the wonderful promise for Joseph of the Latter Days.

Brother John Genaro had the opportunity to address the congregation and with much liberty did expound unto them the future promises of peace that God has made with His people, and further reminded them of the covenant that God made to His people, the House of Israel. Later the meeting ended and the saints had the opportunity to fellowship and relax.

The Sunday meeting was filled with many blessings as Brother Brandon Miller explained how we fight a battle that we cannot see, and it affects a large part of our daily lives, but there is victory through Jesus

Christ and we are given the ability to win that battle. Soon after the meeting ended the saints filled the vans and headed down to Detroit for a night meeting. The Midwest Choir sang a few selections and other groups were able to sing special songs. The whole meeting was dedicated to praising God and being together.

Monday afternoon we gathered together for a picnic—the perfect way to end a great weekend. The grill was fired up and all sorts of sports were being played while the saints gathered once again to make new friends and reminisce with friends of old. It seems that the main objective had been achieved by presenting the program on the Muncey Reservation, but there were many great blessings that were had by all as a result of this awesome weekend. Like always, God was good to His people and blessed them with the opportunity to fellowship, and for this we thank and praise Him.



Branch and  
Mission News

## Miami-Dade, FL

By Sister Betty Gennaro

Sunday September 10, 2006 was a day of blessings for the Miami-Dade, Florida Mission. The meeting was opened by singing #143 in *The Songs of Zion, Hold On I Am Coming*.

Brothers Miguel Bicelis and Justin Severson had just returned from missionary work in Peru. Brother Justin spoke on the blessings received there. A wild branch is grafted in and it bears the same fruit. They witnessed this in Arequipa, Peru. The same fruit can be produced to have the beautiful testimonies, love for the Gospel and the same love that we feel for one another here. They felt the same spirit as if they were in conference.

The Commission has been given to The Church of Jesus Christ to spread the Gospel. With natural eyes

we saw beautiful mountains, cool weather, and six million people in Lima, Peru. How great is the harvest, but we see a remnant. The work to the natural man is overwhelming. Jacob 2:25, "I have led this people forth out of the land of Jerusalem, by the power of mine arm, that I might raise up unto me a righteous branch from the fruit of the loins of Joseph." 2 Nephi 30:15, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

We believe in the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church has been established to go out among the world. The fullness of redemption can be brought through Jesus Christ. If men would increase their faith, the things of God would be better for them. It was faith that was necessary to travel the distance. Jesus came and now you can walk with Him and it's possible through the fullness of faith, as men and women are incomplete. The fullness of God through the Holy Spirit is available to you. Take on a fuller faith and believe that the things that were before Nephi are in The

Church of Jesus Christ today, as He brought it upon this land. All people are subject to the Gospel as He gave His Son for the whole world. It is God's desire that the fullness of knowledge of Jesus Christ would take over the land. It is our desire to be among the fullness of righteousness and Jesus Christ as our example. The small remnant has become the fullness of the Gospel today. We cannot step down from that belief. The sons of Mosiah brought thousands to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Through this remnant will be the fullness of Jesus Christ. They abhorred sin and through that, prophecy and revelations were with them. Let us have that faith that brings them through today. Brother Nick Ritz, through his faith, was brought to that day of Zion, as he quoted the scriptures all the time. May our faith bring us to that day.

Brother Miguel spoke of the jewels before God's table. We come to The Church of Jesus Christ because we want to find the fullness of the Gospel. What the world has won't

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**Miami-Dade, FL**

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satisfy us. There has to be a desire for it to work; faith, diligence and heeding to the words of Christ. 2 Nephi 30:2, "As many of the Gentiles as will repent are the covenant people of the Lord: for the Lord covenanteth with none save it be with them that repent and believe in His Son, who is the Holy One of Israel." Every day we have a choice, will I serve God? Be ye reconciled to Christ and continue in the path until the end of the days of probation.

Roberto Gonzales and Miriam Nunez brought their son, Alexander Enrique Gonzales, forward to be blessed by Brother Justin Severeson. The meeting was closed by singing the beautiful *Song of Zion, If Ye Be Willing*.

**Homecoming and Open House in Gastonia, NC**

By Sister Connie Rossi

As part of our "Lets Grow Program," the Gastonia Branch celebrated their first Homecoming and Open House on November 12, 2006. We invited friends, family and past members of the branch to join us in a day of fellowship and worship. We were blessed to have a total of 25 people attending.

We started the morning with our regular Sunday School service. Brother Chris DeRoo taught a lesson on the importance and significance of taking an oath whether it be in our everyday lives or in our spiritual walk with the Lord. We are bound to these oaths as long as they last and must take responsibility for fulfilling them.

After Sunday School our regular church meeting took a slightly different course of action. Brother George Kovacic conducted this portion of the service by giving a brief history and the origin of the Gastonia Branch. Many of the original members are still with us today; namely, Brother Sam and Sister Vera Jackman, Brother

Jonathan and Sister Virginia Molinatto, Brother Bill and Sister Flo LaRosa and Brother Darrell Rossi. These brothers and sisters stood and gave their testimonies of how they met each other, came into The Church of Jesus Christ and how they came to attend the Gastonia Branch as well as how the Lord has blessed their lives over the years.

Afterwards the rest of the congregation stood to their feet and gave their personal testimonies, also. It was truly a blessing to hear these testimonies and how the Lord has worked so differently in each of our lives to bring us all together in one place but all having one common factor—the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After the morning meeting was concluded, Brother Joe Catone was closing in prayer and a message from

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"Thus saith the Lord,  
This is my house and all  
are welcome."

---

the Lord was given by Sister Jill Kovacic saying, "Thus saith the Lord, This is my house and all are welcome." We give thanks to our heavenly Father for His presence, for His word and for acknowledging His people.

After the morning service ended we all enjoyed a beautiful and delicious luncheon prepared by the sisters of the branch and continued our fellowship one with another. As we gathered together to partake of the food and of each other's company, we could feel the presence of the Lord among us and it truly was a blessed day. We thank the Lord for all He has done for us here in Gastonia and how He has increased our numbers. We continue to look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us as we go forward with the Gospel and hold fast onto the vision we have for the Lord's Church here in Gastonia, NC. After this wonderful day we all enjoyed, we look forward to our next Homecoming and Open House and, as the Lord spoke those words, "All Are Welcome."

**Trip to Venezuela**

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us said that we had a wonderful time, and would be back. The meeting was closed by singing *America* with Brother Raul closing in prayer.

Everyone stayed afterward for a short time to fellowship. Candy and toys that were brought with us were passed out to the children. Several other items were brought as well, and will be passed out as needed by Sister Alicia. They even have enough to give out at Christmas.

Unfortunately, the time for us to say goodbye came too soon. The van was loaded up, and a few of the members who live along the way were then dropped off at their homes. We arrived at the hotel in Barcelona during the mid-afternoon, and after a restful night's sleep, we returned to the United States safe and sound.

It can be safely said that the trip was a great one. The Spirit of God was definitely with us, as can be seen by the experiences that were had both before and during the trip. We had great discussions, and I think that the local members felt that they are well supported. There is great potential in the area around Valle Guanape and Navarro County. As Brother Bob pointed out, there are only two other churches within a twenty minute radius of the Mission. It is our hope and prayer that God will guide and direct both the local ministry and the Venezuela Field Committee in taking the Restored Gospel out to the local area, and the rest of the country.

**Happy  
New Year**

to all our readers.



## The Church of Jesus Christ Scriptural References

### Mankind Redeemed from Adam's Sin

John 1:2	Jesus atoned for the sin of the world
1 Tim 2:4-6	Jesus gave Himself a ransom for all
Rom 5:6-19	Free gift came upon all men
1 Cor 15:21-23	In Christ shall all be made alive
John 5:23,29	All in their graves shall come forth
Acts 24:14-15	Resurrection of the just and the unjust
Alma 42	The Lord made an atonement
2 Nep 9:25-26	Jesus Christ made the atonement

### Mankind Saved by Obedience to the Gospel

Matt 7:21-29	Whosoever heareth these sayings and doeth
Acts 10:34	God is no respecter of persons
2 Peter 3:9	Lord not slack concerning His promise
Heb 5:9	Eternal salvation to all that obey
Mark 16:15-16	He that believeth not shall be damned
1 Tim 4:10	Saviour of all men, especially believers
Acts 13:26	Word of salvation sent to those who fear God
John 3:15	Whosoever believeth shall have eternal life
Moroni 10:3-34	The Lord will reveal to the obedient that these things are true

### Name of the Church

Eph 5:23-24	As wife takes husband's name, so Church takes Saviour's name, Jesus Christ
Acts 4:10-12	None other name under heaven given
Col 1:18	He (Christ) head of the body – the Church
Eph 1:22	God gave him (Christ) to be the head
1 Nep 14:10-18	Church of the Lamb (Christ) and its members called saints
3 Nep 27:9-12	Ye shall call the Church in My name

### Members Called Saints

Eph 4:12	For the perfecting of the saints
1 Cor 14:33	In all churches of the saints
Rom 1:7	Beloved of God called to be saints
Acts 9:13	Evil he hath done thy saints at Jerusalem
Phil 1:1	Saints at Phillipi with bishops and deacons
Rev 15:3	Thou King of saints
2 Thess 1:7-10	Members of Christ's Church to be called "saints" at His second coming

### Officers in the Church

Luke 6:13	He chose twelve whom He names Apostles
Eph 2:19-22	Jesus Christ chief cornerstone
1 Cor 12:27-31	God set in Church apostles, then prophets
Eph 4:11-14	For work of the ministry until all are united

2 Tim 4:5	Do the work of an evangelist
Heb 5:1	High Priest taken from among men*
Luke 10:1	Lord appointed other seventy also
Phil 1:1	With the bishops and deacons
1 Peter 5:1	The elders which are among you
Acts 14:23	Ordained them elders in every church
Luke 1:5	A certain priest named Zacharias*
Acts 13:1	Certain prophets and teachers in the Church
3 Nep 11:21-22	Twelve disciples chosen
3 Nep 12:1-2	Twelve disciples chosen
4 Nep 1:14	Other disciples chosen

\* These were before Christ's time, and priests are not ordained in The Church of Jesus Christ. Jesus was that last High Priest.

### Sincerity of Belief Not Enough

Matt 15:8-9	In vain do they worship Me
Acts 26:9-12	Paul sincere when fighting the Church
Matt 27:25	Jews sincere in crucifying Christ
Rom 10:1-4	Zeal of God, but not according to knowledge
Jas 2:19	Devils also believe and tremble
Matt 7:21	Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord
John 16:2-3	Will kill you and think they serve the Lord

### Faith and Works

John 14:15	If ye love Me, keep My commandments
Rom 2:13	The doers of the law shall be justified
Luke 6:46-49	Whosoever cometh to Me, doeth My sayings
Jas 1:22-25	Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only
Jas 2:14-26	Faith with works is dead
1 John 2:3-4	We know Him if we keep His commandments
Rev 20:12	Judged according to their works
Matt 16:27	Shall reward every man according to his works
Tit 3:8	Be careful to maintain good works
Moroni 7:5	To last, obedience necessary

### Repentance

Mark 1:14-15	Jesus said, repent and believe the Gospel
Acts 17:30	Commandeth all men everywhere to repent
Luke 24:47-48	Repentance preached in Christ's name
Matt 9:13	Came to call sinners to repentance

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## Scriptural References

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- 1 John 1:8-10 If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves
- Acts 2:38 Repent every one of you
- Eph 4:25-32 Sins to be repented of – “Wherefore putting away”
- 1 Cor 7:10 Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation
- Isa 55:6-7 Let the wicked forsake his way
- 2 Pet 3:9 Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance
- Alma 34:30 Come forth and bring fruit unto repentance
- 2 Nep 31:11 The Father said, repent ye, repent ye
- 3 Nep 11:32 The Father commandeth all men, every where, to repent
- 3 Nep 11:37-38 The Lord commanded “Ye must repent” and become as a little child (childlike not childish)
- 3 Nep 20:20 Except they repent it (the sword of justice) shall fall upon them
- Moroni 8:8-26 To whom law of repentance applies

### Baptism Essential to Salvation

- Matt 3:15 Becometh us to fulfill all righteousness
- John 14:12 The works I do, shall ye do also
- Luke 7:29-30 The counsel of God – “Justified God, being baptized”
- Matt 28:19 Apostles commanded to teach baptism
- Acts 2:38 Be baptized every one of you
- Acts 10:6, 47-48 And He commanded them to be baptized
- Acts 22:101-6 Paul commanded to be baptized
- John 3:5 Except a man be born of water and of the spirit
- Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved
- 2 Nep 31 The way of salvation (study entire chapter – Nephi instructed by the Father and the Son: instruction includes baptism)
- 2 Nep 31:17 Do the things that I have told you that your Lord and Redeemer should do; shown to me that ye should know the gate by which ye enter; the gate is repentance and baptism
- Alma 9:27 Cometh to redeem those who will be baptized unto repentance
- 3 Nep 7:24-26 None brought unto repentance who were not baptized with water; baptism a witness and testimony of repentance and remission of sins
- 3 Nep 11:33-34 Whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, shall be saved; whoso believeth not in me and is not baptized, shall be damned
- 3 Nep 23:5 “Whosoever hearken unto my words and

repenteth and is baptized, the same shall be saved. Search the prophets, they testified of these things.” (The Lord spoke these words!)

### Object of Baptism

- Luke 3:3 Baptism for the remission of sins
- Mark 1:4 Baptism for the remission of sins
- Acts 2:38 Baptism for the remission of sins
- Acts 22:16 Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins
- Rom 6:5-6 Sin destroyed (forgiven) by baptism
- Acts 2:41 Believers made members of the Church by baptism
- Gal 3:27 Only way to put on Christ (by baptism)
- 2 Nep 31:13 Take upon you the name of Christ by baptism
- 2 Nep 31:17 The gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism
- Moroni 8:11 Baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling the commandments unto the remission of sins

### Immersion the Mode of Baptism

- Col 2:1 Compared to burial of Christ—“Buried with Him in baptism”
- Rom 6:4-5 Compared to burial, resurrection and planting
- Matt 3:16 Jesus came up out of the water
- John 3:5, 23 Much water needed—“And John was baptizing”
- Acts 8:38-39 They went down both into the water
- 1 Pet 3:20-21 Flood cover all, eight saved by water, “the like figure” (baptism)
- 1 Cor 10:1-2 Baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea
- Mosiah 18:14 Both Alma and Helam were buried in the water (baptized)
- Mosiah 25:18 Alma did go forth into the water and he did baptize them as he did his brethren in the waters of Mormon
- 3 Nep 11:26 Then shall ye immerse them (the Lord’s instructions)

### Infants Need No Baptism

- Mark 10:13-15 Of such is the kingdom of heaven
- Matt 28:18-19 Go and teach all nations
- Mark 16:16 He that believeth (infants cannot believe; innocent)
- Acts 2:38 Must repent before baptism (infants cannot repent, no understanding of need for baptism)
- Acts 8:12 Men and women baptized; no children
- 1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive
- Rev 20:12 All judged according to their works (chil-

Mosiah 3:21 dren have no works)  
None blameless before God except little children (baptism not needed for little children; they are innocent)

Moroni 8 Whole chapter refers to infant baptism; no need; it is a sin

**Blessing of Children**

Matt 19:13-15 There were brought unto Him, little children; that He put His hands on them and pray; He laid His hands on them, and

Mark 10:13-16 departed thence  
They brought young children to Him; "Suffer little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of God;" He took them up in His arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Moroni 8:10-12 Teach repentance and baptism to those accountable and capable of committing sin; little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Little children are alive in Christ.

(To be continued next month)

**Native American Outreach**

Continued from Page 1

prayers of the saints. Jeremiah 33:14 reads, "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel." The NAO says, "It's a great work. It's a great time to get involved."

Brothers and sisters do not need to wait for an experience to know that the Lord wants them to enlist in His missionary forces going forth among His covenanted people. The divine calling takes place when one reads the Holy Scriptures and understands the plan laid out and the tasks commanded. Saints can learn about the needs of the Committee by visiting the link "How Can I Get Involved?" at the home page of [www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com](http://www.thechurchofjesuschrist.com).

If that doesn't describe The Church of Jesus Christ today, I don't know what does! I will continue this Editorial next month. Keep reading!

**The Children's Corner**

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make, or what interesting places you may go. You will be safe if you first pray, then ask God and listen to His answers when you quietly think, "Why NOT me?" Remind yourself again of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Have an amazing New Year.

With Love,  
Your friend, Sister Jan

The songbirds sing to greet the rising day;  
The cattle eat the new mown hay this morning,  
The desert blooms, it blooms again they say.  
The desert blooms, it blooms again they say.

The God of Israel moved His arm this morning,  
And touched the broken bones where long they lay;  
He brought to life His chosen ones this morning,  
The desert sings and blooms with joy today.  
The desert sings and blooms with joy today.

The solitary place is glad this morning,  
The rivers reached the barren land they say;  
And all the land sings praise to God this morning,  
The lovely desert rose has bloomed today.  
The lovely desert rose has bloomed today.

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**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

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**Editorial Viewpoint**

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*"And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon the face of the earth; and their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw" (1st Nephi 14:12).*

**New Songs of Zion**

**#139 The Desert Bloomed**

The desert bloomed just like a rose this morning,  
And life has sprung anew at last today;  
The long dark nights have fled away this morning,  
And showers fill the early dawn they say.  
And showers fill the early dawn they say.

There's water in the wilderness this morning,