

Conference Council Reports

Table of Contents

Education	2
Stewardship	4
Women's	5
Youth	6
Coordinating Council	9
South East Asia and Australia Missions (SEAAM)	11
Snapshot of Africa	13
African Restoration Ministries (ARM)-East Africa Report	14
Latin American Missions Board (LAMB)	19



Education Council Report

At the April 2007 Conference the council elected the following members for the 2007-2008 year:

- Jim Vun Cannon, Chairman (816) 795-9540
- Joan Vun Cannon, VC (816) 836-3259
- Helen Brotherton (816) 690-3646
- Christina Easter (816) 732-6883
- Cathlene Greer (816) 833-0209
- Kathy Kline (816) 356-6889
- Stephanie Hasselman (816) 255-6980
- Glenn Scott as an Honorary Member*

We as a council are still focused on our Goals (from 2002).

1. Promote standardization of church school in all branches.
2. Publish standardized curriculum for church school grades K to Senior High (Quarterlies Course C).
3. Publish Older Youth, Young Adult and Adult Quarterlies.
4. Make all materials available in electronic format (PDF) via the Elder Conference website.
5. Create a channel of communication between branches for needs in Church School Ministry and provide for continuous improvement.

Kathy Kline has been working on a Pre-Kindergarten Supplement with pictures to illustrate Scriptures lessons. Thus far she has completed the Pre-Kindergarten Teachers' Supplement prototype based on the Kindergarten B4 manual. We would also like to replace all of the covers done by outside commercial sources on our quarterlies and supplements to those done by Restoration Artists. We have some artists working on these, but due to lack of funding it may take quite some time for these to be replaced.

Projects we have not done during the past year due to insufficient funds are:

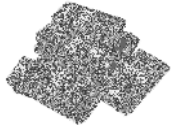
- The Junior and Junior High Supplements that will contain word games and puzzles for those age groups for all three years.
- The remaining three quarterlies in the "Comparative Religions," series that outlines what other Christian religions and non-Christian religions such as Buddhism and the Islamic faith believe.
- The Audio CDs featuring the New Testament as read by Harold Whitehead. In addition, we have not published the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament and the Doctrine and Covenants on CD's.
- The revised Restoration Church School Catalog with updates on the curriculum for church history and most especially our quarterlies for Senior Highs based on "Voices from the Dust" by Glenn A. Scott.
- A brochure to give to Conference visitors and send to branches world wide that will explain in a short form what we are doing and how our work can help the church build the kingdom.

Due to budget constraints, we have been limited to reproducing only those materials that we have income for from previous sales during the past year. The only exception has been a one time purchase of equipment to continue making the CD's. We have received one donation of \$200.

* Brother Scott declined this election for personal reasons.

Education Council Financial Statement
2007-2008

INCOME		3789.14
Book of Mormon Cassettes	35.95	
Book of Mormon CD's	1896.69	
Kits	915.00	
Quarterlies	674.00	
Stewardship Books	6.00	
Donation	200.00	
Book of Mormon (HH)	35.00	
Promotion Certificates	10.50	
Maps	16.00	
EXPENSES		
Book of Mormon CD Equip.	918.67	
Book of Mormon CD Materials	1233.03	
Book of Mormon Covers 7 Booklets	40.75	
Kit Materials	97.38	
Postage	190.32	
Quarterlies Printed	837.25	
Book of Mormon Maps	61.60	
		3379.00
		410.14



Stewardship Council Report 2007

The past year of 2007 has been a busy one for the Stewardship Council, with opportunities to become involved in several stewardship projects on behalf of our African brothers and sisters.

Our most notable project has been working through Storehouse Ministries of ZION to bring to fruition a project for sending a 40-foot shipping container of food packets to needy children in the Future Hope Orphanage in Liberia. Beyond orphanage needs, the balance of these individually pre-packaged, nutritionally complete soy-rice meals will be distributed, by the Church of Jesus Christ, Liberia Restoration Branches, to Restoration Schools in Buchanan, Zoewulum and Teah Town, as well as the school where the Monrovia Restoration Branch meets, and the public school in Gardour's Town.

We are also working through Storehouse Ministries of ZION on several financial assistance projects in Africa designed to promote and enable several of our African saints in working out their own self-supporting stewardships according to the principles of our Lord's doctrine of temporalities. Among these projects are a \$5000.00 donation to assist one brother with his stewardship in expanding his poultry business in Umuahia. The aim being creating self-reliance as well as paying back into their own local storehouse programs to assist other African saints in understanding and developing their own stewardships — the ultimate goal being, as implicit in D&C Section 106 and related revelations, *to make stewards of all saints*.

We have also been privileged to have a part, again under the auspices of Storehouse Ministries of ZION, in assisting brothers and sisters in Abuja to purchase land on which they can build a church, the place where they have currently been meeting soon to be no longer available to them. Funds for the Abuja land project (which also affords potential space to raise food), the above-mentioned poultry project and similar projects yet in the planning stage, have been made available through the generous contributions of many Restoration saints here in the United States.

Please do not suppose that we want to focus solely on African churches in contributing financial and other stewardship resources. It has simply been the case so far that some of our missionary elders in ARM have led the way in establishing and promoting this sort of ministry in Africa. It is the desire and hope of this Stewardship Council to meet with missionary elders in all the foreign ministry councils to discuss establishing this sort of temporal outreach in any country where there is need.

To support the ministry of spreading the gospel into all nations may go forward — through fielding more missionaries, the sharing of resources with those less fortunate through such projects as described here, as well as funding *Tidings of ZION* and other church educational materials — we encourage all Restoration saints who loyally support the Conference of Restoration Elders to make an accounting of their stewardship before God and send in their tithes and offerings. Stewardship Accounting books for both adults and children are always available at the Elders Resource Office, 500 N. Union, Independence, Missouri, 64050, located on the southeast corner of the Center Place Restoration School property. To write or call us: P.O. Box 4085, Independence, MO 64051; phone: (816) 836-3421 or (877) 748-8947.

Respectfully, a brother in Christ,

Timothy Johns



Restoration Women's Council

The Restoration Women's Council theme for 2007 was *The Joy That Is Set Before Us*. The quarterly themes were: *The Joy of a Steadfast Faith; The Joy of Repentance, Forgiveness, Sacrifice and Fruit; The Joy of Our Blessings; and Called to Proclaim Tidings of Great Joy*.

During the spring Conference, women's classes were taught by Pat Chadwick and Sylvia Powell. Mildred Smith and Helen Brotherton participated in a panel discussion with the women.

The annual Women's Leaders' Reception was held September 15 at the Missionary Restoration Branch. Women's leaders and their assistants came together and shared programs and activities that worked well in their Branches. Bonnee Stafford from Ava, Missouri, was our guest speaker and inspired and challenged us as she related how their small Branch, through dedication, prayer and hard work, made a marked difference in their community and on the other side of the world. After the program, the council served a luncheon. The purpose of this annual activity is to bring encouragement and to show appreciation for the women's leaders' service.

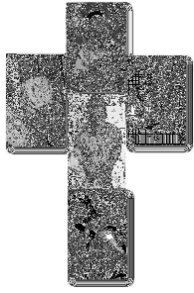
Camp Wilderness in Lawson, Missouri, was the setting for the Fall Women's Retreat, with about 100 women gathering on October 6-7. The theme was "*Come to the Wedding Supper*". Classes were taught by Pat Chadwick, Aaron Smith and Sylvia Powell. Meals were provided by Ken Prater and Lonnie Griffin. An evening drama based on the parable of the 10 virgins, drove home to us the urgency of the hour and our need to be prepared. Unexpectedly, that night all the guests were called from their rooms to light their lamps and come to the "wedding supper." Aaron Smith was camp pastor and presided over Sunday's dedication service.

Fall classes were held at the Book of Mormon Foundation on a variety of topics. Teachers were Mary Sue Kennon, Howard Parker, Debbie Norman, and Helen Brotherton. Also, classes continue to be posted from time to time on the web site <eldersconference.org/womenscouncil> along with the quarterly *Newsletter to the Women of the Restoration*. The Newsletter, edited by Ann Taylor and formatted by Brenda Eggert, is now in its 8th year. It is mailed to Restoration Branches around the world with the request that they reproduce it for their women.

Our chosen theme for 2008 is *Treasure the Fullness*, with quarterly themes of: *Treasure the Scriptures, Treasure Our Heritage, Treasure a Closer Walk with Christ, and Treasure the Promise of Zion*. The year's activities began for us January 19 at the Hill Cumorah Restoration Branch where their ladies served a delicious brunch. Sylvia Powell, Darcy Brotherton, Marlys Bainter, and Judi Smith portrayed real women of faith and courage from the scriptures and our day. Colbern Road singers, Elead, brought the ministry of music. Rob Bird brought words of challenge and prayed for a blessing on the women in the new year.

In lieu of a spring retreat this year, the council has planned a "Heritage tour" visiting church history sites in the area. The tour will be led by Larry and Nancy Harlacher on April 19th. Plans for women's activities during the Spring Conference include classes, drama and fellowship groups.

We praise the Lord for His rich blessings this year; and our thanks go out to those who have taught classes, provided music, written for the Newsletter, brought priesthood ministry, cooked for us, helped with mailings, bulletin inserts, etc., and especially to the women who have participated in these events, bringing with them their love of the Lord and joy of fellowship.



Conference of Restoration Elders Youth Council Mission and Values Statement

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18

Mission Statement: The purpose of the Youth Council is to assist in the coordination of ministry among the Restoration youth groups and to encourage them to become active participants in the building of the Kingdom of God and the redemption of Zion.

Values: (these are the qualities we hold as important to accomplishing our mission)

- ✓ The Scriptures - We believe that the Bible, Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants are the standards by which we discern God's direction, and that by studying these we find how we can know and glorify God.
- ✓ Discipleship - We believe the body of Christ must be nurtured through consistent prayer, scripture study, accountability, care and training.
- ✓ Evangelism - We believe that as youth grow in their relationship with Christ, they should be encouraged in reaching out to others in the witness of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Worship - We believe in the celebration and honoring of God via song, testimony, preaching, prayer and sacraments.
- ✓ Fellowship - We believe the association of the saints in which we are known, cared for, held accountable and encouraged in our spiritual journey is essential. This association is in recreation, friendship, and worship.
- ✓ Youth Responsibility - We believe youth must be equipped to take responsibility for ministry, teaching them to develop vision, set goals, and express their gifts, talents, and personalities.
- ✓ Service - We believe that helping others shows them the love of Christ in a real, tangible way.
- ✓ Leadership - We believe that effective youth ministry comes from spiritually healthy leaders who seek their direction from the Lord and set a strong and positive example.
- ✓ Communication - We believe that sharing our ideas and concerns (allowing all to be heard) is essential for developing new insights and discovering answers to problems that are a normal part of any ministry.
- ✓ Cooperation – We believe that by working together between restoration branches and organizations, we can create a stronger and more efficient youth ministry.

Youth Council

recent activities

witnessing weekend [March - Chilhowee Restoration Branch]

Last year the Youth Council set a number of ambitious goals to expand the variety of youth ministry opportunities. Our first experience was a witnessing weekend based at the Chilhowee Restoration Branch near Warrensburg, MO. Elder Steve Mapes, who has led such events in the past, eagerly led the youth in sharing with the Saints and inviting others to church. The youth were able to minister, and be ministered to, through sharing, singing, and testifying of Jesus Christ to members and non-members. In the coming year, we plan to continue this effort, particularly after summer youth camps when many youth are looking for ways to serve.

youth campfires [during summer months]

In what has become a tradition, the Youth Council sponsored monthly campfires following the Summer Series services. These are held at the South Chrysler Restoration Branch fire circle. While chaperoned, these campfires are youth led, giving senior and junior high ages the chance to testify and sing camp songs. This has become an important ministry, particularly for those unable to attend a summer camp. The YC provides refreshments following these campfires, and attendance averages from 50 to 75 youth.

youth service [as part of the summer series]

As part of our mission statement, the Youth Council tries to coordinate with other congregations and ministry efforts to the benefit of the youth. This year we were blessed to have Elder Lucas Boyce share, and many youth attended to hear his heartfelt ministry. Additionally, the YC coordinated with Atherton Restoration Branch to allow Lucas to give the Sunday morning message in addition to the evening service at Waldo. This allowed for brother Lucas to share more testimonies, and still allow time for the youth to share many testimonies at the evening service (along with a brief charge from Lucas). In the future we hope to continue the coordination when possible for unique ministry opportunities like this.

Kingdom Builders [September through March]

Another tradition both for the youth and us as council, is the ongoing ministry of the Kingdom Builders youth rallies. Recent speakers include Stuart Gage, Al Gatrost, Lee Hillard, Nathan Reed, and others. Previously overseen by Dayn Cederstrom, the rallies underwent the transition of new leadership this year. As part of that, the style of every service was unique as the Holy Spirit led the presider. We were able to have services that focused more on song, others on testimony, and still others on the spoken word. We also continued the tradition of spreading the services to different congregations, allowing many Saints to worship with the youth. At each service refreshments are provided. Photos and comments are as follows.

“It’s a good place to be able to see church friends you may not be able to very much & also a good way to invite other youth that may not really be in the church overall. I love coming to Kingdom Builders.”

“I think that Kingdom Builders is pretty amazing, really enjoy the song service at the beginning.”

“Good stuff, put together the right way.”

“Through a testimonial dream I found out that no matter what you might think, if God tells you to do something then you should do it. Even if it is something as simple as giving Him your feet to be washed.”



We continue to look for ways to improve Kingdom Builders and make it relevant to the youth. Some of these ways include beginning with a mixer to start with, get the kids involved with each other and those in charge, inviting local youth groups (like RCM) to share about their ministry efforts and encourage youth to sign up/participate.

Youth Council

future goals

We continue to be amazed at the number of quality of young people the church has. Many in the church do not participate directly in youth ministry, and as such only are blessed to hear their amazing and heartfelt testimonies at the services the Youth Council, Zion's League, and other groups sponsor. Over the next year we will continue the aforementioned activities, and work to expand the number and variety of opportunities for the youth to worship and serve the Lord. Currently in the planning stage, the Youth Council is coordinating with RCM groups on "Youth Weekends". In these, we are hoping to combine the services RCM groups put on at various congregations, with a Kingdom Builders rally in the evening. We hope that scheduling full Sundays with a focus on the youth will not only encourage youth to participate, but also draw in youth from surrounding congregations and encourage them to bring friends. Included will be youth campfires and refreshments.

We ask for your continued (and much appreciated) prayerful, participatory, and financial support as we do our best to serve the Lord and the youth of the church.

In the Love of Christ,

Council Members : Sara Buckles, Roger Gumerman, Lee Hillard, Sam Humphries, Josh & Elyse Mcleod, Chris Morris, Linda Trimble.

Coordinating Council of Elders Report

To all conference attendees, the Coordinating Council of Elders (CRE) extends a welcome and greetings in the most precious and Holy name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray you will be blessed by the Holy Spirit this week.

The CCE is one of seven councils of the CRE. It is comprised of seven members of the Melchisedec Priesthood who were elected at the 2007 CRE. Terms are for one or two years. Those elected in 2007 were:

One year term; John Mundy, and Dan Sherer;

Robert Giertz and Howard Parker were elected to one year terms to complete the terms of two who had resigned.

Two year terms: Dayn Cederstrom, Paul Gage, and Doug Smith.

The CCE met April 4, 2007 and elected Paul Gage as Chairman, Dan Sherer as Vice-Chairman, and Dayn Cederstrom as Secretary.

The purpose of the CCE is to coordinate and work with each of the other councils of the CRE offering guidance and assistance as needed and/or requested. Each member of the CCE has served as a liaison to each of the other councils. The CCE has editorial responsibility for the Tidings of Zion magazine produced bi-monthly.

The CCE has worked diligently and met for many hours in worship, prayer, and fasting, always seeking God's direction in fulfilling our responsibilities. Those duties include following up on the resolutions passed at the 2007 CRE.

The resolutions passed have been dealt with in the following manner:

Resolution 1: Melchisedec Guidelines. *This information was published in the July/August and Jan/Feb issues of the Tidings of Zion.*

Resolution 2: Coming together with other Restoration groups and branches; to reach out to all Restoration Branches, to provide venue for Elders to confer, to acknowledge and recognize that Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church. *The Tidings of Zion continually recognized Jesus Christ as the Head of His Church. The CCE has had numerous meetings with the leadership of the JCRB trying to determine how the two conferences can work together more effectively, and reaches out to all Restoration Branches and Saints through the conference office and the councils that work so diligently in providing activities and materials.*

Resolution 3: Gathering of Elders to consider various topics. *All Elders were invited to Kirtland in September, the Fall Gathering in November, and regional meetings in Michigan, Ohio, Texas, Iowa, the NW, and Missouri.*

Resolution 4: Request to the Restoration Seventy to work with all boards and committees involved with the missionary work, to find and employ ways to direct the work throughout the world under one umbrella. *A letter indicating such was sent to the Seventy in May, 2007 and acknowledged by the Seventy.*

Resolution 5: Reaffirm belief in the Book of Mormon. *This affirmation was declared in the spring 2007 issue of the Tidings of Zion. This affirmation is also clearly stated in the records of the CRE. The CRE affirms its belief in the three standard books of the church, that is the Bible (Inspired Version), Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants.*

Resolution 6: Dates and length of the 2008 CRE to be determined by the CCE and published in the Jan/Feb issue of the Tidings of Zion. *This was done in the mentioned issue.*

We wish to extend a most sincere "THANK YOU" to the members of each council, as well as the volunteer staff of the conference office. We are also very appreciative of the service rendered by Sister Joy Muir who has served as Office Manager for the past several years.

For the CCE,

Paul J. Gage, Chairman

Southeast Asia and Australia Missions (SEAAM)

Taiwan Mission Report

Dan Brotherton continues to make quarterly trips to Taiwan and continues to take another Elder with him to fill a particular need. One of the elders he took, Duff Daugherty, felt impressed that the Lord was calling him to give ministry to the people there so made a multi-year commitment to pastor the mission. Duff and his family left in May 2007. He reported that the people at church are very helpful and are taking good care of them. He says that whenever they have a need the people are very quick to help them. He says the people love to sing and the Holy Spirit has attended their services.

They had a retreat in August with the theme "Becoming the Sons and Daughters of God". SEAAM Board members Dan Brotherton and Mike Stephenson (and Mike's son Jeremy) were there to help with the retreat which was a huge success. There were over 40 people in attendance and they were blessed with wonderful weather. They attended classes, enjoyed barbequing, swimming and bike riding. They also had a football game, a prayer and testimony service and a worship service. Shortly after the retreat it began raining every day and they even had a typhoon blow through. They can see God's hand blessing them even in the small things.

Duff says that attendance is good and they can see growth in certain individuals which is exciting. Some have a real interest and are asking lots of questions to learn more about the gospel. Duff says that it is encouraging to see people respond and have their lives changed by coming to a faith in Jesus Christ. One of the members recently moved to a new house and asked the priesthood to come over to say prayers to bless their new house.

This member said that her neighbor had been coming over and telling her that there were ghosts in the basement and her family would have bad luck unless they arranged their home in just the right way and had Buddhist rituals performed to get the ghosts to leave. She responded to this man by saying "I'm a Christian and I don't have to worry about those things now; Jesus will take care of all my needs!" It is good to see members being valiant in their testimony! There was also one long time attendee that was baptized this year.

The Daugherty family asks for our prayers for the people that the Holy Spirit will open their understanding and bear testimony to them of the truth of the Restored Gospel.

We are so blessed to have a family willing to make such a commitment and sacrifice. We are also blessed to have such a wonderful mission to work from.

Australia Mission Report

Australia has three organized Restoration Branches: One in Euroa (Victoria) to the south, one in Queensland (Brisbane) to the north, and one in Tamworth in between (New South Wales). Those sent by SEAAM to Australia stay in Tamworth in a flat where SEAAM pays the rent. The distance between branches is great (about 8 hours from Tamworth to

Brisbane and about 15 hours from Tamworth to Euroa). There are many Saints that are just as isolated from the churches as the churches are from each other.

The Lord continues to bless the work in Australia and provides dedicated and humble priesthood teams. Roger and Glaude Graybill from the Waldo Restoration Branch spent 6 months there (3-12-07 to 9-12-07) visiting, encouraging and uplifting the saints.

The saints are very helpful and there is a very good Spirit at their worship services. The six month commitment goes fast because the teams are kept busy teaching classes, preaching, visiting the scattered saints in their homes and serving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Roger and Glaude also had opportunity to make hospital visits and brought the ministry of prayer and administration in that and other settings..

Roger and Glaude spent many days traveling to visit a few families but felt that the trips were well worth while. While visiting they got leads to visit this person and that person and were afraid that they wouldn't be able to make all the contacts they were requested to make. Roger says that in looking back on their visiting and contacts he and Glaude believe that the Lord had a hand in the time and place of their visits. We in the center place don't realize the closeness of the tiny church groups and how something that affects one member affects all the members.

Roger and Glaude took the opportunity to visit the Tiona reunion grounds to obtain information about using it for a week end retreat or something similar in the future.

Australia is in the midst of a drought. Euroa has water trucked in as the city's water supply. They need relief soon.

Our next team is making plans to leave in May. We appreciate all of your prayers for the Lord's work there. Please continue to remember the Lord's work there. The land down under certainly has examples of some of the Lord's most faithful Saints and priesthood.

Elder Frank van Fleet

African Restoration Ministries (ARM)

TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN AFRICA

The Lord continues to move the work forward in Africa. With full time ministry from those like Hensley Mbanaso, and the Eric Odida Family, such dedication is bringing many into the light of the gospel.

Nigeria:

Over 100 members have been baptized in the past year. Two new branches in Lagos, and two new branches in Abuja have been formed. Four missionary trips were completed to Nigeria. In June Bob Schrunk and John Eichhorn, in August John Larson and Mark Smith, in October Dale Stafford and Bill Barrett, and in January Doug Patterson and Dr. Kendell DeSelms all made trips to Nigeria along with some to Cameroon and Liberia.

Liberia:

In January Dr. Kendell DeSelms along with Doug Patterson, Gloria Mbanaso, and Hensley Mbanaso spent a week evaluating the medical needs of the children in Liberia. One girl with severe Scoliosis (curvature of the spine) is being considered for bringing to the states for an operation.

Kenya:

See the full report in the following pages, supplied by Elder Doug Smith. Kenya's situation has changed in the last month in a good way. The Saints there continue to need our prayers as their people struggle with democracy.

Elder Bill Barrett

East Africa Report

This year has been an eventful year in the life of the church in East Africa. Trips were made by several of the missionaries, and the Doug Smith family was able to go and live in Kenya for three months.

The country of Kenya was blessed also in having the ministry of the Patriarch for the first time in 35 years. When Roy Cheville gave Sam his Patriarchal blessing, he told Sam he was doing it because it would be many years before the ministry of a Patriarch would be in that place. This year, Verle Cornish was led by the Lord to come to Kenya, and he was able to be there for 7 days. During the 5 days of ministry, he was able to give 17 Patriarchal blessings, and to offer ministry in both Nairobi and Kisumu. He has promised to return, hopefully sometime in the coming year. I cannot help but think that those who received their blessings were given them to strengthen them in their current troubles.

The real news of the work in East Africa, however, is the work being done in an ongoing manner by the local members and priesthood. In Kenya, despite the political unrest, the refugees escaping violence and the killings and looting that plagued the recent election, the members of the church have banded together and found strength, as well as reaching out to others in their communities. The work is growing as members start study groups and the priesthood are led into new areas of service. This report will just give a few of the places where the Lord is working, because literally every day, new places are opening up to the gospel.

MOMBASA:

There are 3 or four baptized members in Mombasa, but they are scattered geographically and have work schedules that prevent them from getting together on Sundays on a routine basis. There are also friends of the church there, or family members of church members who live there, and several other contacts. Mombasa is a beautiful setting, but there is no place where Satan has a stronger hold on the people. Prostitution and child sexual abuse by European pedophiles that come there for sexual tourism is rampant, alcohol abuse is very common, and the Mormons have a presence there, so there is confusion about the church, but the Lord is getting a foothold.

KAYOLE:

The church at Kayole continues to be strong. There are also several young men that the Lord is working with in this area. Maxwell, Victor, the two Joshuas, Fred Okeyo, and Patrick all have a great ministry that they are offering, and I know there will be calls to priesthood and calls to further priesthood in this group.

EMBAKASI:

This is the area right next to Kayole, and a lady who was at the funeral of Maurice (Alfred and Hulda Simba's son) was so touched by the Spirit when she saw the love of the people who came and ministered to the family, that she asked Victor to bring someone to her house who could share the gospel with her and her family. At the funeral, women had walked from Rakwaro with firewood on their heads, and people had come from Ahero and Lisana with food, and Joseph and Chep had come from Sotik and Nairobi to offer ministry. When they arrived, there was no place for the Simbas to receive visitors, so they went out built a temporary house, went to get the water and carried it on their heads, while the women stayed to start to prepare food. They then dug the grave, and when it was time to preside at the funeral, they did. Then afterward, instead of taking positions of honor at the meal, they sat on the ground and just were with the people. The lady asked Hulda, "Are these people your blood relatives?" Hulda said they were only related by the blood of Christ. No one had ever seen such love in a church before, and certainly not such humble servants as these priesthood men, and so we went and visited with this family to share the gospel with them with Victor.

The Embakasi/Kayole area had a potential for a big boost when James, an old acquaintance/relative of Eric's started trying to contact Eric. Eric shared the gospel with him, and I met with him a couple of times, and he was baptized by Eric while we were there. Eric then found out that he had started a church that was quite successful, and wondered what had happened: the Lord's hand or a big mistake. James invited me to speak at this church, but I had to go to Migori, so Eric took my place. There was about 4 hours of confusion and noise before Eric had his turn to speak. He simply asked the people if they were any closer to God after all they had done that day. If their lives would be any different as they went home, and assured them that eh Lord wanted to lead those who wanted something more, and had restored the gospel to give them something more. James assured him that he did want more, and wanted to be able for the people to have more. His Associate pastor David and another man Henry came to the men's retreat, and had their lives changed. David went back the next Sunday and apologized to his congregation for not teaching them the truth before. Eric tried to tell him he should mention that he had just learned more truth, but David said he didn't want to water down what he had done. He felt he had been misleading the people and needed to ask their forgiveness. They talked to me at the retreat about being baptized, but said they wanted to go back to Nairobi and arrange it there. The people who have been coming to the church have mostly been there for the dancing and loud music and entertainment, as far as Eric could tell, and he had felt a very bad spirit there, but with prayer, it looks like there may be many who will be exposed to the gospel!

KORAGOCHE:

Joseph is the driving force behind this group. We visited his daughter while she was at the Dede Girls school (near Rapogi), and she had several of her friends from the Nairobi area who came together to share the Restored gospel. They have been blessed in their family and as a group.

NAIROBI CITY CENTER:

This is the group that meets at the Passion Coffee restaurant in downtown Nairobi, and where Natalie and Morgan taught Sunday school while we were there. They have a good group, but Eric is concerned about how to go about outreach from there. The return of Walter Anditi from the Amboseli Park to work in Nairobi again has been a great blessing. Walter's son, Gary Hawley, was blessed while we were there. Leonard Chepkonga is the Pastor and is the main pastor for all of the groups in Nairobi. This has been a big help to Eric, allowing him to go out and travel more, without concern for services in Nairobi. Chep recently got a job at the Lavington Security firm, and is living in Nairobi. This is the answer to a lot of prayers, and has really been a boost to the work. Last December at a priesthood retreat, Eric had asked the priesthood to pray and ask God what they were to do differently in the New Year. Chep felt the leading of the Spirit to go back to school, so he went back and did a certificate course in business. In the course of that, he was sent out to work in the office of Lavington Security to get real world experience. They were very happy with the work he did, and the lady who was his boss told him she was actually planning to move back to Eldoret, and that if he would learn to do her job, he would be hired. What a blessing! This is the first steady job Chep has had since Sotik. We are continuing to pray about the ways for the City Center group to expand.

NAKURU:

Ben and Helen Mugo are there, as well as Betty Otieno and her family. Betty was able to come to the Women's retreat, and continues to be a blessing, and several new contacts were made when Aaron Smith visited this area.

SOTIK:

Nelson has been the pastor there, but with the current election unrest, they had to flee their home under police guard. He and Elizabeth are now living in Nairobi, and so there is some question of what the current status is. Joseph Ochieng and Judy live there also, but Joseph is responsible for about five different congregations.

KISI:

When the priesthood were praying about what God wanted them to do at a retreat last winter, Joseph Ochieng was also led to go back to school. He had always thought of himself as a poor student, because in secondary school, he had just not cared about doing the work. When he arrived in Kisi to start his study, he asked God with whom he was supposed to share the gospel. He was led to his professor, a man named Alfred, and so he began to share with him and 3 or 4 others. At the men's retreat, Joseph was able to baptize Alfred. Alfred's testimony was that he had been disappointed to only be able to get a job at a small college, but now he new God had put him there so he could learn the gospel. He assured me that the church was now firmly planted in Kisi, and that he was going to continue meetings there in Kisi, under Joseph's direction.

NYANCHEKE:

Also while he was in Kisi, Joseph had the opportunity to meet a man named Samson from Nyancheke. Joseph shared with him, and was invited to visit with a group of people meeting at this town, and Joseph baptized 6 people. This is really the first contact with the Kisi tribe, and it is wonderful to see the gospel expanding into other tribes in Kenya.

OYGIS:

Eli Okeche is the pastor there, and this was the site for the Women's retreat and for the Men's retreats last fall. We have met at the Nyadendi hotel before, but this time there was such a spirit there that the staff were inquiring about the church because of the love and the joy of the Saints as they gathered. I don't know what the outcome will be, but it opened up opportunities there.

I will share some testimonies about the retreats. The Women's retreat was first, and the women were so anxious to come together. The group in Tanzania all pooled their money to send 2 representatives, Devian Makawiti and Happiness Opino. Happy had recently had surgery for a ruptured appendix and her doctor's advice was that she not travel, but her testimony was the God had given her the strength to come. The ladies from Rakwaro had walked for over 6 hours to get to a place close enough that they could afford the matatu fare to come the rest of the way. With that kind of dedication, the Lord surely poured out his spirit. The intent of the retreat was to give the women some more depth in the gospel, and the worship and classes went from morning till late at night. When it was over, one woman said, "Why can't Jesus just come now? Will we ever be more ready?" Another sister who had been in a very bad marriage situation for many years went home and practiced some of the things she had learned at the retreat. She phoned Judith Agwanda and said, "I've been attending (another) church for 27 years, and they have always known about what was going on in my marriage, but never had anything to offer in terms of solutions. I go to one retreat with the restoration, and everything is different!" One of the neatest things to come out of the retreat was the decision of a group of the older women to start meeting together each month in different congregations, following the admonition in Titus 2:3-5. They had not met before the retreat, but they formed such a bond, that they wanted to minister to the younger mothers in the different groups, and to encourage theme in the gospel. Another comment was that they wished the men could have been there, so they would all be on the same page when it came to the things they had learned. We assured them that the men's retreat was coming, but Eric did say he saw a need for a reunion or retreat for the families to come to share together. There were baptisms after each retreat, as people felt the Lord working in their lives.

LISANA:

Joshua and Evans are the priesthood leaders here. This is also Salome's home, and her conversion has been a blessing to the work. She is in her 80's and used to be the head deaconess in another denomination. The Lord has given her a new life, as she calls it, and her testimony is a blessing to all in her home area. The church meets in her home at the present time, and they have a good group with several young people.

RAKWARO:

Wilson is the priesthood leader, and his conversion and his life are a continuing witness to the truth of the gospel. He is a community policeman, and the local police commissioner, whose name is Paul, came by the church to testify after the service of what a blessing the gospel had been to the community. He said that since Wilson and the other policemen he had converted to the gospel were working for him, he had seen crime that once was very bad go down to zero. There had been no reported crime in 4 months. The police commissioner for all of Kenya even said on the radio that if the miracle that had occurred in Southwest Nyaacache could be duplicated all over Kenya, there would be no crime. They asked Paul to come to Kisumu to explain what he had done, and he said that all he could do at the meeting would be to ask this man Odida to come with him, and he would say, "The difference is the gospel of the kingdom", and ask Eric to share it with them.

NYAMARIMBA:

Macdonald is the pastor here, and they are meeting in a rented building. They are continuing to grow, and are reaching out to other towns around them to share the gospel.

AWASI:

David Orage is the new pastor, under Caleb Awiti's tutelage. The group is growing, and meets in the home of Dishon Okeyo, Tom's father.

AHERO:

The pastor is Eric Odago, and there are 4 other priesthood members there. The group has been meeting in Paul Oselo's place of business since the old building was knocked down by the government. There continue to be challenges here, but the Lord is working with them. They are scattered and have to travel long distances to come together, and Eric is trying to encourage them to start local groups for study and worship, so that the work can grow to the areas they come from.

AHERO II:

Caleb Awiti has a group growing up around his home place, which is increasingly taking his time, which is why more of the burden at Awasi is being given to David Orage. The two baptisms at the women's retreat were from this area.

KISUMU:

There are several members in Kisumu, and the work continues to grow, with Tom Okeyo leading this group when he is not travelling to other areas.

MIGORI:

Hulda Simba, Esther, and Molly have been holding services there, and the Lord opened up several doors while we were there. Some of the ladies said that they had been told by others that Hulda's church was a bad church, but when they came and heard the word, and were healed by administration, they knew that it was a good church, and wanted to continue meeting together. One man, Ronadi, even came to the men's retreat, and was greatly blessed, even though he was not baptized.

UGANDA

The work in Uganda is being led by Elder William Mwiri. He was ordained last year, and is continuing to work in Mbale and Namashisio. The Namashisio branch had their church vandalized by people upset about the Book of Mormon, and the roof was removed. It would cost about 500\$ to replace and repair the damage. The people have been bearing the affliction patiently, and did not turn to the case over to police, but they still have not gotten the repairs done. He has baptized 2 pastors, and one of their wives, and is working with their congregations. Another previous pastor by the name of Faustino Aniap was baptized in August, and has used a radio ministry to reach the people in the Masindi region, and now has almost 200 people wanting to meet. William is going to evaluate what can be done. Faustino noted that he hoped that no one would be upset because he is just a member, but felt the response spoke for itself of the need for the gospel in that area.

RWANDA

The Lord has also opened up the work in Rwanda through Faustino. His wife, Joy, is from Rwanda, and so he wanted to go and visit her family there to share the gospel. The Lord certainly blessed the trip. In order to have meetings in Rwanda, you have to be vetted by the security forces, and the man who came was named Ndoli . He talked with us about the genocide, and wanted to make sure that we were not there to start any trouble. Faustino then invited him to stay and hear the class we were doing that night. It was on forgiveness. After the class, Ndoli said with deep emotion, "This is the message our people need to hear." We invited him to return for the church services the next day, and he came. We were introducing the Book of Mormon to the people, and he asked for a copy, which we gladly gave him. Francis, a retired civil engineer who is now the head of the president of Rwanda's farm, is Joy's aunt and is definitely our point man in Rwanda. He has been to Nairobi to visit Eric, and is very excited about the gospel.

BURUNDI

While the mission was in Rwanda, two gentlemen came up from Burundi to meet with them and hear the gospel. They had been in e-mail contact with Eric, and had a misunderstanding that brought them to Kigali, expecting a Crusade. They got to Kigali and found no Crusade, but did find the gospel, and have invited us back to Burundi to share more with them.

The gospel is continuing to go forward in many other places that I have not mentioned here, with the signs following the word. We continue to pray for the Saints there, and for the work of the kingdom.

ELDER DOUG SMITH

Latin America Ministries Board (LAMB)

2007 provided much more fruit and growth to the work in Latin America. Honduras continued to grow with more than 30 baptisms this past year. 3 inactive priesthood members returned to active duty after passing a time of discipline in order to be received again with renewed testimony. All 3 of those men had been active for over 10 years each.

With the strength of these men returning, the work in Concepción del Sur and Mogote have shown dramatic increases, and the Sunday School program in Mogote and church services in Concepción have reached out into the community to bring back some of the members and visitors as well. The new church building in Mogote was dedicated this past year. We give our thanks for your donations and prayers for this project. There are two other buildings that were started more than 3 years ago, and still have not been finished for lack of funds.

In the work of evangelism, several elders continue to travel weekly from their homes to the newer branches to prepare others to be called into service. One example is Elder Fito Leiva. He is pastoring the work in Santa Cruz and reaching out to the surrounding area. He has met and baptized a man who has great zeal and desire to share. He has brought over 15 people to the church to visit. He has had many inspired dreams and shows great promise.

Brother Socorro Vasquez continues to lead the work among the priesthood. In May of 2007, the church again held their national conference.

In Mexico, 70 Juan Reyes has consistently visited people in Jojutla, Mexico who have shown great desires to follow the work of the restoration and believe in its message. Unite with us in prayer to see them join us completely in this work.

In this past year, 70 Frank Frye traveled with elder Gary Metzger to South America. Ministry was provided to the saints in Peru, and they followed up on many of the contacts that our brethren had made. Teacher Roque Gutierrez was ordained to be an elder.

Visits were made to interested persons in Uruguay and Brazil. Our member in Brazil continues to be strong in the work. A third visit was made to an ex-Community of Christ pastor in southern Brazil and work continues to establish the bond of brotherhood in that area as well. There is much hope for the work in Brazil.

Contact was made in Argentina with an ex-Mormon and he has expressed great interest in meeting with us in our trip this summer in 08.

In Uruguay, contact was made with a man who has shown great interest in reaching out to the lost. Pray for his preparation in his work and his home life. His plans are to be baptized and spread the work of the Restoration with us.

We continue ministering to the scattered saints and contacts in South and Central America through a weekly Sunday School class that is e-mailed to almost 30 people for them to study in their homes in 8 different nations.

LAMB assists in the support of the work in Corozal, Belize, and through the efforts of Arturo Gómez and others, there is more fruit in Belize, and great hopes for the work in Cuba. Potentially hundreds of people could come into the restoration through the seeds of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit that the people received. Pray for that work to not be lost to the influence of the adversary.

While LAMB was not directly involved, we would like to report that through the work of the 70, a visit was made to Cuba in August, and 26 people were baptized and about 3 or 4 were ordained. A follow-up visit was made in late December as well.

Through the efforts of Phil and Cherie Tandy, Dalia Castillo and many others, the work on the translation of the Inspired Version continues. Genesis was published, Matthew through John are ready for revision, and a draft of the entire Old Testament has been prepared and made ready for revision. They are now working on the Book of Acts in the New Testament. We are excited about this project and look forward for this blessing of the Scriptures in Spanish in the future.

We are most thankful as the LAMB board for all your prayers and donations, so that the ministry to some of the covenant people of the Lord may be shared by all.