# HUMANITARIAN

FOUNDATION



F U N D



Sister Lucia with Brother Paul and Sister Dottie Benyola

#### **My Testimony**

by Sister Lucia Salmazo

irst of all, I would love to thank all of you, since I have understood the meaning of the word love. You love one another in such a spontaneous and natural way. I have never seen before someone who cries for a person who has not followed the right way yet and is not part of his natural family. I have never before seen a minister who takes care of a young person with such a wonderful love as if the person were his own child and with much fasting and praying.

From all of you I understood

the meaning of family of GOD. All of you give your love to me. It's something that I received only from the wonderful family of GOD.

I remember when, the day after my baptism, I was scared because of an evil presence. The brothers and sisters came to me to embrace me and offer their help to me. I may cry just remembering how big your love is for another sister. I think a lot of thanks is not enough!

When I got baptized, I decided to stay by God's side - on the solution side instead of staying on the problem side. I mean, I know that a lot of brothers and sisters fasted and prayed for me. Now I want to do the same thing for

other people like you have done for me. I really want to improve my English as I would like to participate in the missionary work. I mean I have understood that our aim as sons and daughters of GOD is to propagate the Gospel. We should be tools of GOD to save anybody.

Now I want to talk about my experience. I want to give my testimony to someone who doesn't know about Jesus and the Gospel. From August onwards I will be travelling over the world because of my work, so I'm going to take this advantage and try to give my testimony. I have already started in Padua (Italy) where I live. I'm not afraid of

anyone. I'm with GOD. I really like my Christian life and it has just begun. It's something amazing.

Attending the conferences, and attending the Church when I have had the chance, I have understood that without GOD I'd never be whole ("For these tears I died"). I can say that the above mentioned song explains at best the reason why I got baptized. Before getting baptized I felt alone and I really needed to know more and more about Jesus' life. Now, every day after work I am looking forward to discovering something new by reading the scriptures. Some time ago I dreamt my baptism. I could feel the feeling

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#### A Blessed Trip to Ecuador

by Sister Caryl DiBattista

he first time I saw him my heart leaped with joy and I became enthralled. Every time we came together the spirit brought us closer and closer.. Truly he and his people are an important part of our purpose here and throughout the world. He is Pool (translated Paul) the son of sister Vilma and Henry - one of the many Seed of Joseph in the land of Ecuador, South America.

Everywhere we walked was like going back in time. Their colorful clothing reminded us of Joseph's coat of many colors and could be seen everywhere.

One can imagine their ancestors living and breathing the Book of Mormon's daily inscriptions but

these people as they struggle with life's challenges. Our hearts are saddened by their living conditions but we know our mission and what Christ can do if allowed. We sense that they are a loving and kind people with great hospitality as they immediately invited us into their lives and their homes for meetings and for dinner.

I was the first sister to visit this mission field in Quito, Ecuador. Since this is not my first experience, I felt the responsibility to represent the sisters of the church in the best possible manner and deem it an honor and wish to be the best example of a loving sister, deaconess and Sunday School teacher for those I will work with and especially for the young people. Preparation ahead of time was spent learning the culture, dress and customs of the region. Children's programs were prepared so that they would



Sister Caryl with a young friend from Ecuador

in their homes. We planned a mid- week service for Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri's arrival and everyone was very excited to see him again. We had a marvelous time and we could feel the spirit of repentance working on our new friends and several had started

### Humanitarian Foundation Fund

Dear brothers, sisters and friends,

No doubt you have noticed that this newsletter has been changed to reflect a new name and a new organization.

The Missionary Fund Committee (MFC) has been restructured as an independent non-profit corporation now known as the Humanitarian Foundation Fund (HFF). This change will make it possible for the Church to solicit funds from outside sources, such as private organizations, foundations and government grants.

The MFC, with your support and charity, has a perpetual fund that continues to generate interest year after year for the humanitarian works of The Church of Jesus Christ. The perpetual fund will always belong to the Church and you can always donate to it by making your check payable to the HFF with note on your check stating "Perpetual Fund". In addition, donations that you specify for a particular field or work will continue to be "passed through" to The Church of Jesus Christ as you designate.

However, as The Church of Jesus Christ spreads throughout the world and the requirement for humanitarian works increases, so does the need for funding. To meet this challenge, the HFF will be soliciting funds from outside sources and will be presenting to the boards of public and private foundations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

We praise God that, as His Saints, you have been generous in your financial support of His works throughout the world. Please continue to support those works by donating to the HFF.

Thank you and God bless you.

#### Joseph Benyola

Chairman, Humanitarian Foundation Fund



# Our hearts are saddened by their living conditions but we know our mission and what Christ can do if allowed.

it is apparent these people have lost the luster in their eyes for the love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

From our first encounter with the group that had been previously visited we saw the confusion and fears in the eyes and hearts of



Pool from Ecuador

be busy during the meetings and at the same time introduce them to the Restoration story of The Church of Jesus Christ through the restoration coloring books and Spanish Bibles.

With my ability to understand and speak a little of the Italian language, the children and I were able to communicate right away. Additionally, our new brother Jose Luis speaks English so we were quick to develop a dialog and we seemed to hit the ground running - counseling, teaching and studying scripture. Brother Daniel Mora was kept busy translating and he worked tirelessly. The Spirit of God would come into our meetings so strongly that it was difficult closing them and the first four days seemed to fly past as we held meetings in the afternoons and every evening

talking about making a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ through baptism. By Saturday, Brother Tony Ricci had arrived and Sunday's service was planned to include the baptisms of three new converts.

It was my honor to act as presiding deaconess at the waters edge and what joy I felt to assist our three new sisters as they exited the waters of regeneration with the Lord Jesus Christ. Silver or gold could not purchase these blessings.

I want to thank the committee for allowing me to have this great experience.

Brother John and I left Ecuador planning our return. How could we not after experiencing this great joy.

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#### **My Testimony**

#### by Sister Koren Phillips

'm sure many of us can attest to all that I am about to say, but my testimony is simply, love. Since the day I stepped foot into The Church of Jesus Christ, I felt love from everyone. Love is what we can always share; it is what we always have to give. Even when we face adversity, even

to conquer the difficulties and spread our faith in Christ - He who undoubtedly strengthens us in rough times. It is amazing the connection I felt with my sisters after one day. Even with the language barrier, God granted us knowledge enough that we walked through the streets discussing the work we could do for God. We sang songs the morning I had to leave for home. I think, on that last day, we were all amazed by each other. I know

church and in the world. You can't sense your effect on the people around you. God has opened my eyes to the one gift we all share, which is the strongest gift of all, the testimony of love: love from our brothers and sisters, from God, from Christ, and our love and gratitude for Christ. Not everyone can be a visionary in the church, not everyone can sing or play an instrument, but we can all testify of the faith we have in Jesus. Now, it is clear to

might not be that second of that day, but the smile you put on their face, and, well, that's the seed.

And "Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side... Some fell upon stony places... And some fell among thorns... But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit..." Matthew 13:3-8



## ...with ambition to conquer the difficulties and spread our faith in Christ – He who undoubtedly strengthens us in rough times.

if people don't hear our words, they cannot deny our love or our Spirit. The love of God shines through each of us. That is our gift. Through the strength given to us by Christ and the continuous love and support from every brother and sister, we can face anything. The Holy Spirit compels me to fight fear with the trust and deep faith I have in God. I have learned to lead with that heart.

I had the opportunity to study in Florence, Italy this spring. Full of trust and without fear or hesitation, I traveled to spend time with my Italian sisters in Christ in Padua, Italy. It was no different; I was greeted with the same love and compassion as the new faces I had encountered at GMBA campout the previous summer. Chiara and Lucia were the sweetest girls I had ever met. We had a beautiful weekend. I was able to see pictures of their recent baptisms and discuss the obstacles we all faced before and after we decided to make our covenant with God. In our discussion, I could feel the room was filled with love. We each discussed our struggles, not with defeat, but rather with ambition

we each felt something; a force between us, pulling us together. It was our love of Christ.

I think as a young member in the church, it is hard to understand your power or place in the

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me that we all play an important role. Maybe one story to a friend feeling down, one hug, one e-mail, one text, one person who sees our passion overflowing to others might change someone's life...it

#### NOTICE

To our readers and donors to the Humanitarian Foundation Fund (HFF), please make a note that the proper and registered name for the daycare in India is, "Desire Daycare of India."

May God bless all of you for your generosity, prayers, and support.

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

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Humanitarian Foundation Fund

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#### **My Testimony**

Continued from cover

of happiness and a strong spirit inside me when I slept and when I woke up I was just astonished. I felt a very strong spirit in my dream! I realized what I would feel after my baptism.

After I got baptized, I felt really happy and the day after even more happy. It's something that I can not explain with words. I know that GOD is with me as he talks to me in my dreams. I can just quote another spiritual dream that I had 3 months ago. In my dream I was with 2 people but I saw the scene from the outside. One of them was really close to me, at my right, but I couldn't see his face. The other one asked me who the person close to me was. I answered him "This is Jen". Jen was not Italian as he spoke another language.



Sister Lucia at the water's edge

But he was the person that would accompany me through my whole life. When I woke up I thought that I would have a foreign husband called Jen. I told my sister about my dream and I told her

that I would spend my life with a foreigner called Jen. One month later, I went to Stuttgart, Germany (where I studied for more than one year). One day I entered an Egyptian museum where the exhibit explanations were in German and in English. On one exhibit I saw the following German word "JEN-SEITE", which means AF-TERLIFE in English. Suddenly my dream came to my mind. I stood 5 minutes astonished in front of the word JEN-SEITE. Who was in my dream and would be with me my whole life? JESUS!



May GOD may bless all of you.

#### <u>HUMANITARIAN</u>

We invite comments and inquiries from our readers:

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