

GUATEMALA-EL SALVADOR MISSION HISTORY

". . .before the great day of the Lord shall come Jacob shall flourish in the wilderness, and the Lamanites shall blossom as the rose." (D&C 49:24)

These prophetic words of Joseph Smith are being brought to pass in this Mission where we have been called, as many others before us, to serve the Lord. The history of the growth of the Church in Guatemala and El Salvador has been characterized by stages of growth that have clearly demonstrated that his "other sheep" are listening to and accepting his words in these latter days.

The history of the Church in Central America began with the arrival of John O'Donnal to Guatemala in 1942. Due to his great desire to see missionary work begun in Guatemala, he had the opportunity of speaking with President George Albert Smith in 1946 over the possibility of opening Central American countries to missionaries. The following summer, missionaries from the Mexican Mission were sent to Guatemala and received by Brother O'Donnal. A little over one year later the first baptismal service was held, at which time Sister O'Donnal was baptized by her husband. This beginning truly marked the opening of the marvelous work and a wonder in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

The building of the Kingdom of God in Central America has been one of success. Many elders and sisters with the spirit of dedication have won the hearts of the people as they have taken the Gospel into their homes. Millions of doors have been knocked upon and hundreds of thousands of lessons given. As a result of the diligent labor by called servants of the Lord, the Church has progressed at a phenomenal rate. The Mission in 1960 boasted a population, including Venezuela, of 3,000 members and 37 branches in seven countries. Today the Mission can claim over 22,000 members in over 60 branches, along with a stake of over 6,000 members, all within two countries.

The history of the Church in our Mission is an indication of what will surely be realized by the Lord through us, his servants:

". . .that the Lamanites might come to the knowledge of their fathers, and that they might know the promise of the Lord, and that they may believe the gospel and rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ, and be glorified through faith in his name, and that through their repentance they might be saved." (D&C 3:18)

IMPORTANT DATES

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| Mexican Mission extended to six countries of Central America..... | July | 1947 |
| Dedication of Guatemala City for proselyting work.... | Sept 7, | 1947 |
| First conference in Guatemala..... | Aug 22, | 1947 |
| First baptismal service in Guatemala this dispensation..... | Nov 13, | 1948 |
| Proselyting work began in San Salvador..... | May 26, | 1949 |
| First baptisms in El Salvador..... | Mar 2, | 1951 |
| Central American Mission formed with George M. Romney as president..... | Nov 16, | 1952 |
| Zone nine chapel erected in Guatemala City..... | | 1953 |
| Edgar L. Wagner--2nd president of Central American Mission..... | Oct 5, | 1955 |
| First division of the Guatemala City branch..... | Dec | 1956 |
| Leslie O. Brewer succeeded President Wagner..... | Jun 13, | 1962 |
| Terrence L. Hansen assumed leadership..... | Jul 12, | 1964 |
| Guatemala-El Salvador Mission created..... | May 22, | 1965 |
| Guatemala City Stake organized..... | May 21, | 1967 |
| David G. Clark relieved President Hansen..... | Aug 2, | 1967 |
| Harvey S. Glade became third president..... | Aug 2, | 1970 |

