

meetinghouse's baptismal font.

The Church is relatively new in the islands. Before the formal organization of the branch, four families began meeting in the town of Puerto Ayora on the island of Santa Cruz. In 1998 Church leaders organized the branch within the Guayaquil Ecuador South Mission and the members began meeting on the island of San Cristobal before moving into el Castillo Blanco.

Now about 120 members attend every week in the new meetinghouse on the island of Santa Cruz.

Though the branch is small and far from the mainland, the Saints in the Galapagos Islands have been blessed, said Daniel Calapucha, branch president.

"I truly don't feel isolated because we have the guidance of our Father in Heaven," he said. ■

Colombian Children Visit the Temple

More than a dozen Primary children from the Fusagasuga Ward, Soacha Colombia Stake, spent a special day at the Bogotá Colombia Temple, learning about the temple's importance.

In November 2009 the ward Primary presidency accompanied 15 Primary children to the temple. There the children had the opportunity to meet the temple president, Jorge J. Escobar, and ask questions. The children learned why they had to wait until they were 12 to enter the temple to do temple work, why the figure of the angel Moroni on the temple spire holds a trumpet, and why he often faces east.

At the end of the activity, the children shared their feelings about the experience.

Maria Fernanda Sanchez, ward Primary secretary, said it was a spiritual experience. "It was a special, unforgettable day not only for them but for us as their Primary leaders," she said. ■

Annual Pageants Begin with Mesa

Each year the Church sponsors five pageants across the United States. Information about each pageant is included here.

Mesa Pageant

The Mesa Pageant, *Jesus the Christ*, retells the story of Jesus Christ's birth, ministry, selfless death, and miraculous Resurrection. The show runs March 24 to April 3. See www.easterpageant.org for more information.

Manti Pageant

Manti's *The Mormon Miracle Pageant* intertwines the stories of the Restoration of the gospel, the witness of the Book of Mormon, and the journey of the faithful pioneers to the Sanpete Valley. The show runs June 17 to 26. See www.mormonmiracle.org for more information.

Nauvoo Pageant

The Nauvoo Pageant, *A Tribute to Joseph Smith*, celebrates the restored gospel, the prophetic mission of Joseph Smith, and the legacy of early Latter-day Saints in Nauvoo. The show runs July 6 to July 31. See www.nauvoopageant.org for more information.

Hill Cumorah Pageant

The Hill Cumorah Pageant, *America's Witness for Christ*, retells the Book of Mormon story, including the trials of Lehi's family and his descendants, the climactic visit of Jesus Christ to the Americas, and Joseph Smith's discovery



PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM SMART, DESERET NEWS

of the plates. The show runs July 9 to 17. See www.hillcumorah.org for more information.

Castle Valley Pageant

The Castle Valley Pageant is an elaborate outdoor historical drama that portrays the settling of a pioneer village in Castle Dale, Utah. The show runs July 29 to August 7. For more information call 1-435-687-2403. The Castle Valley Pageant alternates every other year with the Clarkston Pageant, *Martin Harris: The Man Who Knew*, in Clarkston, Utah. ■

Music and Cultural Arts Submissions Wanted

This year's deadline for members to submit original music and theatrical works to be considered for publication or performance by the Church is only a few weeks away. Submissions are due by March 31, 2010.

Selected music is presented in the Church Music Festival, and selected scripts and poetry are shared in the Cultural Arts Submission Presentation. Occasionally works are selected for future publication on the Church Web site or in the Church magazines. Music

submissions include songs, children's songs, hymns, anthems, hymn arrangements, and instrumental and other works.

Cultural arts submissions have been theatrical scripts including dramas, comedies, and musicals. Poetry and oratorios with performance value have also been accepted.

The works submitted should be suitable for use in Church units, teach gospel principles in uplifting ways, be doctrinally correct, and accurate if historically based. Submissions are welcome in all languages.

For more information and cultural arts submission guidelines, call 801-240-6492. ■

Music Submissions

Guidelines for music submissions can be found at www.lds.org/churchmusic. Click on **Music**, then **Other Music**, then **Church Music Submissions**, or call 1-801-240-6439.

Cultural Arts Submissions

Cultural arts submissions should include:

1. Two copies of the script and any applicable music on 8 1/2 x 11 inch (22 x 28 cm) paper.
2. A statement signed by all contributors that says, "The work submitted, entitled '_____', is my original work, is owned by me, and conforms to the submission rules."
3. A cover letter with the piece's title; author's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address; central theme; synopsis; and cast requirements.

The names of all contributors should appear on the cover letter, script, and signed statement. Authors of productions accepted by the committee may be asked to grant the Church a nonexclusive, perpetual license for unlimited use.

Send cultural arts submissions to:

Church Theatrical Script Cultural Arts Submission
50 E. North Temple St. Rm. 2082
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150-6070, USA.

COMMENT

The Key to Success

Thank you for "Sugar Beets and the Worth of a Soul" (Thomas S. Monson, July 2009, 2). I used that article as my personal study, and it helped me a lot. I know that missionary work can be hard, but it is also fun and rewarding. I love seeing the changes people make when they enter the waters of baptism. This story inspired me to work hard, which is the key to success. The things I have learned in the *Liahona* will help me be a better missionary.

Elder Ramon Cristopher H. Villaluna,
Philippines Naga Mission

A Glimpse of Eternal Happiness

Thanks to the *Liahona*, I have the courage to remain steadfast in the gospel of Jesus Christ. It strengthens my testimony and helps me with my problems. The teachings found in the magazine help us catch a glimpse of eternal happiness.

Júlia Maria Azevedo, Brazil

Please send your feedback or suggestions to liahona@ldschurch.org. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity. ■