



We Share... Unity in Diversity

In recent years, Community of Christ Historic Sites and the church's WorldService Corps program have worked together to bring young adults from around the world to the United States. While here, they spend time in Independence, Missouri learning more about the church today, but they also learn and share the history of the church while serving as tour guides at historic sites in Nauvoo, Illinois and Kirtland, Ohio.

During the first year of this program, Jennifer de Guzman traveled from the Philippines to participate. She sat in Kirtland Temple and heard the story of Sidney Rigdon, a well-known religious leader in the early nineteenth century who joined our church and brought as many as seventeen of his congregations with him. Sidney and those who came with him were critically important to the success of the early church.

As Jennifer listened to this story, her eyes light up as she realized that her grandfather, Alfredo de Guzman, was the "Sidney Rigdon" of the Philippines. A prominent religious leader in his country, he joined the Reorganization in the 1960s and brought many of his followers with him, forming part of the foundation from which the church in the Philippines has grown.

Although we are divided by oceans, borders, race, and gender, we are united by our shared stories and values.