



Community of Christ
Historic Sites Foundation

We Share... A Sacred Story

I was brought up in Kenya, all of my family lives in Kenya, and just about everything I knew was about Kenya and no other place in the world. If somebody would have come to me while I was still in Kenya and told me one day I would be serving as an interpretive guide at some of the church Historic Sites, I would have said a **big No!** But during the years of 2003-2004, this would become one of my life journeys as I served in the *Community of Christ* World Service Corp as a Historic Interpreter at our Historic Sites.

I served both in Nauvoo and Kirtland during 2003/2004, and I am very glad that I had the chance to do this. Other than experiencing different weather conditions from my home country of Kenya (like the heavy winter snows of Kirtland and the high summer humidity of Nauvoo), not having access to some of my indigenous foods in the grocery stores of both communities, and missing my family back in Kenya - my experience as a interpretive guide was worth remembering.

It was a time of knowing **who I really am!** Meaning - I was discovering more about my church, more about me as an individual, and more about the faith journeys of the founders of the church and their dedication to the Restoration as the church has been planted today in many parts of the world. I also became more aware of where we came from as a church. There is an African proverb that says, 'know the past to be able to better the future.' Knowing the history of the church by visiting and serving at our Historic Sites makes me and others from outside North America more motivated to work for the betterment of the future of the church in our home congregations.

The most interesting part of my experience at our Historic Sites was sharing what I learned with other visitors who were also interested in knowing more about our history. This installed a sense of pride and confidence in me for being a member of this faith movement.

I discovered there were some similarities between the members of the early church in Kirtland and Nauvoo and the members of the church in my home congregation in Kenya, such as *Spirit-filled two hour Church Services, Baptisms in Rivers, and Minimal Musical Instrumentation in Worship Services*. All of these similarities made me feel apart of this Restoration movement, while I shared with visitors its story.

All of my friends from other nations who have also served as Historic Interpreters at places like Kirtland and Nauvoo share the same feelings of pride in our service at these sites as I did. May God bless all those who have made it possible for the preservation and upkeep of these treasured places for us who are from far away countries to come and learn more about our place in this *Community of Christ!*

-Eva Wasonga
Mombasa, Kenya