

ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

February 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

Thank you for your participation in the recent zone conferences. They were great successes. I really enjoy having so many of you participate. The talks, discussions, activities, and music were wonderful.

Hopefully, "Crossing the Rubicon," has given each of us some things to ponder and consider. In as much as we all must make decisions with eternal consequences throughout our lives, it is crucial that we develop our decision making abilities and increase our resolve to abide by sound, righteous decisions. When we find ourselves at a critical crossroad we should carefully weigh the alternatives and prayerfully make a decision we are willing to "stake everything upon." Then, once the decision is made, every contrary thought should be dismissed. No energy should be wasted in doubts, fears, or reconsiderations. Once we make a righteous decision we must not look back. Lot's wife demonstrated the danger of that alternative in her dramatic demise recorded in Genesis Chapter 19.

The Savior put it this way ---"No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

James cautioned against our tendency to waver when he wrote: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:6).

There are far too many of us who have developed the character trait of making partial decisions. When we do this we are always looking back over our shoulder. By so doing we slow our progress and inevitably veer from the "strait and narrow." Every farmer understands this concept perfectly well. Straight rows are achieved by looking ahead at a stationary object in the distance. Each time we longingly look back, our path becomes crooked and we head off course.

Sadly, there are some who have not permanently resolved for themselves even relatively routine questions such as tithing, alcohol, tobacco, honesty, chastity, church attendance, and obedience to mission rules. Unfortunately, some seem contented to let their decisions depend upon the circumstance of the moment rather than deciding ahead of time what they will do or not do. I strongly caution against such foolishness. For it is not only foolish, it is extremely dangerous as well.

The poem, quoted in the last zone conference, written by James Russell Lowell is particularly pertinent to ponder as we contemplate the many important decisions we will face throughout our lives:

Once to every man and nation	Some great cause, God's new Messiah
Comes a moment to decide	Offering each the bloom or blight
In the strife of truth and falsehood	Parts the goats upon the left hand
For the good or evil side.	And the sheep upon the right.
	And the choice goes on forever
	'Twixt the darkness and the light.

"We challenge you to rise to a new sense of commitment to assist our Father in Heaven in His glorious work" (The First Presidency, *Preach My Gospel*, page v). Now is the time to make our decision concerning how we will respond to that challenge. We are at the water's edge. Will we jump in with "all our might" or will we longingly look back?

Sincerely, **President Dunn**

A Fond Farewell to:

Elder & Sister Dow

A Speedy Return to:

Elder Thylin & Elder & Sister Peterson



Happy Birthday

Eld. Spatak—8 Sis. Southwick—14

Eld. Garner—17 Sis. Dunn—18

Eld. Crawford—20 Eld. Crook—21



SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

Our Area Medical Advisor, Elder Goth, has asked me to remind you of safety tips to use for the cold weather season of ice and snow. So, would you please take heed to the following tips for your winter health and safety:

- Stay in good physical condition. Good balance will help in being able to react to slips on the ice.
- Avoid slightly melting smooth ice. Look for rough surfaces to walk on.
- Walk with very short steps on icy surfaces. Keep your center of balance under your body.
- If the conditions are bad, keep both feet on the ice surface and just slide your feet – don't lift them off the ice. (Shuffle your feet.)
- Traction devices for your shoes and boots are an option – remember they do not work in all situations.
- To help prevent being hit by falling icicles, avoid walking under buildings which have ice overhanging the sidewalks. Be as warm and as safe as you possibly can as you accomplish the Lord's important work.



Sincerely, **Sister Dunn**

Spotlights



Elder Kyle

Marlyn Andrew Kyle was born in Redmond, Washington on November 8, 1988, the 2nd child (1st son) of nine, an awesome responsibility for an oldest brother. But he has definitely been a great example to them. He is a hard worker and dedicated to any cause he pursues. He worked in construction to earn most of his mission money. He enjoys soccer, tennis, drawing, acting (he does a great impersonation of Gollum) and singing, *yes singing*, and “ummm...pretty much anything that isn’t boring”. He earned his Eagle Scout rank and was the first in his ward to earn the Duty to God award. In high school, he got a 5 on the AP Calculus test, the highest you can get. But he didn’t always like math. In grade school, he wrote on the last day of school: “I hated 2nd grade because I don’t like math. And because I don’t like anything about it at all. Math got on my nirve. I can’t wait tile school is out.” His mother made him amend it to the teacher. He wrote: “Dear Mrs. Hale, I didn’t really hate everything in 2nd grade. I liked a few things. They are art, teacher, friends and lunch. Senserely, Andrew.” He loved soccer and hated to lose. In H.S., he was the goalie for his team, and in one game, he became so frustrated when his own teammate accidently scored a goal against him, he hit his hand on the ground, resulting in one broken hand. In case some of you didn’t know, Elder Kyle is a tease. No, really. Once, he took a \$2 bribe to get up in a stake fireside with a group of fifty YW who had attended Girls Camp and sang one of their camp songs with them. Oh my! One thing’s for sure, there’s nothing boring about Elder Kyle!



The Late Morning of the First Resurrection

I hope to be resurrected in the Morning of the First Resurrection. But I hope it's later in the morning. Because I'm really more of a night person.

Elder Grigoryan

It was a warm and balmy evening on September 10, 1986, when the stork delivered a Beautiful Brown Bundle to the home of Grigor & Gayane Grigoryan and life as they knew it was changed forever. Along with his parents, there to greet Vazgen Grigoryan was his older sister, who was so excited to have a little baby brother. That excitement may have turned to regret as little Vazgen grew, because at some point in his life, he turned into a big bully! But thank goodness for wrestling, because he channeled his energy into that difficult sport, becoming very dedicated to it. Before he was finished, he would be crowned wrestling’s Armenian National Champion. And somewhere along the line, he morphed into one of the nicest men on the planet as well. If there were a poll taken to see who is the most loved of all missionaries in the AYM mission, Elder Vazgen (what he goes by in Georgia because people get him confused with the Armenia church) would win hands down. He is known in the mission for his hard work and as a great trainer. His trainee recalls him never missing a workout. He thought Elder Vazgen was nuts as he jumped right out of bed and started running in place! He is also a great cook, especially with bread and eggs. He is really big on having fun while doing missionary work and has mastered the English language while learning to become an expert in the Georgian language, if you can believe that! He heroically served his country in the military and then accepted a call to serve a mission. Highly commendable. Elder Vazgen - aka - Grigoryan, we of the AYM salute you.



MESSAGE FROM THE A.P.'S

ELDER ELLISON & ELDER CARLSON

What is spiritual maturity? Spiritual maturity is “the quality of thinking and behaving in a sensible [Godlike] manner.” Throughout our service in Armenia, we have found that there are four things that greatly impact our spiritual maturity.



First, a good language study. Believe it or not, we have noticed in our service that our level of complacency has a direct correlation to the quality of our language studies. Thus, when our language studies were not effective, we knew we were becoming complacent. We encourage you to heed the words of the Lord’s servants when they affirmed, “Learning to teach effectively in your mission language requires diligent effort” (PMG pg. 128).

Second, no excuses. Excuses are the enemy to accountability and are a tool frequently used by the adversary to stunt our progression. We exhort you to be like the sons of Mosiah who against all odds accepted the conditions of their mission but would not accept anything less than the salvation of their brethren. As Elder Harris always says, “Excuses only satisfy those who use them.”

Third, a focus on the standards of excellence. These standards are intended to “increase your faith” (PMG Pg. 146). How does this happen? As we believe that our Mission President has received these standards through revelation, we realize that they are reachable and our faith and vision are amplified in the quest to meet them. Let us be as the 2000 stripling warriors who were proved victorious in battle thanks to “the miraculous power of God, because of their exceeding faith in that which they had been taught to believe” (Alma 57:26).

Fourth, a spirit of gratitude. “A conscious effort to be grateful will help you recognize how merciful the Lord has been in your life” (PMG Pg. 94). The opposite is also true; if there is no conscious effort to be grateful, we struggle to see the Lord’s hand in this work. Without God’s help, this work is not possible. But we have His help. He is with us! Because of this, His work is going forward throughout the world. As you pray for and look for His hand in all things we promise you that you will feel His presence round about you bearing you up.

We know from our experience that as we have applied these principles we have become more spiritually mature, happy, and devoted to the Lord and His work. Prayerfully determine which areas you can improve upon and as you make changes, we promise you that the Spirit will guide you and strengthen you to reach your goals towards greater spiritual maturity.

The boyz getting’ a leg up on the work..

Random Thoughts—by Esther Efficient

Ideal Meeting Time:

Some people think the best meeting block is from 9:00-12:00 because they like to take a nap after church. Other people think the best meeting block is from 11:00-2:00 because they like to sleep in on Sunday. But I think the ideal meeting time would be 11:30-12:00 because seriously.....

.....Mealy

