

February 2012



# Armenia Yerevan Mission

## President's Message

*Sisters and Elders,*

*I saw three pictures recently that I want to tell you about. I showed them to some of you in interviews. The first one, was two of our missionaries standing at the font in Arabkir with two others in Spitak. One of them was a son and the other was his mother who the Elders taught and the son baptized. The son had been less active until the Elders reached out in love and rescued him, bringing him back to the covenant he had made years before. Now his mother has made that same covenant and his non-member uncle is coming to FHE at the mission home next week. This kind of missionary work must please the Lord even more than it pleases me. The second picture was one brought to me by a returned missionary from Armenia that we served with in Ukraine. She came to see me to renew her recommend and handed me an envelope. Inside was a photo of a man we met the first week of our mission in Ukraine. I woke up in the middle of that night with a distinct impression that I must get to know this man. I got out of bed and wrote his name in my planner. He was baptized in the Dneper River just exactly 7 years to the date after his wife had been baptized. The picture was of the day they were sealed in the Kiev Temple. They had promised us such a picture and now we have it!! The joy just can't be told in words! And I want to tell you again as I have before, that the joy of a mission goes on and on – forever – just as the Lord promised. The third photo was a group of our returned missionaries, including seniors who had gathered in St. George when the Rich's reported their mission. They all still looked just like missionaries and it was written all over their faces how happy they were to be with each other. At the meeting they all came up and sang together in Armenian. I read the letter and looked at that picture smiling a mile wide and I just wanted to shout, "Yes! They're ours!" I know we tell you a lot and we hope it doesn't get old - but doggone it we just love every last one of you and we will – forever!*

President and Sister Carter



## MISSIONARY MIRACLES!

After about a half hour of contacting, we felt inspired to walk down a street which turned out to be deserted. We decided to keep going just to see where it ended. On the way a less active member, Margarit, met us. She said she wasn't sure why she was walking down that street either, but she figured that God led her to us. She was not feeling her best, so she was very glad to see us. She invited us over for tea, but we said we couldn't come over because of a rule we need to follow that doesn't allow us to be alone with women. Upon seeing that we wouldn't budge she said she would go get dressed to go out walking with us. We walked toward the church and she stopped at the stadium, which she said she wanted to show us. After looking around the stadium, we talked to the man keeping watch over the field - Ashot. He's a friend of Margarit's and he had hesitated to be baptized because his neighbors started talking bad about the Mormons and then he fell out of contact with the elders. We asked if he had ever seen a baptism and he said he would like to. We felt that we were led to him by the Lord and Margarit. Love, Elder Kurth in Charentsavan

Elder Skidmore and I are teaching one lady who has been preparing for a couple of years. In December she finally stopped smoking. We were really excited and all three of us were sure that she would get baptized this month. A couple of days ago we went to a meeting with her and when we walked in, she was smoking, and put it out right away. During the lesson we brought up smoking and she admitted that she had smoked but that it was hard and she wanted to stop. We gave her a blessing and during that blessing the spirit came so strong that she started crying (a feat I have not seen in Georgia). All of us felt it and knew that the Lord loves her and wants her in his Church. Elder Offutt

## STORY NAMED "ON THE STAIRS"

We met a lady called Medea a week back, on the stairs of her corpus. We were tired at the time and had tracked many doors, as Elder Steggell was on the phone I had a prompting to talk to a lady making her way down the stairs at a pace that would have made it very easy for me to not open my mouth. But I did. As a result, she came to church last week. We had a meeting with her this week and she herself gave this testimony " I love this church, I think that we met on the stairs for my salvation I can already feel closer to God, I will accept all the "rules" that you give me, I heard about tithing and that is no problem I used to give 40% to the poor".

Again, this Sunday she again shared this feeling like this "all I want to do is read the book of Mormon, last night the television was on and i didn't want to watch it all I wanted to do was read the book of Mormon, I already feel love here in this church I feel closer to God"....

We haven't even taught her the first lesson all she has had is a pamphlet about the restoration and the Book of Mormon and she already has a baptismal date. Today we are actually going to teach her the first lesson. She is just the most wonderful lady and if she will listen to her feelings as she is now, we, she will make the covenant to enter into the Kingdom of God in the beginning of march (march 4th)

Then, a few days back I was on exchange in Gldani, and again we were on the stairs in the corpus and we were well and truly tired. We had tracked many corpses and we had knocked on many doors. With no opportunity to preach the gospel in their homes, but I had the same kind of prompting to talk to a lady called Nana ON THE STAIRS and she now has a baptismal date in Gldani. Of the reports I have heard she already has said that she felt warm and "fluffy" inside when she prayed about the Book of Mormon and she feels that this church is true.

Truly the blessing of the Lord are in going the second mile. Maybe sometimes that second mile is not so far away, but only lies in the opening of our mouths.

41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. (matthew 5:41)

ELDER LEE REPDATH

Gayane and Igor -

Gayane married Artyom, a member and he brought her to church from the start. Because of new years we weren't able to meet with her right away. She has a lot of members

in her new family to help and support her. She gave up coffee without any fuss. She thought it would be hard but found she had no more desire for it and didn't drink it any more after inviting her to quit. She is very prepared. I remember early on teaching her that she said a prayer and she was struggling a little. She said "Sorry Father, I don't know how to pray well. I don't know everything that there is, but I promise you I'll find out. I promise you I'll find it all out." What sincerity. She has experienced in a real way the change that comes with the gift of the Holy Ghost. Igor is 8 years old and following in the footsteps of his brother. His parents aren't baptized yet but his grandmother has been a great influence on him. He didn't have to quit anything, but he gave a lot of effort to read and loves to pray. He lives in the same household as Gayane. What a great day the 25th was for that family and for us! Elder Wahl and Morris

A miracle happened to me today. For some time I have been trying to read the Book of Mormon in Armenian. I thought it would be a fun and wonderful thing to accomplish while I am here. I know if I keep at it I will be able to read faster and become very familiar with the alphabet at a faster pace. Though I have to admit, it is a very slow process to sound out the sounds of each letter on every word. I can only go over a few versus every night, but I have been determined to keep it up believing it would help me, though not clear how or why.

At work in the office, we received a printout of the year's baptismal records in Armenian. President Carter asked me to compare them with the records that I have kept on my computer in English. I asked an Armenian to help me. He looked over the records and did the best he could but it wasn't complete. Toward the end of the day I felt like I needed to continue to work on it. I had no one to help me at this point. I started to try and go over the names letter by letter in Armenian and compare it to the English record. I really surprised myself as I was able to pronounce the names written in Armenian and then find them written in English! As I progressed on, the thought occurred to me that it was because I have been reading the Book of Mormon that I was able to do this. I was able to read the Armenian names well enough to complete this work without finding someone to do it for me. I really felt like the Lord was directing me! I felt the Spirit confirm that to me and it was a feeling of gratitude and peace. Here is just one important reason for me to be reading the Book of Mormon in Armenian and I feel there will be many more! **Sister Eyre**

Shengavit Sisters

This started with Sister Burnham and Sister Bailey prayerfully delving into their area book. They felt prompted to call a former investigator who wanted to meet with the elders. Center Elders  
Elder Larson and Elder Strader received this man from the

Sisters. He became a new investigator and he came to church. The next meeting, he brought a friend who also became a new investigator. The next meeting, the original contact didn't come, but the friend did and he brought another friend, Javad. The next meeting, the second friend also dropped out, but Javad came and he brought Iman.

Arabkir Elders

We received Javad and Iman as contacts from Elders Larson and Strader. We met with them once, and then we also invited them to President Schwitzer's fireside in Center. They came and enjoyed the fireside, but we still didn't quite understand how prepared they were. After that we lost contact for a few weeks and we had actually forgotten about them. One day we received a text message from them asking, "Can we meet tomorrow?" We met once and it went pretty well, we went over The Restoration with them and they loved it. They already had a Book of Mormon and were reading. Teaching was put a bit on hold because we knew that they had to be interviewed by President Carter. One day we were in a meeting with President Carter and Javad texted us again, asking when we could meet. It was an amazing coincidence because there was a baptism the next day that all of us were attending, including President Carter. We invited them to the baptism. They came to the baptism and afterwards, they were interviewed by President Carter and cleared to be taught. President Carter invited them to his home the next day. After that, it was a very easy process. Javad and Iman are the most prepared people we have ever met and they accepted everything readily. They read from The Book of Mormon, as soon as we taught the Word of Wisdom, they began to substitute milk and fruit tea for black/green tea. They learned exceptionally well and progressed right up to baptism. Elder Steglich baptized Iman and President Carter baptized Javad on January 27, 2012. They received The Holy Ghost the following Sunday. This coming Sunday they will receive the Aaronic Priesthood. They will also be receiving their patriarchal blessings and preparing to go to the temple in the upcoming year.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Elder Morris on February 13**

**Sister Griffiths February 13**

**Elder Gerber February 22**

### **Newly Baptized Members in January**

Alfred, Javad, Iman, Anush, Marish, Gayane, Igor