

# Armenia Yerevan Mission Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elders and Sisters,

As most of you know, 50% of our missionary force turned over in the last 90 days of 2012. It's a time of great opportunity and blessing for us. With half of our missionaries relatively new, we are a very "young" mission for a time. This means that many of our missionaries have new leadership and training responsibilities and many newer missionaries are learning to open their mouths boldly in a new language. I have interviewed about half of the mission in the last 10 days and it is clear to me how the Lord is answering prayers and blessing us according to our faith and our diligence. We know we need His help and He is responding to our need. I feel very happy about the "culture" of our mission. I believe it is a culture of love and of obedience. At this time of high turnover it's important that we maintain and even build upon that spirit in the Armenia Yerevan mission. I trust experienced missionaries to teach well and by example and newer missionaries to learn anxiously. As each of us lift where we stand we will move onward and upward knowing the Lord is with us.

President Carter  
Armenia, Yerevan Mission

### BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Elder Wood	Feb. 3
Elder Christensen	Feb 9
Elder Morley	Feb 10
Sister Griffiths	Feb 13
Sister Broadbent	Feb 13
Elder Harrington	Feb 26



### BAPTISMS FOR JANUARY

Teresa, Nato, Elmira,  
Kaveh, Susanna, Aram

## MISSIONARY MIRACLES



this divine work.

I have been able to have a experience which made me take recognition of the hand of our omnipotent God in

I have been working with a family here in my zone and it has been a rather prolonged process, I love this family and I feel their love towards me, as if they are my own family. I received a phone call this week from the head of the household who told me a little something which I did not know. It was concerning my visit to their house a week ago on an exchange.

This investigator had prayed for the sign that if I would come to her house, which is in a different area of our zone, on her deceased cousins birthday... (she specified that day in her prayer as she says I remind her exactly of her cousin and feels a family-like connection to me- as I feel towards their family)... then she would take it as a prompting from the Lord that these things are true and right for her. She said she had the thought beforehand

that this would show her that this was the Church in which she would find home. Being unaware of this, I had a prompting that I needed to go on exchange to the area of this investigator. At that time the prompting came under the 24 hours notice that I would need to give the companionship serving in that area (which is the notice we normally have to give for exchanges).

According to the prompting, and rather against my common sense, I organized the exchange in which I would visit this area where this investigator lives. She explained on the phone when she called this week to tell the story, that the day I went to her house on that exchange and visited her was indeed the birthday of her deceased cousin. She told nobody about this until after the event when she called to tell me. Looking back at the time of our visit to her, she had a prepared cake and some sweet things, expecting our coming, and greeted us with the phrase "I knew you were coming today". She had the faith that the Lord truly would answer her prayer, and even acted on it and prepared a cake for us.

It is not very often that the Lord uses a sign as the answer, and this investigator is still pondering over whether to be baptized or not, but I testify that the Lord's hand is in the work and that there is a spiritual battle going on which we cannot see. The Lord leads this work and goes to the lengths necessary to lead his redeemed people back to their Heavenly home. I bear my testimony of this in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

### Elder Redpath

Actually we had a miracle with a family. We had been teaching a family about the Plan of Salvation and prayer, etc. Their son (age 11, which we will call Jacob), had a couple of friends over at his house for a birthday party for his brother the day we taught the family and Sister Henriquez gave them pictures of Christ. The next day Jacob was over to his friends house and one of his friends mentioned that they wanted to pray before he left. Jacob gave a prayer, much to the astonishment of his friend's family. This family also saw the pictures of Christ, and Jacob told them some of what he had been taught about the Plan of Salvation and about us, and they want us to come over and teach them too.

Talk about what a natural missionary this young man was! This family has been prepared by the Lord and they will be a great strength to the Branch.

Sister Beal and Sister Henriquez

Elder Woolley and I were tracting the week of Christmas, and our focus was really to find some future priesthood members. Not too far from our house we stopped this man and began to tell him of the blessings of our message. We asked him if we could share more, but he graciously declined. He stated that he was drunk and that it was not appropriate to talk about God when you are drunk. He went on to tell us a lot of the hardships that were going on in his life. His son is in prison for very serious charges. His wife left him and took their daughter. On and on the story continued. We knew this man was ready to receive the message of the gospel. So we asked him the question, "What's your name?" and "When can we meet with you again?" He said, "Call me in two days and then we will see." So we did just that.

Two days later we called and invited him to the church to meet with us. We brought him in, sat him down next to the baptismal font. As Elder Woolley (Notice, not me, because it was my second week) talked with the man, I rolled up the screen door to the font and then he arose to see the font and for a few seconds we stood in silence. After a few seconds he began from the beginning. About how he had always been a religious person, but how everyone in his life did not agree with his beliefs. Especially his sister who he lived with. We started as any missionary would. God is our... he blesses our... Joseph Smith... but then we got to the Holy Ghost and prayer.

We asked him to say our closing prayer. He quietly refused, but we kindly told him we could help, and that Heavenly Father wanted to listen. He finally agreed to our simple request. He then offered up his heart to the Lord as we had explained. It surprised me to hear my first evangelical prayer, but, he was very sincere. He also agreed to our request to prepare for a baptismal date. Elder Woolley and my prayers had been answered. We had found our priesthood member, a priesthood leader.

The next day he came to church and we were so excited! All we could think about was how great he would be in our branch. After sacrament we brought him up to meet the branch president. All was going well until president asked this one question, "Where do you live?" It was then that Elder Woolley and I learned he did not live with his sister anymore. That he actually lived in the Assistants area. After a few tears (not really, but we were sad) we set up an exchange meeting for the Assistants to start teaching him. The subject we wanted to focus on was the Word of Wisdom.

We all met in the church again, but this time would be our last meeting with our new found friend. The lesson was great, and the Assistants were on fire! We get to the end of the lesson and we invite him to keep the Word of Wisdom and to throw away all of his cigarettes. He pulls them out of his pocket and notices that there is only one left in the pack. He pleads with us, saying "No just this one, then I can stop." Over and over for a few minutes we try to convince him of his own strength to overcome this addiction. Then through inspiration Elder Woolley looks at him and tells him about a priesthood blessing and if he got rid of that last cigarette, that we would give him one.

For a few seconds he stared the devil in the face. We knew he would quit, we knew he wanted to. So we kept telling him he could overcome it, but soon silence came over us. One last time he looked at us and then to the case. When all of a sudden he sticks it back in the case, closes the top, and crushes it in his hands!!

As promised, Elder Woolley administered the blessing to him. What a great blessing it was. We knew our promise that he would never want to smoke again was true. When the blessing was finished he began to explain the feeling that came over him. We all felt the feeling and knew that he now had a new companion in his life.

He moved again out of the Assistants area and into the Davitashen area. There he was taught the rest of the lessons and was baptized on the 26th of January. Elder Woolley and I came to the baptism to see him in his suit and tie.

What a sight it was to see him like that. He was simply a different person than we had previously seen. It was that night that we were told more of his story. We didn't know at the time, but he was planning on committing suicide. Looking at who he has now become, I couldn't help but thank the Lord with all my heart. If we had not met him when we did... who knows. It testifies to me how much the Lord needed him alive. How great His plan is for all of us. Also how much He loves each and every one of us. One day most of you will hear his name. He will be a very important man. **Elder Morley**

**We have been working with a man that is a really good person. He came as a referral to us, but he had been an investigator in the past. We repicked him back up when we first got here. He is a really great man that has really sincere desires to know the truth. He has really started to feel a difference in his life.**

**One day we had been walking along the street and we happened to see him and his friend in the street and he wanted to meet right then and there for five minutes or so, but his friend was reluctant and was saying that they had a place to go and a friend to see. So they kept going and we went into the church.**

**We were talking a few minutes later when he suddenly comes in and was like "yeah I don't need to see my friend I would rather talk with you guys, I am just always so excited to meet with you, every time I pass by the church I look to see if there are lights on so I can come in and talk with you guys" While we were meeting with him, he told us of his experience at the previous meeting we had with him that when he prayed he felt a burning feeling on him on his back and he felt really good.**

**It was cool to see that it isn't us that is making the difference in the work, it is the Lord. When we do what we need to do and our investigators are prepared they will feel the Lord's influence confirm that we are the Lord's servants.**

**Elder Marco and Maughan**

Elder Van Blankenstein and I were waiting for a man to come and meet us at the Church. We called him on the phone. We went outside and tried to tell him where we were. We walked back by the Church, and a man in his car (his car was parked right in front of the door to the Church) came and asked if he could talk to the man that we were waiting for, on the phone. He found out where the man was and told him how to get where we were. The man ended the call, gave us back our phone, and went back to his car. A few minutes later we saw this man we were waiting for coming down the road. While Elder Van Blankenstein was on the phone with this man, I had said a quick

prayer asking for a way that he could find us. That prayer was answered in less than a minute. **Elder Christensen**

One night, Elder Harrington and I were walking around the main street of Vanadzor, when a stout grumpy looking man stopped us and commanded us to preach before him. so, we started talking about the gospel and he interrupted and said, "next". We ended up talking about the Book of Mormon, about which he scoffed and insulted. It was pretty sad. After a bit, he snatched Elder Harrington's Book of Mormon and started talking about his church (I didn't understand any of it because it was in Armenian and I haven't been out that long). He then gripped some of the pages of the Book of Mormon in his hands, and I knew what he was about to do. I said a quick prayer in my thoughts, saying, "Heavenly Father, please don't let him rip the pages." Sure enough, he wasn't able to rip them. So he then lessened the amount of pages, and proceeded to attempt to rip about three pages. I repeated my prayer, and no matter how much he struggled with all of his physical strength, he wasn't able to rip those three pages! Elder Harrington took his book back, I was relieved, and the angry man looked very very silly. I'm incredibly grateful for this experience. It strengthened my testimony of the Book of Mormon, and how holy it really is. I know that God will our prayers, even if it is only about 3 pages.

**Elder Wood**

**Sister Kellis, after only 4 weeks in country gave a great talk on the Holy Ghost with no notes!**



**Elder Olsen**