

All Your Might

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

April 2009



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

Thank you for your diligence and hard work. This month we are pleased and excited to be receiving several new missionaries to the mission. I have been told by their teachers at the Missionary Training Center (MTC) they are well prepared and eager to get to work. Those going to Georgia are only the third group to be trained in Georgian at the MTC.

As we anticipate the arrival of these outstanding new missionaries and as several of you prepare to train, it is an ideal time to review the white, missionary handbook. I have the habit of reading the mission president's handbook and the white missionary handbook cover to cover almost every month. It would be a worthwhile practice for each of us to refer to the handbook often or even read it from cover to cover every transfer cycle. It might surprise you how much you have forgotten and how much it can help you.

As I read from the white, missionary handbook today, several things caught my attention. Under the heading "Your Calling" it states: "In harmony with the inspired pattern described in the fifth article of faith, you have been called by a prophet of God and set apart to represent the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church." Then on page four we read: "You will...be expected to devote all your time and attention to serving the Lord, leaving behind all other personal affairs." The next paragraph states: "You are accountable to the Lord and to the leaders of the Church for how well you honor this promise. Always keep in mind the importance of your calling. Strive constantly to magnify it."

Under "Missionary Conduct" on page seven we are reminded to "let our minds be centered on our mission." We are to conduct ourselves at all times in such a way that everyone who sees us will recognize us as a representative of Jesus Christ. We are to avoid slang and inappropriately casual language even in our letters to our family.

We should avoid all forms of worldly entertainment that could distract us from keeping our eye single to the Lord and His work. Music should invite the Spirit, help us focus on the work, and direct our thoughts and feelings to the Savior. Listening to music must never interfere with our personal preparation. **Beware of rationalization!**

In all we do as servants of our Heavenly Father we must remember that our purpose is to..."invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring [joyfully] to the end." Anything that distracts us from this purpose should be avoided.

We love you and pray for your success and well-being. May we always serve Him with all our "heart, might, mind, and strength."

Sincerely, *President Dunn*



SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE

Dear Elders & Sisters,

Thinking of you and wanting to emphasize again our focus for health and safety this transfer cycle, please consider the following: For good nutrition, try "adding color to your plate." Aim for five or more servings of colorful fruits and vegetables every day. Your choices could be in the form of juice, fresh, canned or dried. Keep your eyes open for the colorful fruits and vegetables.

Why "spring clean" your apartment? Some reasons are that orderly surroundings have a great effect on you. Cleanliness improves your attitude and self-esteem. You will have more time to do missionary work when you don't waste time looking for misplaced items—"A place for everything and everything in its place". You will also limit the number of disease-carrying pests/insects/organisms that tend to thrive in unclean places.

Be safe in your comings and goings as you serve. Be aware of your surroundings and always keep away from public, political demonstrations.

You are wonderful! It is such a pleasure to watch you grow and progress. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely, *Sister Dunn*

Spotlights



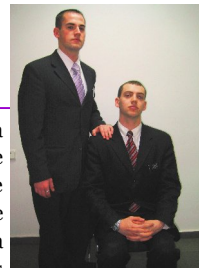
Elder Arslanian

Kyle Paul Arslanian was born in Flagstaff, Arizona on May 7, 1988. From the time he was little Kyle kept the family smiling. One day after getting out of the bathtub, the 2 yr. old was seen standing on the bathroom scales. When asked what he was doing, he said, "I want to see how tall I cost." He was a ladies man right from the start and always liked to smell good. In elementary school, he played 'kissing tag' and bragged for weeks that he was kissed on the leg by the cutest blonde in the class. He received his Eagle Scout award at 13 yrs. old. He and his brother Chris spent a lot of time on the sidelines at his dad's football games. He was an assistant equipment manager for the BC Lions for 2 yrs. and was there with his dad when their team played in the CFL Grey Cup (Canadian Super Bowl) in 2004. He enjoyed playing lacrosse in high school, along with fishing, biking, snow boarding, & jeeping. Elder Arslanian graduated in the top 10% of his class. Among other talents, he was born with a strong testimony, work ethic, kind heart, a love of people & is a dedicated missionary. No wonder he has been so successful here!

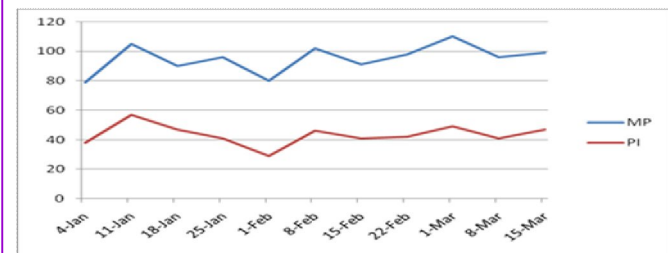


Message from the Assistants:

Elder Orrock & Elder Arslanian



In last month's zone conferences, there was a common theme of refocusing our vision on what we are to do and be as missionaries. We would also like to focus on the importance of members in the building up of the Lord's kingdom here in Armenia and Georgia. "The ideal situation is when members invite others to be taught and are present for the teaching. When members do this, more people are baptized and remain active in the Church" (PMG 160). We have seen this happen in our missionary work countless times. We have taken the weekly key indicators of the mission from the beginning of the year until now. We have found a remarkable correlation between the number of Member Present meetings and Progressing Investigators (see included graph). From this correlation we can trust that the number of our progressing investigators is heavily affected by the number of member present meetings we have. We are confident to say that the church in these countries will never reach its full potential until the members become actively engaged in missionary work. This cannot happen without our aid and effort. We must first show our members that we are serious and sincere about the work by inviting them to help share the gospel, and then they will begin to develop their own personal desire in their hearts. So far this year we have seen an average of less than 5 Member Present meetings per week per companionship in the mission. For the month of April we want to push ourselves to get an average of 8 MP meetings per week per companionship. We are proud of all of you for being the missionaries you are. Keep working hard and we promise you the Lord's blessing in your work.



Deep Thoughts — by Cindy Celestial

What do you get when you cross a Kleptomaniac and a Mormon? A basement full of stolen food. (Butta-Bing!)

Elder Meacham

Brenner

D. Meacham was born April 4, 1988 in Richfield, Utah. He was a cute little fat, fat fattie. (How fat was he, you ask?) He was so fat, he couldn't wear shoes on his feet until he was nearly 2 yrs. old. His older sisters called him the Michelin Man because of his many rolls. Elder Meacham loved to correct his teachers on history and politics. He knows the name of more important legal decisions than his dad does, and he's an attorney. During his sophomore year, his history teacher let him teach the class. Elder Meacham enjoys playing video games, especially Dance Dance Revolution (no one can beat him) & hunt birds (he's a crack shot). He speaks German well, loves Gaelic music & owns a kilt and bag pipes. But his great love is paint ball. He and his friends would go into the woods and play all day long. In high school, Elder Meacham was very involved in choir and drama. One year, he played Scooby Doo, and they gave a matinee performance to the Special Ed. kids. They thought he was actually Scooby Doo. They were so excited to meet him. After they left, he cried to think of how happy he had made those special kids. In addition to roles (no, not fat roles) in several plays, he starred in the musical, "Aladdin". A little known fact about Elder Meacham is that he has eaten more Totinos pizza's than any other human being. He would eat two or three crisply burnt pizza's every day....until a friend introduced him to Panda Express. His life changed forever. Elder Meacham is a super missionary with a winning way. Scooby Dooby Doo, we love you....



ALERT! Change Water Filter's 1 & 2 NOW!!!!

Elder Winchester

Adam Miller Winchester was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho on March 1, 1988. He is the youngest of 3 boys and 1 girl. He grew up working in the potato fields of Idaho with his dad and brothers. They cleaned all the disease out of the certified seed fields. He loves baseball and played 1st base and catcher. When he was 12 yrs. old, he hit 22 home runs. He was the same size in 7th grade as he was when he graduated from high school. Elder Winchester also participated in football and wrestling. In Jr. High, the referee made him shave the fuzz off his face before he would let him on the mat. He was involved in student government and earned his Eagle Scout award. He loves camping, hunting and fishing. He enjoys reading as well as listening to good music. Elder Winchester attended one year at BYU before his mission. He has a great sense of humor and keeps his family laughing. Elder Winchester is a great missionary (when he remembers to replace his water filter) and serves the Lord like he plays baseball... with all his might.

