

# ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

April 2010



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

We continue to be gratified by your diligence in the Lord's work. The Lord commanded...“Let every man be diligent in all things” (D&C 75:29). As you will recall “diligence is characterized by steady, earnest, and energetic effort.”

Please help the members follow through with their commitment to read the Book of Mormon in 2010. Many have indicated they plan to complete the Book of Mormon by the time Elder Scott visits Armenia in June. Your encouragement will help them keep their commitment and greatly enhance their spirituality and testimony.

A year or so ago members of the mission presidency and district presidency visited each branch to teach them the importance of daily scripture study. Unfortunately many of our members still do not know how to study the scriptures. The following are some thoughts taken from various remarks of Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles concerning scripture study. Please feel free to incorporate these principles in your scripture study and to pass this information on to the members.

“The Lord has declared that it is ‘His work and His glory to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man’ (**Moses 1:39**). He has established His Church to help in this great work. Accordingly, the grand mission The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is ‘to invite all to come unto Christ’ (**D&C 20:59**) and ‘be perfected in him’ (**Moroni 10:32**). Thus, all that we learn and know and do as disciples of the Savior and as members of His Church, is intended to assist us in responding affirmatively to this supernal invitation” (Elder David A. Bednar).

**Why is it so important for me to study the scriptures?** First of all, studying the scriptures is important because of the **covenants** we have made; secondly studying the scriptures is important because of the **direction** we need in our lives; and thirdly studying the scriptures is important because scripture study is a preparation for and prerequisite to receiving personal **revelation**. These are **THREE DOCTRINAL REASONS** why studying the scriptures is so important.

**How can I make scripture study more edifying and effective?** The following principles apply: Principle 1: **Pray**. Pray for understanding and invite the help of the Holy Ghost. Principle 2: **Work**. The scriptural treasures we seek in our lives cannot be borrowed or loaned or obtained secondhand. We must each learn to open the vault door by applying the principle of work. Principle 3: **Be consistent**. Experience suggests that a specific scheduled time set aside each day and, as much as possible, a particular place for study, greatly increase the effectiveness of our searching in and study of the scriptures. Principle 4: **Ponder**. Ponder means to consider, contemplate, reflect upon, or think about. Principle 5: Look for **connections** and **patterns** and **parallels** in the scriptures. Principle 6: Write down **impressions, thoughts, and feelings**.

“I say unto you, my sons, were it not for these things [the scriptures], which have been kept and preserved by the hand of God, that we might read and understand of his mysteries, and have his commandments always before our eyes, that even our fathers would have dwindled in unbelief.

“O my sons, I would that ye should remember that these sayings are true, and also that these records are true...; and we can know of their surety because we have them before our eyes.

“And now, my sons, I would that ye should remember to search them diligently, that ye may profit thereby; and I would that ye should keep the commandments of God, that ye may prosper in the land according to the promises which the Lord made unto our fathers” (**Mosiah 1:5-7**).

May we become master teachers of the doctrines and principles of the gospel by feasting on the scriptures and living our lives in a manner that we may teach with the Spirit and with power and authority.

Sincerely,  
*President Dunn*



# Happy Birthday!



A Fond Farewell to:

Elder & Sister Dutson  
Elder Grigoryan

A Happy Hello to:

Sis. Hallewell    Sis. Deaver    Eld. Zebley  
Eld. Andersen    Eld. Thornton    Eld. Nelson  
Eld. Derricott    Eld. Steele    Eld. Zuniga

Eld. Bennett— 5    Eld. Hartley—13  
Sis. Packard—17    Eld. Carlson—20  
Eld. Allen—26



## SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE

Dear Elders and Sisters,



Welcome to all our new missionaries in the Armenia Yerevan Mission. Adjusting to this new environment and culture requires you to develop good habits of health and safety. We expect all missionaries who have lived here for a while to be good examples of living a safe and healthy lifestyle. Some good habits to develop are to always use filtered water, wash your hands often, eat a balanced diet, eat food that has been prepared sanitarily, and keep your living quarters clean and neat. Let's keep healthy together and use wisdom in the things that we do.

At our next combined Zone Conference our Area Medical Advisor, Elder Goth, will discuss more ways to keep healthy. We look forward to his visit.

Sincerely,  
*Sister Dunn*

# Spotlights



## MESSAGE FROM THE A.P.'S ELDER CARLSON & ELDER WILLIAMS

### Elder & Sister Blotter



Tom and Jill Blotter started their romance as students at Logan High School. Jill completed her education at Utah State University and taught school in California while patiently waiting as Tom served a 2 1/2 year mission in Switzerland and Austria. Upon return, the flame still glowed and they were married in the Logan Temple. As a newly married couple attending graduate school at Utah State University, they learned to “become one flesh” in an interesting way. They repeatedly had to tow their Volkswagon for a repair with Tom driving a borrowed vehicle and Jill frantically steering /braking the Volks connected with a 20 ft. tow strap. While attending Michigan State, Tom was stumped 3 days on the solution of a Ph.D. dissertation problem. A request came for the Elders to help move a family. He struggled with the “want to” vs. a “should do” decision. After helping the family, he returned, and the solution to the problem became obvious. While serving two years at the Air Force Academy teaching cadets, they learned a deeper patriotic respect for the American flag. They also first heard a strange song about “rain drops falling on your head” while driving through the so-called Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs. They raised four children while Tom was serving on the faculty at USU. Jill maintained her focus as a mother while serving as PTA president, on County Zoning Board, cancer volunteer, Stake Relief Society President, and a host of other assignments. The four children managed a commercial raspberry patch, worked on their cattle ranch and learned a good work ethic. The three boys served South American missions. All four children pursued and achieved professional careers. Their temple marriages have provided 17 GRANDchildren. Tom enjoyed the university teaching, research, journal and textbook publications, along with a role with the Space Dynamics Lab. Elder and Sister Blotter are Humanitarian Missionaries. They have witnessed the Lord providing water systems to villages, medical equipment, farm equipment, computers, fruit trees, bulls and other needs in Armenia.

Happy Easter! During the Passover season, our minds are easily drawn to Christ. A little less than 2000 years ago, the Savior rode triumphantly into the city of Jerusalem. There He was greeted by “...a very great multitude [which] spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed *them* in the way” (Matt 21:8). In awesome wonder the city asked, “Who is this?” And the multitude answered, “This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee” (Matt 21:10-11). This is He who has called us to a holy calling. Those who embark in His service are exhorted, “see that ye serve Him with all your **heart, might, mind** and **strength...**” (D&C 4:2) We would like to focus on serving with all our heart.



As many of you know, a man name Dick Hoyt participates in triathlons and Iron Man competitions with his disabled son. Both the father and son have devoted years to these strenuous tests of strength and endurance. When asked if he thought he could achieve more without his son being pulled along, Dick essentially responded no. “My son is my inspiration. He is what keeps me going. Without him, I wouldn’t be able to finish the race.” Dick and his son have inspired thousands to give it everything they’ve got no matter what the obstacle or setback they may face.

In our missionary efforts, we often see obstacles and setbacks. But the Savior is our inspiration. He is what helps us to overcome. He is the reason that we can do this work with our whole heart. Without Him by our side, would we be able to finish the race? Let’s give Him our whole heart as we center our thoughts and our hearts on the Savior during this Easter season.

### Elder Harris

Spencer Russell Harris came crashing into the world on May 8, 1989 in Leavittown, Pennsylvania, & hugging has never been the same! To say he is mischievous would be a gross understatement. The word defines him. But that’s what we love about him, right? He once tried to ride a unicycle on the roof of a church. Another time, he & his friends launched water balloons over the fence into his neighbors’ Relief Society garden party. He thought it would be fun to start a water fight with everyone. But being kids who repented speedily, they apologized & helped clean up the mess. Elder Harris loves to make people laugh. Uh...really?? You have to be prepared to hear some pretty crazy stuff come out of his mouth. He is a lunatic skier & once tried to tuck it on a double black diamond w/deep moguls to see how far he could get. Halfway down, skis, poles, goggles, etc. went flying everywhere. But he jumped up to try again. He is an Eagle Scout & loves to fish & backpack with his family. Elder Harris is a hard worker & had a paper route. Once, going down a hill, he lost control of his bike, & crashed into a customer’s garage! He exchanged papers for a window washing business. He worked hard at sports too & was on the swim team until he switched to wrestling. (No doubt where the “crusher hugs” came from.) He took 2<sup>nd</sup> at Region the first year & made it to state the next, winning the “fighting heart award” for giving it his all & never giving up. He is a cute big brother & even though he teased his little sisters, he often expressed his love to them. He’s a favorite among the AYM’s & helps us all enjoy life just a little bit more.



### Elder Ellison

Marcus Alan Ellison was born in Seattle, Washington on March 29, 1989, weighing in at 11 lbs. even. He has one older & one younger brother and two adopted sisters. His parents knew it was going to be fun to watch him growing up when at three years old he was walking with a strut! It just came naturally. In addition, for many years Elder Ellison would tell his parents that he knew he was invincible. To illustrate the point, when he was 3 or 4 yrs. old, he and his older brother owned a Red Rider Wagon. He came up with the idea of riding the wagon down the stairs in the front of the house. Normally, that would be a dumb thing to do, but being invincible, no harm, no foul, right? His brother tried to warn him, but he sped on down the stairs. He ended up with a “forked tongue,” which he still uses today. You should see him eat Shish Kabob. Elder Ellison lived in Hawaii for several years and quickly adapted to the island “lingo” and culture. He finished school in Oregon, where he did well in basketball, soccer, baseball and football. He was a starting pitcher for his baseball team and helped his basketball team win 3<sup>rd</sup> at state. When he graduated, he achieved perfect attendance for all of his high school and seminary years. Among other things, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with no help from mom. Every chance he got, he did service for others. He ended up collecting over 700 hrs. Doing what is right has always been a priority for him whether it be the gospel, school or life in general; however, he was always himself, never worrying about what others thought. Way to be, Elder E.!

