

Armenia Yerevan Mission All Your Might

April 1, 2011

President's Message

Dear Sisters and Elders,

As a mission president, one of my greatest joys is in praying for you and watching you grow. The Lord loves all of His children but I like to think that His missionaries get a little extra attention. He has one holding authority from Him, set them apart from the world and it seems extra care then goes into shaping them. A missionary molded by the hand of the Lord becomes a marvelous work. You live with yourselves everyday and are accustomed to thinking more of others than you do of yourself – so perhaps your personal growth and magnification is not as obvious to you, as it is to me watching from a vantage point. From where I stand, I see it often. I see it in your letters as I read of your trials, your rejoicings and your learnings. I see it when a missionary works against the odds and doesn't see immediate fruit but the Lord tells me to leave him there and let him discover what he's really made of. I see it when two companions aren't a perfect fit and have to work at getting along – but they do it and start polishing each other's shoes. I see it when we're in lessons with you, teaching an investigator and I feel a powerful Spirit. I see it in your countenances and the light in your eyes at every missionary gathering large or small. I see it in Zone Conferences when Zone Leaders and Assistants speak and teach truth with clarity and power. I see it when a Sister Missionary has an unpleasant encounter on the street but moves on and relies upon the Lord for protection and peace. I see it when a senior couple does and does well, things they never thought they could do at all before this mission. I see it when a new District Leader humbles himself before the Lord, to learn how to lead and how to receive revelation for his District stewardship. I see it at a baptism when an Elder who may have once been macho, weeps and I know he has learned from experience what true joy is. Simply said: I see it everywhere, every day with all of our missionaries. Is it any wonder then, that Sister Carter and I count these as choice days of our lives – to be among you, to count you as our friends, and to rejoice as we watch you "become".

With hearts full of love for you, Pres & Sis. Carter

Happy Birthday!

5th - Elder Bennett 11th - Sister Carter 13th - Elder Hartley 23rd - Elders Reese & Rich 25th - Elder Wahl 26th - Elder Allen 30th - Elder Davis

PARTING TESTIMONIES

What a wonderful experience I have had serving with my eternal companion in Armenia. We have been truly blessed with this opportunity to learn and share our life experiences with all those we have met. I am grateful for my companion, for her patience, understanding and love. She is the most kind and caring person I have ever met. She keeps me straight and instills in me a desire to be better each day.

Our assignment as Europe East Employment Specialists with the task of laying the foundation for employment services in all of the Europe East Area has been wonderful for us. We have seen people's lives change as they learn to have confidence in their abilities and skills and have success is contacting potential employers and some have even found a good job. Employment successes are now starting to happen in Ukraine, Russia, the Baltic States and Bulgaria and we are grateful for the Lord's blessings in guiding us along our path. I have a testimony of Jesus Christ. I know that He lives and that His redeeming sacrifice will allow us to live again in His presence if we live the commandments and do the very best we can each and every day. Joseph Smith did see a Heavenly Vision and did restore the fullness of the Gospel in this last dispensation. The Book of Mormon arose from the dust of the earth to guide us and give us hope as we live our lives here on this earth. Thomas S. Monson is our living prophet today. We cannot go wrong if we will follow his counsel and sustain him as our prophet. The Plan of Salvation gives us the knowledge that will sustain us through the hard times that each of will face as we go through this mortal experience. I am grateful for the leadership we had had in this mission and in our Area assignment. Our leaders are inspired and have the Holy Ghost to lead them in their callings. I am most impressed with the young missionaries that we have been able to associate with. They are powerful young men and women who have been prepared for this assignment. They are in the right place, at the right time and the experiences they have will touch their lives and their family's lives forever.

Sister Pincock and I are excited to return to be with our family but will miss the wonderful members and others that we have come to love and care for while serving in Armenia. You have made our lives better and we love you all! Elder Pincock

As we prepare to depart from our wonderful mission in Armenia I want to share with all of you that I have a testimony of Jesus Christ. I have just completed reading the Book of Mormon with an emphasis on the teachings and references of Jesus Christ. I have a true testimony that this book is a testament of His life, His mission and His plan for us.

I have loved serving with Elder Pincock and I appreciate all that we have learned about this part of our journey through life. I have loved serving the people in Armenia, working with fellow members of the Church and working on progressing and improving my own life. What a blessing this has been in helping my testimony to grow and learn life's lessons.

I have a testimony of the importance of families and I look forward to seeing our family again and being close to them. But as the saying goes: When we serve a mission, we do not leave our family, we lead our family.

I love the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a way of life that brings great joy and teaches us the way to get back to our Heavenly Father. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sister Connie Pincock



MISSIONARY MIRACLES!

Last night Elder Pulsipher and I went to a meeting with some members. The father is a man named George from Nigeria. As we were getting finished with the lesson, one of his friends showed up. It was a man named Roger from India. He spoke pretty good English and sat down and began to chat with us. Soon the topic of religion and our mission here got brought up. He told us he has always been searching for truth but has never found it. He grew up Hindu but it never felt right. He converted to Christianity but has never found a church that felt right. We shared with him the message of the Restoration and our testimonies of God and His love for this man. Elder Pulsipher looked into his Book of Mormon and to our surprise there was an English Restoration pamphlet tucked inside of the last Restoration pamphlet that we had in Armenian. We were completely stunned because we have never grabbed an English one from the office or had one in our apartment. We shared with him again our testimonies that God loved him and was preparing a way for him to receive the truth. He said that if God sent him this pamphlet he would read it and come to church on Sunday. Our testimony of the knowledge of God has increased. Angels are really there to bear us up (and bring us English pamphlets). Elder Lusk and Elder Pulsipher

We were in the middle of a lesson. We were talking about baptism, and what the investigator had to do to be ready for baptism in the upcoming week. We were talking about reading the Book of Mormon every day. the investigator was describing he reads scattered chapters every day. We then talked to him how the prophet has asked us to read the Book of Mormon from front to back. He then said to us, "Yeah that is what I did the first time I read it." We both paused and were like, "What! You have read the Book of Mormon already?" He then said, "Yes, yes it is a small book." We sat in amazement, because we just barely started teaching him 5 weeks before this. He is now getting baptized this Saturday. It was a miracle in my eyes. God blessed us with a very prepared investigator.

Elder Steggell

New Members in Armenia!

Anahit, Hasmik, Avtandil, Gagik, Samvel, Ophila, Anush

MISSION COMPLETED

Elder & Sister Southwick Elder & Sister VanDyke Sisters Cornwell & Ferguson



I share with you my love for the Savior and for His great atoning sacrifice for us. In three weeks' time the entire Christian world will be celebrating Easter. I believe that none of us can conceive the full import of what Christ did for us in Gethsemane, but I am grateful every day of my life for His atoning sacrifice in our behalf.

At the last moment He could have turned back. But He did not. He passed beneath all things that He might save all things. In doing so, He gave us life beyond this mortal existence. He reclaimed us from the Fall of Adam.

To the depths of my very soul I am grateful to Him. He taught us how to live. He taught us how to die. He secured our salvation. - - Pres Monson