



President's Message

On the Saturday before Easter I wanted to do some reading that would help me prepare for Easter. I found this and I would strongly suggest that you print this so you can read and re-read and really think and pray about it. I think the experience will strengthen your love and appreciation of the Savior. It did mine.

"The Savior voluntarily took upon himself not only the cumulative burden of all sin and transgression, but also the cumulative burden of all depression, all loneliness, all sorrow, all mental, emotional, and physical hurt, and all weakness of every kind that afflicts mankind. He knows the depth of sorrow that stems from death; he knows the widow's anguish. He understands the agonizing parental pain when children go astray; he has felt the striking pain of cancer and every other debilitating ailment heaped upon man. Impossible as it may seem, he has somehow taken upon himself those feelings of inadequacy, sometimes even utter hopelessness, that accompany our rejections and weaknesses. There is no mortal condition, however gruesome or ugly or hopeless it may seem that has escaped His grasp and suffering. No one will be able to say, 'But you don't understand my particular situation.'"

This is but a glimpse of His awful load, the immense, unimaginable burden the Savior bore. (See Isaiah 53:4; Isaiah 63:9; D&C 133:53; Alma 7:11; Mosiah 3:7.)

President Ezra Taft Benson taught, "There is no human condition—be it suffering, incapacity, inadequacy, mental deficiency, or sin—which He cannot comprehend or for which His love will not reach out to the individual."

The scriptures are emphatic on this point – "He comprehended all things" because "He descended below all things" (D&C 88:6; 122:8).

Joseph Smith said, "[Jesus] descended in suffering below that which man can suffer; or, in other words, suffered greater sufferings, and was exposed to more **powerful contradictions** than any man can be." (Lectures on Faith, 5:2.)

*"After thinking and wondering about what these **"powerful contradictions"** could be for a long time, even years, the answers came while I was driving home one evening, pondering the question yet again. Suddenly, ideas came to my mind, one at a time, clearly, like bullet points - completely formed. As each one came, it seemingly overwhelmed my mind, like waves in the surf...I would just reach the surface, only to have another wave of thought overpower me. I came home and wrote the thoughts I could remember:*

Armenia Yerevan Mission

All Your Might

May 1, 2011

- *He who loves us with perfect love - suffered the combined results of all hatred, malice, evil intent, bigotry, persecution*
- *The Great Healer or Great Physician, who brought about the Resurrection for us - suffered the pain and indignity of all disease and illness, physical and mental; murder, torture, starvation, addiction, suicide*
- *The Great Creator and Prince of Peace - suffered the torment of war and violence, fear and death, mangled bodies and lives, families and nations torn asunder, great pollutions, pestilence, environmental disasters, holocausts, floods of refugees seeking safety after being separated from homes and loved ones*
- *He who delights in purity and chastity - suffered the disgusting insults of rape, incest, pornography, homosexuality, prostitution, adultery and all other unspeakable perversions*
- *He who loves Children, His little ones - suffered the sorrow and consequences of abortion and crack babies, child abuse of all kinds, divorce, loneliness, neglect*
- *He who was willing to give all, even His perfect life for us, unworthy creatures - suffered the combined effects of selfishness, greed, avarice, poverty, materialism*
- *The Great Liberator - suffered the effects of slavery, captivity, bondage, false accusation, unjust imprisonment, secret acts of violence and evil in countless dungeons over millennia*
- *The Master Teacher - suffered the effects of ignorance, stupidity, superstition, deceit, lies, fraud, incorrect traditions*
- *The Author and Giver of the Law - suffered the injustice of broken law, prejudice, abuse of power, mobs, secret combinations, evil conspiracies, all criminal misdeeds & lawlessness*
- *The Only Perfect One - suffered the consequences of all error, miscalculation, failure, omissions, misunderstanding, bad choices, inadequacy, improper judgment, humiliation, and rejection.*

If you can get your arms around it, He suffered all this and more, more than we could suffer or experience collectively, so that we might have hope in and through Him....that we might know He can reach us wherever we are and heal us if we will but believe, repent, and obey."

I know that the Savior loves each one of us. I know that because He lives, we too will live.

President Carter and I love each one of you. We pray for your health, happiness and especially we pray that as you serve the Savior your love for Him will grow. He is who we represent.

Love, Sister Carter

Happy Birthday!

5th Sister Hallewell

26th Sister Crego

31st Elder Lowe

PARTING TESTIMONIES

Early in this mission we attended a District Meeting where the young elders were discussing how children these days are so far ahead of them when they were younger---how they read earlier, and are so much smarter in so many ways. Their theory was that young children are catching up to the level where they are now so that everyone will be on the same page when the Savior comes.

We feel exactly the same way about all of you elders and sisters. You are miles ahead of us in so many ways, and your spirituality and your great examples have brought us much joy. We all know how challenging it is to be strangers in a strange land, but we, like you, have rock-solid testimonies that the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ is *the truth*.

We know for certain that our Father's work is to bring to pass our eternal lives, and that our Savior has done everything for us to make it possible. We love Them, and we love you, and we know that the little, and often hard, things that we are doing every day are bringing us closer and closer to being worthy of mercy at the day of Judgment. We are so thankful for this call to service----how else can we learn these things of such great importance----and we know the Lord loves us, and is especially tender to us when we show our love to Him by serving. May His best blessings be with you until we meet again.

Elder and Sister Blunck

Dear Missionaries,

In the most recent Priesthood session of general conference Elder Neil Andersen spoke to our age group of the critical role we have in preparing the world for the coming of the Savior. That talk struck a cord within me that rang very true. We are involved in a glorious work elders and sisters, we have been found worthy to represent the Lord Jesus Christ and His gospel and we have been ordained to the work of preparing the inhabitants of the world for His second coming.

As I have served these past two years the gospel has taken on a new dimension. The many testimonies and doctrines that at one time I thought were shallow have become unfathomably deep in importance and meaning. I Love the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christ was raised up on the cross and took upon Himself the sins of the world so that we might be raised up by Him to stand before the Father and be judged according to our thoughts, words and deeds. I know that it is through faith in Christ that we can obtain a remission of our sins through repentance and making sacred covenants, the terms of which He has set. Obedience to these covenants brings an increase of the spirit in our lives. I have learned of the truthfulness of this doctrine for myself, first confirmed by the spirit through prayer and study and then by the experience of living it and tasting of its fruits.

I know the book of Mormon is true and that it contains the

literal fullness of the gospel. It contains every principle and doctrine that will lead man to eternal life and exaltation. It is through the prayerful study of this book and the experiences that I have had in it that assure me of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the reality of the plan of salvation. Christ lives! He lives to love and lift all of us that we might inherit the fullness of joy. The mission has been a foretaste of the celestial joy and has served as a beacon that beckons me onward. May we all stay true to these truths and fulfill our purpose is my prayer in Christ's name, Amen.

From Elder Garner

Alright, here goes nothing...

I know this Gospel is true, it's probably the only thing that has kept me afloat in a world that would sink me in 2 seconds if it got the chance. I remember when I first came to know that the Gospel was true. I had attended church for more years than I'd like to admit, was baptized, and wasn't necessarily living as I should have. However, God in his infinite mercy sent an angel to me to show me the way, and now I know, just as that angel does, that the Gospel is true. I know the power of the Atonement it has worked in me more times than I would like to admit (constant theme anyone?), and I've seen the power that it has to change even the most broken of lives.

The Savior came to save us, me and you, because of his infinite love. That love is the power that pushes us forward when there is nothing else. When all seems dark around us, the light of the Savior of Mankind, Jesus Christ, points us towards eternal life. I have come to know that we truly are ministers and couriers of that sacred love on my mission.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, I know that the Book of Mormon is the most true of any book ever written. I know that there is a God in Heaven who loves us, and watches over us. I know that Joseph Smith was his Prophet, and that the line of Prophets comes down to us in our latter days, uninterrupted, through Thomas S. Monson. I know that this is the path back to Eternal Life. May God grant that we all walk this path together, until we shall receive all he has prepared for us.

Elder Crook

There has been many times this last few months when I have tried to explain really how I feel about my mission about the opportunity to represent the Lord Jesus Christ and testify and teach His gospel but I haven't been able to find the right words. I love my Savior. I am so grateful that He trusts us enough to be here and serve God's precious children. I know that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior who opened the way for all of us to be happy in this life and return to live with our Father in Heaven. For me my mission has been such a blessing, it has been an opportunity to grow closer to my Savior and to help others do the same. I know that a mission is hard, but at the same time by helping others come unto Christ we can feel the greatest joy we have ever felt. I know that God knows us, that he knows our weaknesses and strengths and will do everything in His power to help us to find happiness and joy in this life.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with such great missionaries and servants of the Lord. I know that this is the work of the Lord, that He is the one who directs it. I love you all and truly am grateful to be here with you all. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen. **Elder Jonas**

PARTING TESTIMONIES – CONTINUED -

As I look back on my mission and think of all the experiences that have led to me being here right now, I think of all of the crazy and interesting stories that I'll be able to tell in the future. It is pretty much a given that I will have the most interesting stories of all the returned missionaries sitting at my rounded table during any given BYU "break the fast." I can already picture the looks of astonishment on everyone's face as I describe the Armenian delicacy "khash." I can picture now the stunned expressions of all as I rattle off meaningless sentences in the Armenian language. I can only imagine the dates that will surely follow. Beside all of the fame and glory that is almost guaranteed, I see myself walking away from this mission being able to say something more important and meaningful. These words have faces and memories backing them up, making them more than simple phrases and nicely worded expressions.

I know that Jesus is the Christ, our Savior from death and Redeemer from sin. I have felt His matchless power and love in my life, and I have seen it in the lives of these Armenian people. I know that this is His work, that we are here to help all gain mercy at the day of judgment through fulfilling our purpose as missionaries. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only source of every blessing that we all yearn for. It is what brings us peace in this life, and it is what will make us worthy of eternal salvation in the life to come. I have not always been able to say these things. I know them to be true. I have felt the joy that comes from truly coming unto Christ. I want that for all Armenians.

I have also felt the joy that comes from bringing others unto Him. I want that for all of you. The Lord has shown us the way we can best serve Him and His children. If we do what He wants, the way He has shown us, we will see the blessings promised. Every sweaty day in Ararat and Artashat, every rainstorm in Gyumri, every freezing night in Charentsavan, every painful step in my poorly made Armenian winter shoes, every mouse I've had to exterminate, every day waking up without having water, every rock that has been thrown at me, every time I've been called fat, every time I've found my mailbox empty, every fall through, every bowl of khash, every month old grape (with the seeds), the time I saw that old man naked, and even every time I've had someone call me and quickly hang up the phone so I would call them back so that it would be on my phone bill, has been worth it. It has all been worth the joy that comes from this Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, and from being an ordained representative thereof. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Elder Pulsipher

I would like to bear my testimony of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. I know that he loves me. The Book of Mormon contains his words, and testifies of the divinity of His mission. I know that the Book of Mormon is true. I don't know much, but what I know, I know through the power of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Elder Crawford

I have grown to love the Armenian people, as I knew I would before I came. It seems odd to leave so suddenly without a chance to give hugs and goodbyes. I marvel at how the gospel of Jesus Christ permeates all who accept it and try to live it no matter where they are in the world. I know Jesus Christ is the literal Son of God born of a virgin. He supports all of our righteous efforts beyond our fondest hopes.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve in a far away land that I knew far too little about and see the operation of the spirit in the lives of those whom the Lord has prepared. There is no work in this world that is more important than missionary work, serving others and helping them receive the blessings of the gospel. **Elder John R. Peterson**

Serving in Armenia has been an interesting experience... a great growth experience for my testimony. I know that I belong to the only true church on this earth. I know that God lives and answers my prayers. I know that the Book of Mormon is true. I've learned to love reading it and as I have become more familiar with the doctrines and principles contained in it, my testimony grows about its truthfulness. I had sort of an epiphany one night as I was pondering the atonement and I know that the atonement was for me and not just for the big things I may have done wrong, but for the little things that trouble me. If I rely on Christ, I will find peace to my heart and soul. I love all the missionaries, both old and young and the Saints of Armenia, and my life has been enriched by the opportunity I had to serve. Thanks and love to you all! **Sister Peterson**

New Members in Armenia!

Armen, Ani, Tsovik, Liana, Frida, Meline, Mariam, Roman, Karen, Suren, Tamara

New Armenian/Georgian Missionary Calls

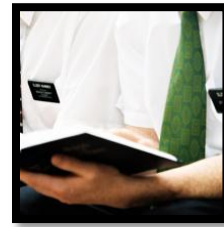
Lia from Ajapnyak Branch - SLC Temple Square

Iza from Avlabari – Scotland/Ireland

Zara from Yerevan Branch – SLC Temple Square

Mher from Arabkir Branch – Washington Kennewick

Sahak from Ajapnyak Branch - California Arcadia



MISSIONARY MIRACLES!

An ordinary experience of participating in the work of the Lord. A meeting fell through, like we didn't see that coming. We had 45 minutes till our next appointment and no idea what to do. The thought came to try a contact that had stood us up three times already. We called and asked if we could come over right then, he said yes. We made our way to his house, were welcomed in by his skeptical wife and showed into the living room to wait while he finished shaving. Realizing how crucial this meeting would be I silently prayed to be guided by the Holy Ghost. The husband came in and his wife and mother came in with him. We offered to watch the Finding Faith in Christ movie but as luck would have it their remote control didn't work and so we had to watch the restoration. We watched it and that along with answering some of their basic questions the skepticism in the wife melted away and she was touched. As we set some expectations by using the principles in PMG ch 10 the room grew silent and the spirit bore witness of what we said. At the end of the lesson we all knelt in prayer, the old grandma as well as we thanked the Lord for bringing us together. Our next lesson with them brought three other new investigators as other members of their extended family joined us as we talked about the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the understanding I have of the fundamentals and the difference it makes in the work. **From Elder Garner**

MISSIONARY MIRACLES – CONTINUED –

This last week during our very first lesson with a new family of investigators, the husband sat in and participated in the lesson--miracle number one. And, as we talked about the gospel he expressed some of his own serious concerns in life; mostly about the stress he feels at the responsibility of caring for his young and growing family. He talked for a while and in some detail about the stress that he feels. I listened and as I was listening, a scripture came to mind from the Book of Mormon, Alma 62:41, "But behold, because of the exceedingly great length of the war between the Nephites and the Lamanites many had become hardened, because of the exceedingly great length of the war; and many were softened because of their afflictions, insomuch that they did humble themselves before God, even in the depth of humility." We were able to testify that the Gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us to learn from our life's experiences and to use them to help us draw nearer to God. It was neat because we were able to teach directly to his needs through the Book of Mormon. He later committed to read from the Book of Mormon and pray about it with his wife. :)

From Sister Hallewell

I'm baffled at some of the gifts the Armenians have. One such is that of visions. Elder Lowe and I have had on numerous occasions, members or investigators come to us and told us that they had dreams in which they saw people we need to visit or very symbolic dreams that have led them to us or the church. One that keeps coming back to mind happened yesterday. We had just gotten home and the Assistants got a referral for us from a family in Georgia. They told us of some friends that lived in a village just outside of Gyumri in our area. Another one is of how this Ukrainian lady came to the church during conference. Her name is Luda, she told us of this dream she had in which she described many things that were symbolic of the temple. She also told us in the dream she was in a church that she didn't recognize, which happened to be our church. So she came again yesterday with her daughter, and now we are going to meet with them on Tuesday. I know they couldn't be more ready for the Gospel. I find it real interesting all these revelatory dreams that they have. I was talking to Elder Lowe about it and we are strong believers of the fact that they are a peculiar people, and that they have different gifts than us. They are of the house of Israel and God is sending the prepared children our way left and right. They really are special and it is an honor to be giving them the restored Gospel.

Elder Hatch

MISSION COMPLETED

Elder & Sister Pincock

Elder & Sister Peterson

It was a Surprise Birthday Party for Sister Carter!



PARTING THOUGHTS!

Make It A Good Day – Marion D. Hanks Sep 27, 1966
It Depends On Us.

“If you would like to make it a happy day – a good day – get your mind off yourself, look around you. At the moment of depression, if you will follow a simple program, you will get out of it. Get on your knees and get the help of God; then get up and go find somebody who needs something that you can help them find. Then it will be a good day!

Few joys in life are sweeter and longer lasting than knowing that you have helped others take the restored gospel of Jesus Christ into their hearts. Having that joy is the opportunity of every member of the Church.

– Henry B. Eyring

FROM Elder & Sister Jones

You can pick up a printed copy of future Pocket Directories & Newsletters from your District Leaders

Did you remember to change your filter on April 1st? IF NOT, do so, as soon as possible.

Please be sure that your apartments are kept clean.