



# Armenia Yerevan Mission

## May 2012

### *President's Message*

Dear Elders and Sisters,

It is May... a beautiful time of year. As we drove to Georgia last week the beautiful landscapes of Armenia and Georgia were turning green. Spring is always a time of renewed hope and vision.

As the Assistants, President Carter and I recently met with the six new missionaries and their mentors, I again thought of "vision" and tried to share with them the concept of facing their future with a desire to always be learning and growing and improving... even when they are older like us Senior Missionaries! I don't think that we will be "finished" with who we are becoming in this lifetime. I think that continually progressing is a big part of what it means to "endure joyfully to the end!" I feel that each of you can have a bright and blessed future if you will catch that "vision" and work for it.

Vision has been described as the act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be. Sister Sheri Dew tells of when she was young and her mother made her take piano lessons. Her whining about hating to practice fell on deaf ears.

Instead, her mother gave her a stack of classical albums introducing her to some of the great composers whose works were characterized by dramatic musical passages. As a young girl Sheri would listen for hours and imagine herself playing like them. In her daydreaming, she caught the vision of how it would be to play that beautifully. Sister Dew shares, "At that point, Mother no longer had to encourage me to practice.

Once I had a vision of the possibilities, the motivation to master the piano came from inside me.

Do I mean to suggest that practicing became magically enjoyable? Absolutely not! It was more often sheer drudgery than not. But, my progress on the piano and my motivation to practice increased dramatically when I caught a vision of my potential. We are temporarily afflicted with the amnesia of mortality, and it is the Spirit that sheds light upon our ultimate potential. If we are not able to catch a vision of the clear image of who we are, who we have always been, and who we are becoming - we most likely will not be willing to practice. Life, like classical music, is full of difficult passages that are conquered as much through endurance and determination as through any particular skill."

I pray that all of you will spend time pondering about who you are becoming. I encourage you to pray that you will be blessed with the vision, motivation, and determination to become who Heavenly Father knows you can be. President Carter and I appreciate your willingness to be here and be representatives of Jesus Christ. Our prayers are with you. We love each one of you.

Sister Carter

## MISSIONARY MOMENTS

Elder Smith and Hall (Malatia): So this will be a short missionary miracle. Elder Hall and I were out in a village just outside of the city talking to people and heading out to one of our appointments. Well that nothing was working out and the meeting we had planned fell through and the rest of our day began to fall apart. So we decided to go back to the city and adjust our plans. While we were on the Marshootni coming back to the city we had an impression to go visit one of our members. We called a male to go with us and then went over. We felt that she might need some cheering up seeing how that was the day that her daughter had left for another country. Well right when we arrived, her son, who was against the church, and his friend, were there and had been talking about religions and our member had just barely told the boys about the Church. Right when they finished their conversation we knocked on the door. The two boys thought to themselves and decided that it was not a coincidence that we had come right as they were speaking with her about the Church. Now both boys have baptismal dates and are progressing. Our other plans fell through for a reason and we just needed to follow the Spirit and what the Lord wanted us to do that day!

Elder Hatch: This last week we were teaching an aunt of one of the members in the Branch. As we were reviewing the Plan of Salvation she stopped us and told us of this dream she had the night before, where she saw all of us missionaries on risers, ascending up into heaven. She told us that she saw in her dream what we were teaching that day. And she went on to say that's how she found out that the Church is true. Again for me, it was a reminder of the Gifts of the Spirit and how these, the Armenian people, are of the House of Israel. Again I was reminded how they have different gifts than us. These people really are part of the covenant people of the Lord and God has sowed another one, the truth of himself. That I know to be true.

Elder Peterson and Elder Fairclough:

This last month, our bills really hit us hard and we both found ourselves with a whole lot less money than we thought we were going to have. We had thought that we had done really well saving our money for the month and were expecting to have money left over by the end of the month, but after paying bills we realized very quickly that that would not be the case. So we've been living on super cheap mode for the last two weeks, trying to keep from going under. And in the last two weeks we have at least 4 marshutni/bus rides paid for us, which is twice as many as have been paid for me in the entire year that I have been here. It may seem very small but I know the Lord is watching out over his missionaries, even when their budget plan fails them! He knows each of us and the situations that we are in, and is always ready and waiting to reach out and help us. I'm so thankful for this great truth!

### *Baptisms in April*

*Abraham, Edvard, Olakunle, Anna, Suzanna, Aram, Heghnar, Davit, Michael, Ajayi, Kalyan, Zarik, Liana*

