

ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

June 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

I have received several requests to provide more information about the “practices, principles, and doctrine” diagram presented by Elder Bednar. As you recall “**doctrine**” is the foundation of the gospel and is defined as “truths revealed by God.” Doctrine opens the eyes, mind, heart, and mouth of His servants. True doctrine does not change. It is eternal and it tells us “**why**.” Gospel **principles** arise from the doctrine and, like doctrine, do not change. Principles answer the question “**what**.” **Practices** describe “**how**” we go about implementing the principles and doctrines of the gospel.

Practices (how)

Principles (what)

Doctrines (why)

An example of how this works is as follows. The **doctrine** tells us “**why**” families are so important. God has declared that families are central to his plan and they are **eternal** in nature. This is true doctrine and it will not change over time. **Principles** associated with this doctrine instruct the Church as to “**what**” to do. In this case a true principle is that “the Church will do everything possible to support and strengthen families.” A **practice** associated with the doctrine of eternal families is that “we can strengthen families by holding family home evenings on Monday and that we should not schedule other church meetings that interfere with family home evening.” This practice answers the question of “**how**” we implement the doctrine and principles revealed concerning eternal families.

True doctrine and principles are always found in the true church and are revealed to God’s prophets. The goal of all priesthood leadership action should be to have the members of the Church understand the doctrine and principles of the gospel so they will “act for themselves and not to be acted upon.” (2 Nephi 2:26).

If we want to help others change or to facilitate a change in our own lives, it is to be remembered that change is best accomplished through and by the understanding of true doctrine. On page 19 of Preach My Gospel, President Boyd K. Packer stated the following: “True doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior. The study of the doctrines of the gospel will improve behavior quicker than a study of behavior will improve behavior.”

How does this statement apply to the example provided above? Here’s how. Once we study and **really** understand the doctrine of the family and its eternal nature, we will do everything possible (including holding regular family home evenings) to strengthen our family. Thus, an understanding of the doctrine helps us keep life in proper perspective.

I recommend that each of us take some time to apply this model to our personal lives and our efforts as missionaries. I also challenge us to develop this concept in meaningful ways that can be presented in district meetings and zone conferences to increase our knowledge of the doctrine and principles of the gospel. I promise that if we will accept this challenge, we will be more successful in our personal goals and in fulfilling our purpose as missionaries and missionary leaders.

Sincerely,
President Dunn

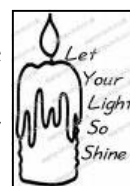


SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

As you may know, much of our success as missionaries will depend upon our staying healthy and strong. If we are to let our light shine before men, as stated in Matthew 5:16, and we want to represent the Lord well, we must follow the Lord’s laws of health. To maintain good health, you must eat properly; exercise regularly; develop good sanitation, hygiene, and safety practices; and promptly meet your medical and emotional needs. If you do those things you will find yourself with qualities of a missionary whose light shines before men and leads them to our Father in Heaven.



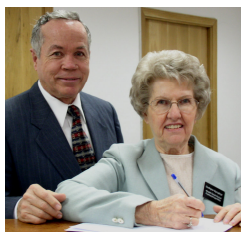
Despite all you do to stay healthy, you may need to call me if an illness stops you from doing the work or if you have a medical concern or question. If there is a need, I have some great medical resources I can call upon to help you solve your problem or answer your question.

Do your best to make wise decisions about your health. The Lord will bless you in your efforts. (D&C 89:18-21)

Sincerely,
Sister Dunn

Welcome back Sister Sabey! Welcome to Elder Grigoryan and Elder Kyle! We are so glad you are here!





Spotlights

Elder & Sister Fluckiger



Elder and Sister Fluckiger are very common folk. Sister Fluckiger grew up on a farm in a little out-of-the-way place under the Grand Tetons in Idaho.

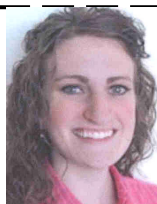
Elder Fluckiger grew up about 75 miles to the south in Afton, Wyoming in a family with nine sisters and four brothers. They met at Ricks College and she "waited" while he served a mission in North Central States. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1959. After living many different places, they've come home to stay in Rexburg, Idaho—the best of all places to live.

They have 7 children, 34 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. That was their main mission life—plus they have served 3 full-time missions together (two office couple missions in the USA and now Armenia) and one life-style mission to China teaching English. This has been their best mission yet, serving as Humanitarian Country Directors. They will be honored to help 14 village sin Armenia get clean water this summer. Examples of other humanitarian projects are helping hospitals, schools, handicapped, needy, etc.

Some things they've done—Temple ordinance workers, 13 years; owned apartment house for 185 college women for 10 years; Elder Fluckiger taught business at Ricks for about 14 years; stake leaders on BYU-Idaho campus on Sundays for 3 years; Elder Fluckiger wrote a book, "The Blessings of Dollars and Sense," which will be published in January; Sister Fluckiger taught piano lessons for maybe 30 years; they sent 6 children on missions, went to the Holy Land and Egypt on a tour, had twins, have changed mountains of diapers, and done a "heap-o-livin'."

What a privilege to live on the earth today, and to serve Jesus Christ among the "lost tribes of Israel."

Sister Woolley loves life and people. She was born December 12, 1985 at home in Midvale, Utah with her father as the delivery doctor—she came fast, but healthy. She and her family feel very fortunate to live in Bountiful where they have resided since 1996. She is the oldest of 6 children—3 sisters, 2 brothers, 1 brother-in-law and their cat, Kiko. After graduating from Bountiful High with many academic honors, she attended the University of Utah majoring in the medical field. She worked for Utah State Parks and Recreation, and volunteered as a safety instructor in the Off-Highway vehicle program for youth ages 8 to 15.



Sister Woolley

Country music is her favorite, although she will listen to variety of musical genres (including the Beach Boys, her Dad's preference). Some of her outdoor favorites are hiking, fishing, biking, camping, four-square, baseball, croquet, and vacationing at Lake Powell. She's enthusiastic about cooking, dancing, and art; has about a zillion friends; knows ASL; and creatively accomplishes any assignment she is given. The only things she doesn't like are mushrooms, tapioca pudding, and rubber snakes. A few years ago, she walked into her home and saw her five year old brother's rubber snake on the floor. She bent down to put it away, but just before touching it, it slithered away and her screams could be heard for hours and many miles away.

She is a fun, enthusiastic daughter, sister, and friend to all. Her greatest accomplishment so far is being able to share the gospel and work with the elders, sisters, and presidency in the Armenian mission. She loves the Savior and tries very hard to follow His example by loving and caring for others.

Elder and Sister Allen have adopted a motto—"Pursuing our dreams and making them memories." The things they have done together have certainly fit well into this motto.

Elder and Sister Allen met in the 5th grade and have been friends since. They dated in high school and went separate ways for college. After one year of college, they decided to "get together" again, and on the last Saturday of May, 1964, Elder Allen baptized Sister Allen. Then, the next Saturday, Sister Allen received her patriarchal blessing from Elder Allen's grandfather, and the following Saturday they were married. A couple of weeks short of a year later, they were sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple. They have 6 children—3 girls and 3 boys, but only 5 of them survived to adulthood. They now have 11 terrific grandchildren.



Elder & Sister Allen

This mission is the 2nd full-time mission for the Allens. They also served in the Slovenia Ljubljana Mission as the office couple there. They also served about 11 years in the Museum of Church History and Art and about 3 years in the Audiovisual Department of the Church.

Elder Allen is a civil engineer, having retired from the Federal Highway Administration. Sister Allen worked while Elder Allen attended college, then returned to the work field when their youngest child was in kindergarten. Her favorite job was working for the Church.

Elder and Sister Allen enjoy riding bicycles together. Elder Allen commuted to work on his bicycle for about 20 years and logged 40,000 miles during that time. Two long rides for both of them were from Salt Lake City to Salmon ID and from Providence RI to Niagara Falls NY.

Our advice to the missionaries—look forward now to serving as a senior couple. You will not comprehend your service as a young missionary until you see that service from the eyes of a senior couple.



"If it weren't for the rocks in the bed, the stream would have no song."

-Author Unknown

Message from the Assistants

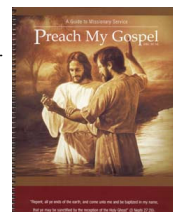
Elder Rasmussen

Elder Birgersson



In the AYM we are blessed to have much work and many opportunities to teach. With the changes that took place in March, we are now required to teach our investigators for a longer period of time, allowing us to spend more time teaching them according to their needs. With teaching our investigators for a longer period of time, we as missionaries need to meet the needs of our investigators by developing our teaching skills. It is important that we develop those skills so that we can resolve investigator's concerns and help them progress toward baptism. It is our job to teach according to their needs, and only through developing good teaching skills will we be able to do this. It doesn't matter how long we have been in the country, it is our duty to continually do what we can to acquire these skills and become master teachers.

So how can we as missionaries develop our teaching skills? We would like to offer a couple of suggestions. We have been given a powerful tool to teach us how to become effective teachers—Preach My Gospel. In this manual we learn how to teach our investigators in a way which will allow them to better understand the message of the Gospel. We learn about teaching in unity, using the scriptures, using members, teaching to the investigator's needs, asking questions, listening, and resolving concerns. There is a section for each one of these skills, which teaches us how to develop them. We would invite you all to take time to study each individual skill, but is it enough to only study it? NO!!!



We need to have a plan! It is worthless to merely open up Preach My Gospel, read about these skills, and continue teaching, not applying the knowledge acquired. Once we have this knowledge we need to know how we are going to apply it. We need to set appropriate goals of what we are going to do each day to continually improve the way we teach. In your companionships discuss what skill needs the most attention and work on it daily. As that skill is developed, discuss what new skill needs to be focused on. Developing these skills could take a couple of days or a couple of weeks, but if we are not working on developing them, then we are not improving as teachers.

We promise that as you work on developing these skills the Lord will bless and assist you to become more powerful teachers. As these skills are developed, your abilities to help your investigators resolve their concerns will increase, which in the end will help them gain a better testimony and understanding of the Gospel. Make it a matter of prayer and rely on the Lord as you seek to develop these skills.

Elders Rasmussen and Birgersson

HAPPY Birthday



13 Jul	Elder Christensen
14 Jun	Elder Hook
15 Jul	President Dunn
21 Jun	Sister Fluckiger
22 Jul	Elder Fluckiger
23 Jun	Elder Rietmann
24 Jul	Elder Wolfley
28 Jun	Elder Bullock
27 Jul	Elder Sheridan