

# ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

June 2010



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

Where has the time gone? This is our thirty-sixth article written for the AYM Newsletter. In as much as none of you were here back in the "old days" when we began, please allow us to share some of our messages written over the past 3 years.

We appreciated the kindness of President and Sister Bartholomew as we prepared to begin our mission. We asked for the missionaries' support and prayers to enable us to build upon the great work that had previously been accomplished.

We consistently stressed four simple principles which are guaranteed to bring happiness and success as a missionary. 1) Study with a purpose; 2) Pray with faith; 3) Work hard with a plan; and 4) Obey mission rules strictly.

"We are serving at a historic moment in this part of the world. We are bringing the Prince of Peace to a people who have known little peace in their lives" (Elder Uchtdorf, Mission Presidents' Seminar, 2007).

The introduction to the white Missionary Handbook states: "Follow these standards, they will help you magnify your calling and protect you physically and spiritually."

President Paul, during a mission tour in October 2007, encouraged the missionaries to always have 10 gospel conversations every day, including preparation day and Sunday. He also reminded missionaries to "act according to their calling and not their age."

Repentance is not to merely stop doing something that is wrong. It involves active participation in a process that results in a complete change of heart.

The New Year is a time to evaluate past accomplishments, to set new goals, and then to steadfastly press forward. No matter what our past has been, our future is perfect.

Do not ever forget that sin destroys faith, and hope "cometh of faith" (Ether 12:14).

The Savior told his apostles to... "go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16). Retention, retention, retention!

Elder Bednar taught three doctrinal reasons for studying the scriptures: 1) Because of covenants we have made; 2) Because of direction we need in our lives; and 3) Because it is preparation for and a prerequisite to receiving personal revelation.

Study and know the doctrine. Gospel doctrine is defined as "truths revealed by God." True doctrine does not change. It is eternal and it answers the question "why."

"Your success as a missionary is measured primarily by your commitment to find, teach, baptize and confirm people and to help them become faithful members of the church who enjoy the presence of the Holy Ghost" (*Preach My Gospel*, page 10).

"You [will be] expected to devote all your time and attention to serving the Lord, leaving behind all other personal affairs... You are accountable to the Lord and to the leaders of the Church for how well you honor this promise" (*Missionary Handbook*, page 4).

We can always find an excuse for not doing our best. If we look, there are plenty of excuses to be found. The key is this: DON'T LOOK! In life we tend to find what we look for.

Change is difficult. Permanent change is extremely difficult . . . but absolutely possible.

Each of us should have already embarked on our own personal "quest for perfection." If we have not, why not? If not now, when? Procrastinate tomorrow!

We can accurately assess our spiritual maturity by pondering the following thought-provoking question: How do I respond when the answer is no? (D&C 3 and D&C 9)

It has been a long hard journey to establish the church in Armenia and Georgia, but much has been accomplished by those who came before us. Those of us fortunate enough to be here now are the beneficiaries of their combined efforts.

"Let our minds be centered on our mission" (*Missionary Handbook*, page 7). We are to conduct ourselves at all times in such a way that everyone who sees us will recognize us as a representative of Jesus Christ.

When faced with serious problems---remember the pattern shown in the book of Nehemiah:

1) Sit down; 2) Weep; 3) Mourn; 4) Fast; 5) Pray; and then 6) Go to work. The Lord answers our prayers when we go to work!

"The Spirit is the most important single element in this work. Without the Spirit you will never succeed, regardless of your talent and ability" (*Preach My Gospel*, page 176).

EXAMINE YOUR MOTIVES!

Decide now to be 100% obedient, to avoid temptation, and to hold fast to the word of God as though your very soul depends upon it. For in reality, it does!

It will never be easier for you to make positive changes in your life than it is right now. The longer you wait, the more effort it will take to effect permanent change. Satan understands this principle perfectly well. That is why he is such an advocate of procrastination.

Accountability is a divine principle. It is designed to help, not to punish. President Monson declared: "When performance is measured, performance improves. When performance is measured and reported, the rate of improvement accelerates" (*Preach My Gospel*, page 150).

How will you respond when you face your own personal "Rubicon?" Will you jump in with all of your might or will you longingly look back? Be "fit for the kingdom" (Luke 9:62).

You were lovingly reminded to: Be safe by being alert to your surroundings. Stay away from animals. Be cautious on icy walkways. Check the batteries in your carbon monoxide detectors. Make sure you know where your 72-hour kit is and keep it updated, etc, etc, etc. Stay healthy by washing fruits, vegetables, and eggs properly. Change water filters. Drink plenty of liquids. Eat a balanced diet. Wash dishes daily. Wash hands often. Exercise six days a week, etc, etc, etc. Call when you are sick.

It has been an honor to serve with you. You are wonderful. We love you and respect you. Now get out there and "be the missionary your mother thinks you are."

Keep smiling and stay strong.

With love,

**President and Sister Dunn**

## MESSAGE FROM THE A.P.'S

### ELDER CARLSON & ELDER WILLIAMS

In continuation of the last newsletter, we would like to address serving "...the Lord with all [our] heart, **might**, mind, and **strength**." This month we would like our focus to be on serving with all of our might and strength. We think Doctrine and Covenants sums it up pretty well when it states "Wherefore, I call upon the weak things of the world, those who are unlearned and the despised, to thrash the nations by the power of my Spirit; And their arm shall be my arm, and I will be their shield and their buckler and I will gird up their loins, and they shall fight manfully for me; their enemies shall be under their feet; and I will let fall the sword in their behalf, and by the fire of mine indignation will I preserve them." Don't allow yourself to feel inadequate. You may feel that all your might doesn't amount to much and that your strength seems insignificant, but as we serve with all our might and strength, the Lord's will will be fulfilled.



# Spotlights

## Elder and Sister Packard



The most important thing to know about Elder and Sister Packard is that they are serving in Georgia and loving it. They have been called to be President and Matron of the Dallas Texas Temple starting November 1, and will be leaving Georgia soon. They love missionary work. Ten months before coming to Georgia they finished an 18-month mission to Sapporo, Japan. They were the office couple there and loved the close interaction of all the missionaries as they would come to the office. They have served in nearly all the ward and stake positions available. They also love genealogy and temple work. They have served many years in both.



The Packards are the owners of Apple Orthodontix in the Dallas-Forth Worth metroplex. Elder Packard started working as an orthodontist in 1967 and retired 2 years before going to Japan. About that time he was released as Stake President of the McKinney Texas Stake. Sister Packard loves cooking and gardening. She is very good at both. Most of all she loves visiting and talking to her 3 married sons and 7 married daughters. Skype video has made that very special these last 3 years while on missions so far away. Elder Packard loves scouting, is Woodbadge trained, and has received the Silver Beaver award. He loves camping, fishing, reading, family research, and playing games. They spent 2 years among the Eskimos in Alaska caring for their dental needs. Dog team and bush plane were their main ways of getting into the 14 villages around Nome, Alaska.

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary just before coming on this mission. In fact their oldest son and his wife are now serving a couples mission, working with the young single adults in Moscow, Russia. Sister Packard just celebrated her 70th birthday and Elder Packard is coming up on 74 in July. They have 11 children, 49 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.

**We wish this wonderful couple the best in their new responsibilities!**

## Elder Simonsen

Elder Kyle Austin Simonsen was born on June 20, 1989. He has always had high expectations for his life. When he was an infant he would sit quietly on his mom's lap as she played the piano. When he was 3 he started begging for piano lessons but no one would take him as a student—he was too young. So his mother taught him. By the time he was 5 he was well on his way to being a great pianist.



Elder Simonsen likes to learn new things. While walking to his first day of kindergarten, he said with a big smile and a sigh, "Today is the day I finally learn how to read!" Reading became a passion, especially the Harry Potter series. One of his favorite days started in the Frankfurt, Germany, airport on the morning the final Harry Potter book came out. He bought a copy and spent an entire flight reading, finishing the book before landing in SLC.

Content to be a nerd, he loved math, science, music and reading. But his nerdiness ended in 9<sup>th</sup> grade when a large group of girls found him quite fascinating and drew him into their group. Throughout high school, it was "Kyle & the Harem". People were always hanging out at his house, making life interesting. One of the "Harem" became his favorite and he hopes she is faithfully waiting for him to finish his mission.

We are indeed fortunate to have such a fine young man here in the AYM!

## Elder Piercy

Elder Michael Adam Piercy was born on March 26, 1989, on Easter Sunday, a perfect little "egghead." He has a history of being a little different from everyone else.. If you ever get bored on P-day, ask him to do his famous "rubber hand" tricks. Pure entertainment! Be sure also to check out what he can do with his knees!

There are 5 siblings in his family...3 redheads, 1 blonde and dark-haired Elder Piercy. As a child he loved music and when he was old enough, he chose to learn the trumpet. He played first chair in the Honors Band. During one of the performances, one of his mutes rolled away from him and fell noisily into the orchestra pit. After the piece was over, he hopped into the orchestra pit to retrieve his mute, accompanied by applause from the audience!

Taking German in high school gave him the opportunity to spend one summer in Germany on an exchange program. The following year, he returned to Europe traveling with Arizona Young Ambassadors.

Elder Piercy holds the distinction in his ward of having the longest amount of time between finishing his Eagle Scout project and filing the required paperwork—4 years. He received his Eagle Scout and Duty to God just before he turned 18.



On a more serious note, he excelled in school and graduated with honors. During his senior year, he was invited to take freshman engineering classes twice a week at Arizona State Polytechnic campus. After graduation he entered ASU Poly on a mechanical engineering scholarship as a provisional sophomore. The scholarship is still waiting for him when he returns home. Sounds like a bright future awaits. In the meantime, we in the AYM are blessed to have Elder Piercy in our midst!