

ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

July 2010



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sisters and Elders,

The time is soon here when we'll be fellow laborers with you in proclaiming the Gospel. We're in the middle of what each of you once felt – the sorrow of departing from loved ones while simultaneously feeling the excitement and anticipation of being a missionary. "It's hard but you can hardly wait" might describe it.

Having experienced it ourselves we know that a change of mission presidents can be a bit unsettling, so we hope to give you here some reassurance.

Maybe I'll tell you an experience to illustrate. When our first son Ryan was about to be born I remember thinking, "His Mother has carried him for nine months so she already has a bond with him but after he's born, how long will it take me to develop that special love for him?"

The answer was a miraculous surprise to me as a first time father – It was INSTANT! The first time I held him I was entirely swept with that love. It came as a gift from the Lord as it does with every parent.

We likewise know from experience, that same gift comes with our missionaries.

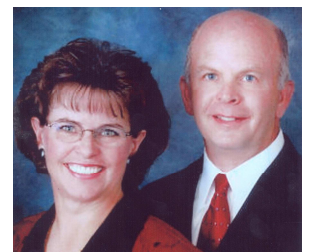
We will love you instantly!

We learned about that the first day of being missionaries in Ukraine. What we most wanted was to be proselyting missionaries and the Lord gave us that opportunity. We got to find and teach and baptize. We worked as a team with our Elders and Sisters every day of our mission. They brought the youth and vigor and the language and we brought some years of life experience. It was marvelous. We loved the work and we loved THEM . . . just as we will love each of you!

The mission has been in very capable hands with President and Sister Dunn. We love them and you love them and they will be sorely missed. We express our heartfelt appreciation for their sacrifices and inspired leadership.

All of us "walk on sidewalks we didn't build." Seven mission presidents and hundreds of faithful missionaries have served before us. With your help we will stand on the shoulders of their work and do our best to keep building.

We love the Lord. And because we love Him we love missionary work. And because we love the work we love the workers. We can hardly wait to lay our eyes on all of you and give you hugs! (I can hug the Elders and Sister Carter the Sisters, che?)



President and Sister Carter

A WARM WELCOME TO:

Elder Davis and Elder Ervin

Arrived June 18

Elder and Sister Peterson

Returned June 23

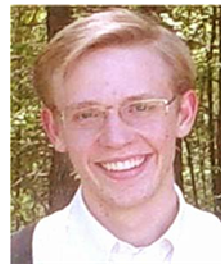
**MESSAGE FROM THE A.P.'S
ELDER CARLSON & WILLIAMS**



Spotlights

Elder King

Elder Elliott King was born in the Appalachian Mountains of the South and has lived in many regions of the United States—he ate chips and salsa from his high chair in the desert, moved irrigation pipe on the foothills of Utah, forded rivers deep in the heart of Texas, and walked in the footsteps of the Minutemen in Massachusetts. His love of learning things esoteric can be illustrated by some of the subjects he studied at BYU before his mission: paleontology, Welsh, century-old fitness programs, cravats, Aeolian wind harps. While in Armenia he has not only learned to speak Armenian well but has had an obsession with learning rare vocabulary and languages. One day he was impressed to learn Armenian words about beekeeping. The next day he met a beekeeper and was able to have a conversation with him. Elder King can entertain with music too. He composed an album of songs, one of which was “Wave Propagation in Turbulent Media.” He plays the guitar, banjo, and didgeridoo (he makes these too). Have you heard him Tuvan throat sing? If music isn’t your thing, ask him to juggle. He has always enjoyed pleasing others with his creations—whether of metal, glass, wood, pottery, origami, or an awning for his parents’ house. Elder King is always ready to give a helping hand, from chopping wood to translating to taming an office computer. We in the AYM appreciate him immensely!



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As our minds reflect and ponder upon the words of Elder Scott, we would like to emphasize the apostolic

blessings that he bestowed upon all those in attendance at the conference. First, he promised us that through the power of the Holy Ghost, and as we pray, we will come to know why God loves us and with what he is pleased about in our lives. What interesting promises to know why our Father in heaven loves us, and what a satisfying assurance to know that our offering of service is pleasing to Him. Secondly, Elder Scott promised that the Holy Ghost will prompt us as to what we need to improve upon. This is a great opportunity to change for the better. Indeed we will look back on Elder Scott’s visit years down the road and consider it life-changing if we put his promises into practice. Do good!



Elder Carlson

Aaron Carlson is #6 of 8 children--has 6 brothers and 1 sister. When he was 2 a younger brother was stillborn. Little Aaron comforted his mother with, “Mommy, I will be your baby and I won’t die.” He was often the brunt of his older brothers’ jokes. If he was bothering them they would tell him, “Aaron, get out of here,” to which he would sternly reply, “But I LIVE here.” He won points with them when he was 11 or 12 and broke his arm badly. While the orthopedist pulled the bones apart with weights he didn’t cry or scream, amazing the doctor, who had known grown men to faint from the procedure. He just gritted his teeth and bore the pain. Aaron grew up playing basketball and in 8th grade was voted “HOTTEST GUY.” He loves to remind his siblings about that—an honor only he received. In high school he played point guard. He also volunteered for Special Olympics and raised \$7000 for the “lost boys” of Darfur. He taught himself guitar and was lead singer for several years in a band called Bobble Head Buddah. (They were actually very good.) He and his dad love to talk chemistry and science; Elder Carlson actually keeps a copy of the Periodic Table on the wall of his bedroom. His mother says he was a very easy child to raise—a joy and comfort to his parents and well loved even by those mean older brothers. He certainly has shown his merit here in the AYM. We love him, respect him, and depend on him!



Elder Clark



Hayden Douglas Clark started life in Texas, the 4th of 6 children. Hayden is his mother’s maiden name; Douglas is his father’s first name. His mother describes him as wonderful, generally shy, and goofy. At age 3 he pulled the fire alarm at Mother’s Day Out because he was curious. He used to get in trouble for laughing at other kids who were goofing off. He has always loved sports and is very athletic. His first word was “ball” and first sentence was “Where’s the ball?” Playing soccer as a 4-year-old he would watch the pack and when the ball popped out, he was gone—GOAL. In high school he won honors in varsity tennis and soccer. Besides sports, he likes gardening, animals, hiking, and camping—the outdoors in general. Once he grew a giant pumpkin for the fair, almost 100 pounds’ worth. He is strong willed, always doing something, and has been a good leader whom others liked to follow. Before he could talk, when he saw the Christus Statue in the Temple Square Visitors Center, he said very clearly “Jesus.” He has always had faith and a love for the gospel, has always wanted to serve a mission. His patriarchal blessing said he would teach the lost ten tribes on his mission. Elder Clark, we’re glad you’re here!

