

ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

August 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

“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). What a powerful and revealing statement! Our success is measured primarily by our **commitment**. Therefore, it would be an excellent practice to regularly ask ourselves--“How committed am I?” Only you, the Lord, and priesthood leaders (to some degree) have the ability to accurately measure the stewardship to judge your level of commitment.

Sometimes we foolishly attempt to judge the commitment level of others when we have no stewardship to do so. That is always a mistake. First of all, we are not very good at it. And this is one area where practice doesn't help much. We cannot accurately judge others because we have no conclusive way to assess their motives and to know their thoughts. Only God knows the intents of our hearts and our thoughts (D&C 6:16). Additionally, it is dangerous to judge others because “...with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Matthew 7:2). Thus, if we judge others at all, it better be righteous.

In missionary work outward results, such as number of baptisms, are not necessarily an accurate reflection of the **commitment** level of a missionary. “Remember that people have agency to choose whether to accept your message. Some may not accept your message even when they have received a spiritual witness that it is true” (*Preach My Gospel*, page 10). Our duty is to do our best and to teach with power and authority and by the Spirit. Our investigator's responsibility is to accept the gospel message and to take action when they feel the Spirit. When they opt to exercise their agency in a disappointing manner, it is their right. **We should be devastated but not defeated.**

Please do not ever be willfully disobedient while rationalizing that others cannot accurately measure your level of commitment. Do we really believe we can fool God? Of course we can fool men but we cannot ever fool God. Sometimes we behave as though we think we can disobey and do less than our best and not have to suffer the consequences. Does anyone ever really get away with anything in life? Is there such a thing as a perfect crime? In the short-run; maybe yes. In the long-run; no! The Lord does not always balance the books at the end of each day, but of this you can be certain; the books will be balanced! All farmers understand the law of the harvest. We reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). There are no exceptions! We cannot plant corn and expect to harvest oats. Foolishly, some may flippantly respond, “I'll do what I want to now and I can repent later.” Please don't fall into that trap. Of course we can repent but consider this: bad habits are painfully difficult to break. It will never be easier for you to make positive changes in your life than it is right now. The longer you wait and the older you get, the more effort it takes to effect permanent change. It is as simple as that. **Satan understands this principle perfectly well. That is why he is such an advocate of procrastination.**

We have a lot of work to do. Even with the best case scenario, our time is shorter than we think. We have **personal work** as well as **missionary work** to do and very little time to accomplish it. We need to do our best and do whatever is necessary to be successful. “When you have done your very best, you may still experience disappointments, but you will not be disappointed in yourself. You can feel certain that the Lord is pleased when you feel the Spirit working through you” (*Preach My Gospel*, page 11).

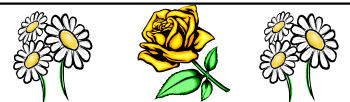
Let's not ever forget the words of President Gordon B. Hinckley when he said - “Your obligation is as serious in your sphere of responsibility as is my obligation in my sphere” (*Preach My Gospel*, page 13). These are not just words. This is the Lord's work. Our obligation is serious.

Sincerely,

President Dunn



SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,



We hope by now everyone has changed their water filters labeled #1, #2 and #3 as scheduled in the last newsletter. It has been brought to our attention that the filters in some of the meetinghouses have rarely been changed. Please make sure your meetinghouse filters are changed at the same time your apartment filters are changed. Remember to use pure water for drinking, for ice cubes, for brushing teeth and for rinsing dishes.



During this hot weather time you will want to carry water with you. Your body works best when it is well hydrated. Everyone should drink at least six to eight glasses of fluids a day. Consuming fresh fruits and vegetables will also increase your fluid intake.

Have a good summer! We are here for you and care about your success and well being.

Sincerely,

Sister Dunn

Spotlights

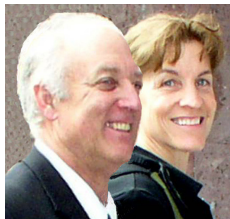


Elder Bullock

Elder Bullock was born in Salt Lake City and is the oldest of 2 boys. He came into the world unexpectedly 2 1/2 months early. He was 3 lbs and fit in the palm of his Dad’s hand. Elder Bullock obviously couldn’t wait to get here and accomplish something wonderful, and has been on some kind of “mission” ever since. He has an awesome sense of humor and a keen intellect. He always has his head in a book learning something new. When he graduated from high school he had already completed his freshman year at Utah State University.

Elder Bullock is compassionate and has a kind heart. He has a strong interest in medicine so he can help others. He has a love for language and has studied several different languages on his own. He also loves playing the violin and had a hard time parting with it when he left for his mission. We hear that he plays an “air” violin while he’s been in Armenia. While he has been serving a mission, his parents built and moved into a new home in Paradise, Utah. All his friends tease him that they have seen his room before he has, even a few returned Armenian missionaries and Armenians have seen it before he has! His dog, Cheyenne, has also been waiting patiently for his return, along with his younger brother Kyle. He has a strong and sincere desire to serve the Lord and bring a great message of hope to the people of Armenia. He has a lot of family and friends that are very proud of him and his desire to serve.

Sister Doty was “born in Price, Utah, raised 18 years in Fairbanks, Alaska. Chased by bears, fishing, shot first moose with 300 H&H magnum rifle @ 16, herded cows every summer, grew up on a horse. Met Elder Doty in Fairbanks as they ate @ our home every Friday, tradition in our home for forever. He finished his mission, went home to Utah. I went to BYU, saw him, we fell in love, got married 2 months later, rest is history. Six kids, all girls except 5. 20 grandkids. Sports are my hobby.”



Elder & Sister Doty

Elder Doty was born and raised in Salt Lake City, has 3 brothers (1 died after birth) and 4 sisters. He served a mission to British Columbia/Alaska. He’s an avid fisherman, hunter, retired professional firefighter and construction builder. Loves welding, making anything, and can do everything and anything, except computers. He loves to take his fishing boat out on the lakes and fish. Loves playing ball with his grandchildren. He built their 3,500 sq. ft. home from scratch with no blueprint or written plan, plus built a huge garage/workshop on their 2 acres of land. He has held almost every Church calling there is that men can hold including scoutmaster and branch president for 6 years.

Elder Lovinger is the 3rd of 4 children and has an older brother and sister and a younger brother. He is a great older brother as he always lets his brother who is four years younger than he is, hang out with him and his friends, even during high school. They are great friends and look forward to a great reunion. Elder Lovinger has been a good friend and example to everyone he knows. He is kind,



Elder Lovinger

hardworking, dependable and obedient. Because of these qualities he was given the “coaches’ award” three years in a row when he played football in high school. His family always loves to hear him sing because he was blessed with a beautiful voice. In high school he sang in a cappella choir that traveled to Ireland his senior year. He also did running start, a program that allowed him to attend Eastern Washington University the last 1 1/2 years of high school to earn college credits. He also likes to play the guitar, snowboard and wakeboard. Elder Lovinger has a great sense of humor and keeps his family laughing. He writes great emails home and they can feel how his testimony has grown from serving a mission. Elder Lovinger is a great part of his family and they love him!

Message from the Assistants

Elder Rasmussen

Elder Birgersson



During the month of July we had two fantastic zone conferences. First and foremost we would like to thank all the zone leaders once again for all of their planning, preparation and hard work. During these zone conferences we all received revelation and a vision of what the Lord expects of us for the coming months. We have many things that we want to change and many ideas of who the Lord wants us to become. Our hope is that this message will help each of us apply in our lives the things we learned.

President Monson has said, “It is not enough to want to make the effort and to say we’ll make the effort. We must actually *make* the effort. It’s in the *doing*, not just the *thinking*, that we accomplish our goals. If we constantly put our goals off, we will never see them fulfilled.” **Now** is the time to ponder a few questions—Where is our effort? What are we *doing* to make those changes and have our visions come to pass?

We received all these wonderful thoughts and inspirations and we have *thought* much about what we need to do. The *thoughts* we had and have now are not enough—we need to put them into action . . . We need to *do* something.

The first step we need to do is to decide what goals need to be set. It is not wise to set too many goals. Most people cannot handle more than a handful of goals at one time. We know our limits and we need to set our goals accordingly.

All too often many of us only make it this far. In our goals, we intend to incorporate the things we learn, but in time our goals are lost and they become only a paper sitting on the table or taped to the wall.

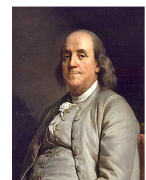
We need to hold ourselves accountable, but how? We need to have a system. It may not be enough for us to only be accountable to ourselves, for often we may forget. Luckily we have the blessing of having many people around us who want to see us succeed. As we make ourselves accountable to our companion we are more likely to achieve our goals. We may also make ourselves accountable to our mission leaders, such as a district leader with whom we have daily contact. As we choose to make ourselves accountable to others, our goals will no longer just be writings on a piece of paper; they will be the steps of reaching our vision. (PMG pg. 150)

We would invite each of us to take the responsibility upon ourselves to make ourselves accountable to the people who will help us in our endeavor to become the missionary (and subsequently the man or woman) the Lord would have us be.

Elders Rasmussen and Birgersson

“The problem with doing nothing is not knowing when you are finished.”

– Benjamin Franklin



04 Aug	Elder Gustin
19 Aug	Sister Dow
30 Aug	Elder Halling



Happy Birthday



02 Sep	Elder Haake	22 Sep	Elder Lovinger
07 Sep	Elder Hope	22 Sep	Elder T. Smith
10 Sep	Elder Grigoryan	23 Sep	Elder Halcomb
17 Sep	Elder Larson	24 Sep	Sister Peterson