



# Armenia Yerevan Mission

September 2012

## Mission President's Message

Dear Elders and Sisters,

I have really enjoyed hearing some of your stories of how you have been able to "go about doing good." As we "go about doing good" we are really talking about love. As we serve others we are learning how to love as Jesus Christ loves. Sometimes it seems easier to serve a stranger but it is also important that we serve those we are closest to. In your present situation that would be your companion. President Eyring has an important quote about how we should serve and love our companion. It is actually referring to a husband and wife but it is also very applicable to missionary companions. He says, "Pray for the love which allows you to see the good in your companion. Pray for the love that makes weaknesses and mistakes seem small. Pray for the love to make your companion's joy your own. Pray for the love to want to lessen the load and soften the sorrows of your companion." This kind of love will bless you in your missionary companionship now and your marriage later.

I want to thank you for the many loads you have lifted as you "go about doing good." Many of you have personally helped to lighten our load and lift our burdens and we appreciate you. As we "go about doing good" our power to love will grow. That love can be extended to all of God's children. We should never be afraid to serve and to love. One of my favorite quotes about having courage to do the things we know we should is, "We must never, in any age or circumstance, let fear, and the father of fear; Satan himself, divert us from faith and faithful living."

May you all be blessed for your goodness and desire to "go about doing good." President Carter and I love each one of you and pray for you every day.

Love, Sister Carter



## Baptisms for August: Sona, Suladze, and Morisi

September 3 - Elder Redpath

September 15 - Elder Offutt



September 11- Elder Pack

September 18 - Elder Griffiths

## DEPARTING TESTIMONY FROM THE WATKINS

Dear Fellow Missionaries. We have decided to share our thoughts and testimony with you as a companionship. We've been companions for over 47 years now, so we seem to be "of one mind" on most things.

We wouldn't be truthful if we said that we're not excited to return home. I think the senior missionaries would agree that the hardest part for seniors in serving missions is being away from their families, especially our grandchildren. But, having said that we're excited to return home, there is also sadness involved because we will be leaving many people in Armenia who we have grown to love very much. We have appreciated the way we have been accepted in the different branches and the love that has been shown to us.

We also want to pay tribute to all the missionaries that we've served with. Your faithfulness, diligence, humility and desire to fulfill your calling have been an inspiration to us. We will cherish these memories forever.

We want to bear witness that our Father in Heaven knows what He is doing. We said some things when we got our call that might have questioned this. (Why Armenia?) Well, we've had to repent from those thoughts, because now we know "Why Armenia." We have had experiences here that we know we never could have had anywhere else in the world. Even though it hasn't been easy, we know that we have been doing what our Father in Heaven has wanted us to do for these last several months.

We are asked in the church to keep covenants that we have made, and one of these covenants is to give all we can to the Lord. We can bear witness that as we do this, our lives will be blessed. It doesn't mean we won't have trials, because we will, but we will be able to overcome those trials because we know what blessings await us.

We want to bear our witness that the gospel is true and when you make it the focus of your life, you will be happy, more successful in all that you do, and will receive blessings that you couldn't otherwise have been able to realize.

Your missionary experience should be one of the main highlights of your life, and we want you to know that this mission has been that for us. We're thankful that we have had the opportunity in some small way to further the work of the Lord in this great country and especially to these wonderful people.

We bear witness that God lives and that Jesus is the Christ. We are so thankful for His atoning sacrifice, which is so hard to comprehend, but so easy to be thankful for. We know that the gospel has been restored in these, the latter days. We're thankful for modern day prophets and the scriptures that we have been given that give us direction in our lives.

We pray that God will continue to bless each one of you. We will never forget you, and we hope that you will remember us as well. We love you all and are forever grateful for the opportunity we've had of serving with you. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.  
President and Sister Watkins

## Missionary Moments

Our investigator Edmon is progressing well - his neighbor in Vanadzor loves him a lot and has helped him get involved in the Church. Edmon feels like he is loved by both the members and the missionaries. I had a really good feeling while we were teaching him the Plan of Salvation. We were talking about how we've all made mistakes in the past and that God knows about our life as if he had a movie of everything we've ever done. Then we testified about how at the Final Judgment, all of the bad things in the movie or the bad things we have done can be erased or cut out of the movie if we have repented and believed in Christ. We said that's why Christ's sacrifice is so important. I felt the Spirit as we taught Edmon and he understood us. - **Elders Kurth and Zachary**

To try and express the experiences we've been having recently in our area we felt like sharing a simple story. We were visiting a family of two mothers and 3 teenage daughters and decided to watch Finding Faith in Christ before beginning the 3rd lesson. We thought the video would be a nice change and decided to make popcorn for everyone to make the evening fun and light. While the video started I and the moms were still dividing out the popcorn for everyone when I heard a gasp from one of the girls. Thinking that something had distracted them, I looked around the room first, then back to the girls who were all staring wide-eyed at the screen. In the opening moments the Savior had just calmed the storm and seas. I too was stilled, and as I sat down and felt the special spirit that had just entered the home I realized just how little this family had known of the Savior's life. I felt very aware of how much closer they were drawing to Him as a result of our visits, and I was humbled and grateful. I often feel so driven to use my time efficiently I forget to spend time with people. Just like in our families back home, giving time is an expression of love and the little moments you create with people are the ones they'll remember. That "light" evening is something I will never forget. -**Sis. Boyle and Sis. Clove**

We had such a blessing this week to see the Lord's hand in this missionary work. This past week our investigator Sona was baptized. It was a great baptismal service but the best part was her testimony. It was amazing and as we listened the spirit filled the room. As she expressed the feelings of her heart and her gratitude that the day finally came that she could be baptized. She spoke about her conversion, and at first everything seemed to be standing in her way, making it impossible to be baptized. She expressed it was when she finally really started to really read the Book Of Mormon. then the pathways were