

Armenia Yerevan Mission All Your Might

November 2011

President's Message

The month of November always reminds us to be thankful for our many many blessings. President Carter and I are thankful to know each one of you. A friend sent me this quote while I was writing this and it has the word gratitude in it so I thought I would include it:):):)

President Hinckley said, "Truly, my dear young friends, you are a chosen generation. I hope you will never forget it. I hope you will never take it for granted. I hope there will grow in your hearts an overpowering sense of GRATITUDE to God, who has made it possible for you to come upon the earth in this marvelous season of the world's history." Cultivating an "attitude of gratitude" makes all the difference in our lives. Franklin D. Richards said, "Life is God's greatest gift to man, and what we do with our life is our gift to God." President Hinckley also said, "Life is to be enjoyed, not just endured." It is up to each of us to live our lives and get the most out of them.

When new missionaries arrive I often suggest that they "give their all" to their mission so that there will be "no regrets" when their mission is completed.

I have always loved Sister Marjorie Hinckley's quote about really living life to the fullest and really making a difference in the lives of other people. "I don't want to drive up to the pearly gates in a shiny sports car, wearing beautifully tailored clothes, my hair expertly styled, and with long, perfectly manicured fingernails. I want to drive us in a station wagon that has mud on the wheels from taking kids to scout camp. I want to be there with grass stains on my shoes from mowing a neighbor's lawn. I want to be there with s smudge of peanut butter on my shirt form making sandwiches for a sick neighbor's children. I want to be there with a little dirt under my fingernails from helping to weed someone's garden. I want to be there with children's sticky kisses on my cheeks and tears of a friend on my shoulder. I want the Lord to know I

was really here and that I really lived."

As missionaries we have the opportunity to help and bless many lives... including our own. We wear the name of the Savior and we are His representatives. My prayer is that all of us will radiate His love in all we do so that others will be able to feel of His love through us. We should and can be happy even when we are dealing with difficult situations. If we aren't happy, we need to get on our knees and ask Heavenly Father to help us know what we need to do to find true happiness and gratitude in our lives. We of all people should be happy and wear a smile:):):) When President Carter and I count our blessings this Thanksgiving... we will be naming each one of you!!! We truly love you!!!

Sister Carter

PARTING TESTIMONIES

If there was anything I could talk about in this little space, I'd like to testify about the Perfect Plan of Our Loving Heavenly Father. He gave us that plan in the Pre-Earth life, for the group, and then He planned each of our lives as well. For quite some time, I've always had the knowledge that things happen the way they should. We pass through the works of our day, and (often) hardly notice the work of the Lord. We talk to many people. We share our testimony. People accept; people decline. But it's all in the Lord's right time. Missionaries come, and missionaries go. And I know, for a fact, that it's all planned out by the Lord, like a great symphony. Sometimes, we make mistakes, but we have the chance to repent, a fix for what we did wrong. The symphony goes on (even when your house is robbed :):) and at the end, we will receive the perfect inheritance for our actions. I love the Lord, I love this gospel, and I love all of you. I'm greatly blessed to have served with such high-caliber people.

Elder Santo

Parting Testimonies Cont.

The other day I was thinking about my favorite scripture, the scripture that I would say has helped me the most on my mission, and here it is. Mosiah 5:13 "For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?" and it is about this that want to bear my testimony. Throughout my mission this principle has been something that has guided to me to the greatest experiences of my mission. It is through applying this scripture that I have felt the happiest, felt the greatest change and the most people while on my mission. I know, without a doubt that the Lord has sent us all here for a reason, I know without a doubt that the things that we encounter and experience are for our good, that the people we meet, the companions we have and the good that we do is ultimately for our good, if we but allow ourselves to get to know the Master. Through making him a non-stranger to us, by making his thoughts and intents our thoughts and intents, by submitting ourselves to all that He, through his infinite wisdom and mercy sees fit to bring upon us, I know that our missions are a time of growth and happiness. I know that by following the principles of the gospel we can one day enter into the rest of our Lord. I know that Christ lives, that He knows all of us and that each and every one of us has a plan, special to

Elder Reece

MISSIONARY MIRACLES!

From Elders Steggell & Steele

The other day we were tracting and a protestant mother answered the door. We tried to set up a return, she told us to call her next week. So the next week we called her. We set the meeting up and tried to teach them. We didn't get to go through the whole 1st lesson, lots of questions and sharing insights. We were in the lesson, when the mother asked me, "Do you believe in personal revelation?" "Of course," I replied, or in Georgian "რა თქმა უნდა." She said a month before we met, she received revelation. God told her that there is only one true church. She said she was pondering about this and praying the minute we rang her door-bell. They don't know Russian this protestant family, so we

couldn't give them a Book of Mormon, but they took the Joseph Smith Pamphlet. We set up a return appointment and we have hope God will answer their prayers. That the true church of God has been restored.

From Elder Hall

This last week we were doing a power hour, and a guy gathering trash walked up to us & asked us why we were not coming over anymore, I did not know this guy from Adam. He gave us his number & headed on his way, we had a meeting with him 2 days later & long story short, we picked up him, his aunt, his niece & his mother as new investigators, all because we were in the right place at the right time. Later last week we went to one of our other investigators apartments to give a lesson, he was drunk, but he sent us over to his friend's apartment next door, we taught them a lesson & picked up the whole family of 5 as new investigators. Through a drunken investigator the Lord lead us to more of His children.

Last week really taught me that when you do what the Lord wants you to & go where He wants you to you will find His elect.

From Elder Telyn Peterson

Short and simple:

We promised one of our investigators that God would heal his eyes so that he could read if he did his part. Next day, he was reading sentences, next day paragraphs. Now he can read for a half an hour at a time before his eyes go bad again. He is happier than he has ever been in four years. Tender Mercy.

From Elders Fairclough & Cook

Rewind one week- We were teaching our investigator we were talking about receiving revelation through the Book of Mormon and how the reading the Book of Mormon is so key to being converted, when without any warning two young families knocked and walked into the house. There was a father, his three sons, two of which were married. We felt this awkward and mysterious silence and were about to get up and leave, when the spirit told us to stay. As we sat there with smiles on our faces... We asked them how they were doing... They said good. Then after about two minutes "They" began to ask questions. We sat there and helped them understand our purpose and bore testimony of the Book of Mormon. It was time to leave. We said a prayer and left.

We were amazed by how respectable those families were. When your meetings seem to fall through as fast as a missionary can eat a sharma. It is one of those days when the men in the branch are working late, sick or have their phone turned off. It is one of those days that you are excited to talk to the people. but they don't even want to say hi back. It's one of those days when you excitedly made plans to take your investigators to the baptism and last minute problems arose causing every one of them to cancel on you. We prayed before leaving the church and asked the Lord to reveal to us and help us accomplish his will. Five minutes after praying we miraculously came across one of our priesthood holders. He came with us to this investigators house. There happen to be four of our investigator' relatives there. They were scared of what they had heard until we began teaching. They felt and recognized the fruits of the spirit. They knew what we were saying was true. They were excited. They accepted and came to church the next day. During all of this our investigator said she forget to mention what the family told her last week. The family that entered unannounced, "They want you to go over to their house and share more of your message". And thus we see that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass.

As I look back at that day, it was one of the harder days but the Lord knew what he wanted, even if we didn't and because of his tender mercies we were led, literally, step-by-step to those who are ready to hear the gospel.

From Elders Smith & Lush

This last week we had a few miracles happen for us. We were in a part of our area and we were about to leave and we felt we should stay so we went over to a bench and prayed before leaving. Right after that when we started walking this man crossed our path and started talking to us and wanted to meet and talk to us about the church. The power of prayer and working with the Lord is real and leads to miracles.

Another was a few days after when Elder Lush and I were in the middle of a member meeting our phone rang and so we answered it and the man on the phone said we had called him. We check our contacts and we didn't have his number and said we hadn't called. We told him that and then explained who we were and he said that someone had called from this number and that he still wanted to meet with us. Out of nowhere there was a miracle.

Maybe God called him? The Lord's hand is in His work we just have to look for it and be diligent and obedient!



New Members in Armenia & Georgia!

Mariami, Alex, Levon, Luisa, Melaniya,
Ruzanna, Anya

Happy Birthday!

5th Elder J. Peterson 14th Sister Kohler 19th Elders Mejia & Steggell 25th Elder Steele 26th Sister Reese

MISSION COMPLETED

Elder Reece & Elder Santo

Arriving November 2
Elders Redpath, Olsen, Woolley
& Sister Arslanian

Arriving November 23

Elder & Sister Eyre Elder & Sister Griffiths

