

ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION

December 2007



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

Thank you for your overwhelmingly positive response to the mission reorganization plan. I know that we will be blessed as a mission for our obedience.

As we approach the Christmas season, I want to share some thoughts I feel deep within my heart. Let me begin with the words from my favorite Christmas hymn, "O Holy Night."

O holy night. The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees,
O, hear the angel voices! O night divine,
O night when Christ was born!
O night divine, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another;
His law is love, and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord!
Then ever, ever praise we;
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

How beautifully these words capture the essence of Christmas! How grateful we ought to be for His sacrifice in our behalf! If we fully understood the magnitude of His gift, we would literally "**fall on our knees**" in gratitude. We are truly blessed to have a testimony of the atonement of Christ and of the restoration of the Gospel. Let's not ever take these blessings for granted.

Christmas is a time to rededicate our efforts to follow the example of the Savior and to give freely and fully of ourselves. President Hinckley said, "Giving of self; giving of substance; giving of heart and mind and strength in assisting those in need; and in spreading the cause of His eternal truth—these are of the very essence of the true spirit of Christmas."

In addition, I would like to suggest something else that we might give. Let's promise with the Lord to "give away our sins." That is, to walk away from them; to truly repent and; to "come unto Christ" and to be absolutely obedient to mission rules. I know that He will forgive us of our sins if we repent. Repentance is not to merely stop doing something that is wrong. It is much more than that. It involves active participation in a process that results in a complete "**change of heart**." Anything short of that is not full repentance.

It is my prayer that we will take time to reflect upon the magnificence of Christ's gift and that we will freely give of ourselves in the service of others. By losing ourselves in service, especially in missionary service, we shall experience true joy and great personal satisfaction and growth.

Thank you for all you do to serve. It is a privilege to know you and to work with you. May the Lord bless you for your goodness and for your wonderful dedication to this work.

Sincerely,
President Dunn



SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

We had such a delicious, nutritious dinner together at our last Mission Conference! We always look forward to and enjoy special meals like Thanksgiving dinner. But don't forget the daily meals that might not be as special, but are so very important. If you will purchase good, nutritious foods to bring to your apartment or choose wholesome foods when you are eating on the go, you will enjoy better health. It is cold outside! A good meal before you head out the door will be a means of increasing heat production in your body which will help you keep warmer in the winter weather. We want you to be as healthy as possible. Since you already feed your spirit with good scripture study, go the extra mile and feed your bodies with good, nutritious food. And keep smiling!



Love,
Sister Dunn

Spotlights



Elder Leavitt

Elder Leavitt was born and grew up in Henderson, Nevada. He is the youngest of the family with 2 brothers and 1 sister. His oldest brother Brandon, his wife Jamie, and 1 year old daughter Abby live in Plantation, Florida

while attending law school. Chad and his wife, Brittney, are newly married and live in Henderson. Kari, her husband Ryan, and their 2 children, Brinley 3 and Parker 19 months, live in Salt Lake city. They are all very close brothers and sisters. The family motto in the Leavitt home has always been "Friends come and go but our family is forever." His mother, Susan, was determined that all of her children would be best friends as they grew to be adults. His dad, Ron, was always the family's greatest cheerleader.

Ryan loved high school and was involved in student government and choir. He was junior class president and student body president. He was elected student representative on the Nevada State School Board. He attended Boys State and Boys Nation and had the privilege of meeting President Bush. He loves American and World history. He has a real understanding of politics and desires to be a U.S. Senator from Nevada one day. He is very proud to be a 6th generation Nevadan.

Ryan came to the earth with a natural testimony and awareness of his Heavenly Father. When he would say family prayer as a 4 year old, he spoke of his own keen understanding of the atonement and the Savior's plan for him and our family.

Ryan loves serving in Armenia and deeply loves the Armenian people and all of his companions. The members of his family are his greatest fans and love to cheer him on every week. They are so proud of him, love him very much, and hold a constant prayer in their hearts for him and for all of the missionaries and people of Armenia.

Sister Smith is from Champion, Alberta or from the "Smith Farm" in Alberta. She is very proud to be a Canadian. Sister Smith has a twin sister who just returned home from serving a mission in Ecuador and an older brother.

Sister Smith



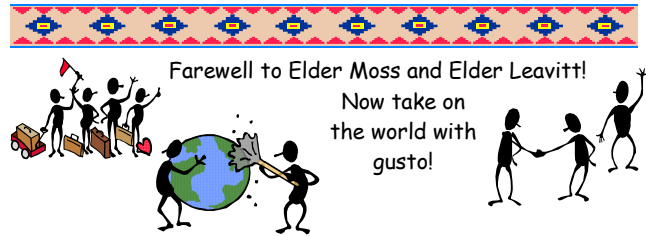
Sister Smith loved everything about growing up on the family farm from building fences to riding horses, milking cows, killing and gutting chickens, and gardening. She is a hard worker, is very dedicated, and when her mind is set to do something, she gets it done, no ifs, ands, or buts about it. In grade school Sister Smith and her twin sister, Katherine, traded spots in their classes at times because everyone thought they looked alike.

In school, everyone loved to be around Sister Smith because she loved to make everyone laugh. Everyone loves her outgoing, happy, cheerful personality. She was the top of the class in athletics and academics throughout school.

Sister Smith loves to serve others and has given service to the elderly as a wheelchair pusher in the hospital and to children by volunteering in a children's hospital. She is a friend to everyone. Sister Smith loves to act (she was in several school plays when younger and always loved to sing and act with her twin sister). She loves to sing, play the trumpet, and even taught herself to play the violin in the few short months right before her mission. She also loves to paint (wall paintings to painting walls and houses). One of her paintings is hanging up in her home.

Sister Smith graduated from the University of Alberta a few months before starting her mission and earned a degree in occupational therapist before going on her mission.

Sister Smith is always ready for a challenge and nothing keeps her down. The most important thing is that Sister Smith has an amazing testimony that has strengthened the testimony of many other people. She is happy, bubbly and lives life with enthusiasm and purpose. (This spotlight was written by Katherine, her twin sister, and endorsed by her Mom.)



Message from the Assistants

Elder Moss Elder Leavitt



Our mission just underwent a PEMOHT (remodel). Just as old Soviet apartments need to be modernized by adding a little more plaster to the walls every now and then, our mission was recently in need of a reorganization. This particular change will not come by adding plaster and paint to the walls, but rather will come by putting our mission in obedience to the standards which have been set by the prophets regarding missionary work. We know that this reorganization will bless each one of us in a number of different ways.

One way in which we benefit from this reorganization is having a more intimate learning and teaching atmosphere in all of our training meetings. District meetings, which will take the place of zone meetings, are much smaller in size and better allow us the opportunity of practicing the teaching model on a more personal level.

The privilege of serving in a leadership assignment will increase as eight district leaders are called to mission leadership. This is a challenging and very rewarding experience for all, which the Lord will use to prepare many of his missionaries.

Oftentimes, in this part of the world, we see people do a remodel by stapling an old shack onto the side of their house to allow them room to expand. One of the great advantages of this reorganization is the ability to expand in size and number without the use of sheet metal and cement. The creation of smaller districts and fewer zones will prepare this mission for an increase of missionaries in the future.

Despite the fact that we will not be gathering for mission conferences monthly and mission trips have gone extinct, this reorganization will help us become more dedicated and focused as missionaries. We will not travel nearly as much from our areas, thus allowing us more time to fulfill our purpose in bringing others unto Christ.

Many feel that change is a hard or even unnecessary thing at times, but it is, in reality, one method that the Lord uses to teach us and help us become stronger. These changes have come as an answer to many of our prayers. We can expect great blessings from the Lord if we willingly accept and take advantage of this new structure.

