

ALL YOUR MIGHT

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

December 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Elders and Sisters,

What an exciting time to be alive and serving in Armenia and Georgia! As we approach the Christmas season it is an ideal time to assess our level of spirituality and commitment. The spirit that accompanies the celebration of the birth of the Savior can lift us emotionally and spiritually. It is a great time to rededicate ourselves, focus upon others, and to forget ourselves in their service. Of course we will miss our family and family activities but we can make this Christmas away from home as memorable and rewarding as any you have ever enjoyed. I promise if you pray and plan for opportunities to lift others, miracles will happen. Nothing can bring the spirit of Christmas into our hearts like sacred music. Consider the words of one of my favorite Christmas hymns, **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 what He has done for us! 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 ourselves to follow the example of the Savior and to give freely 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." It is my prayer that we will take time to reflect upon the magnificence of Christ's gift and in response give of ourselves in the service of others. By losing ourselves in service we shall experience true joy and great personal satisfaction.

Thank you for all you do to serve. It is a privilege to know you. May the Lord bless you and your families during this wonderful Christmas season.

Sincerely,

President Dunn



A Fond Farewell to:

Elder Bullock Elder Smith

Elder Lovinger Elder Robinson

01 Dec Elder Hansen

08 Dec Elder Beus

13 Dec Elder Shipp

18 Dec Elder Krueger

22 Dec Sister Brough

27 Dec Elder Lystrup

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL.....

And to all.....a good Birthday!

December

SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE

November has come and gone, but hopefully not without pondering and acknowledging our many blessings and our dependence on our Heavenly Father for them. One blessing that we seek each day is to have the Holy Spirit with us to guide us in our missionary work. One way to enhance our ability to receive this much needed guidance is by keeping our living areas neat and clean. The main reason President Dunn and I do "apartment checks" is to see how you are doing in the area of apartment cleanliness. In your preparations to have us come, please look over the apartment cleanliness. In your preparations to have us come, please look over the apartment checklist provided to each apartment. (It may be in your Area Book or posted on the apartment wall.) That list will provide you direction in your preparations for our visit as well as guidelines for daily living. We care about your health, your safety and your spiritual well being. We look forward to our visits!

Sincerely,

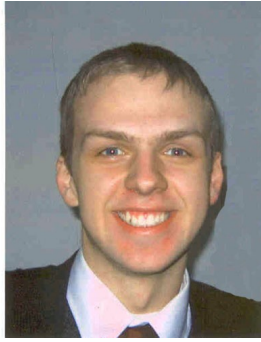
Sister Dunn

Spotlights



Elder Pogorelov

"Aleksi Pogorelov was born March 21st, 1986 in beautiful Tallinn, Estonia. He is an only child and the only member of the church in his family. He found the church through the English program and in time, was baptized in the waters of the Baltic Sea on July 31st, 2004. After being a member for a short time, a mission became his goal and he was called as one of the few to serve in the Republic of Georgia, a country open to proselyting missionaries less than a year prior to his arrival. Elder Pogorelov has many gifts and talents, including his ability to "woo" a crowd with his singing and guitar playing. He also speaks fluent English, Russian, Estonian, Georgian, and "keetch" Armenian. He loves music and spending time with friends. You can ask any of his past companions about the "angel" song and they will tell you how bad he wants to become one because of how often he listens to it. He has made remarkable changes in his life and a lasting impact on those he has served with and among. If you knew the Elder Pogorelov of 2 years ago and the man of today, you wouldn't be able to recognize the two. The Lord truly has molded him into one of His chosen servants and has brought to pass many miracles through this humble convert from Tallinn."

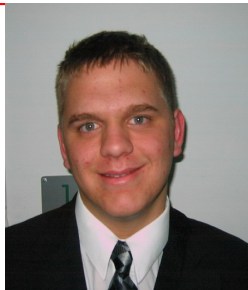


IT'S WATER FILTER TIME!

Change filters 1 & 2 (this means NOW!)

Elder Hargraves

Tristan Baily Hargraves was born January 1, 1988. He was the 1st baby born in the "golden triangle" and because of that, got to ride home in a Limo. It took a Limo to carry the whopping 10lb 13oz baby! One time he asked his mother, "How do you turn 5?" Another, he was staring off in space. His mom asked him what he was thinking about. He replied, "Numbers." She knew then that they were in trouble. He read the Book of Mormon before he was baptized. He was always in the "gifted and talented" classes in school. Elder Hargraves is very competitive in all he does..from sports to X-Box to acquiring knowledge. He has always been very obedient. If there is a rule, he knows it and lives it. In Jr. High, he played French horn in the marching band and football. At half time, he would march in the show in his cleats and football pads. In High School, he was selected All District and Outstanding Linebacker in football. He was nicknamed by his coach, the "Stormin' Mormon". Elder Hargraves graduated in the top 10% of his class. He has a goal of being a doctor and has deferred scholarships waiting for him when he returns. His Seminary teacher remarked, "I had no idea he was so smart. I thought he was just a football jock!" His proudest accomplishment is his testimony of the Savoir, and it shows in his missionary work. He plans to attend BYU in chemistry/pre med. "Calling Dr. Hargraves, STAT!" Hmm. Has a nice ring to it.



Remember Christ's Birth.

HE... is the Reason for the Season.

Message from the Assistants

Elder Packer

Elder Haake

No effort is wasted. Everything you do will have a ripple effect in someone's life. We can testify that every hello, smile, and lesson has an effect, even if you never see it. Elder Senkans taught that we as missionaries meet with people in celestial, terrestrial and telestial stages of their lives. In missionary work we will not always be in the celestial 'fields' working with those who are prepared for the gospel "white all ready to harvest". There will be times in every missionary's service in every area that he serves in, when he will be called to haul rocks and pull stumps out of the telestial and terrestrial fields. "Even when people do not accept the opportunity to learn the gospel, your service and words are evidence of God's love for them and [will] plant seeds that future missionaries and members of the Church will harvest." (PGM Pg 170) In inviting others to come unto Christ we promise that every action in representing Him will bring those not ready to be harvested one step closer. Take pride in realizing that you are shaping the future of Armenia with every spiritual seed you plant, and "...by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life." (Alma 32:41)



And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for behold I bring you tidings of great joy.....For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Saviour**, which is **Christ the Lord**." *Luke 1:10-11*

Elder Martin

Nathaniel
Jacob
Martin

was born October 1, 1987, in Salt Lake City, Utah. As a boy, Elder Martin did not like to walk in the grass with bare feet, or get sticky from food. The sticky part still gets him. He has played the trombone since 7th grade. He was a member of the high school's symphonic, marching & jazz bands. The marching band took State his sr. year. Elder Martin is an Eagle Scout. His project was landscaping a neighborhood park; planning the layout, planting and spreading tons of rocks. His biggest fiasco was forgetting to bring the water when the family took a hike through "Tent Rocks" in New Mexico. They all knew what it truly meant to thirst after something! One year at Christmas, the family made Gingerbread houses and created a village going up the stairs. Building the houses with icing and candy was a meticulous thing for him (going back to the sticky thing) but he made it very unique, by hiding little green army men, placed strategically, to protect the village. He also had his hand in building life-sized houses, helping his father electrically wire the house they built in New Mexico, and framing homes & businesses to earn money for his mission. He attended 1 yr. at BYU-Idaho, where he participated in water polo and was the ward choir pianist. He is so musical that some say he hammers nails in rhythm. Elder Martin is an awesome missionary and loves teaching and serving the Lord. Lastly, a well-known talent he has is doing crazy eye tricks. (See photo)

