

All Your Might

ARMENIA YEREVAN MISSION NEWSLETTER

December 2009



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Elders and Sisters,

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 Saviour can lift us emotionally, spiritually, and even physically.

Of course we will miss our families and the many activities which normally accompany the holiday season. However, I know we can make this Christmas away from home as memorable and rewarding as any we have ever experienced. I promise if you will pray and plan for opportunities to lift others that miracles will happen and you will find joy beyond compare.

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 Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Til He appeared and the soul felt it's 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 reflect upon our many blessings and to re-dedicate ourselves to follow the example of the Saviour by giving to others. 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 ponder upon the magnificence of Christ's gift and in response, find ways to lose ourselves in the service of others. By losing ourselves in this work we shall experience true joy and great personal satisfaction. It was the Saviour himself who declared—"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt. 10:39) Thank you for all you do to serve in this great cause. 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:

Sister Fager Elder Beus

Elder Lystrup Elder Krueger



A Happy Hello to:

Elder & Sister Blunck



Happy Birthday!

Elder Beus—8

Elder Krueger—18

Elder Lystrup—27

Sister Bishop—28



SISTER DUNN'S MESSAGE

December

Dear Elders and Sisters,

We have had the most beautiful fall weather this year. What a blessing it has been as the urgency of the work and the desire to quicken our pace has kept us on the go. It's hard to think about the cold weather ahead but those days are coming soon. It is in our best interest to plan for wholesome meals to give our bodies energy and to keep us warm and to fight off illnesses. As we go out of doors we should bundle up appropriately and use caution while walking on ice and snow.

With the winter weather comes the cold and flu season. Those viruses increase our body's need for nutritious food. Colds and the flu can strike suddenly and we could possibly become too ill to go out to purchase food. We should be prepared with good food in our cupboard and refrigerator.

Let's stay healthy and let the light of the gospel shine from us as we do the Lord's work and celebrate our Savior's birth.

Sincerely, *Sister Dunn*



Spotlights



Elder Beus



On December 8, 1987 the Star Valley, Wyoming snow glistened as the bright winter sun heralded the earthly arrival of Kade Bradley Beus, and he was immediately inducted into the “infamous Beus Crew”. As he grew, he was very creative (making all sorts of things) and curious (figuring out how things worked or didn’t work). One of his family’s sayings was, “If it ain’t broke, Kade will fix it until it is!” He came to understand and appreciate the saving qualities of duct tape at an early age & became known as the duct tape King. He did not like clothing and usually wore only a T-shirt, shorts and *occasionally* shoes in 20 degree below zero weather. Some of Elder Beus’ favorite activities are snow skiing, long boarding, ice hockey, soccer, making and starring in movies, four wheeling, playing the guitar and harmonica simultaneously and dancing. Whew! He has a pair of glasses at the bottom of Bear Lake, Idaho and a pair at the bottom of Jackson Lake, Wyoming, the result of his reckless abandon during water sports. He has many friends (can anyone visualize him without his perma-grin?) so it is not surprising that his house was the “place to be” for playing games, eating, dancing, or just hangin’ out and talking. In high school, he was a member of the National Honor Society and performed in musicals as well as serving as student body president. Elder Beus has the ability to make those around him feel accepted, important and loved, which is what makes him such a good missionary. He has great enthusiasm for life and is a true example of charity. And to top it all off, he just can’t wait to get married! Heads up, ladies.....Beus is on the Leus!

Jack of All Hymns

Most people know all the words to a few select hymns. But I know the first line of many different hymns.

Elder & Sister Dow



Albert and Heidi Dow were both born in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, where Sister Dow’s family owned a grocery store. While there, two Mormon elders were tracting at the end of the day, debating whether to walk a very long driveway to one more house. They walked it. Sister Dow’s family listened and it changed their lives forever. While she was a student at BYU, her older brother was killed in Vietnam. Also while there, her heart turned to an elder, a convert as well, in her home ward in Maine. One year, when Elder Dow went to general conference, her mother asked him to deliver a bottle of homemade pickles to her at BYU. He did, and the courtship began. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1974. They have raised 6 children in Maine, 1 daughter and 5 sons. Sister Dow loves to sing and has sung at weddings and many church events. She loves to cook, canoe with Elder Dow and read to and nurture children. Elder Dow loves the outdoors, mountain climbing, skiing, and family history. He grew up on land his 3-times great grandfathers settled on in 1803. He showed prize cattle at dairy shows and fairs. He graduated from the University of Maine in agriculture and worked for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For 10 years he owned a landscaping business. Together they have enjoyed raising a garden, sheep, chickens, cows and children. Among their blessings, they have recently acquired an Armenian daughter-in-law. Elder and Sister Dow have served in Armenia for 23 months and have been a true asset to the AYM as well as the Armenian people.

MESSAGE FROM THE A.P.’S

Elder Elf explaining to Elder Santa, his Christmas wish list.

ELDER KYLE & ELDER ELLISON



As winter fast approaches with it’s cold weather and dark evenings, why would anyone ever be outside walking around? Unless of course they are serving God and need to get their 10 convo’s before they retire for the day. However, these times used at the end of our days in the empty dark streets, are not effective usages of our time. As sons and daughters on the Lord’s errand, we should frequently be thinking about those things that will help us to do our work more effectively, and with more fun. We feel that when we are sitting with members or investigators teaching a well planned lesson, we are having the most fun! If you also wish to experience this joy that comes from true missionary work, we encourage you to plan out your days in a way that reflects your desire to help the Lord save these souls. Elder Perry noted that, “*In the fast pace of today’s world, too many people are leaving much of life’s experience to chance, without adequate planning and preparation.*” In the fast pace missionary work of today, are we leaving many of our decisions to chance without adequate, spirit-inviting planning? It is our hope and prayer that as we continue to labor in the service of our Lord, that we will remember the heavenly assistance that we invite as we follow the counsel to plan. We love you! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*Peace on earth will come to stay,
when we live Christmas every day.*



Disconnected Thoughts—by Debby Dedicated

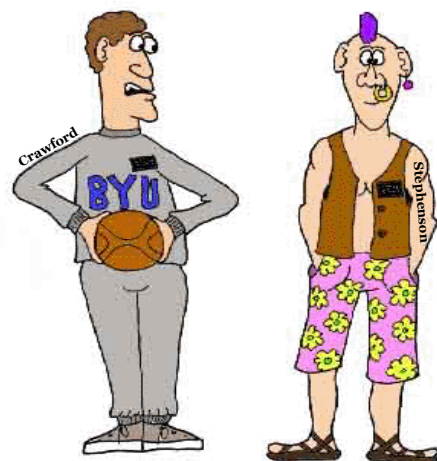
You know, sometimes it is easy to find ourselves getting caught up in the commercial aspects of the season and focusing our time thinking and even worrying about what we are going to be getting for Christmas. But it is important that we learn, that **the true spirit of Christmas is not in the receiving, but in the giving.**

So this year as we approach that very special day, I’m trying not to be concerned with what I am going to be **GETTING** – but rather with what others are going to be **GIVING** me.

Because I have been dropping some **hints**.

And it looks like this is going to be the **best Christmas ever!**

Elder, I'm not sure that's what president had in mind when he told us we could wear street clothes on p-day



GRUNBERG