

STAR

January 2011
California San Bernardino Mission

Dear Missionaries,

There are two influences ever present in the world. One is constructive and elevating and comes from our Heavenly Father; the other is destructive and comes from the adversary. As missionaries, we have our agency and can make our own choices, but we need to be constantly aware that there is a division line well-defined that separates the Lord's territory from Satan's. By keeping the commandments of the Lord and of this mission, we are safe on His side of the line. But if we disobey His teachings and/or missionary guidelines, we voluntarily cross into the zone of temptation and invite the destruction that is ever present there. Knowing this, we as missionaries, should always be anxious to live on the Lord's side of the line.

How will we know for sure if we are being totally obedient so we can always have His spirit to be with us? Alma the high priest raised that very question and he answered it as he taught the people in Zarahemla: "And now behold, I ask of you, my brethren (*and sisters*) of the church. Have ye been spiritually born of God? Have ye received His image in your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of Him who created you? Do you look forward with an eye of faith and view this mortal body raised in immortality and this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand before God to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in this mortal body?" (Alma 5:14, 15) Furthermore, you can determine the degree of your obedience, by your compliance to the requirements in the White Missionary Handbook. No one is a better evaluator of your state of obedience than you and Heavenly Father. Look at yourself in the mirror each morning and make a commitment to be the missionary you want to be and the missionary your mother thinks you are.

We pray that all of us, as His set-apart and ordained missionaries, will want to have the Master's image in our countenances. Then maybe we can hear this said of us: "And now, my son, I trust that I shall have great joy in you, because of your steadiness and your faithfulness unto God; for as you have commenced in your youth to look to the Lord your God, even so I hope that you will continue in keeping His commandments; for blessed is he that endureth to the end." (Alma 38:2) We love you all very much and want the Lord's choicest blessings to be yours. Let each of us return to our homes at the conclusion of our assignment here in the California San Bernardino Mission, and know that we gave our all in His service.

Our prayers are with you always,

President & Sister Godwin

I Have Learned For Myself....

As I have gone throughout my mission, I have learned many things; it has been a different experience than I ever thought it would be. Before I received my call, I thought I would like a mission where it was mostly humanitarian work, working with those in poverty. I now know that some of the poorest people have some of the biggest hearts and are the ones you often don't worry about spiritually, and those more affluent often can't find time for the gospel or any of the important things in life. I have found out that it is truly such a blessing for someone to be compelled to be humble, and that more important than finding a job is finding a firm foundation in Jesus Christ and His gospel. If you find a job and lose the gospel you found, you really have not gained anything. I have learned that serving with all your heart is more than just caring for the people and the work, but it is still doing so even when those you have grown to love break your heart because of their choices. Serving with all your might means holding on to your testimony with all your might when people try to prove what you know to be wrong. Serving with all your mind means to dedicate your mind to the Lord and let your faith be your knowledge. Serving with all your strength means to keep going when your body feels like giving up and you think you are too tired to try one more person. I know this gospel is true. I know that Jesus Christ is our Savior, and that He lives, beckoning everyone, no matter how long or far they have wandered to come back to Him. I know the Book of Mormon has a power in conversion and of bringing the spirit than of any other book. Endure to the end, and never, never, NEVER give up on people or on yourself!

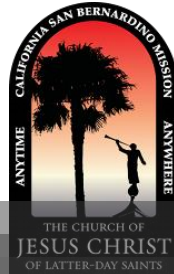
Sister Morgan

The mission has been the best thing that could have possibly happened to me. I am so grateful that God has permitted me to be a part of his work, despite all of my weaknesses and shortcomings. On my mission, I have seen the hand of the Lord caring for me step by step. I have learned that I will still have a work to do for the rest of my life. I know that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and that this is his church. I know that as missionaries we each have a sacred calling. Remember that your actions and obedience DO affect other missionaries. I have learned that one has to get used to instruction, and even correction, because the Lord will always have something to teach you. And he will always have blessing to bestow upon his children and his servants, and a salvation and a joy that will make everything worth the while. I leave my testimony with you all in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Elder Pepperdine

What I've learned on my mission. What a fun question! Take 2 years of your life in service to God and try to summarize what you learned into a short paragraph. First off, I learned a lot more than I thought I would. One of the biggest things that I have seen is that it isn't always about why you came on your mission, but what keeps you in the field and keeps you driven to work hard. When we come out most of us come because we think that it will be fun, or that we can help people. But I have begun to realize it is much more than that, it is about Serving God, learning about and being converted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The conversion part is the hard part; it is the part where you actually start to do what you know you should be doing. Whether it is getting up at 6:30 or getting out and tracting when you are tired and don't want to, conversion is being obedient. Most often it starts with the small things, reading the scriptures every day, when they change you it becomes who you are and you become better. Line-upon-line, precept-upon-precept, in Lord's time, he will change us as we are able. That is something that I have learned recently, God reveals to us things slowly and as we need them. He lights one stepping stone at a time down the path back to Him, so that we can focus on where we are and not get over anxious, about where we are going. Enjoy today, work today, and the Lord will provide for tomorrow. The Gospel is true and has been restored to the earth today. This is the Lord's work and he will aid us in it if we obey him.

Elder Persson



December Baptisms

San Bernardino

Lucas Deaver
Michael Cabral

Ontario

Chelsey Coll
Luis Garcia
Socorro Garcia
Norma de Mena

Fontana

Devin Day
Derek Lobos
Jamie Lobos
Michelle Lobos
Lori Olivas
Pamela Tupou
Sione Tupou
Sione Tupou Jr.
Charles Wilson
Christina Wilson
Matthew Wilson

Hesperia

Jaymee Aria
Delores Bourland
Citcalli Diaz de Leon
Leonardo Diaz de Leon

Isaias Pena
Lauren Forbes
Robert Mercado
Norma Nelson
Daniel Perez
Pedro Perez

Rancho Cucamonga

Jennifer Markovski
Teresa Quiroz
Juliana Sitanggang
Carissa Whitley

Rialto

Kayla Curiel
Merisa de Jesus Maldonado
Elvia Baez Hernandez
Eliud Hernandez Baez

Ruben Martinez
Donna Moctezuma
Kimberly Moore
Nora Roman

Upland

Roberto Rios-Arroyo

Victorville

Dana Lazore



I Have Learned For Myself...

On my mission I have learned to not judge a book by its cover. Before I came out I would take one look at someone and base my opinion about them based on what I saw. And being out here and trying to see people for who they are has really helped me see people how Christ would see them. also I have learned that sometimes it is very hard to get along with a companion at times but if you just stick with it and try to do the work, like we are all called to do, then the focus is not on how much you may or may not like your companion but it becomes more on how you can learn and grow from it and help the area grow. So, I think my advice that I would leave with you all is to just do the work for the full two years if you can, because these two years are the best two years of the rest of your life and the way you finish your mission is the way you finish the rest of your life!! So, work hard and don't get discouraged!!

Elder Young

I am so grateful for the opportunity that I have to include my testimony in the present issue of the Star. It's hard to say what my favorite part of the mission is, but I have enjoyed that opportunity to help people, teach them the Gospel, and to learn more about myself and My Savior. As Bruce R. McConkie once said, "The Atonement of Christ is the most transcendental event that has ever occurred or that will ever occur, since the sunrise of creation to all ages of eternity." It's so important that we share with those that we come in contact with, not only on our mission but those back at home, how important the Gospel of Jesus Christ is. The Three Pillars of Eternity (Namely, the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement) are the most important doctrines that any man can learn while he exists on this planet. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to act in the name of Christ and to do as He would do, and to say the things that He would say were He to personally teach in my stead. It has been such a wonderful opportunity to preach the gospel in this mission for the past 2 years. I know that I have been called here for a reason, and that there are people here that I have helped come unto Christ. The best thing about the mission is leaving those things that are in the world behind, and being able to focus on the One, and have a heart for the people that we come across. I know that the Gospel that I have preached is the Gospel of God, adopted by Jesus Christ in the Pre-mortal council to carry out the plan that the Father presented. We are here because we also chose to follow that plan, and to increase our potential to become more like our Father. As we live the Gospel and do those things that we came here to do, we will be able to return to the presence of our Heavenly Father one day, having kept our Second Estate, and will be added with glory upon our heads as we are faithful and worthy to so receive. The Atonement of Jesus Christ is real, and it will change your life as you put it to use! The Book of Mormon and the Bible are the word of God, we have the Book of Mormon as a proof that the Gospel of Jesus Christ have been restored through the Prophet, Joseph Smith, and that God still talks to a Prophet today, namely President Thomas S. Monson. I'm grateful to have served in the California San Bernardino mission, its pretty money.

Elder Best

There have been many things that I have learned while being out here in this the San Bernardino Mission. Everyone has their struggles, but it's not about the size of it, but about how you overcome and learn from it. The Lord chastens us to teach us faith and obedience, and through that we are able to learn more from this life. I've always said that the statement of "The best two years of your life" isn't true, but the mission is "The best two years FOR your life". Who a missionary is as he steps off the plane is a reflection of what he or she did as they were out here on their mission. Not only are we edifying the kingdom of God here on earth while in service, but He edifies us as well. The way to be on a mission is to be as clay, always ready and available to be molded. Be obedient, listen to the Spirit- it might be difficult, but go forth with the confidence in God, not yourself- and do everything possible to follow all that the Lord requires. I love this work, and I love this gospel, it truly does mean everything to me. This is the work of the Lord; we are but tools in His hands "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." Go forth nobly, boldly and move forward with the work at all times.

Elder D. Lewis

I have really enjoyed my mission. It has meant a great deal to me. I am so thankful for the opportunity I have had to be here in the San Bernardino Mission. When I opened my call letter, I first read I would be serving in the San Bernardino, California mission. As I read that, I felt an overwhelming feeling of peace – a confirmation from the Holy Ghost. I thought, "I just might serve in Spanish if it's in California". While I was completely willing to serve in any assignment, I had hoped to serve in Spanish. I then read that I would be serving in the Spanish language and an even greater feeling of gratefulness and peace came over me. I knew in that instant San Bernardino would be the place. I have now had experiences that have really proven to me that this was the place of my mission. I was called to the San Bernardino mission by a prophet of God. I can likewise say that I know that each and every one of you also was called to be here by a prophet of God. To all those who have known me and helped me along this journey I say thanks. I know that God lives. Bueno, ahora escribiré en español. Estoy muy agradecido por la oportunidad que Él me ha dado de servir aquí en esta gran misión – ¡y en español! Quiero a todas las personas que he conocido aquí en la misión. Me han ayudado mucho. Asimismo, me encanta la comida en los barrios hispanos. Me encanta su cultura. ¡A ver si no me caso con una latina! En la misión, he aprendido muchas buenas cosas. Si bien he tenido muchas tribulaciones difíciles para mí, he encontrado que al ser humilde, sumiso y manso, como el Maestro, puedo vencer todo. Les doy gracias a todos mis compañeros, compañeros de cuarto u otros que me hayan ayudado y sido pacientes conmigo. Verdaderamente, me han enseñado muchas buenas cosas. Me encanta la cita del élder Richard G. Scott – "Llegamos a ser lo que queremos ser, al ser constantemente, cada día, lo que queremos llegar a ser." Tenemos que trabajar asidua y diligentemente para lograr un carácter firme. ¡Lo podemos hacer en la misión! Yo sé que Dios vive. ¡No tengo duda! Me ha ayudado mucho en mi misión. ¡Yo sé que vive mi Señor!

Elder Coffman

When I first thought about serving a mission, I always thought about the blessings and the "cool" experiences...Little did I know! . My life has been touched by those whom I was called to serve. As many of us know, it is hard... but it wasn't meant to be easy, just worth it. Never in our lives will we feel so vulnerable and unprotected, so far away from Heavenly Father... yet so close to him! And at the same time, we will never feel so happy and loved as we feel now being missionaries. I learned so much from every companion, every area, every investigator, every roommate, every recent convert and every member. Thanks to all of you who were there to make my mission the best one for me! in honor to some of you, I've decided to include a couple of "phrases" that will remind us that those "silly" moments are the ones that make our lives happier, and will stay as good memories forever! So, I quote: "I'm a big boy now, sing it!", "estoy tan cansado", "Is the pudding ready?", "son primos?", "wow! You've changed", "hater!", "tu madera (you would)", "opportunities, not difficulties", "asinine", "what had happened was" "I just called to say I love you", "beautiful scream!", "Marines, not Navy", "tarjeta por favor", "of course", and many many more!... ish. Had I known how fast all this was going to end, I would've knocked on ONE more door, given away ONE more card, and shared my testimony ONE more time. Live your missions! The only way to be happy during these 2 years is by doing Heavenly Father's work. Yes! We might have to have our personal Gethsemane, and fight against one of our strongest enemies... ourselves! But at the end the "cool" experiences are many, and the blessings beyond measure! All I can say is: "it is true, everything is true!" Thank you San Bernardino, you showed me who I really was and what I can become! It's time to wake up from the dream... LOVE YOU ALL!

Elder Joaquin

The mission has been a great learning experience for me. Something I learned is that God really wants the best for us. Sometimes he doesn't bless us exactly how we wanted but he always does what is best. I learned that as we trust Him, things always seem to work out. As I trusted Him my testimony grew and I learned more about Him and who He is. I am thankful for the chance to serve Him and others. It truly is a blessing to have been a part of the work. I know that He lives and that He is still doing all He can to bring us back to our heavenly home.

Elder Harrison



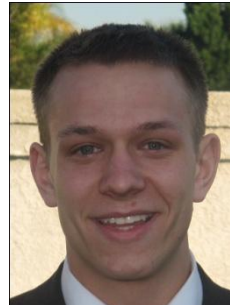
NEW MISSIONARIES FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2011



Elder Bindrup



Elder Gull



Elder Graves



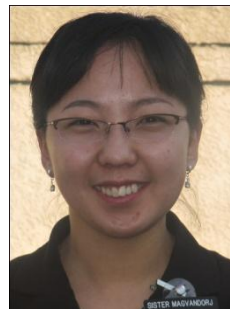
Elder Harris



Elder Howell



Elder Joy



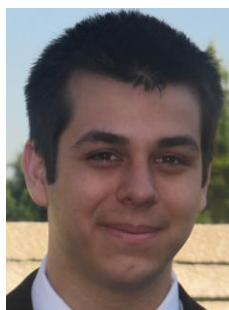
Sister Magvandorj



Elder Morelos



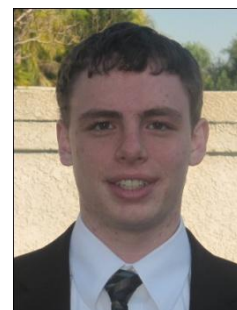
Sister Peavler



Elder Quesada



Sister Rimington



Elder Robson



Elder Tuilagi