

**Mission Reports to the High Council  
2016  
June – December**

**Elder Quinten Adamson  
Aguasalientes Mexico Mission  
9th Ward**

Well I served in the Aguasalientes Mexico Mission and I had a lot of fun teaching and serving the people there. They were all pretty Catholic, but you or I was able to love every one of them as my brother or sister. It was cool to be able to do different things and serve different people, and to know the Spirit and help them.

I was with my third companion Sunday night and we had a feeling that we should go and visit an investigator. When we arrived, her sister passed out and was face down not breathing. I had the chance to place my hands upon her head and give a priesthood blessing, and upon doing that, she woke up.

Through the spiritual journey which I took, I was able to feel the love my Savior has for me and to be able to understand that the Atonement is real, and that I can act upon it to be a better person in life. I know that God loves me and that the Church is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



**Elder Chadwick Hunsaker Calmes  
Mexico Merida  
9th Ward**

The people in my mission were very loving. They were willing to give all they had even if they didn't have anything. They were so accepting of people they didn't know, even accepting them as members of their own family. Family ties were important.

Arcelia was an old woman we had started to teach who was dying. She couldn't go to church. She couldn't remember the lessons but was so pure and loving desirous to change. We loved her so much. She was our little princess.

I remember one day we were sitting teaching her on our last leg of the day not knowing what else we could do or should do for her. In that moment, I felt impressed to invite her to be baptized. As I did tears streamed down her face and mine and I received a spiritual confirmation that the Lord accepted her and wanted us to baptize her that week. As she was baptized the unthinkable thing happened. She was healed, began going to church, and began to learn and comprehend the teachings of the Lord we had to offer and to accept it. This was the consequence of following what the Lord had commanded us to do.

I know that I am a child of God and that he loves me. He wants me and all my brothers and sisters to return to live with him. I know that through Jesus Christ his teachings, Atonement, and love we can be free of all sin and error to live with him once more. I know there is a price to pay to become like God and I would gladly pay it, suffering as needed, because I have faith that the Atonement of Christ is sufficient for me.

**Elder Sean Benjamin Clawson**  
**Scotland/Ireland Mission**  
**6th Ward**

The Scotland/Ireland Mission covers three countries: the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. As a result of this, we as missionaries have the opportunity to serve many different types of people. These people are not without their struggles, and many of them are deceived and blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, the traditions of their fathers, and the temptations of the adversary. Despite this, however, there are many who are true seekers of the light that the gospel brings, and though some of the people may be slow to accept the truth, you'll never come across a warmer, friendlier, or good-natured group of people anywhere upon the earth. I was reflecting upon all my experiences TRYING to share the gospel with others but having nobody choose to listen. I was wondering if this was it, if THIS is what God wanted for me for the remainder of my mission.

As I was sitting on a bus reading chapter nine in the book of Moroni, verse twenty-five suddenly hit me. It dawned upon me that if I was doing Christ's will I had no need to fear. I realized at that moment that I was redeemed of God, and that so long as I follow the course he sets for me, all will be well. It changed the way I view my life and the lives of others.

I testify that though we don't always have the answers to everything, we can know that Christ is our Savior and Redeemer. I know that God wants life to be an exciting, happy, fulfilling experience for each of us, for we are all his children with the potential to become like Him. I know He is there looking down on us, that His son, Jesus Christ, is my Savior, my king, my friend, my brother, and my hero. He's saved me from the woes of sin and the grasp of the adversary by restoring His church to the earth in this the last dispensation.



**Elder Parker Groneman**  
**Chile, Vin del Mar Mission**  
**7th Ward**

I love my mission. I love the Chilean people. For the most part they are friendly. They are very stubborn so we as missionaries had to be stubborn with them many times as well. I served in four areas, each for six months and one area for only two weeks. During my time in each area I grew to love the people there as I strived to serve them in any way that I was able to. I saw the Lord work miracles in the lives of many people and I saw him work miracles within me. I learned that success as a missionary isn't based on how many baptisms you had or what leadership positions you carried; rather success is based on your level of commitment.

God prepares people to receive the gospel. One night, knocking doors during my second week in the field, we found Gustavo. I barely knew any Spanish and since he spoke quickly I couldn't understand him at all. He let us in and he and my comp started talking. Try as I might I didn't understand anything. Then I felt what was being said – the weirdest feeling ever. At the same time, I was impressed to share Alma 7:11:13. I did so and he immediately was touched by the Spirit and understanding filled his eyes as he realized that God not only loved him, but that He was reaching out to help. Gustavo was baptized three weeks later.

I know that God lives. Jesus is my Savior and the Redeemer of the world. I know that God listens to our prayers and always answers them in His way and on His own timing. Nothing is impassible as long as we rely on Him and always strive to do our part. I know that the Book of Mormon is true and that it's translator, Joseph Smith, is the prophet of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have no doubt that God will fulfill all of the promises which He has given us. The most important thing we can do in this life is to live faithful to our covenants and help others obtain the opportunity to do the same.



**Haley Hawkes**  
**Kansas Wichita Mission**  
**9th Ward**

I love my mission so much! Kansas is holy ground for me. The Lord is hastening his work there because my mission is only miles away from the New Jerusalem. It's the most beautiful place ever and the people are so kind and hospitable. They love God and Jesus Christ and desire to follow Him more fully.

I had many sacred moments on my mission. But the one that stands out to me the most is the opportunity I had to meet Bill. The Lord had been preparing him to receive the gospel in his life, and the moment we started teaching him, he was so receptive and willing to learn more. He was baptized two weeks later from the time we met him.

I know God lives and he loves us. I know that because of that love he gave us our Savior, Jesus Christ, who saved us from death and sin and any weakness or infirmity we have. I know the Atonement is perfect and real. I know that God's plan for each of his children is without flaw and what will bring us true joy and happiness. I know the Book of Mormon is the word of God and it has brought me closer to Jesus Christ than anything else. I know Joseph Smith was a prophet and that God continues to call prophets today to lead and guide his children.



**Sister Madison Hyland  
Guatemala City Central Mission  
3rd Ward**

My mission was just what I needed in my life—but I didn't know that going into it. Every day was full of miracles and tender mercies. The people there are very humble and show their love always. I learned to have that type of love and learn the most important thing you need in life is your family and a love for Christ.

We had the privilege to baptize someone. When Javier was baptized he did a 360-degree change. His family saw the great change in him and wanted to know more about the gospel, especially his young brother Jimmy. Well, one month later, Jimmy got baptized and Javier received the priesthood and was able to baptize him. The spirit was super strong during the baptismal service.

I know this church is true. I know the Holy Ghost protects, teaches and comforts us. Every day we have to wake up and decide if we are going to follow God or Satan. My mission has helped me be firm in choosing God every day. I know the Book of Mormon is true and that we can find answers to our questions in the scriptures.



**Sister Jayde Christianna Jones**  
**Brazil Londrina**  
**7th Ward**

My mission was the hardest thing I have ever loved. I learned so much about the gospel and myself. I know the Lord called me to be a missionary in Brazil because I had a lot to learn from the people there. They are the most loving, generous and caring people. They are honest and will give anything they have, or not, to you.

The most spiritual lesson I ever taught was when we were teaching Mariza. We asked if she had received an answer after reading the Book of Mormon and she told us she had a dream where the Lord showed her the book was true. That same night I dreamed she was baptized. As we shared our stories, through our tears, the Spirit took over. She was baptized a couple of weeks later.

I always had a testimony but on my mission I was able to deepen my testimony with experiences. Simple things that I knew became more profound knowledge. I know that God knows and loves all of his children. He worries about us. I know Christ atoned for the sins of all mankind. I know that through repentance we can be saved. Families are eternal and I know this is Christ's church.

**Jason Lee**  
**Chile Santiago Mission**  
**4th Ward**

I had a very small mission with a lot of people. They led a very rushed life, and for that reason it sometimes took a long time to find someone willing to listen to a gospel message. But the people were very loving and when they gained trust, they began to trust more in their Heavenly Father and get closer to him. I love the people I met on my mission.

The most sacred moments I had on my mission occurred when I could see that people were changing. Specifically, there was a brother named Juan who had experienced some hard things in his life that put off his baptism. However, in time his life changed. The gospel had increased influence upon him leading to his eventual baptism. For me to be part of his baptism and see and feel the difference in him, changed me as well. As he stays strong in the church, the principle of change for the better is a source of strength to me.

I know this church is true and I know it has blessed my life and my family. I know that today we have a prophet of God and that if we follow his teachings we get closer to our Father in Heaven. I know Jesus Christ lives and thanks to him we too can live eternally.



**Elder Hjayden Paul**  
**Hungary, Budapest Mission**  
**9th Ward**

The Hungary Budapest Mission covers all of Hungary and consists of 22 units. There is one stake, two districts, and one branch to the mission. The mission has been open since 1989 and has anywhere between 80-100 missionaries. The membership is about 5,000 with only about 1,000 active members. The Hungarian people are a very solid people. They have a hard outer shell but once you break that, they are a bunch of softies. They are a very diligent and hard working people. Hungary has a very rich and sad history and the Hungarian people are very proud of their country.

A young woman was hesitant to get baptized for fear that she couldn't live by the standards and find a spouse. We prayed and fasted with her that she would receive confirmation that if she gets baptized that the Lord would provide a way. Later, after contemplating the situation one night and not being able to sleep, she goes for a late night run to pray and think. As she ran she felt an overwhelming peace and assurance, and received a prompting that she should stop. So she stopped where she was at and she looked around wondering why she felt to stop. As she looked down she found something written on the ground in front of her with chalk that said, "Jesus came and died for you. Do you believe that?" Tears flowed, the Spirit silenced her fears and she was soon baptized.

God is 100% consistent. He has never left me hanging and when I have done my part, he has always come through, and his promises have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ's Atonement has replaced feelings of guilt, discontent, and anger with peace, satisfaction, and love. His grace has changed me. I know with all my heart that Joseph Smith was a prophet, the Book of Mormon is the word of God, and that the Church is led by the Lord's prophets and apostles in this day as well. I am extremely grateful for that.



**Senior Missionaries Alan and Janette Payne  
Ottawa, Canada Mission  
3rd Ward**

We were called as CES Missionaries to serve in Ottawa. The Institute of Religion was our first assignment, the YSA Ward and helping the YSAs in general was our second assignment and missionary and missionary support was our third responsibility. We taught Institute every Wednesday night and over the 18 months we taught five semesters of classes at four different Universities or Colleges – University of Ottawa, Carleton University, Algonquin College and La Cite. Our on-campus classes included Provident Living, Teachings of the Living Prophets and Principals of Leadership. At Institute on Wednesday nights we taught the New Testament in the summer of 2015, Book of Mormon during the



2015-2016 school year. We team taught Doctrine of the Eternal Family, a corner stone class, with Brother Turner.

Our ward was very diverse from those seeking Masters and Doctorates to those not going to school. Many spoke more than one language and several were from other countries. We were fortunate to teach many of them on campus. During the school year, on Wednesday nights our class was made up of students mostly new to Canada from Peru, Brazil, China, Nigeria as well as those students from Canada. We were able to almost double our on-campus students by teaching them at school, when they had time. We also doubled those who came to Wednesday's Institute class by showing enthusiasm for our subject.

We were involved in HEG "Home Evening Group" on Monday nights and Ward Councils. We loved the YSAs. They have amazing stories. We were involved in eight baptisms, and helped these new members understand the Gospel during Institute. Just about every week we had at least one or more investigators attending these classes. We were also able to work with and meet some amazing missionaries – seventeen teams of missionaries served in and rotated through our zone. We met their investigators and taught lessons with them. We enjoyed hearing and being part of their miracle stories. We loved the young missionaries--they too were Young Single Adults.

**Elder Bowen William Smith**  
**Ecuador Guayaquil South Mission**  
**4th Ward**

The mission was a great learning experience for me where I could see and feel the love of the Savior every day. The people of Ecuador are a kind loving people who love to serve people they don't know. They are also willing to accept the gospel in their lives and have a lot of faith in Jesus Christ no matter what the religion.

A sacred moment from my mission was an experience I had in a city called Machala. An older less active lady named Rosa was passing through some difficult times in her life with health and family. Sadly, she told us she was going out of town for two weeks so we couldn't see her.

A couple of days later, while passing by her house, I felt a strong impression to stop. My companion, and the bishop who was with us, looked at me weird and asked why being she was gone. I didn't know why, but the Spirit persisted and I told that to my companion and the bishop. We knocked on the door and to our surprise she answered. With shocked expression on her face and tears in her eyes, she invited us in. She explained why she didn't travel and that she had prayed priesthood holders would come and give her a blessing, then we knocked.

I know with all my heart that the Church is true, and that our Lord and Savior directs us. I know that he loves us, and that he wants the best for us, as does our Father in Heaven. I know the Book of Mormon is true, for I have felt it in my heart. I know that families can be together forever. This I share with all surety in my heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.



**Elder Joshua Robert Sperry**  
**Arizona Phoenix**  
**7th Ward**

I served a Spanish speaking mission in Phoenix and spent most of my time in West Phoenix. I came to love the Spanish people of that area. They were so hard working living in humble circumstances and loved their families immensely.

I taught the gospel to a young man aged seventeen who was an atheist. But what he said after teaching him for two months I will never forget. He said he believed in the Book of Mormon and in the Plan of Salvation.

I know that Jesus is the Christ and that this is his restored church. The Book of Mormon is tangible evidence of the Restoration and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. This is the only true church with his pure doctrine.



**Madeline Edith Tolley**  
**Korea Seoul South Mission**  
**7th Ward**

The Korean people are always busy with one thing or another, so finding time to meet is sometimes hard, but it is so rewarding once someone can meet and a lesson be taught. Even though they are often busy, Koreans love to help. They help us learn Korean and the members want to help with missionary work whenever they can find the chance. This we appreciate.

During my mission, I felt I had a hard time recognizing promptings of the Spirit. I was often a bit unsure of what to do. One day we planned to visit a member who lived quite a distance away. Our schedule had been pushed back a bit so making the visit might now be a possibility. My companion wasn't sure we could visit the member, but I had a confident feeling that we should still go. Through that decision, we were able to meet a family who were looking for principles in a religion they could raise their daughters in. The principles in our church was their answer. When you recognize and follow the prompting of the Spirit, good results follow.

I know this church is true and I know God loves us. I know he wants us to be happy. I know that if we try our best God will always give us the help we need.

**Sister Terra Kate Wunderli**  
**Finland Helsinki Mission**  
**7th Ward**

Finland is beautiful and the people are very strong, independent, honest people. Members have firm testimonies and though the church is still rather small, it provides a shining light to those around it. The missionaries in the Finland, Helsinki mission are determined and obedient. It is a great place to serve.

I remember many instances when I received answers to my prayers. On one extremely cold day, the last thing I wanted to do was go outside and I was so discouraged with the work as well. I said many heartfelt prayers.

I know the church is true and that Jesus is the Christ. He is my personal Savior and I am strengthened by his Atonement's enabling power. I know Heavenly Father lives and loves me. He has a plan for me. The fullness of his gospel was restored through his prophet Joseph Smith. I know the Book of Mormon is the world of God because it has helped me to become more like my Savior.