

Missionary Reports to the High Council

2018

June – December



Dan & Maureen Egan

France Lyon

Ward

We served as MLS missionaries in Chalon sur Saone, France. Small Branch; we worked mostly with members and less actives. We worked with a set of young sister missionaries traveling over a large geographic area to visit members and investigators.

Accompanied small group of members to Swiss Temple one for the first time, one to be sealed to deceased parents and one who hadn't been to the temple for many years. The experience solidified relationships and built testimony of temple work for all involved.

The Lord knows and cares for his children—no matter where they live. He will find them and they will have the chance to choose to follow him.



Eliza Groneman

California, Ventura

Ward

Paso Robles, Agoura Hills. The whole mission is beautiful and is often referred to as paradise. The day is always beautiful. The people are very nice and are always willing to talk, but most do not know their neighbors. Their lives are busy and often they are rushing from place to place working to accomplish what needs to be done. The members know who they stand for and want to be different from the world. They have both feet in the gospel.

The mission culture is one of obedience, love and hard work. We are one team working towards one goal, doing all we can to help each other bring our brothers and sisters to Christ.

My companion and I needed a dinner message for a couple we were eating with one night. We had no idea what to share so we went into personal study with the desire to know and understand this couple's needs. I received powerful revelation as I prayed, pondered and studied. Then we went to companionship study where I learned my companion also received revelation. However, her ideas and mine did not seem to blend in creating a single presentational topic. We discussed our ideas and decided there was correlation between them and began to prepare in faith for the presentation, even though it might be an abnormal dinner message.

The spirit was strong as we delivered the prepared message. Afterwards, we knew we had delivered what Heavenly Father wanted presented. The next day we discovered the wife had been praying for extra confirmation on things currently going on in her life, and that our presentation provided answers to her prayers. She was grateful we followed the spirit.

I know God is real. He is our Father and He loves us. He has given us the gospel of Jesus Christ to help us in this life; to help us be successful and have joy in this life and the next. The gospel is centered on our Savior Jesus Christ. He loves us as well. We are engraved on the palms of his hands. He is always

going to help us as we let him. His atonement is real and the power of change understandable as we accept it. Because of Christ and his atonement and resurrection, God's plan of salvation is possible. Jesus Christ is the way, the light, and the life, and none can come unto the Father except by Him. This is the path to exaltation.

The Restoration did occur. This is Christ's church so established and organized as it existed in former days. Russell M. Nelson is a prophet and holds the priesthood keys to act in the name of the Lord. The Book of Mormon is real and true. It is the evidence of his restoration and another witness that Jesus is truly the Christ. This gospel truly brings joy and is here to bless everyone. We are Heavenly Father's children.



David Timothy Shumway

Chile Santiago North

Ward

My mission is a small city mission that begins in the downtown Santiago and reaches about two hours northwest to a city called Los Andes. The majority of the wards are small which allowed me to meet and work with so many amazing people. I have a special love for the Bilbao and Casserous families. The Bilbao family took me in as I began my mission. The husband of the family spoke English and helped me feel comfortable in Chile. This family quickly became my home away from home.

I met the Casserous family as I served in a small town in Los Andes. Their love for the church and the missionaries was just amazing. They treated us well and also all of our investigators, treating them with love and compassion like their own family.

In a particularly difficult time in my mission I was looking for some guidance and support from the Lord. I remember waking up early one morning, walking into our small study room, and picking up the guitar.

I flipped through the songs in a song book and found the classic missionary song, “I’ll Go Where You Want Me to Go Dear Lord.” As I clumsily picked through the notes and sang quietly the spirit came into the room and I found myself weeping. “I’ll go where you want me to go, I’ll say what you want me to say dear Lord, I’ll be what you want me to be.” As I finished the song a thought flashed through my mind so clear as though someone had spoken the words out loud: “Remember whose work this is.” That moment changed my life and helped me commit to the Lord’s Army.

I am profoundly grateful for my mission service. Because of those sacred two years I feel closer to my Savior and God. I know that God is our perfect Father in Heaven; I know that Jesus is the Christ. He lives and I love him with all my heart because I need a Savior. I know with assurance that we serve in the Lord’s true and living church. He leads this church today with the same love and perfection as he did the early saints. I know this is true. Russell M. Nelson is the Lord’s prophet. My hope is to continue working alongside my Savior and his ordained servants in this work of bringing our brothers and sisters back to our Heavenly home.



Jason Homer

Buenos Aires South

Ward



Skyler Andam

Botswana/Namibia

Ward

My mission was a great mission! The people I met while I was there are such a loving and happy people. They don't have much but they are always willing to share with others. On my mission I worked hard and stayed obedient so I could help as many people as possible and because of the grace of God I was able to show others the light and truth of the gospel. I served my mission mostly in South Africa and was in Botswana for three months.

My Sacred Experience: While visiting with a less-active lady by the name of Sister Malachi we talked with her about coming to church. She promised as usual, but unfortunately never did. My hopes and faith that we were making a difference in her life was a bit down. So, we left to go find someone else to teach. As we were driving away, she called us back to tell us she made something for us. We returned to find she had cooked a big meal for us. It was amazing, but I was a bit confused because she would feed us every time we came by, even though she wasn't coming to church and didn't have a whole lot. So, I asked her why she was always feeding us. She answered, "if my son went to another part of the world, I would want him to be fed by some kind sister. She told us that charity is the pure love of Christ and even though she doesn't have a lot she wanted to share it with us. After that I began to see Sister Malachi in a different way. I saw her for who she really was, a daughter of God and I couldn't help but feel an overwhelming love for her. After she said that I told Sister Malachi that I loved her and I said it three times. The third time I felt the pure love of Christ fill me again and I didn't only feel that love for just her but for all the people we were teaching and trying to serve. After that experience I never looked at people the same way. I look at people with a more God-like perspective. I see them for who they are and who they can become with God's help.

I know that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is the Lord's kingdom on earth today. I know Russell M. Nelson is a prophet of God. I also testify that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. But above all, I know that Jesus Christ lives.



Elder Rhett Anderson

Peru Lima Central

Ward

Peru Lima Central is a very blessed mission land wise, but it has ten stakes. I was able to serve in five wards. The Peruvian People are so humble, give what they don't have, and are a lot shorter than me. I have really come to love all of them so much.

We were teaching a sister who didn't have a very good understanding or memory. We tried many different ways of trying to help her but the only way that worked was with numbers. She decided to get baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. I visited her about 1 ½ years later and she was a different person. She remembered almost everything and I know it is because she received the Holy Ghost in her life.

I know that this church is true. I know everything I taught as a missionary is true. How I know all these things is when I read the Book of Mormon and prayed to know, and then received my answers. I am thankful I received that assurance and now I know that everything else is true as well.

Elder Rhett Anderson with friends



Dillon Vanderhooft with friends

Ukraine, Russia

Ward



Notes from Dillon Vanderhooft's Sacrament Meeting talk in 3rd Ward "The Atonement" - Christ invites us to come unto him. He does not force us to use the Atonement. Alma 7:11-13, *He shall go forth suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sickness of his people and their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he*

may know how to succor his people. . . Elder Vanderhooft described his experience with Andre, an investigator who struggled with drug and alcohol addiction. The missionaries visited him often, even working out with him but he kept relapsing. Andre found peace and success when he participated in the 12 Step Program. God has a plan for us. We are all imperfect. Christ is at the head of the church. His gospel enables each of us to progress.

Elder Vanderhooft described an experience of an Elders quorum president in a branch of about 30 people. He worked for the military in another city and traveled there weekly. He always bought bread for his family at a local market there. The people he encountered either ignored him, were friendly or seemed somewhat hostile. In his testimony this brother likened those to people we encounter daily. God offers us the bread of life. Taking the sacrament is the most important thing we do as Christ's disciples. We have made a covenant to nourish everyone, regardless of how they treat us. God is a God of miracles. He loves everyone. We must follow his example.