

## **Missionary Reports to the High Council**

**July through December – 2019**



**Elder Ethan Aslami - after speaking in 3<sup>rd</sup> ward**

**California - Los Angeles, Mission**

**4<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Los Angeles is a diverse and densely populated city. The traffic is really bad 100% of the time. My mission covered the L.A. Area, which included Hollywood, down-town, and Compton. It was an amazing experience to be there. I learned that God and Jesus Christ love all these children. One experience I had was with a family from Mexico. They had an aunt and uncle in Mexico who were members of the church. They attended an LDS ward when they visited them in Mexico, but were only there for two months so did not follow up. These relatives felt impressed to come to L.A. to visit and arrived on a Sunday. The family asked if there was a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in L.A. since they wanted to know more. They looked up the address and attended a baptism that afternoon where they met the missionaries. A few weeks later three members of the family were baptized. Elder Aslami arrived and began teaching the family and the rest were baptized. What I learned from this experience is that Heavenly Father is mindful of all his children and miracles happen.

Repentance and the Atonement of Christ: I served six months in the Hollywood area and taught a man named Jose who believed he could not be forgiven for some of the things he had done. It was not until I read Mosiah 32:13 to him that the burden of guilt was lifted. My companion saw the burden of guilt actually lifted off his back. When I read Alma 36:21 to him, happiness and peace came with a big smile as he was filled with Job.

One day, I experienced the hardest day of my mission. After a very rainy day, we awoke the next morning to see a bulge in the ceiling in the kitchen. My comp got a knife and made a hole while I held a kettle to catch the rainwater. We were expecting to see an investigator about her baptism when we received a text from her sister saying, “she left town because of an emergency and would not return.” Every other appointment that morning cancelled and when we went to the class where they taught English no one showed up. We returned home to discover the entire apartment was flooded. We cleaned up the mess and went to bed. The only thing that helped was reading Alma 26:27 and realizing that the next day would be better. We need to follow the living prophet, read the Book of Mormon and live the principles of the gospel every day, every day, every day!



**Sister Jenaia Durling**

**Guatemala Retalhuleu Mission**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ward**

My mission was amazing. There are so many people who are so humble. Almost everyone believes in God. My mission wasn't the biggest. Yet there are so many people in Guatemala who are prepared. Everyone works so hard there. Most of my mission was in the suburbs, but also a lot of times, I found myself walking on dirt roads trying to find people to teach.

One time when I was having a super hard day during my training. I was super upset. I felt like I couldn't get the language. I couldn't understand their culture. I felt like I didn't have any purpose as a missionary. I told my companion not to talk to me or else I would cry. We started walking. I said a prayer in my mind asking for comfort and asking for knowledge that God was really there with me. As we turned the corner, a little girl ran up to me and gave me a huge hug

and smiled at me. I had never seen her before. I never saw her again, but I knew that was an answer to my prayer.

I want to share my testimony that I know it's all part of a grand plan. I know that Heavenly Father loves me. I know He sent his son Jesus Christ to come here for me. I know Jesus Christ is my best example. If I follow him and keep his commandments, I know I will live with Him again for all eternity in happiness with my family. I know this! In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen



**Elder Chandler Hale**

**Ohio Cincinnati Mission**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ward**

If I could sum up my mission in a phrase it would be “purpose driven.” We constantly strived to have each hour of the day filled with activities that would help us to “teach repentance and baptize converts”. The people were generally very kind! I found that a vast majority of the people were already religious and had a solid foundation in the teaching of Jesus Christ. Actually, something unique is Cincinnati chili, spaghetti noodles, chili and a mound of cheddar cheese. All locals love it but most people who aren't native to the area are not huge fans.

One afternoon, my companion and I had several hours open, so we decided to take the bus till we felt prompted to get off. After 40 miles of bussing, we got off and started wandering the neighborhood. Eventually, we took another left turn and a car pulled up next to us and a guy called us over. He went on to explain that he was feeling in a very low place in his life but that “Seeing you two here today feels like a sign from God that everything is going to be okay.” It

was incredible to see how God led us to the right place at the right time to bless one of his children

Nephi teaches that “the tender mercies of the Lord are over all those whom he hath chosen, to make them mighty to the power of deliverance.” I know that because of the infinite Atonement of Jesus Christ I can be strengthened and delivered from any mortal trial that stands before me.



**Sister Caroline Hyland**

**Texas, Ft Worth**

**7<sup>th</sup> Ward**

I spent most of my time in the rural parts of North Texas. My mission heavily focused on the doctrines of Christ. My mission president’s goal was not only to change the lives of others but to make sure we become more converted and change ourselves along the way. The people of Texas love Jesus Christ and they aren’t afraid to let you know. I had countless experiences on doorsteps, collecting water bottles from a kind people, gathering in prayer, hand by hand so

they could wish us on our way. And occasionally people would even want to sing to us or for us. And they always said, “God bless y’all.” The people of Texas are God loving people.

I met a man while knocking doors and he had a great impact on me. He was mentally, emotionally and physically wounded! As we talked with him, we learned he was a veteran and while fighting he lost his right leg and was in a coma for three months that left him in a wheelchair. Although this happened many years ago, he carried this hurt and pain. He was frightened by us coming to his door because of his PTSD. As we spoke, during the conversation, I thanked him for his service and my eyes welled with tears. I never saw the man again, but he left a great impact on me. As I walked away, I knew more about the Savior’s Atonement. This man felt pain, sorrow, and sacrificed for my freedom. I couldn’t help but compare that to the suffering of the Savior went through for each one of us, including that man.

I know now how aware God is of each of us and how much He loves us. I saw it every day of my mission. Because of this infinite love for us He gave us his Son, Jesus Christ. I know he lives as I have physically felt Him lift me when I felt I could not see to tomorrow. I know that it is through Him that we can return to live with our heavenly parents. I know that God sent me to Texas to turn by belief in Joseph Smith to knowledge. Because of a humble prayer, God’s church and priesthood authority has been returned to the earth today. I know that the Book of Mormon is the world of God and that anyone who sincerely reads it will grow closer to Him. I have a very simple testimony that God knows us. He hears us, and he loves us. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen



**Sister Rachel Hyland**

**Chile Osorno Mission**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward**

My mission is the furthest south in Chile. It rains all the time, is incredibly green and has many volcanos. Chile is over a thousand miles long. There are areas where you have to fly to get there. Because everything is so spread out, the culture is different depending on what zone you are in. The people, generally speaking, are very kind. In Chiloe (an island) they are very loving and show that love through food that they give you. They are mostly Catholic, although many don't live their religion or go to church. They are very superstitious and love to give advice to all they come in contact with.

In my second to last area, I had been with my companion for two transfers. She was a hard companion for me. We stayed together for a third transfer. In that third transfer, we were talking one night about why we needed to stay together for that third transfer. My company shared with me that she knew we needed to be together because I had promised her in pre-mortal life that I would help her down on earth. She shared with me how I had helped her and what I had taught her. That moment helped me love my companion so much and feel a special bond with her. It also helped me realize that God has such a perfect plan and although we may not always understand or even like that plan, we have to trust in Him and know that everything is for our benefit.

I know that Jesus Christ is my Savior and Redeemer. I know that this is the Restored Church and is guided by Him through his prophets and apostles. I know that President Russell M. Nelson is a man called of God and is the living prophet of the church today. The priesthood is real. It is necessary and important to bring about God's work on the earth. I testify that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. It contains important doctrines and principles that teach us and guide our lives. Reading and studying it's content, along with daily prayer, are essential to our spiritual progression. Jesus Christ died for my sins. I can repent always. The Atonement is real and it works in our lives. I know that God has a perfect plan that we can't always understand. But I know that He will never lead us astray or hurt us no matter how difficult his plan is, we must submit our will to his. I know and testify that God and Jesus Christ live and that they love us.





**Elder Jacob Lignell**

**Mexico Chihuahua Mission**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward**

Chihuahua is the biggest state in Mexico covering an area about 1000 square miles. It's also a desert so it gets pretty hot during the summer but is surprisingly cold during the winter. Serving a mission is something I've always wanted to do because the gospel has helped so much in my life. I wanted to share God's truth with those who do not have it. The amount of life lessons and principles and Christ like attributes one gains on a mission are countless. If we try our hardest God's mercy reaches out and helps us accomplish miracles. I saw this happen many times on my mission. Sharing the gospel brought me such joy that I challenge everyone to testify, share and serve your non-member friends.

Important lessons that I learned from my mission included perseverance, diligence and the sure knowledge that God has a plan for each of us. The most important gift I got was an unshakable testimony of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. Knowing that they are there for me during difficult times gave me strength to go on.



**Sister Katie Ann Powell (right)**

**Portugal Lisbon Mission**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Ward

The Portuguese people are a faith driven people. They love the Lord and act upon their faith. Many are poor, but even though they have little they share all they have with those in need with gratitude. Every time I thought I was serving the Lord in Portugal, when I opened my vision a little wider, I realized he was serving me; he was placing people in my life that would make my testimony grow, he was helping me develop skills. I will forever be in debt to the Lord for the many blessings he gave me as I served.

Once while knocking doors, I had a very strong impression to turn around and contact a specific woman. From that contact we began teaching her and she began to progress rapidly. Weeks later she expressed how surreal that contact was. She had been facing one of the darkest days of her life when we contacted her, and since that contact day, light started to pour into her life and influence her to change for the better. I gained a testimony that God cares individually for each of his children and created a personal plan of salvation for each of them, which in her case, included a simple contact.

I know that Christ lives. He lived, died and lives again to save each person individually. Because of his great love he restored his church to give us access to the ordinances we need in order to return to our Father in Heaven. He left the Book of Mormon as convincing truth of his restored church and a guide to show us how to gain peace and happiness. I know he calls all to come unto him. And those who do so find the source of true peace and happiness in purity as I have felt. I know Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, he is my loving Savior.



**Elder J. David Timmins (Right)**

**Canada Toronto**

**9<sup>th</sup> Ward**



Canada Toronto is the best mission in the world and is a melting pot of the world. God loves all his children as described in 2 Nephi 26;33. The people I met and the spiritual experiences I had with them is one of the reasons why I love my mission and am grateful for it. I had no idea the life-long friendships I would make on my mission.

Some of the sacred moments from my mission included lessons with Luiz (Spanish speaker). I was able to follow along with the pamphlet. Also, reflection on how much God truly does love me and all of his children. How grateful I am for the time I had been given to labor in that portion of the vineyard.

I know the Book of Mormon to be the word of God. I know that Joseph Smith is a true prophet of God. I know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent here to the earth to redeem mankind. I know the church to be true and I am here to stay.

**Elder Nicholas Tellez**

**South Porto Alegre, Brazil Mission**

**6<sup>th</sup> Ward**

About my mission: it involves an actual cold climate during the majority of the years, given that it is the state most southern of Brazil. The people there weren't always so open, but those that were, would be more social as friends than as listeners of the Gospel. In a good list of characteristics, the culture there is organized in a lazy way, but the minority of them always loved hearing about Christ.

There was once an investigator who was shy, which was difficult because she didn't ask any questions, but I knew and felt that she had doubt about something. Upon inspiration, I grabbed a Book of Mormon and showed her it's photos and asked her which story she'd like to know about? She chose the one about Alma baptizing in the Waters of Mormon and asked why it was important to be baptized? We read the story together and explained the authority to baptize and what's involved. Just from that story she got that baptism isn't just an act. It is an act that requires God's authority.

I bear testimony that I know that Christ lives. He helps each and every one of us in an active manner. I know that the Book of Mormon is the word of God and was translated by the prophet Joseph Smith, who is also a true prophet. And that his church is the only church that receives revelation from our Heavenly Father through the prophets and that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.



**Sister Ellie Dagleish**

**Antipolo Phillipines**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ward**

The Phillipines is the most amazing place with the most amazing people. They are all so happy and humble no matter their circumstances and are the most giving people I have ever met. They are so Christlike in many ways, especially in the way that they that they are so charitable. I was blessed to be able to witness the sealing of a family that were baptized in my first area.

By serving a mission I have received a firmer testimony of the role of Christ's Atonement in my life. I love Him and have developed a personal relationship with Him. I have experienced the truest joy anyone could experience. I am so grateful for my mission experiences.



**Clyde Mansell**

## **Washington Vancouver**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Ward**

I had some amazing experiences on my mission including working with Kris who was an investigator who really progressed and Brother and Sister Santos. One of the most sacred moments on my mission was when I gave a blessing to a man under a lot of pain and being able to witness him heal. I know the Atonement of Jesus Christ is real and that the Book of Mormon is true.



**Alex Brown**

## **Indiana Indianapolis**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Ward**

My mission was fantastic! It was hard, but it was worth it. The missionaries around me worked harder and harder throughout y two years. I had the privilege of being a part of four baptisms, two of whom I taught most of the lessons before their baptism. The other two I taught most all the lessons after baptism. The people in Indiana (Hoosiers) are a god-fearing people, with a wide variety of beliefs-- from Catholics to Pentecostals to Jehovah Witnesses and Christian Scientists. They all, however, agree that members of the Lord's restored church are going to Hell! Nevertheless, they are mostly a bunch of wonderfully nice people and are willing to have a civil conversation with us. I loved having the chance to help God's children in this area— Indiana—to receive more of the blessings that the Lord has for them.

The first week after being transferred to a new area, my companion and I were called over to the house of a Filipino woman who was in her seventies. A friend of a Filipino member-- they lived in a suburb—population 4000—in the middle of Indiana. The woman had a shoulder pain for months which kept her from sleeping. We placed our hands on her head, and upon her request, gave her a blessing of healing. As I spoke, the member translated the blessing into Cabuano. We received word that that night was the first night in months that she slept a full night. I saw that the priesthood power is real and testify of the fulfillment of the scripture in 2 Nephi 29:7.

The gospel of Jesus Christ was restored in these latter days by the Prophet Joseph Smith. This gospel, as explained and expounded by prophets in both ancient and modern times, can withstand examination. I know that when it's precepts and principles are understood and applied, it will strengthen us in our trials and bring us peace through the spirit, and ultimately lead us and our families to eternal life.



**Josh Bunker**

**Canada Calgary**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward**

Calgary has a very rich history with our church. There are lots of LDS members living in Canada. We found that a lot of cowboys and farmers live outside the cities. Within these cities, there are lots of different ethnic groups include Filipinos, East Indians, Chinese, and Latin Americans.

During my mission I came to understand these truths: 1. God is our Father who wants us to succeed. We are literally his children. We are here to learn and grown. He gives us direction in the form of commandments -- instructions to follow that keep us safe. 2. Jesus Christ is the son of God who came to earth to teach us. He performed the atonement for us and bridged the gap so we can return to our Heavenly Father. 3. The Book of Mormon is True. Colton was a 20-year-old investigator that we taught in Medicine Hat. He was not progressing until he started reading the Book of Mormon. After two day the spirit touched his heart and testified of its truth.