

## **Mission Reports to the High Council June - September**

**Elder Michael Seth Monson  
Peru Cusco Mission  
1<sup>st</sup> Ward**

My mission was a very unique and large mission. It varied greatly from the Amazon jungle to the tops of mountains and consisted of four regions of Peru. The People I visited in my mission were all very humble and open to the Gospel message. They recognized the blessings they had. On a whole, however, they are pretty closed and not very willing to experiment when it comes to religion. I loved all of my areas and the people treated me very well every place I went.

As I came to know and recognize the Spirit I had many sacred moments with the people I served. One came with the family Mumo, a young family we had contacted on the street. They were going through some difficult times economically and the street was taking a toll on them. We had been visiting them for some time and had often felt the Spirit in their home. After hearing them relate to us all they were going through I felt impressed to share with them Matthew 11:28-30. They were both in tears as I explained it to them and shared my testimony. They said it was exactly what they needed to hear. I felt humble and grateful for the Spirit that had prompted me and that had lifted them and me.

I know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was restored to the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. I know that the Gospel is meant to be lived and applied every day. I know that there are prophets on the earth today. I know the scriptures help us in our time here on earth. I love the Book of Mormon and know that it is convincing evidence of the Prophet Joseph Smith. I know that the Atonement of Jesus Christ has the power to fix all that is wrong in the world and that He loved me enough to die for me. I know that learning of the Atonement and feeling its power in my life has changed me and continues to motivate me. I love this Gospel and share these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Elder Parker Robert Smart  
Uruguay Montevideo Mission  
7<sup>th</sup> Ward**

The people I worked with were really humble. They taught me a lot about sincerely trying your best for the right reasons. I hope to be able to apply this in my life. I wouldn't change my mission for anything.

One of the best experiences I had was to teach these two kids that grew up in really hard circumstances. Just seeing how everything unfolded from finding them to their

baptism. It was just perfect. Afterwards their older sister was able to get baptized. She is now working towards going to the temple.

I loved the mission and the foundation it gave me for the rest of my life. I gained my own testimony while serving. I discovered that prayer, scripture study and weekly attendance at church can keep you strong and help you to survive spiritually. I know that God lives and loves us all.

**Elder Bryce G. Thurman**  
**Philippines Laos Mission**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward**



My mission was exactly what I needed. I loved every day. The people are absolutely the most giving and humble people I have met. Super hard working and always willing to talk and help in any way they can. Even though they don't have much they will always keep giving. Our mission pushed very hard to use the Lord's time wisely and grow each day for ourselves and those we served.

One of the most sacred moments would be on April 4, 2015. It was in my last area, with my last companion. My previous companion and I had worked so hard and really didn't see much change but one day the Lord softened and prepared three of our investigators to be baptized on that date. After pushing, praying and fasting for so long on that day the Lord finally blessed us and more importantly, the lives of these three people. We saw all of them and a child of record step into the waters of baptism. It was a day never to be forgotten.

I know the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true. I know that Joseph Smith saw God the Father and his perfect son, Jesus Christ. I know the Book of Mormon is holy writings given to us from Prophets through the power of God. I know families can be forever. I know that there is one way and no other way to get

back to the presence of Heavenly Father and that is through his perfect plan, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is true. He lives!

**Elder Gregory James Wilson**  
**Finland Helsinki**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Finns are very quiet and reserved people; very kind but not very religious usually. Ninety percent of Finns belong to the state church (Lutheran.) Finland is a beautiful country with lots of forests and lakes.

My first few days in Finland were very difficult. But I knelt down one night and poured out my heart to God. I told God that I needed some help. I needed to feel the Spirit. That night I received one of the most powerful manifestations I've ever experienced. It changed my entire mission.

I know, without a single trace of doubt that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. God is our literal Father in Heaven. He loves us and is personally involved in our lives. Joseph Smith saw God the Father and Jesus Christ. This is Christ's church.

**Elder Nathan John Wunderli**  
**Korea Busan**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Ward**

The Korean Busan mission is not an easy one (I'm sure none of them are.) There are not a lot of members. A lot of doubt, confusion and misunderstanding exist among people about the Church. Korean is an extremely difficult language to learn. Many extremely kind and loving members are devoted to the Lord. They set a great example for me. I was able to make a lot of friends among the Korean missionaries and really begin to understand their culture.

I was in my hardest area with my most difficult companion when we found a kid on the street that was prepared to hear the gospel. To be honest, I thought kids like this didn't exist after a year of trying hard to find someone. He was attending another church at the time. However after studying and praying about the Book of Mormon he came to know it was true.

I know that Joseph Smith restored the true church, the same church that Jesus established. I also know the Book of Mormon is the word of God and I was really able to relate to it while serving my mission. I know that people who live by the commandments of God are happier and live better lives and will one day return to live with God in eternal families

**Sister Elizabeth Dwan Young**  
**Arizona Phoenix Mission**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Ward**

I served in WSA wards for the majority of my mission. I was trained in a family ward and there I learned how to be a member missionary while balancing family and work responsibilities. They taught me how to magnify callings. I was in three YSA Wards during the last fourteen months of my mission. The young adults are incredible people and more willing to listen and learn about the gospel. All are trying to find their way and established their own beliefs. Reactivation was a huge part of the YSA and some of my greatest experiences include reactivation stories. They are all so willing to serve and are humble. I had much success in Flagstaff working at a NAU campus. The LDSSA is a huge influence there and people walked into church wanting to learn more! My last ward was harder but as we exercised faith and worked hard we saw two baptisms and a huge increase in attendance among the less active. I gained a testimony of the importance of YSA on my mission and made friendships that will last a lifetime. I loved serving among “future families.”

During the Phoenix Temple open house I had the opportunity to go on the tour with a recent convert whom I had taught, my precious companion and the two elders who had been instrumental in her conversion. I had just been transferred from another area but things worked out so we could be together. We were all extremely close and we all enjoyed an outpouring of the spirit as we walked through the rooms. She was speechless as the symbolism was explained to us. As we walked into the celestial room a tangible wall of the spirit hit me as I crossed the threshold. The six of us stopped midway through this room and paused to take it all in. I remember looking at them as they looked upward. I had a distinct feeling that this would not be the last time we would all be together. I don't know how or when this will happen. I just know it will. As we left the celestial room I felt the spirit linger there. I'll never forget how it felt or what this meant to me and to the others that were with me.

I know that this gospel is the same gospel that Christ taught when he was here upon the earth and that through Him, all things are possible. I know that Christ restored this gospel through Joseph Smith who is and was a prophet of God. I know that he translated the Book of Mormon by the power of God and that this book was written for our day. I know the priesthood has been restored and Thomas S. Monson holds all the keys today. I know God lives. I know Jesus Christ lives. I know He loves me and wants me to return to live with Him again someday. I know that through the Atonement I can.