

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

**2017**

**June – December**



**Jaden L. Durling**

**Milwaukee Wisconsin Mission**

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

My mission was great, the Hispanic people were such a blessing to serve. They are such a loving and caring people, always giving us food. They have a great faith in Christ and love to learn about him.

There was this time that we were teaching an investigator and their daughter, three years old, was really sick and crying. So, we offered to give a blessing of healing. At first when we started saying the blessing, she was still crying, but slowly by the end of the blessing, she was sleeping soundly and her parents informed us the next day that she was completely healed.

I know that Jesus Christ lives, and that he is our Savior. I know God is our Heavenly Father. I know the Book of Mormon is true because I've read it. I know Joseph Smith is a prophet of God. And I know Thomas S. Monson is our living prophet.



**Carter Matheson**

**Philippines Angeles Mission**

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

The people of the Philippines are incredible. Naturally, they have the Christlike attributes of humility, charity and love. They have hearts that have been prepared by the Lord and need the gospel. My mission and the people in it truly changed my life.

I had a time seeing the father of a family, Diosdado Afan, get baptized after working so hard with their family for several months. When I saw him get baptized I was overwhelmed with joy and peace knowing they can be an eternal family.

I know that we have a Savior Jesus Christ because on my mission I came to know him. He carried me when I needed a boost. He lifted my investigators as they overcame temptation and trials. I know that He lives and guides His church today. I have grown to love the Book of Mormon so much because of its truthfulness and hope.

**Seli Miller**

**Soto-Brazil Natal Mission**

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

My Mission was the best experience of my life. Oh my goodness, I cannot believe it has already been two years since one of the best decisions I made in my life. I am so grateful for this gospel and everything it has given me. I'm so grateful for everyone that supported me, and most importantly I'm grateful for my Heavenly Father and my Savior, guiding me to make the choices that would make my future that much brighter

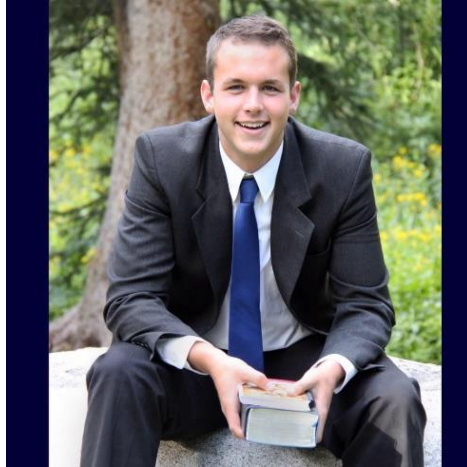


Me and my sister just put up a new song at [https://youtu.be/ VpSqAcLrDI](https://youtu.be/VpSqAcLrDI)

This song is so special to me. I learned on my LDS mission to sacrifice everything to God, and by doing that I was able to have Him be “My Vision”. This song is so special to me. I learned on my LDS mission to sacrifice everything to God, and by doing that I was able to have Him be “My Vision”. And **this quote describes my feelings about why that’s so special:**

**“Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He can deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, and pour out peace.”** -(Ezra Taft Benson). I don’t know everything, I’m so imperfect, and there so much for me to learn, but I do know that when God is at the head of our lives, we can find happiness and peace amidst anything and everything.





**Levi Lambson**

**Philippines Cavite Mission**

**2nd Ward**

The Cavite Mission is one of the smallest in the world, but has over four million people. Filipino people love rice and karaoke, but the first thing I will remember about them is their kindness in my mission. I had seven areas and nine companions. In every area I met kind, Christlike people, people who fed us despite limited resources; people who helped us and loved us. People of the Philippines are very content.

There were countless experiences I will never forget on my mission. One that stands out to me testifies of the converting power of the Book of Mormon. Sister Celia was progressing so well. She had come to church four times and had followed the Word of Wisdom for four weeks. Days before her baptism she told us she could not be baptized. She had read the Book of Mormon daily but still didn't believe. We were sad but optimistic. We gave her an assignment in Alma 32 and fasted and prayed for her. When we came back she told us with tears that she got an answer and she was ready to be baptized.

My testimony today is perhaps the same as my testimony two years ago. But the meaning and feeling in my heart is so much deeper. I saw over and over again proof that God lives and loves us. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to atone for our sins that we may be free. Although this gospel was lost, it was restored through Joseph Smith. We have a living prophet now. The Book of Mormon is the evidence of the truth restored.

**J. Calvin Barlow**

**El Salvador, Santa Ana Mission**

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

Mission: hot, rained a lot, poor living conditions. People: very loving, humble, kind, for the most part, happy, short, the best people around. On a really hot, miserable day God sent me some clouds to show me that he loved me.

I know that Christ loves me and knows me. I know that this is His church. It was restored by him through Joseph Smith. I know that Thomas S. Monson is his prophet here on earth. I love the Book of Mormon and its teachings have changed my life. I love this gospel and the joy it gives me.



**Jared Worth**

**Argentina Bahia Mission**

**1st Ward**

I really enjoyed my mission. We struggled to have a lot of success as a whole, but the people were open. People were willing to listen to our message but to actually progress was rare.

For me, a sacred moment in my mission was the conversion of our convert Fabian. It was a moment where faith and trust in the Lord were key. He went from wanting nothing with the church or Book of Mormon, to trusting in God, reading it every day, and getting baptized.

I know the church is true and that it really is perfect. I learned immensely about the Lord's love and I know that if we are willing, he will mold us into who he wants us to be.

**Carley Johnson – Argentina Santa Fe Mission**

**Haley Johnson – England Manchester Mission**

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



***Haley is second from left, with parents Annette and John, Carley and other family members***

**Haley:** Manchester is very wet with loads of tracting and street contacting. We are one of the highest baptizing missions in Europe. Most of our success came with the diverse immigrants and refugees. They are so humble and receptive. One moment that stands out to me was getting called to serve with a certain companion. I was quite nervous about both her and the area we were called to serve in. She didn't speak English well and I didn't know her and had quite a bit of anxiety about the situation. I got there right after she had been trained and found out she had a terrible time with her trainer and needed me as a friend. I know that God truly is our father in heaven who loves us. I know that he is so aware of us in our lives. He knows what new need and is there whenever we turn to him. Jesus Christ truly is our Savior and it is through his Atonement that we have strength in this life and a chance to return to him.

**Carley:** The Argentine people are very humble. They believe deeply. My mission was incredible. I loved every minute of it. It humbled me to see the hand of the Lord every day working in the lives of the people I taught. In my last area we got a referral for a less active

man and his non-member woman. We felt inspired to look for them on a specific night and met them just as they returned from a park. She was so excited when we invited her to be baptized. Every time we taught them the spirit in their home grew. They were married four weeks later and she was baptized. One of the most sacred moments of my mission was when she was confirmed. I love this gospel. I know that this church is the only true church. The Savior directs it. He is the Eternal Head. The priesthood is the power of God and I know it is the key to the ordinances. I love this gospel.



**Ethan Leiter (right)**

**Dominion Republic Santo Domingo Mission**

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

It is a great mission! We have half of the capital city, and then all of the eastern part of the country, 11 zones, 8 stakes and 7 districts. The Dominicans love God, baseball and not being stressed out. They are very generous and open to all, and practically everyone there is of some kind of Christian faith.

What comes to mind is when I was struggling to get along with a companion. I still didn't speak the language very well, and I was still adjusting to mission life. He asked me for a blessing of health and as I gave it to him, it was as though Heavenly Father or Jesus himself came down and

just poured out their love upon me and, I can and will not, ever deny that moment I knew they were real people who loved me and were helping me.

I am grateful to know that this is the restored church of Jesus Christ, God is our Heavenly Father, and He has a Son, Jesus Christ, who died and was resurrected for our sake. The Plan of Happiness is real, and as we follow it, we will be guided back to our Heavenly Father's presence. I know that as we study the scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon, and as we pray daily, we will feel the Holy Spirit enter into our lives and begin to change our hearts. Joseph Smith is the prophet of the Restoration, the Book of Mormon is a convincing witness of the divinity of Christ, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true! I know it and I love to share it.



**Matthew Steven Teynor (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)**

**Denmark Copenhagen Mission**

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

The Danish Mission is a special mission and my service there was also very special. I had the privilege of serving on the island of Bornholm. It's a small island in the Baltic Sea with a small population and a very small number of members. Because there are so few members,



missionaries provide the leadership. Historically, Bornholm has had very little success and had been known as a “Banishment Area” where the president sent missionaries he didn’t like. But over the last two years that has changed completely and Bornholm is one of the highest baptizing areas.

I love the people in Denmark. They have a very strong commitment to their families. They are very proud to be Danish and come from a country with such rich history and culture. The members, especially the youth, are amazing examples to me of commitment to live the gospel.

The most sacred part of my mission was the last weekend in Denmark. It started with a mission conference with Elder Neil L. Anderson and Elder Patrick Kearon. They gave us inspired counsel about how to continually have the faith to find the elect of God. Elder Anderson left an apostolic blessing on the mission that we would see greater numbers of people enter the waters of baptism as we were more committed.

The next day, in one of the most spiritual moments in my life, we went through the temple with Lena (a recent convert from Bornholm I taught) for the first time. After the session, we were with her as she was sealed to her parents who had passed away.

The day after I was able to be a part of Anja’s baptism. She bore her testimony after her baptism and testified to me that my mission had been a success.

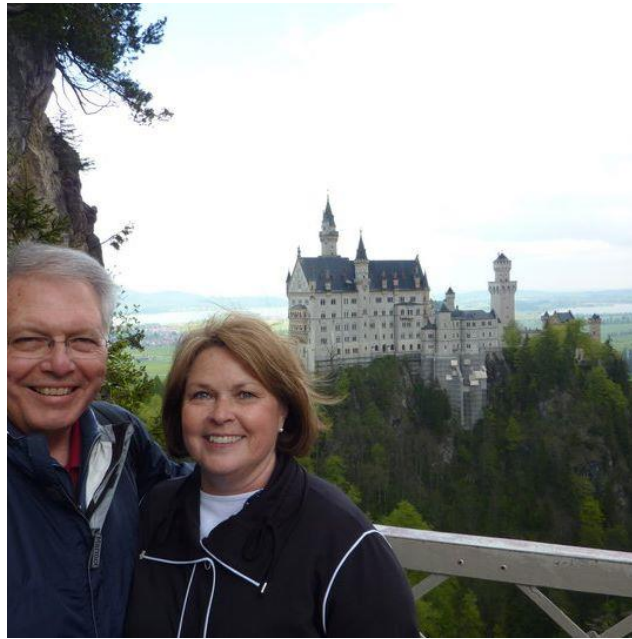
I know that God lives and loves us and we are his literal children and he has made everything possible for us through His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. He wants us to succeed. I know this work is true and is led by the Lord. He is hastening his work and qualifies who he calls. I know by the power of the Holy Ghost that the Book of Mormon is true and that this is the true church of God. I know we have the fulness of the gospel.



**Mark with Harry Williams and Laura Ulrich**  
**England Manchester Mission President and Wife**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Ward**

My 2nd mission parents are now home from the England Manchester Mission 🇬🇧 Their love for me, and the other missionaries, is still as strong as ever. I will be forever grateful for their love, council, faith and example they had in me on my mission. Welcome home President and Sister Ulrich!

Douglas & Joan Wadsworth  
Washington/Tacoma Mission  
Ward



We served as Senior Military Relations Missionaries assigned to the Kitsap/Bangor Naval Base in Silverdale Washington. We worked with families that had members deployed on Naval submarines and surface ships and supported their families as the needs arose. This involved visiting families on a daily basis, supporting them in church activities, and helping them cope with emergencies that arose when their military members were deployed.

There were many spiritual experiences that we had as we visited the military families during the mission. We felt the Spirit continually as we found that cold contacting the families was the most effective way to visit and meet their needs. One late evening as we were returning home, we were impressed to visit a mother who was having medical issues and family relations problems while her husband was deployed somewhere in the Pacific. Our visit was timely and we were able to **coordinate with the boat's XO on insuring that relief was on the way.** A blessing was given and Heavenly **Father's influence and effect on the family was profound.**

We learned much about the Gospel in the mission field and gained a greater understanding of the **Savior's love for His children**. We also learned about the blessing of a structured scripture study and of the wonderful opportunity we had to study together as a mission couple. We have a firm testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and of the Book of Mormon. We know that Temple blessings are real and that we must continually repent to endure the trials of this life. We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve a mission and be able to work with the faithful saints in the Silverdale Stake.

Colton Smart

Philippines Bacolod Mission

7 Ward



Colton was called to the Philippines Bacolod Mission speaking Hiligaynon



"Service is love made visible"

Adam Metcalf  
Australia Sydney North Mission  
7<sup>th</sup> Ward

