Good day to you all. It’s a good privilege in finally speaking to you all today. As many of you are aware, I was called to the California Fresno Mission originally. However, do to the tremendous, and wonderful growth of Missionaries, the lord has inspired the prophet to call a new mission in order in the Central Valley. This mission was the California Modesto Mission. Each Mission was unique and very helpful in my growth as a missionary, and as a person in general.

I only served in Fresno close to 4 ½ months. But in these few beginning months, my teaching went from super awkward, to smooth, and sometimes bold as well. I had a lot of help from my first 2 companions. Elder Boyes was my Trainer in Clovis- A suburb to Fresno. I and he often nickname our companionship the White-Boyes. I know it’s a catchy phrase right? President Clark was my first Mission President. Originally from Bountiful, he owned a loan business, lived a high class life, but also super humble, Obedient, wonderful teacher, and last but not least, a great lover of sweets and candy. He also had a funny sense of humor. I’m sure when President Clark found my name, and Elder Boyes, he wanted to get a kick out of us being in a companionship. So it was.

The first long days begun, and we studied, did the terrible thing that all missionaries hate, which scrapes against our ears-Role-play!!! It was hard pretending to be an investigator when you don’t even know what their point of view is. But there is a great spiritually valuable lesson in this. We learn from Chapter 6 in Preach My Gospel the wonderful attributes called Humility, Charity, and love. As we teach, as we role-play and truly seek out the others point of view who may not be part of the Lord’s restored church, we will be able to learn more in depth about each of these attributes. As we do so, we learn about the Character of Christ.

An apostle named David A. Bednar once spoke in a talk called “The Character of Christ”. This is only available in the MTC but you, and I will never forget the feelings that have been, or will be felt when we listen to it. Jesus Christ was the only one of all of Heavenly Father’s spirit children that could perform the Atonement so willingly, and without sin. He had the Patience, pure love, submissiveness called Humility, and Obedience to his Father’s will.

To the California Modesto Mission, its vision was very inspired of the Lord as they held that first Mission Leadership Meeting. They prayed, sought out Personal Revelation, fasted, and studied intently the scriptures, how they can be inspired for this new Mission combination from Sacramento, and Fresno Missions. Then, it became clear. You can find this statement all over the scriptures. It’s so simple like the gospel is. Nothing ever needs to be too complicated. As President Uchtdorf once asked the church, “Is our discipleship too complicated? Simplify.” So, the Vision was this: “WE ARE ONE WITH THE SAVIOR, IN DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER”. There was another proposal to say I AM one, instead of WE ARE one. It came to the conclusion that to unite this heavily divided Mission between Sacramentoites, and Fresnoites, this key wording (WE Are one) was used as that first step to allowing each of us to stop thinking of ourselves, and think about each other, as teammates in the Lord’s work, and that ultimately…This is the Lord’s work. Not ours.

Throughout my Mission, there has been a series of Initiatives for all people to watch to feel the spirit, hear a quick message, so that maybe, this can inspire more people to think of the church in a different perspective, so that they may feel more comfortable, or more inclined to take up the Missionary discussion, or just to have people Discover who Christ is, grow Faith in the Savior Jesus Christ, and act on his message to Repent, and access the power of his Atonement.

At this time, I feel to share the first Easter message that was released on my Mission. The video was called: #Because he Lives: “*It was unthinkable. Impossible. Unfathomable. Unprecedented. A single act- that changed history. Possibility. Destiny. He was a Carpenter. A teacher. An outcast. A Leader. But he did what no carpenter, teacher, outcast, leader, had ever hone. Who all precede him, he lived, and he died. But, unlike who preceded him, h rose from the dead. He lived again. He lives, and because he lives, you, he, she, and they, and we all, will live again. Death will have no sting. The grave, no victory. We can start again, and again, and again. Because of him, guilt becomes peace, regret becomes relief, despair becomes Hope. Because of him, we have 2nd chances. Clean slates. New beginnings. There is no such thing as the end. Discover what’s possible Because of Him.”*

I reflect over these words sometimes, and think about the amazing knowledge that we have about the Savior, before he was born, his birth, ministry, the whole truth of the power of the Atonement, and his resurrected state in continuing his work. God never rests. He’s always moving, and working with us. Sometimes we may have an investigator that’s not accepting the Truth, so we sometimes turn them over to the Lord who is our companion in the work, for further preparation. It was hard giving up these so called eternal investigators. But, we must do what Proverbs 3:5 says in, “Trusting in the Lord with all our hearts, and lean not to our own understanding.”

The next initiative was just as powerful. The pass along card read, *“Follow him and find new life. #Hallelujah.”* Taking from the words from Isaiah 53, and a little bit of Mosiah 3, it says: *“He was despised and rejected of men. A man of sorrows acquainted with grief. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our sins. Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh the sin of the world. And if I let him, if I love him, if I follow him, he can take away my sin. My sorrows. My pain. Forgive my past. As in Adam, all die. Even so in Christ, shall all be made alive. My father, and my Mother. My sister. My grandparents. My family. They shall all be made alive. In Jesus Christ, I have found new life. I have found new life. In Jesus Christ, I have found new life. Hallelujah X3. King of Kings, Lord of Lords, friend of friends. And he shall rain forever, and he shall rain forever and ever. Hallelujah. Jesus Christ died for us, and lived again. Follow him and find new life. Discover how.”*

Over my mission of 2 years, I have taught many people. But not all made it to baptism. However, a great many did hear the call of these messages just shared and acted in Faith to repent, be spiritually converted, and finally baptized for the complete remission of sins. Of these are 11 special people in whom I witnessed seeing them change for the better. **Virginia, Angelina, and Andrew Collins. Athena, and Jasmine Rutherford. Marcus Rutherford’s mom, (Julie Luna Glynn), Jenny Mendoza, Maria Johnson (now Cursay), Marcia Baker, and last but certainly not least, Sally Molinari.**

The first convert that I wanted to talk about who applied Repentance, and the Atonement, will be Marcia Baker. Now, Marcia sometimes called herself: “Marcia Baker-The trouble Maker”, before we met her. She is 72 with great perks for being young on the inside. This funny lady was descended from the Assyrians. She was born in Kansas, and moved with her mom to California and never went back. This woman continues to look forward, and stand up tall. She talked to missionaries before when she was in her 40’s but was unable to because she couldn’t find the strength to give up cigarettes, and so, the missionaries turned her over to the Lord for further preparation. She moved a lot so nobody could follow up.

Then, one day, 2 wonderful Spanish sisters decided to track this one street one day on the day of the Super bowl I believe. She told them that if her team won, she would let them come back. So, the next day, she announced that her team she was rooting for won, and said to come on in. They talked and introduced the Restoration to her. Since then, she was handed to me and my former companion, Elder Shepherd. We taught her for about 2 months, by then we went through most of the discussions, and we read from the Book of Mormon with her as well. She still struggled with those cigarettes. Partly because she had no confidence in herself to change. She was not using the divine help, and power of GRACE. Grace enables us to change. It allows us to get to our potential and beyond.

Me and my companion prayed, and probably fasted too on how we can better help her. I suggested we show her a conference talk. So, we went searching that one special Monday. Elder Shepherd found the right one. He thought it was rather bold and maybe offend her, but, he also said that Marcia was a bold person anyways. So, we went with it. The talk was called, “Approaching the Throne of God with confidence”, [By Elder Jörg Klebingat](https://www.lds.org/church/leader/jorg-klebingat?lang=eng) of the 70. When we gave it to her and came back, she said she read it like 3 or 4 times. She finally decided that she needed to stop worrying about others and take control of her life. Backward story, she was a nurse for Keiser for 42 years and retired. Nurses work hard for 12 hours straight, with good pay. Taking care of others and trying to be selfless. After that, she cut the Cigarettes cold turkey. She took control as she said. She made a 180 turn to Christ. I saw her continence change. I never saw a happier person than what she went through with Grace’s change. She then got baptized after proving herself true to the Lord. She is still very strong in Faith and is still going to church. For those who are preparing for a mission, please watch each continence change as you teach repentance, AND baptize converts. Not just have baptisms, but have true converts. We must hold onto the fruit that we receive.

The Lord once asked, “Will you also go away?” After reading Jesus The Christ, I have been able to understand the whole context of each part of his life and ministry of 3 years. Jesus traveled from Capernum, to Decapolis, across the sea of Galilee. The first people wondered where he went. They received news that he was in the other place after just feeding the 5,000. They sought to make him king, and give them more bread from heaven so they didn’t have to laber. The Lord chastised them and told them to labor not for that which perisheth. But labor for the kingdom of heaven. He then told them that he was the bread of Life, and everyone can live a gain because of him. Through his flesh, and blood, he bought us all with a heavy price. We should be grateful that we can be in this life, and also for the gift of Repentance. Without him, we cannot be forgiven and saved from our sins. Resurrection is given, but will you choose to be forgiven of your sins. That’s our ultimate choice called Agency. The people could not believe that Jesus Christ was the Bread of Life and no longer walked with them. Therefore the question, “Will you also go away?” I know I won’t. I know too much and there is no other name given under heaven that can save us, except Jesus Christ.

I conclude this talk in my testimony in the power of Grace. With Faith, all things are possible if we just exercise Faith in Jesus Christ, repent, be baptized for a remission of sins, and trust in the Gift of the Holy Ghost to listen to his whispering promptings, such as being taught of the Lord, being warned, to be comforted, or to help guide us in our thoughts, actions, and choices. I have asked my sister to play Amazing Grace because I have listened to this song often by Mormon Tabernacle choir. Its music pierces me to the soul for how powerful Grace can be when we learn about it, and most especially apply it. Listen to the melody, listen to the words, and the Holy Ghost will touch your heart for what you need to hear spiritually.

I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ amen.