**Micah’s Mission Story #20**

When I was in North Philadelphia I baptized a lady and her special needs son (this was the story of the lady who fed us with the genealogy book). She wanted her son to be baptized with her, even though her son was not accountable. We asked our mission president and had to learn the rules, and we were informed that such individuals do not require baptism but if the parent desired it then it is on the parent’s discretion once they are over the age of eight. Fast forward to Wilmington Delaware, we are teaching a convert going on a dozen years, seeing how she is doing, teaching her missionary lessons etc. Something that I learned to do (this was self-taught) when I got into a new area, the very first thing I asked for was a list of all of the members of the unit and I would ask for any converts or part member families to be highlighted and then I would make it an effort to go visit them as quickly as possible. This lady was one such individual. While we were over there having a lesson I felt prompted to ask the lady when her young teenage daughter was baptized. She looked over at me in shock and said “I’ve been told for years that I’m not allowed to get her baptized” and I said, “Oh, why?” and she said “Well because my daughter is a special needs kid.” Due to the experience I had already gained on my mission, I was able to practically quote the handbook to her. This lady actually began to cry because it was something she had wanted so bad, to be a part of, but was denied the opportunity. We told her exactly the rules: that they don’t need baptism because they are not accountable, but if a parent desired to be a part of that process, desired the baptism, that is on the parent. She made it very clear that it was something she desired, and we told her to pick a date and we would take care of the rest. For over a month we had battles with the ward about this baptism. The bishop actually called my mission president and my mission president read him the handbook. The home teacher of this family came up to us (me specifically) and accused me of only caring about baptisms and pushing these people into baptizing the daughter, to which I told them that the mother requested it and she told us that she had requested it before and she had been turned down. I told him, “So if you believe that I’m pushing her into something, go talk to her”. My companion, over the weeks, built a strong rapport with this lady’s daughter and the lady wanted and asked my companion by name to be the one to baptize her daughter. This lady planned out the entire baptism, had special outfits for her daughter, the whole nine yards. My companion went down into the water and baptized her and it was a beautiful experience. As my companion and the daughter were getting changed (obviously with her mother), the wife of the home teacher marches right up to me and sticks her finger in my chest and says, “She shouldn’t have been baptized and if she was to be baptized my husband should have been the one doing the baptizing because he has been her home teacher for years.” She even swore at me as I was explaining to her that the mother had requested my companion because of the rapport they had built. I asked her if it would be alright to take the conversation out into the hall so everyone didn’t have to hear it, but she refused and then sat back down with her husband. Thank goodness this lady didn’t hear any of this and they came out happy as ever and we concluded the meeting. When I told my companion what had happened (he was over 6 feet tall and Samoan and his dad had played middle line backer for the Chiefs and his brother was currently a tight end in the NFL) he was ready to go brawl. I had to calm him down and remind him that there was a sparkling cider at our home with our names on it and the Lord was happy with what we had done.

**Things we can learn from this**: “First seek to obtain my word before you share my word” ie. before you teach church doctrine and procedure you might want to first make sure you know church doctrine and procedure. The Lord gives us experience which opens up doors for us later on in life that we don’t even see coming. The Church is true “collectively, not individually”. All branches, wards, stakes etc are not created equal. If you are going through a tough time in a unit it very well could be the unit. If your unit is doing exceptionally well, don’t assume all units are like that and don’t assume that when the keys change hands that it will stay the same as it is. Another thing you can learn is that you can get a lot done in the service of the Lord, you can be an actual fulfilment to miracles vs simply being a bystander to them so long as you don’t care who gets the credit. If all you are interested in is the glory, the praise, standing in the water yourself, etc, you will find looking back at your life that you accomplished very little, but the few things that you did accomplish, you made sure everyone knew about it. The contrary to that is looking back at your life and realizing that the Lord through you accomplished countless miracles and only you and the Lord know about it.

I testify that this is a true story and share it with you in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.