

Elder Dennis Tingey (grandson of E. Jay Whiting) *Story One:*

Elder Dennis Tingey was called to serve in the same mission in Tenn. as his grandfather Jay Whiting served 50 years earlier. He did not realize why he was called to that mission but after the following experience he knew why. He wrote the following story to his Grandpa Jay.

I just had to write and tell you some of the great experiences I have been having. Last week our mission president called me in and ask me if I would step down from being a zone leader and train a new missionary in a new area. He told me he felt very impressed to do this and I agreed but hated to leave Hendersonville because we had both been put



new in there last month and were just starting to get adjusted. Well they sent me to Lafollette which I soon found was about 30 miles from Cumberland Gap. The first day I was here I had to interview a man for baptism up there and his name was Albert Evans (70 years old) and I soon found out his wife was Opal Smith Evans and that you had baptized her 50 years ago. It was such a sweet experience to talk to her.

We then attended his baptism Sunday and I was ask to confirm Bro. Evans as a member of the church. It was a great experience and I received a much grander view of the vision of missionary work. Many people were there who knew you from the Smith family. One in particular was Griser Smith who was baptized not too long ago I believe. Also one of the Shipley sisters was there and I saw the house where you used to stay as your headquarters. I'm also picking up a few good old stories about you so you better watch out when I get home. Our branch Mission leader is James Smith. He remembers you as a boy and told me your efforts were responsible for pretty much the entire branch there is Cumberland Gap. Everyone here wanted me to tell you to come back out and visit them.

Grandpa, I thank you so much for your example and I am learning so much about what a great missionary you were. This has been a choice and blessed experience for me to be a part of the work which you started in this area 50 years ago. I love being a missionary and I love missionary work. I hope and pray I will continue to serve as you did!

PS - Just a few years later Grandpa Jay and Dennis were able to attend the temple dedication in Tenn and were able to travel to visit several of these saints that they both knew. This was 6 months before Grandpa Jay died of cancer.

Story Two

Another story was at the first of his mission as he was visiting with some older members. Sister Montgomery listening and then realized who he was went to her old photo book and showed Dennis a picture of her baptism with his grandpa Jay baptizing her 50 years ago. She was a teenage girl who has since raise a large, faithful family. She made a picture for him to keep. During his two years he was privilege to meet many saints who were already blessed because of his grandpa. Jay once told him that he was to go and finish the work he started and it indeed became true.

