

## **Senior Missionary-Service Experiences**

Interviewer: Jeff Elsey (grandson), 5/5/24

John C. Elsey

I don't know. Okay, what are we talking about now?

Jeff

This is about your service and your missions with Grandma. So what made you and Grandma want to go on all these senior missions?

John C. Elsey

We just...Church service is always, and the gospel is wonderful, so you want to be involved in it. Missions are a good way to do it, and when we retired, we wanted to do it.

Jeff

You needed something to keep you busy?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, in a way...And the first one to Nauvoo was kind of interesting because we had been to Nauvoo several times and just loved it and wished we could spend, I wished we could spend longer there. And then we got this, I've interchanged Christmas cards with a friend of mine, Dick Sager, and one Christmas.

We talked about our [family] reunions in our letters and his Christmas card in 1998 said, when you have your next reunion why don't you come to Nauvoo? I've been made the business director there and then he said, better yet, put in your mission papers, and you're going to be a missionary.

Jeff

uh this is the 1998 because you didn't go until you 2003

John C. Elsey

No, we went there in 99. So this is Christmas in 1998, yeah.

Jeff

Because I remember going to visit... I remember I went twice. One time we went on a motor home trip.

John C. Elsey

That was 99.

Jeff

Okay that was like a two -week trip and we went we drove all the way to Palmyra. And then we worked our way back. Maybe we, I think we went to Palmyra first and then we came back through Nauvoo.

John C. Elsey

Yeah. We stopped in Missouri on the way out, and then we went back to Palmyra.

Jeff

I don't even remember that, I mean I guess I was only 7 right, but I don't really remember any of that road trip. I remember, I think I remember the sacred grove. I can't remember a lot of it. But I do remember going back, flying back when I was 11.

John C. Elsey

Okay, you were born in 92. Yeah, you flew back in the year 2000.

Jeff

So I went back, so I wasn't 11, because I know we went twice, once on a motor home trip and then I flew back for another time. Was it when I flew back that you were on your mission or was it?

John C. Elsey

Yeah.

Jeff

Because I remember the house that you guys were living in. Maybe I just remembered because of the picture we took on the, maybe I'm just remembering the picture.

John C. Elsey

on the porch. I don't know. But 98, I retired and...yeah.

Jeff

What was that like, like you were just, because you're working a full time job and then you're just done working. Was that weird?

John C. Elsey

Yeah. Well, I've been there with the company thirty-four years and the retirement compensation would depend on how long you've been there, what your salary was, but after 35 years the longer you served didn't make any difference. That was the most you could get.

Jeff

So you're like, time to be done?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, so I figured, well, I might as well be done. And I was planning on going back to consult because people often retired and then just came back as contract labor.

Jeff

because you could make more money on top of...

John C. Elsey

... on top of your retirement, yeah.

So that's what I was going to do. It was really interesting, though, because they wanted to pay me—well, as I was thinking of retiring, I said, How much do I need to make? And I was making about forty -four dollars an hour, I think, at the time.

But you had a lot of benefits. You had a savings plan, you had vacation, time off, sick leave, and all that stuff. And those benefits, they added up to about sixty -four dollars an hour when you put all that stuff in.

And so I said, I've got to have that much. And I kept thinking about that, and why am I so concerned about this? Why am I always thinking, Oh, I've got to have this much? I'm not going to work for less.

So when I retired, the guy said, - I was planning on coming back the next day, or next Monday- and they said, No, you've got to wait six weeks. I said, Okay. I took the guy against Disneyland all the time. But then when they called, they said they would only offer my salary when I quit.

And I said, Wait a minute, I've got to have more of those benefits. And they said, No. That's all we can do. And they finally upped it to fifty dollars an hour. And I said, No, I've got to have sixty -four.

And they said, No. And I said, Okay, No. I hung up, and suddenly I wasn't working anymore. And then Mavis's parents were living with us, and her father died that March, 98. We went to Israel in 99. And it was when Dick Sager wrote this little note, and we said, Yeah, can you really get us to Nauvoo?

And he said, Well, I think so. He'd been a mission president in Tennessee. And he said, Put your papers in and I'll call the missionary department. And he went back and forth a couple of times with them, and finally we got our mission called to Nauvoo.

Jeff

I didn't know you went to Israel.

John C. Elsey

Pardon?

Jeff

I didn't know you went to Israel.

John C. Elsey

Yeah. We went there. When I retired, we're going to travel. And I said, If I only go to one place, I want to go to Israel.

Jeff

Because you want to go to Jerusalem?

John C. Elsey

Yeah. Just the Holy Land. Yeah. Where the Savior was. So we took a tour there in October of 98.

Jeff

It's a really neat place.

John C. Elsey

Yeah, you've been there. You've stayed in the Jerusalem Center.

Jeff

That is a very nice center.

John C. Elsey

I'd love to stay there. We just...

Jeff

That's like staying on like a really nice university campus and then they just have this... I don't know, it's just really pretty there because like where they meet for church it's a chapel and then the back wall is complete glass and so while you're meeting you just look out over all of Old Jerusalem.

John C. Elsey

The Dome of the Rock is there. It's really impressive.

Jeff

Yeah, it's really beautiful.

Dome of the Rock was cool, same with the Wailing wall. It's just too bad about all the controversy that's going on over there.

John C. Elsey

Yeah.

So anyway, yeah, we went to Nauvoo in 99... July.

Jeff

Was it what you expected like was serving a mission over there as you expected?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, yeah. It was great. We always had been enjoying Nauvoo a day or two, there were two or three times before, but never long enough, and now we're there eighteen months, and it wasn't long enough. I really enjoyed it.

I really liked that mission. I was very busy. I was the executive secretary to the director of Dick Sager, my friend, and so I assigned all the missionaries. We got to know them all and made the assignments for where they served and worked out the... worked that out.

Jeff

And then you also, because you have like that barrel, you have the barrel in the entryway. That's from there. Because you would start, was it a play that you were performing?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, we were the play.

Jeff

And then you also, were you a blacksmith too?

John C. Elsey

Well, I worked in the...blacksmith shop. Yeah. We pounded nails... we gave tours there

Jeff

Because you have the horseshoes that you would turn into nails, or was it nails that you would turn into horseshoes?

John C. Elsey

...nails that turned into the wedding rings, then we would pound hot rods and make little tiny horseshoes.

Jeff

Do you have any, um, what was one of the, do you have a more memorable experience that you had like a spiritual experience with missionary work? Cause you'd get a lot of, you'd have a lot of, it's just like a touristy mission because you have a lot of people coming in, but would you, would there ever be.

Jeff

Like how often were there investigators that would come in for it? Or was it mostly members? Yeah, in Nauvoo.

John C. Elsey

There were a lot of non-members that would come, and we had some interesting experiences there. In the visitor center, we would take people on tours and then give them cards at the end and ask if they wanted to know more, would you like someone come with the Book of Mormon, then we asked them to fill out a card.

And I would give the tours there, and I remember I'd get cards back almost on every tour from somebody who wanted to know more, and I would make a copy of them and then call them up in a few weeks to make sure that the contact had been made or the books had been brought.

I remember I called this one. It was a neat little family. It was a young couple with a couple of small children, and I remember I called her up a couple weeks later, I just wanted to know if you'd receive the information you wanted, and she said, yep, they've been here twice, and they're coming tomorrow or something.

I said, oh, great, thank you. I didn't want to mess that one up. That was neat.

Jeff

Did you get to interact? Cause you said you knew all the missionaries by names, by their name. Cause you would be the one who would assign them to their areas. Did you, so you got to converse a lot with the missionaries.

John C. Elsey

Well, these are the senior couples...

Jeff

Oh, I see. I thought you're talking... about because were there any... were there any like there were...

John C. Elsey

There were some sister missionaries in the summertime, they would come in and work in the visitor center, sometimes in some of the other sites, but mostly just in the visitor center. And we didn't have any young elders there as missionaries.

So we had six or eight sisters, I think.

Jeff

So Makena's step-brother Carter, who's getting married, his fiancée, she served a mission in San Diego, I think. But there's like a visitor's center. I can't remember what it is down there.

John C. Elsey

Yeah, it's the Mormon Battalion.

Jeff

Yeah, she spent like eight months, I think, of her mission down there on the Mormon Battalion Center. Yeah, visitor's center down there.

John C. Elsey

That's what these sisters would do, they would come there in the summertime, but then they would work in other areas, other times of the year.

Jeff

So you were able to, so you're basically able to get called to where you wanted to go, because you knew, because your friend, as the director down there.

John C. Elsey

Yeah.

Jeff

Would you have wanted to go back to, like, if you could have served more missions, would you have chosen to go back to Nauvoo for a second stand?

John C. Elsey

I don't think they would have let us. I don't know. We went to China next. That was a good experience. Then we got to Bulgaria. They're all different. I'm really glad we had all those different experiences.

Jeff

Did you choose to go to China?

John C. Elsey

Yeah.

It was the BYU China teachers program and the church sends couples there to teach in the universities just because they want a presence in China. They can't send missionaries, so they would advertise or send a notice out I guess in the church news each year just saying China teachers needed or you can apply for and gave the direction so I would read that and I thought that would really be an interesting thing to do and so... I had a hard time convincing my wife, Mavis.

Jeff

But I think Grandma had a great experience down there.

John C. Elsey

Oh, she did. She was better than me by far.

Jeff

Because she always tries to learn the language. She also tries to pick up the language it seems wherever you guys go.

Because it seems it was the same way with Bulgaria.

John C. Elsey

Yeah, she did for a while.

Jeff

How hard was that to when they were, they were like the students you're teaching, they were more advanced so they could speak English in China.

John C. Elsey

In China?

Oh yeah. They didn't want you to know Chinese particularly, and it was not really encouraged because we were speaking and teaching English totally. The first semester we taught graduate students, and they had a big variety and a big spectrum of how good they were with English.

John C. Elsey

Some of them had been in the United States for six months, so they knew English quite well. Some had hardly had any, so they didn't know much at all. So it was a big spread in what the abilities were, but we tried to teach and work as best we could.

Jeff

But there was no proselyting at all, right?

John C. Elsey

No. So you get a big trouble if you try to proselyte, because the Chinese didn't want it, and the church didn't want to upset the Chinese, so they agreed to that.

They just wanted to have a presence there. It's interesting, the church in China, there is a lot of the church there. There was a branch that was in Guangzhou of just native Chinese. They couldn't meet with the expatriates, those that had a foreign passport.

We had a branch of expatriates in Guangzhou. We would meet in the first, and then they would come afterwards and speak... in the same facility.

Jeff

But you weren't allowed to talk to them?

John C. Elsey

You can talk to them, but we couldn't meet, I guess.

Jeff

Do you know how those conversions happen? like... cuz if there's no proselyting in China, it's like citizens who were visiting outside of the country and then were taught baptized and then they brought it back and then they taught their friends and...

John C. Elsey

A lot of them were that way. Some found out about the church on the Internet, and we had an Area of authority there who talked a lot about the experiences that people had, and some would find out about the church on the Internet become converted, read the Book of Mormon literature, and one said, I'm going to Hong Kong so I can get baptized, for one day, then I'm coming back, and he got there and they said, you gotta have the lessons.

He said, I've got just one day. Well, they taught him, baptized him, ordained him to the priesthood, and he came back in. There were a lot of people... a lot like that. There were some like that, but people had different experiences where they were able to... but a lot of times leaving the country and coming back in to join the church.

Jeff

So, you would meet as part of the English-speaking branch in... what was it, Guangzhou?

John C. Elsey

Guangzhou. Yeah. There were a lot of people in that branch. I mean, the Americans had a consulate there, an American consulate, so there were a number of people that were with that, and there were a lot of companies that had Americans working over there, and so there were a lot of those people as well.

Some had their own companies, but they were Americans that had a company in China, so they were there. So, we had about 90 people in the branch, I think.

Jeff

Did you have a calling in that branch?

John C. Elsey

I was the Sunday school president. I taught the gospel doctrine class about half the time because a teacher couldn't come. I had a problem with... didn't come.

Jeff

Was it hard to not share the gospel with the students? Would you like to try to hint at gospel related things during your English lessons?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, it was.

BYU just drilled it into you, don't mess things up because we don't want to... we've worked hard to get where we are in China and don't blow it, don't mess it up. So you could... they'd ask you... well, I remember one time walking home from what we called English Corner, we would gather on a Thursday night and people who wanted to speak English- it was outdoors just kind of come just chatting.

I remember walking back and met with a fellow. He said, I want to become a Christian, do you think that's a good idea? I said, yeah, just be careful what church you join. He said, what church? you mean, there's more than one?

I said, yeah. He said, don't you all believe in the same Bible? How come there's more than one? It's the same Bible. I said, I'd love to tell you, I'd love to tell you, but I can't, you know. I've signed the contract saying I won't discuss religion or politics with you.

Jeff

So, what's the primary religion over there, Buddhism?

John C. Elsey

Well, I wonder, atheism is it, with the communists, I don't know, Buddhists, there's Buddhas around... Buddhism, I don't think Hindus, Buddhism, I suppose.

Jeff

Were you still able to have spiritual experiences with the students, even though you weren't teaching them directly?

John C. Elsey

Well, in a way, I mean, the experience was like that conversation we had. We got friends with one of my students, and he was married, and his wife was a doctor. We had them to the—they could come to the Christmas social... we had food... and they said things like, you know, we have a Bible, and we like it, but we don't know what to do.

And I'm thinking, I'd love to tell you and show you, but—so that was about as close as we could get. Yeah, you really couldn't teach the gospel. But I guess there was a fellow, a Chinese fellow, who ran a tour company.



And he would take, give tours in different parts of China, and so we would take a lot of those tours, and there were about 65 English speakers, English teachers there, BYU teachers. And so from all over the country, they kind of gather for a tour of western China, or the desert, or the Great Wall, or whatever.

And he had several employees. One of them, a girl, was one of the direct...one of the guides, and she got... we became very good friends with her, with the BYU... not necessarily us, but the BYU teachers, and she ended up at BYU, joining the church in Provo.

And the director himself, he liked to give the tours for the BYU China teachers, and I heard that he joined the church, too, over here, ended up in Seattle, and I heard he became a member, so reaching out and catching some.

Jeff

That's neat. Did you get to travel a lot while you were there?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, we did. All over China every chance we got, we would go.

Jeff

Was that always by train would you take a train somewhere or how did you get around?

John C. Elsey

We flew a lot. China is a big country, about like the United States, so depending where the tour was, we would usually fly there. Went to Tibet, went to the Gobi Desert, rode a camel

Jeff

Did you go to base camp with Mt. Everest?

John C. Elsey

No.

Jeff

Just making sure my battery is not going to die. What was your favorite thing you saw while you were on your mission? Like what was your favorite? Like was it the Great Wall or was it the Gobi Desert?

John C. Elsey

Oh, I don't know. It was all so different. I don't know that I have a favorite.

We went at the temple a couple of times in Hong Kong.

Jeff

How far was it to travel from where you were to Hong Kong?

John C. Elsey

We were close. It was only about an hour away by train. So we had... some of these ex -patriots over there lived very well and they were high executives with the company. One counselor in the branch presidency was with Proctor& Gamble, I think it was.

But he lived in a nice house, very nice furniture, compound, swimming pool. And so he'd go to, he'd set up the trips to the Hong Kong temple and he liked to go on the first class train and I think it cost us about \$120 to go on the temple to Hong Kong.

Jeff

Was that first class or just to go?

John C. Elsey

Yeah- it was first class. It was very comfortable train... sailed through the stops where others had to get out and show their passport.

Jeff

Oh, if you just paid extra you wouldn't have to get off and...

John C. Elsey

Yeah, he'd like to sail right through. It was a special train. At the border with Hong Kong and China. You had to get out and show your passport and change trains and all that stuff.

Jeff

So was the experience worth it? Like, would you go back and do it again?

John C. Elsey

I don't know if I would do it again, but it was very worthwhile to do. I think Mavis feels that way too.

Jeff

So your... so where you went on your missions was Nauvoo and then Bulgaria? or China and then Bulgaria?

John C. Elsey

Yeah- Bulgaria was the last one.

Jeff

And so what was your... what was your role for your mission in Bulgaria?

John C. Elsey

It was officially proselyting, but we didn't do much of it, because... (it's going to be hard to find a spot....

Jeff

I think it'll be okay. I'm at 20%. I think we'll be fine.

John C. Elsey

We didn't speak the language, but we would try and work with the branches and then try and provide encouragement and leadership and help them with their problems.

Jeff

So you were helping, just like the branch presidencies?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, go visit the branches and try and provide support for them.

Jeff

Were you moving around a lot or were you like were you moving apartments or where are you staying in the same space?

John C. Elsey

We had an apartment, but we were in Sofia in an apartment the first year, and that's where the mission headquarters was. But we traveled to three other branches there. We would use a mission car. So we would drive throughout the country.

And then in the last eleven months, we were in Varna, which is on the east coast on the Black Sea, and we were on the other end of the country from the mission home. We had our own car. We had six branches that we kind of visited and worked with over there.

So we drove all over Bulgaria.

Jeff

Were you trying to visit each branch at least once a week? or how often were you trying to...

John C. Elsey

Sunday was the only time when they could really meet, so we had to kind of spread out and visit on different Sundays, and we couldn't get more than one branch per Sunday.

Jeff

What would you do throughout the week?

John C. Elsey

That's a good question. We had some time on our hands. Sometimes we were able to meet with people during the week. We... in Sofia we worked with the young single adults in setting up a young single adult countrywide conference. And so we worked with them a lot.

Jeff

Were there a lot of other senior missionaries assigned to...?

John C. Elsey

There were. About 10, I think you've got about 5 couples that were there.

Jeff

And did they all the same... were they all doing the same thing? trying to encourage the local leadership?

John C. Elsey

One of them was an office couple, so they dealt with the office, and one was a humanitarian, so they traveled around checking out different humanitarian things, and one was a CES couple, and they worked with the Seminary and Institute things... getting training for the teachers and material to them.

Jeff

Do you have any, do you know of any investigator stories of...?

John C. Elsey

Bulgaria was really a tough area. They hardly got any baptisms, missionaries who go their whole mission and not see anyone baptized. We did get one referral from a young woman, attorney, and we had a few lessons with her and traveled somewhat with her, but as far as I know, she's not done anything.

Jeff

What would you guys do to like build up or like, you know, like build up the local leadership? were they just

kind of like discouraged or was it just helping them try to...

John C. Elsey

Just the fact that you were there, and you were there in their branch. And we would be with them. I remember we had, we called them all in, and I had some training and help. And we had young single adults come over to Varna too for a day at a church activity and social.

Jeff

Were they really receptive to the help?

John C. Elsey

Yeah.

The branches, what happened in Bulgaria.. is a tough country, and they organized some very small branches, so there were maybe eight or nine people, all that would attend, and some of those branches were so small, and there were a lot of changes in them, and they dissolved a lot of them, I understand, since we left.

Jeff

What were the people like in general? not like the members we just like the people of Bulgaria?

John C. Elsey

They were good. It was good, we had a good time with them.

Jeff

Was it hard to go grocery shopping if you didn't know the language?

John C. Elsey

No, there were enough people that knew English that we got along fine. I had a funny experience one time in a grocery store. I was by myself. Mavis wanted a particular kind of soap, and so I went to the store.

I asked one of the young women for the soap. She said, "my English is not that good. Let me get somebody else". So, she got somebody else, and another came over. They said, oh, well, let me get some. They had about four or five young girls around.

They said, oh, yeah, it's right there. I said, okay, thank you. Then I wanted some juice. I said, "soak", which is the Bulgarian word for juice. They were "soak". Soak? I'm thinking what English, but they made it.

Soak, soak, soak. I said, yeah, soak. I said, oh, Bogarsky. That's right over there. That was really funny. But they're very helpful. We stayed at hotels when we were traveling all the time. All the front desks there spoke very good English.

That's probably a requirement to have that job.

Jeff

Did the, did the branch presidents usually know English or would you need like a missionary, like a missionary there to translate for you or did you ever need someone to translate?

John C. Elsey

Couple of the branch presidents were really good and some were not, as far as English was concerned. In Varna, the branch president, spoke very good English and Burgas, it was the same. I can't remember that one.

John C. Elsey

I depended- the missionaries would interpret a lot for us.

Jeff

So it sounds like all three of your mission experiences were very different.

John C. Elsey

Yes.

Jeff

Nauvoo was here, you got to be around a lot of members and also investigators. But then China, you got none of that, where just have to serve. And then Bulgaria was helping the branches.

John C. Elsey

Yeah.

Jeff

Today it seems like you can almost pick where you want to go.

John C. Elsey

As a senior missionary?

Jeff

Yeah

John C. Elsey

Yeah... but we did. We did in Nauvoo, you know, in China, but with Bulgaria, we said, let's just turn our papers in and see. In any case, the preference is, Mavis, she just said that she preferred not to go to Africa or Asia.

Jeff

because you had already been to Asia? or, then, why not Africa?

John C. Elsey

Because of its primitive nature, I think, although some people went there and really liked it.

Jeff

I mean, besides going on your missions, you guys have done a lot of traveling. I can remember you guys went on that really long cruise in South America. Then you guys have taken a train through Europe.

John C. Elsey

Yeah.

Jeff

Right. Was that part of your, that wasn't part of your mission, right? That was after...

John C. Elsey

When we left China... and we took the train from Beijing, well, we flew to Beijing from Guangzhou. We had another couple. The church put at least two couples in each university, so we had somebody to socialize with or be with.

And this other couple that were with us in Guangzhou were really good. We got to be good friends. But they were pretty adventuresome, and they wanted to take the TransSiberian Railway from Beijing over to Moscow, which we did.

And then from Moscow we went on to St. Petersburg and Europe, Northern Europe.

Jeff

Is it hard to get, were there any checkpoints or is it hard to get through or because they saw you were American and they're just letting you go straight through?

John C. Elsey

Once we had all the papers, I think we were fine. We had to get a visa to get into Russia. I don't think... the other couple did all the work. Going from China to Russia was interesting, but there was no problem particularly.

Once you get into Europe with the... what do you call it, the European..., you travel from country to country without border controls and all, once you're in the Euro zone, what do they call that?

Jeff

EU. European Union

John C. Elsey

Yeah, European Union....Once you're in that, I mean if the countries belong to that, there's no border control. You can go from one to the other. Just like the states here.

Jeff

Yeah, I always thought that's... I think that's one nice thing. Cause I, I, I'd love to travel more to like Europe and I'm sure I will eventually, but here it's like, we do have a lot of things, but it's like you can't, it's not easy to go from one country to another country from here.

Jeff

Whereas in Europe, it's pretty easy to visit a different country over the weekend.

John C. Elsey

I think they've gotten tougher here because we used to go to Canada in and out without a problem, but now you need your passport to get in and out of Canada.

Jeff

You used to be able to just drive up there and drive back?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, just across the border. You'd stop, get asked a few questions, but that was it.

Jeff

Has anyone interviewed you about your mission to the Eastern States? No, I don't think so. Central Atlantic States. Yeah. So, how was that compared to—

John C. Elsey

It was good. It was good.

Jeff

Did you have much success when it comes to baptisms? How long was that mission? Was it two years?

John C. Elsey

It was two years. Yeah.

Jeff

Was that at a time where it was a set amount of time, or was that still when it was kind of a variable amount?

John C. Elsey

No, it was two years.

I didn't really have much success as far as, there were some baptisms, I remember one woman we met and baptized, but there were some children who were baptized. I was in the mission office for a while. A lot of work there.

Jeff

You've had a big range of experiences.

John C. Elsey

Yeah, I do. I do.

At this point in life, I look back and I say, I've kind of done a lot, I don't need to do any more.

Jeff

And then you've got to do a lot of regular missionary work with working in the temple for so long. How long did you work in the temple for?

John C. Elsey

About ten years. It was ten years.

Jeff

That was once a week. Every week?

John C. Elsey

Yeah, and then I would substitute other times, so sometimes I was, as a worker, I was there one week three times, but I'd substitute on Wednesday and Saturday sometimes.

Jeff

And now you get this one built in your backyard.

John C. Elsey

I know. I'll never see it finished though.

Jeff

No, no. I wouldn't say never.

John C. Elsey

Well, kind of interesting. I was thinking about that the other day, and thinking, "ah, I won't see that finished". And then the thought came to mind. "Wait until you see what we've got on this side". I don't know. I don't know how that is. I'm going to find out I guess.

Jeff

Well, wasn't that kind of how it's portrayed? It's like, you'll, you'll get, uh, help those who are in, because I think when growing up, they teach you like people are in spirit prison and you're in spirit paradise or like when you're in the spirit world, but then like people over in spirit paradise are teaching to the people in spirit prison to try to, I don't know how it works, but that's like what I think of when I think of it.

It's like, you're still doing work because you're not just going to sit there doing nothing. Unless you're just talking to all your ancestors the whole time.

John C. Elsey

Yeah, we know very little about that, which is, to me, I think it's probably because we wouldn't understand it, because, you know, if you think about, what's just our lifetime when my mother, born in 1897, got out of school for a ride in an automobile, because it was just a new thing at that time.

But you'd talk about iPhones with movies and stuff like that, and you'd say, what? The scriptures are in this little, what? That's what the scriptures, conference talks, hymns, books, it's all right there.

So I think we probably wouldn't understand the spirit world if we were to go there. You think back now, compared to like 60 BC, you know, the world was flat in those days to people.

Jeff

Now we think we know everything about the world, but there's probably still things we don't know.

John C. Elsey

That's true. That's probably true.

Jeff

There's like a there's like a phrase it's like the different levels of ignorance or something or it's like there's things that you know there's things that you know that you don't know but then there's things that you don't know that you don't know so there's yeah which is probably where you fall on the ladder when when it comes to a lot of the spirit world and after life.

John C. Elsey

I think it was Aristotle or Socrates, one of them, I remember, I don't remember much about my Greek stuff then, but he said, he was the smartest man in Athens, and he said, I don't know anything, but nobody else does either, but they don't know, they don't know, and I know I don't know, so therefore I'm smart enough and smarter than everyone else.

Jeff

That's a good point. At least he was kind of humble when he said that.

John C. Elsey

Are we still recording?

Jeff

Yeah. I think that's it though. Everyone can hear the little bit of chat.