



# The IRON ROD



OUR CHARGE AS MISSIONARIES IS TO -- TESTIFY OF CHRIST AND THE RESTORATION AND, INVITE ALL TO COME AND BE BAPTIZED UNTO REPENTANCE THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE PARTAKERS OF THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE. - ALMA 5:62

November 1990

## President's Message

In addition to bringing thousands of souls to repentance, one of the other great promises given in Alma 26:22 is "...know the mysteries of God." One of the mysteries of God is the doctrine of "oneness". Bruce R. McConkie said,

This concept that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are perfectly united as one is the most important truth that man can know. Out of its application in our lives, comes the hope of eternal life. The whole system of salvation is ordained that we may become one with God.

We often seek to make it clear, in contrast with other churches, that the Father and Son are separate persons. However, we must always remember that the Father and the Son are infinitely more one than they are separate. They are separate in person, true, but in every other way, be it mind or power or glory, or perfections, they are one.

To be one with God should be our greatest desire. Our ways and thoughts, our work and purpose must be as His. We have been called to labor with Him in the greatest of all work which is to bring to pass the eternal life of man. For those who labor in His vineyard, the Lord promises the greatest of all blessings -- to be one with God. (See 3 Nep. 28:9-10)

The Lord has commanded that His people must also be one in righteousness. "I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine." (D&C 38:27) Nowhere is the requirement of oneness more important than in missionary work. This is where some of the greatest tests of unity and oneness comes.

Please study Mosiah 18:21-22 and apply it to our mission. Alma commanded "...that there should be no contention one with another." The opposite of unity and oneness is contention. Contention is evil and can be eliminated from our lives through repentance. It must be eliminated from companionships, our mission, and our lives if we are to have the success the Lord has promised. The Lord teaches that contention is of the Devil. (See 3 Nep. 11:29-30) The tool of contention is the tongue. By governing the tongue, we gain perfection. (See James 3)

Nothing will contribute more to the unity and oneness of this mission than for each of us to speak well of each other, the

members, and the people we are sent to teach. By the same token, nothing will cause more problems or be a greater hinderance to the work than if missionaries speak ill to or about each other or other people.

Alma continued that we as ministers of the Gospel "...should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism having their hearts knit together in unity and love one towards another." We must all have an eye single to the glory of God and be united in His work and purposes. The Book of Mormon gives examples of people being so united that great and marvelous blessings came to the entire group. (See Mosiah 4:2-3 and 3 Nep. 11:16)

What a powerful force it would be if we were so united as a mission that we sought for and rejoiced in the success of each other and the mission as a whole as much as in our own individual success. In a real and important way, every baptism in this mission is an accomplishment for each missionary who is praying for the success of his companions and the mission, and is laboring with all diligence to bring people into the Kingdom. Conversely, if a missionary violates any commandment or rule it has a detrimental effect not only upon himself but upon the whole mission. We have a collective responsibility for righteousness.

I am impressed that we should establish as our mission goal -- each missionary to baptize every month. We will meet this goal if we do as the Lord commanded in D&C 29:6. We will receive our desire for all to baptize each month because it will happen as He promises in verse 7. "Whosoever ye shall ask in faith, being united in prayer according to my command, ye shall receive. And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts."

If we are one with God, His work will be our work. Then, He will hear our prayers and grant our desires to baptize thousands unto repentance.

With Love,  
*Larry Hunt*  
*Susan Hunt*  
President and Sister Hunt