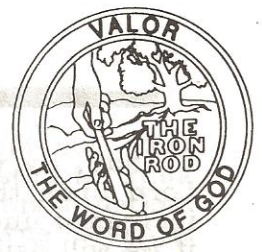




The IRON ROD



August 1990

President's Message

We have talked about the importance of doing missionary work the Lord's way. I have given considerable thought and prayer to the proselyting methods we must use in order to do this. The Lord has told his missionaries through modern day prophets what He would have us do.

WE ARE TO USE THE BOOK OF MORMON AS OUR PRIMARY PROSELYTING TOOL. President Benson has said, "The Book of Mormon is the most powerful proselyting tool that we have...all we need to do is read it and declare it.

"Combined with the Spirit of the Lord, the Book of Mormon is the greatest single tool which God has given us to convert the world. If we are to have the harvest of souls that He expects, then we must use the instrument which God has designed for that task -- the Book of Mormon.

"The Book of Mormon is the instrument that God designed to 'sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out [His] elect' (Moses 7:62). This sacred volume of scripture needs to become more central in our preaching, our teaching, and our missionary work."

As you consider these statements, there can be no question about the importance of the Book of Mormon in our missionary work. Furthermore, President Benson has told us how we must use the Book of Mormon in our proselyting. **WE MUST READ IT AND DECLARE IT.** Then, he goes on to say, "I challenge our mission leaders to show their missionaries how to challenge their contacts to read the Book of Mormon and pray about it. Missionaries need to know how to use the Book of Mormon to arouse mankind's interest in studying it, and they need to show how it answers the great questions of the soul. Missionaries need to read with those they teach various passages from the Book of Mormon on gospel subjects.

"The golden question of the Book of Mormon is, 'Do you want to learn more of Christ?' The Book of Mormon is the great finder of the golden contact. The worldly are not interested in it. It is a great sieve."

We have been asked to spend 30 minutes each day in the study of the Book of Mormon. Please give this top priority.

The prophet has also told us how we should study the Book of Mormon. We must personalize its message and apply its teaching in our missionary work.

"The Book of Mormon was meant for us. It was written for our day. Its scriptures are to be likened unto ourselves.

"The Book of Mormon was written for our day. Each of the major writers of the Book of Mormon testified that he wrote for future generations. If they say our day and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should constantly ask ourselves, 'Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his record? What lesson can I learn from that to help me in this day and age?'"

The information given in the Book of Mormon about great missionaries like Alma, Amulek, the sons of Mosiah, the sons of Helaman, Nephi, and Lehi, was preserved for us so that we can learn to do our missionary work in the same way.

I was touched by the Spirit when we were at the MTC in June and listened to Elder Richard G. Scott of the Council of the Twelve teach and bear testimony of the Book of Mormon. He said, "I feel impressed to promise you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that if you diligently strive to teach your elders, sisters, and couples to appreciate and use the Book of Mormon and through it other scriptures and to teach them to use that vehicle with their investigators, as hard as it is, you will increase the number of convert baptisms, and you will increase the retention of those who join the Church. I promise you that in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

I, too, have been given a testimony of the Book of Mormon and an absolute conviction that if we use the Book of Mormon properly in the Kentucky Louisville Mission, great and marvelous things will happen here.

With Love,
President and Sister Lunt

P.S. Please ponder and pray for understanding of President Benson's promise and blessing regarding the Book of Mormon as printed on the next page.