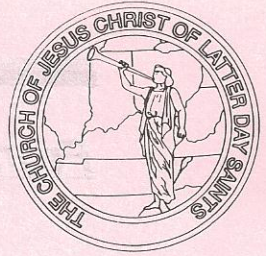




The IRON ROD



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

January 1991

President's Message

For Christmas all our missionaries were given a copy of President Benson's new booklet entitled "Missionaries to Match Our Message." In it he tells us in detail what is required by the Lord to be a successful missionary. The words of our living prophet are vital to us. They are scripture. What a great blessing it is to our work for the Prophet to address the specifics of missionary service. We must head his counsel. I ask that you read the section on Serving a Successful Mission out of this book each month.

As we start a new year I am impressed that in our mission we must emphasize member-missionary work. President Benson states that, "Member-missionary work is the key to the future growth of the church.... The key to member-missionary work is correlation between full-time missionaries and the stakes and wards in which full-time missionaries serve.... This whole area of priesthood-missionary correlation is so vital to the success of missionary work that I cannot speak too strongly about it.

Then President Benson, on behalf of the Lord, makes us a wonderful promise:

I promise you that you will more than double your convert baptisms if full-time missionaries and members and leaders in the stakes and wards correlate missionary work as they should and work together in harmony. I issue you that challenge!

The Kentucky Louisville Mission accepts President Benson's challenge to work together with the members and leaders in the stakes and wards to correlate missionary work as we should and work together in harmony. We know that if we do our part the promise of the Lord will be fulfilled.

In 1990 the Kentucky Louisville Mission had 506 convert baptisms. This is the first time that this mission has gone over 500 baptisms in one year for ten years. We are deeply grateful to the Lord and acknowledge his hand in this work. Based upon the promise made by President Benson on behalf of the Lord, if we do our part with member-missionary work that will have over 1000 baptisms in 1991. This is our challenge. This is our goal.

There is a direct correlation between the number of missionaries serving in an area and the number of convert baptisms

in that area. We are now very close to our full complement of 180 missionaries in the Kentucky Louisville Mission. Therefore to increase our convert baptisms each individual missionary must become more effective and we must enlist the support of many more, even hundreds, of member-missionaries to help us with our sacred and vital work.

We are blessed with devoted priesthood leaders in all of our stakes and wards who support missionary work. We must work together in harmony. When holding meetings with the local leaders, the following points are keys to success that should be kept in mind:

- * Respect the stake, ward, and branch leaders. They are in charge. You are there to support and help.
- * Make sure that you are visible. Speak clearly and loud enough so that all can hear.
- * Be enthusiastic and smile. Accentuate the positive by talking about the success you are having.
- * Be complimentary. Thank them for the help you are receiving from the stake mission and the members.
- * Be well prepared. Be ready to report on previous weeks activities as well as to make joint activity plans for the upcoming week.
- * Ask for feedback. Let them tell you how to improve the work. Thank them sincerely when they make suggestions. Do not criticize them.
- * Keep a prayer in your heart. Pray for the stake mission and the members. Seek to work together in harmony.
- * Always offer your help. Ask what more you can do to move the work along.
- * Listen carefully. Pick up all the information you can, especially when potential contacts are discussed. Observe to understand the people better and to learn matters pertaining to your proselyting area.

I am certain that if we do our part the Lord's promise given through His prophet will be fulfilled and in 1991 there will be over 1000 people brought into the Kingdom of God from the Kentucky Louisville Mission.

With Love,

President Lunt
Sister Lunt

President and Sister Lunt