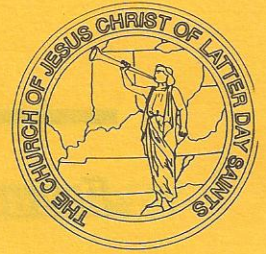


# The IRON ROD



OUR CHARGE IS TO -- TEACH AND 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

March 1991

## President's Message

Our charge is to teach, testify, and baptize. As missionaries we are obligated to teach by the Spirit, to testify with boldness and to invite all to repent and be baptized. We are anxious to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation. Our testimony that what we have taught is true and that it constitutes the Gospel of Salvation. When we have taught and testified by the Spirit our purpose is to baptize all who will repent. Therefore we must not be hesitant to extend an invitation to come into the Kingdom of God through the waters of baptism.

President Benson has said that we should use a goal program and that our most important goal is to bring the gospel to all people. He went on to say that our "purpose for being in the mission field is to save souls, to baptize converts, to bring converted families into the Lord's church." In order to have greater success in the purpose to which we have been called we challenge every missionary in the Kentucky Louisville Mission to the following goals:

1. Teach 10 standard discussions per week. If we are going to baptize more we must teach and testify more. An essential part of teaching is to bear testimony that what we have taught is true. If people are properly taught they will feel the Spirit and if they are prepared by the Spirit they will desire baptism.
2. Extend 20 referral invitations per week. We must find more people to teach. Referrals should be sought from everyone we contact - members, non-members and investigators alike. For example, when we are calling on media referrals or tracting we should always ask the people we contact for the names of people they think may be interested in our message.
3. Invite 7 people or families per week to receive the blessings of baptism. We can't be hesitant to extend an invitation to be baptized any more than we can be reluctant to teach or to testify. We have the words of eternal life. The opportunity to extend an invitation to be baptized comes very naturally at the end of the first discussion, and should be done then whenever possible. It is reaffirmed in all the subsequent discussions. If we

extend an invitation to be baptized by the power of the Spirit the honest in heart will be touched. We will also become more efficient and effective as missionaries if people clearly understand our purpose.

4. Have one or more investigator to church every week. Not only will they feel the Spirit when they attend church but they will also meet our leaders and members. Church attendance is necessary in order for us to baptize.

5. Baptize every month with the specific responsibility to seek out families. The Prophet has said that each missionary has the privilege and the responsibility to set their own individual baptismal goals to find golden families. Each month every companionship should prayerfully set their monthly baptismal goal and have a burning desire to bring people to Christ.

We are receiving a considerable number of media referrals. We were able to convince the Brethren that Cincinnati should also be included in the current media campaign. In our discussions with the Brethren it is our feeling that we should baptize at least 10% of the media referrals we contact. We must focus on being more effective with the media referrals. This should be a special matter of prayer and fasting.

President Benson as the Prophet of the Lord has challenged us to "Feel the spirit of the modern-day challenging and testifying missionary who prays every morning, 'Lead me this day to a family, that I can fulfill my purpose. I will testify unto them by thy power without hesitancy or fear, and will lead them by the power of the Spirit to baptism into thy kingdom.'"

We must expect a miracle because we are engaged in the Lord's work. He is at the head and he desires the salvation of every soul. Every time a person is truly converted it is a miracle because conversion only comes through the power of God.

The success of the Lord's work is certain. We are called to gather the elect. The field is ready to harvest and as servants of the Lord if we thrust in our sickle with all of our soul we have His promise that we will baptize thousands in the Kentucky Louisville Mission.

With Love,

*President Lunt*  
*Sister Lunt*

President and Sister Lunt