



# The IRON ROD

OUR CHARGE AS MISSIONARIES 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.



March 1991  
April

## President's Message

As I reflect on our charge as missionaries I am reminded of a statement issued by the First Presidency in 1935 on the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the first Quorum of Apostles in our dispensation. They said:

"Two great truths must be accepted by mankind if they shall save themselves. First, that Jesus is the Christ... and next that God has again restored to the earth, in these last days, through the Prophet Joseph Smith, His holy priesthood with the fullness of the everlasting gospel, for the salvation of all men on the earth."

Missionaries, sent two by two, proclaim the divinity of the Savior and the reality of the restoration. Missionaries declare the doctrine of salvation by teaching the 6 Standard Discussions and then testify that what we have taught is true. Those who will open their ears to hear and their hearts to understand receive our message with joy.

The standard discussions are truly inspired. They present the message of Salvation in simplicity and plainness and if properly taught they will carry the Spirit into the hearts of those who are prepared. Our investigators repent as they make and keep the commitments set forth in the discussions. Therefore we must know the discussions very well and become more skillful in presenting them. For example, the main focus of the First Discussion should be the Book of Mormon and the Prophet Joseph Smith. This is the reason that our new qualification and certification programs are structured around the discussions, the missionary guide, and the Book of Mormon.

D&C 29 records a revelation to James Covill. He had covenanted with the Lord that he would obey any command the Lord would give him. He was called to go to the Ohio and commanded to preach the fullness of the gospel and to go forth baptizing with water.

We are to apply the scriptures, as appropriate, to ourselves. It is instructive to note that we have also covenanted with the Lord and have been called to labor in the Ohio River Valley. Like James Covill we are promised that if we are worthy and labor with our might the Spirit will be with us and we will have great faith and the Lord himself will go before us.

In D&C 40 we learn that James Covill broke his covenant because Satan tempted

him and because of the fear of persecution and the cares of the world. From this we can learn a valuable lesson on how Satan works and the importance of being true to our callings. Because we are called and commanded to teach, testify, and baptize the Lord will prepare the way that we may accomplish the things he has commanded us. If we will work in faith and with great desire to teach discussions every day and baptize every month we will be blessed with success.

We have seen the hand of the Lord in our work. We recognize that he has blessed us in our weakness and his work is moving forward in our mission. There is much more to be done. For example we need to:

1. Have more urgency in our efforts, to be sweetly bold, and appropriately persistent in scheduling and following up on our appointments and extending our commitment invitations.
2. Better follow up with our investigators. The Brethren have told us that ideally we should teach the discussions often enough to prepare our investigators to be baptized within 2-3 weeks. We need daily contact with our investigators in person or by members (see discussions P1-15, 1-20, 4-17&18 under Follow-Up). On occasion we can use the phone or the mail to make contact. Because this is the program of the Church we are obligated to follow it and the Lord will bless us as we do.
3. Take better advantage of the opportunities we are given. As we hold more baptismal services we should plan and use them as one of the best proselyting tools we have (see White Handbook P-6 and Discussion P6-12 under Invite).

As we begin to teach the gospel we introduce the Book of Mormon which is a most powerful witness of the Savior and the restoration. Those we teach who will read and pray will know the Book of Mormon and the principles of the gospel we have taught them are true. It won't be a matter of argument. It won't be a matter of debate. It won't be an intellectual conversion. It will be a revelation from the Holy Spirit of God and they will desire baptism and remain strong in their testimony.

With Love,

*President Lunt*  
*Sister Lunt*

President and Sister Lunt