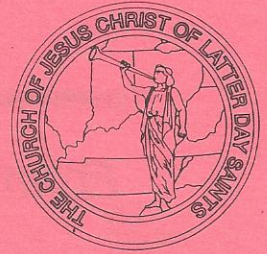




The IRON ROD



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.

MAY 1991

President's Message

On March 6, 1991 the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve issued a landmark statement entitled "Fundamental Considerations in Proclaiming the Gospel." This statement is to be the standard we are to use "so that the purposes of the Lord in proclaiming the gospel may be accomplished His way." The following is a summary of the main points:

1. The Lord is now opening doors and hastening his work. We are to increase our efforts working in unity and faith with members and priesthood leaders so many more people will be converted, remain faithful, and receive all the blessings of the temple.
2. This statement was accompanied by some significant scriptural injunctions that provide a doctrinal foundation for proclaiming the gospel. Please study these scriptures. We are to conform to these inspired instructions.

The Challenge:

Mark 16:15-16	Matthew 6:33(JST)
Matthew 28:19-20	John 15:5,8,16
Helaman 3:26	3 Nephi 28:23
D&C 11:3	D&C 33:3
D&C 42:12-14	D&C 48:8-12
Foundation for Baptism:	
D&C 20:37,68-69	John 4:35-36
Worthiness:	
3 Nephi 18:28-30	Moroni 6:1-4
Mormon 9:29	

3. The standard discussions, training guide, and the other approved training materials are consistent with the direction given by the Lord and should be used and emphasized.
4. We are to simultaneously emphasize enduring conversion, retention, and activation.
5. To qualify for baptism a person should meet the requirements set forth in D&C 20:37. In addition they must meet the qualifications set forth in the Missionary Guide, p. 234.
6. "There are two aspects of conversion that must be carefully satisfied in each individual: The acquiring of a testimony of a core of new truths and the social transition to new friends and patterns of life.... We must ensure that all who are converted and come into the Church acquire, before that step is taken, a sufficient

foundation of faith, understanding, conviction, and commitment to be faithful when they become a member of the Church.... The conversion process includes faith, study, prayer, and sufficient obedience to new truths for the Holy Ghost to provide a confirming witness of those truths."

7. Full time missionaries are "to provide assistance in the retention of new converts and the activation of less active members.... Missionaries acting in this expanded roll can greatly assist priesthood leaders build the kingdom and strengthen the lives of the members.

8. "The personal influence of Church members is one of the most powerful factors in helping an individual achieve an enduring conversion and remain active in the Church. Members should be encouraged to share their love and friendship with non-members and converts thereby helping them overcome social and cultural barriers and greatly increasing the likelihood of conversion and continued activity. We ask all who are in leadership positions or who are participating in missionary efforts to ensure that investigators of the Church are wholeheartedly welcomed and adequately prepared for baptism."

9. "We call upon priesthood leaders, stake missionaries and full-time missionaries to work as one to help all members experience the joy of missionary service by accepting missionary callings, actively preparing individuals to hear the gospel and to diligently welcoming and fellowshipping new converts."

We must be humble and teachable and follow the instructions we are given by the Lord's prophet with exactness. Then, because it is the Lord's work that we are called to, and because we are worthy to have his promises fulfilled in our lives, his arm will be our arm and he will open doors and hearts and hasten his work in the Kentucky Louisville Mission.

With Love,

President Lunt
Sister Lunt

President and Sister Lunt