



# 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.

## President's Message

September, 1991

A few weeks ago Elder M. Russel Ballard sent me a copy of an address he gave to new mission presidents entitled, *Stay Anchored to the Approved Program*. At about the same time I received a copy of a tract that my grandfather prepared while he was on his mission in England in 1910. This tract was considered to be very good and was widely used. As I considered the missionary resources, Elder Ballard discussed and compared them to what my grandfather had, and I marveled about how blessed we are to have the missionary program and all the training that we have today.

Our study and daily preparation must be built around the scriptures, the white handbook, the discussions, the missionary guide (emphasizing the commitment pattern), the Missionary Gospel Study Program, the missionary weekly planner, and the missionary weekly report. These together with the pamphlets and videos that we are provided have been designed by the Lord through his servants and given to us as the tools we are to use.

After all it is his work and he knows what he wants done and how he wants us to do it. Whether we use the tools he provides us is up to us. To the extent we use them as He expects we shall succeed. To the extent we do it our way or work slothfully or indifferently with the tools he gives us we shall fail in his work. As we use the tools he provides marvelous things will happen.

The white handbook outlines in a plain and direct way what the Lord expects of his missionaries. President Benson said that it should be given great emphasis and that we should read from it daily.

Our daily schedule provides one hour of individual study and one hour of companion study first thing in the morning. The white handbook states that we are to use the Missionary Gospel Study Program as the basis for individual study and the Missionary Guide, which includes the standard discussions, as the

basis for our companionship study. If we do this every day we will feel the Spirit. This will set the pattern for the entire day and we will receive guidance in all of our labors. Furthermore, one of the greatest things that can come from serving a mission is to learn to love and apply the scriptures and understand their importance. The habit of studying the scriptures in the early morning hours will be a great blessing for the rest of our lives.

Another important area where we must stay anchored to the approved program is the use of the blue missionary weekly planner. Many missionaries use a day planner and this may be helpful in keeping a journal or in other limited ways. However, our main resource must be the diligent and effective use of the missionary weekly planner. Among many other benefits this provides a way for each companionship to set their weekly proselyting goals and calendar their daily appointments and activities that are necessary to reach those goals.

The blue planner is designed to be carried by each missionary and is the source of the information you need to fill out the missionary weekly report. Sister Christensen logs in these reports as they are received. Unfortunately, some missionaries are not sending them as they should. This weekly report is a great benefit to both you and me. Please see this is done weekly.

As we stay anchored to the approved program and keep the commandments and follow the white handbook we will have the Lord's Spirit in our work. Because we are doing the work the Lord's way we are on his errand. Then as we deliver his message we will be blessed with the success that we are praying for.

With Love,

*President Lunt*

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