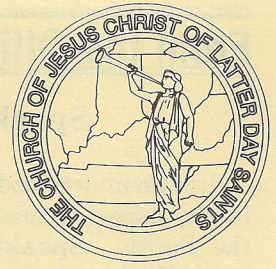


The IRON ROD



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

January, 1992

Missionaries are Servants of the Lord

In the 1st Section of the Doctrine and Covenants the Lord refers to missionaries as his servants. The Brethren are emphasizing a balanced effort and an expanded role for missionaries with responsibility for conversion, retention, activation and service. We are to be servants of the Lord to build his kingdom in every way. We have the opportunity to build the kingdom as never before when we reach out and do the things that the Master would do, instinctively, because we are his servants.

This balanced effort and expanded role of missionaries will require more emphasis on planning. Nightly and weekly planning meetings and the proper use of the tools we have been given become even more essential. An important part of planning is reporting. I will be directly involved with each missionary in two of the primary tools we are to use in our planning.

1. **The Missionary Weekly Planner/Weekly Record of Proselyting Results.** You should use this constantly each day and fill each line on it. It contains your schedule and goals. It is designed to help you meet these goals. I will review it with you at each of our interviews.
2. **The Missionary Weekly Report.** The new format of this report will motivate us to plan service, activation, retention as well as proselyting activities. Please insure that each of you send me this report each week. As we plan the following guidelines should be used.
 - A. **Proselyting.** The schedule in the white missionary handbook calls for a total of 63 proselyting hours per/week. This is the missions expectation.
 - B. **Service.** We have been asked to spend 4 hours a week in Christian service. This service comes from a sincere desire to help others.
 - C. **Activation.** There is not a stated number of hours to be spent a week working with the less active. This may vary from area to area. However, our work with the less active should be in cooperation with Stake missionaries and members. They can provide the fellowshiping that is needed.
 - D. **Retention.** We are asked to report weekly attendance at Sacrament Meeting of all converts in the last two months. This will

encourage us to help them stay active and receive all the gospel blessings.

The front page of the new missionary weekly report is designed to focus on our primary responsibility, as servants of the Lord, which is to bring people to Christ through baptism. It is a reaffirmation by the Brethren that missionaries can with the help of the Spirit baptize weekly. This report helps us focus on this goal.

The back side of this missionary weekly report is designed to promote a balanced effort of conversion, retention, activation, and service and focus us on our expanded role as missionaries.

I am certain that as we properly emphasize retention of new members we will see increased numbers of convert baptisms also. Not only does the Lord desire the conversion of each soul He desires that they remain. If we do missionary work the Lords way and work to retain those who are converted He will lead us to those who are ready to join the Church. He knows who will receive our message. He has said, "I know my sheep and they are numbered" (3 Nephi 18:33). His sheep are the elect and we are called to gather the elect because they hear his voice and feel His Spirit when they are taught the gospel and they harden not their hearts (see D&C 29:7). The elect are those who receive our message with joy. They accept without resistance the restoration and all that it implies. These are those whose testimonies are rooted in the Book of Mormon and who like the people of Ammon are converted by the power of God working miracles in them and they never will fall away. (see Alma 23:6)

If we are not prepared to retain the elect once they are baptized He will not bring them to us. If we do everything we can to retain them he will open the way and bring many elect individuals and families. The elect are found in every area in this mission. And the only thing that keeps them from the truth is that they do not yet know where to find it. (D&C 123:12) It is our blessing, our opportunity, and our responsibility to take the gospel truth to them. If we do missionary work the Lord's way he will bless us with success.

With Love,

President Lunt

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