



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

November 1992

With all of our Heart, Might, Mind, and Strength

Doctrine and Covenants section 4 is the great missionary revelation of this dispensation because it sets forth all the qualifications for the ministry. It is important to understand what the Lord means when he requires that we serve with all of our heart, might, mind and strength.

1. To serve with all of your **heart** means with real intent, proper motives and desires. It includes emotions such as sympathy, understanding, and charity. "Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind." (D&C 64:34.)

2. To serve with all of our **might** means to labor in the Spirit with great effort and energy. A good example of spiritual effort is mighty prayer. "Alma labored much in the Spirit, wrestling with God in mighty prayer that he would pour out his Spirit upon the people who were in the city, that he would also grant that he might baptize them unto repentance." (Alma 8:10; see also D&C:24; 29:2.)

3. To serve with all of our **mind** refers to our entire thought process which includes reasoning, goal setting and planning. President Benson, and before him President Kimball, has often reminded missionaries about the importance of setting goals and making plans how to accomplish them. The basic steps of goal setting by a missionary are as follows.

a. Identify the goal: The blue planner identifies the six proselyting goals missionaries are to focus on. It is our responsibility to prayerfully and with the help of the Spirit set a goal in each of these six areas. Whenever possible specific people should be identified with the goal we set. Our goals should stretch us and be such that we can see with the eye of faith that, with the help of the Lord, they can be accomplished.

b. Write the goal down: The blue planner is a great help because there is a space to write the number and also the names of the people supporting that goal.

c. Specify when the goal will be attained: The blue planner is intended to help us set weekly goals and to make specific plans to accomplish them on a weekly basis. We also have weekly call-ins and weekly letters to the President. All of this helps us to understand that we report our stewardship and set goals on a weekly basis.

d. Plan how you will meet your goals: Our nightly and weekly planning meetings are essential. You have been given an agenda to help you remember what should be covered in these meetings. After we have planned we must execute our plans. Look for ways to improve and to become more effective.

e. Constantly think about and work toward your goals: Faith and desire can be determined by the amount

of time spent thinking about and planning towards accomplishing our proselyting goals. One of our greatest challenges is for our eye to be single to God and to be completely focused on his work. We were used to vacations and holidays from work and school. But in the mission field it is different. We focus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on missionary work. The white handbook reminds us that even P-day, while being a break from the vigorous proselyting routine, is intended to help us remain focused on and be more effective in our work at all times.

f. Make your goal a matter of constant and fervent prayer: We should plead with the Lord to open the way for us to accomplish our proselyting goals as we work with all of our heart, might, mind and strength. We should pray for particular individuals and their specific needs. We are to, "pray vocally, as well as in thy heart; yea before the world as well as in secret, in public as well as in private." (D&C 19:28.)

4. To serve with all of our **strength** means with all of our physical energy and vigor, and the Lord will sustain and strengthen us. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31.)

If we are righteous, obedient and serve with all of our heart, might mind and strength, then we will be blessed with the gift of faith so as to be able to accomplish our proselyting goals. Please study the statements on faith, obedience and goals from President Benson and Elder McConkie on the back page of this Iron Rod.

One of the best ways to measure your obedience is to evaluate the degree of your compliance individually and as a companionship with mission rules. We are sent out by the Lord two by two, and one of our major responsibilities is to help our companions to be obedient and to be our brother's keeper to keep him from evil.

We sing "The Army of Helaman," which reminds us that we are in the army of the Lord, and like those Striplings we are to be true to our trust, to perform every command with exactness and to be strict to remember and observe the commandments of the Lord. (see Alma 53:20-21; 57:21; 58:40.)

Surely the field is white in the Kentucky Louisville Mission, and it is the day of harvest. I know that if we serve with all of our heart, might, mind, and strength and exercise faith in the Lord, we will reach our righteous proselyting goals and perform miracles by bringing souls to Christ.

With Love,

President Lunt