



# 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

June 1993

### Be True to Your Trust

In our mission we have often likened ourselves to the army of Helaman. There are many lessons in that account which apply to missionaries who are serving in the army of the Lord.

1. Those stripling soldiers "entered into a covenant" to serve the Lord, "even unto the laying down of their lives." (Alma 53:17) Each of us has entered into a covenant with the Lord when we accepted our call from his prophet. In that acceptance we covenanted to "maintain the highest standards of conduct and appearance by keeping the commandments, living mission rules, and following the council of your mission president. You will also be expected to devote all of your time and attention to serving the Lord, leaving behind all other personal affairs." We also have covenanted to give our lives. The Lord expects us to do that by devoting our lives completely in his service.

2. They "took their weapons of war to defend their country." (vs. 18) Their weapons included the sword and the shield. The armor we are to use includes the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit. (see D&C 27:15-18.)

3. They were young and "were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity; but behold, this was not all--they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted." (vs. 20) Our work also requires great courage to be able to introduce the message of the restoration with a sweet boldness to people in their homes, on the streets, or wherever we can find them. Missionary work is very demanding--it takes physical strength and activity. The Lord gives his spirit and grace to missionaries who are true at all times. This gives missionaries strength and assistance from the Lord which enables them to do things that otherwise would be impossible if left on their own.

4. They were men of "truth and soberness (we call it quiet dignity) for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him." (vs. 21.) As the Missionary Handbook promise that we have learned that "quiet dignity will open doors for teaching the gospel."

5. Helaman "did march at the head of his two thousand stripling soldiers." (vs. 22.) It has been a great privilege and blessing to be a field commander in the army of the Lord and to "march at the head" of our missionaries. Helaman considered all of his striplings as his sons. (See Alma 56:10, 46.) We also consider our missionaries as sons and daughters.

6. Helaman tells us that it was the mothers who taught their sons not to doubt. The sons first trusted in the faith and testimony of their mothers which lead them to faith and to trust in the Lord. (see Alma 56:47-48.) Over five hundred missionaries have touched our lives in the last three years. From this we have learned that if a missionary has faith in the Lord it is almost always

because that faith was first sparked by the faith and testimony of his parents.

7. Helaman's striplings "did obey and observe to perform every word of command with exactness; yea, and even according to their faith it was done unto them." (Alma 57:21, see also vs. 25-27.) It is the same with our missionaries. Those who are exacting are given great faith, and they are willing to put their trust in the Lord. They are blessed and protected, and are given success.

8. "They stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has made them free and are strict to remember the Lord their God from day to day; yea they do observe to keep his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments continually; and their faith is strong in the prophecies concerning that which is to come." (Alma 58:40) They were true at all times to their covenants and their faith in the Lord was strong. Their hearts were changed and this way they were made free. (See also Mosiah 5:1-8)

Missionaries who are true to their covenants and have faith in the Lord experience a mighty change of heart on their mission. This has happened to all of our missionaries who have been true to their trust. These missionaries come from many different backgrounds. Some are old, some are young, some are elders, some are sisters, some are from the city, some are from the country, some have been to college, some have not, some come from large families, some are only children, some have active parents, others do not. In many ways they are individual and different.

However, in the most important ways they are all remarkably the same. It starts because they have been, "true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted." (Alma 53:20.) Missionaries who are true at all times are wonderful examples of how the doctrine of oneness works as they become one with the Savior. They are given "faith, hope charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God." (D&C 4:5) They become true servants of the Lord able to act in his name as they develop the Christlike attributes of faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, and diligence." (vs. 6) Like the stripling soldiers they follow the example of the Savior as they think more of others than of themselves. (see Alma 56:47)

As we conclude our service in the Kentucky Louisville Mission we have come to know that the final test of a mission president and his wife is that they leave behind them in their missionaries the conviction and the will to be true to their trust at all times.. Now as all of us look to the future, our charge to each of you, our beloved missionary sons and daughters, is to be true. Be who you have been called to be--a servant of the Lord.

With Love,

*President and Sister Lunt*

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