

We're going

'THE EXTRA MILE'



IN THE AUSTRALIA NORTHEAST MISSION

Volume 1

No. 1

August 1, 1973

Dear Fellow Missionaries:

It is with much joy and unbounded enthusiasm that we send the "chosen few" greetings from the new Australia Northeast Mission. Yes, we are few in numbers....eighty-two in fact, but the spirit you possess is reflected in your smile, your handshake, your every action and your obvious desire to serve the Lord in the new Australia Northeast Mission.

The long awaited day for our departure from Sydney, N.S.W. was realized on July 24th, and we started our "trek" to Brisbane, Queensland. We arrived in the Brisbane "valley" on July 26th and from that date forward your labours, success and joy relate to the new Australia Northeast Mission. Yes, "This is the Place" where the Lord, through a living Prophet, has chosen for each of us to serve him at this time. Each one of you is now a part of the historic beginning of the Australia Northeast Mission and your effort and accomplishment will ever stand as a witness of your desire and devoted service to the Lord, to your divine calling and to the wonderful people of this part of Australia.

The Australia Northeast Mission office is now being established, and as of August 6th, 1973, your headquarters will be:

AUSTRALIA NORTHEAST MISSION
124 Lutwyche Road Suite 2
Windsor, Queensland, Australia 4030
Telephone: 57-7066

Please remember, the only purpose for a mission office is to provide the help and assistance desired and required by the missionaries. You have a competent and skilled staff who will assist you so your thoughts and efforts can be centered on your mission.

In reviewing your progress reports for last week, two particularly thrilling, spiritual experiences were related by two companionships. These Elders expressed thankfulness that they had given "the second effort" which was indeed the key to the success they realized and their beautiful spiritual experiences. As Sister Bird and I discussed these two instances, we felt inclined to capitalize on "the second effort" concept for the newsletter of the Australia Northeast Mission. In discussing this potential with the staff and with various missionaries, we have concluded that the letters which will be sent to you periodically from the Mission President, will be captioned.

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We trust this simple caption will prove significant to you as you read and ponder the counsel and instructions which your Mission President feels to give to you from time to time and as you contemplate your efforts each minute and each hour of every day of your mission. Going "THE EXTRA MILE" in the Australia Northeast Mission will assure you of the joy that comes only from bringing families into the Lord's Kingdom here on earth. You will realize that supreme state of joy and real happiness, knowing you are wholeheartedly serving the Lord and the people of this Great State of Queensland as you go "THE EXTRA MILE."

We humbly urge you to continue to qualify yourself and your companionship in perfecting your presentation of the new lessons in the "Uniform System For Teaching Families." Sanctify yourself, by cleansing yourself of all sin, and then centering your mind solely upon your mission. President Nathan Eldon Tanner, at the recent Mission Presidents Seminar at Salt Lake City, said: "We (missionaries) ought to be at our best, we ought to be clean and neat and properly groomed....to be gentlemen and ladies and be the best we possibly can, because we represent the Savior." President Tanner pointed out that too often missionaries don't completely dedicate themselves and act as they should with their investigators and with Church members. Consequently, they lose their effectiveness as missionaries..."representatives of the Savior."

President Marion G. Romney in his inspired comments said: "A good missionary is what he does when he is not on parade, what he does with his leisure time." President Romney urged missionaries to read and follow the admonition given in the Doctrine and Covenants 27:15-18: "...lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armor, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, having done all, that ye may be able to stand..."

Now as we work together to bring about our purpose here in The Australia Northeast Mission, once again let's quote Alma 53:20-21, which typifies a real missionary: "And they were all young men, and they 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. Yea, they were men of truth and soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him."

May you continue to be worthy of the blessings the Lord has promised to you as a faithful, diligent, enduring servant, is our humble prayer.

Faithfully your companions,
President and Sister J. Martell Bird

Dear Elders:

We are also excited and enthused when we think that the Australia Northeast Mission is now a reality. Our journey to unbounded success and unlimited spiritual experiences is now under way, for which we rejoice. Each one of us has been called by revelation to serve here diligently and to magnify our talents. "Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence." (Doctrine and Covenants 107:99)

The Lord in his infinite goodness has selected a few, that is 82, to pioneer this new mission and to successfully bring souls unto Him. Last week He blessed us with seven conversions and already this week six additional conversions have been realized.

Such success can only be a reflection of the powerful influence of the Spirit of the Lord conveyed through diligent Elders. We reiterate Paul's statement, "We rejoice that we have confidence in you in all things." (II Corinthians 7:16)

We do have confidence that by setting and achieving individual goals, and by losing ourselves in the service of the Lord, this mission will become, step by step the greatest mission in the world. By working with all our might, we give the Lord an opportunity to bless us and to provide the means wherein righteous desires can be reached.

The key again is WORK. WORK unlocks the door to opportunity and closes it to difficulties. The call, Elders, is to sanctify yourselves and to boldly and courageously magnify your calling to represent the Master in thought, word and deed, and to clothe yourselves with a robe of purity and cleanliness.

"For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul." (Doctrine and Covenants 4:4)

We are proud to serve with you and look forward to the growth and development of each of us, as we serve in this new challenging mission.

Success is yours, if you want it.
Make it happen!

The Assistants ANM