

*We're going*

# 'THE EXTRA MILE'



## IN THE AUSTRALIA NORTHEAST MISSION

Volume 1

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August 7, 1973

Dear Fellow Missionaries:

What a glorious experience, to be a part of the beginning of this new Australia Northeast Mission and to feel the enthusiasm of each of you as the Lord's work progresses here.

This week has been another great one in many respects. We have been blessed with 7 conversions—5 of which are a beautiful family who have come into the Gospel as a whole unit. This is the product of faithful, diligent and persevering effort on the part of you missionaries and the deserved and promised blessings of our Father in Heaven. The joy and feeling of sincere gratitude that comes with true conversion to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is what every missionary desires and it will be realized only when you unselfishly give of yourself and make your whole purpose, your every thought and effort to fulfill your calling as a missionary.

Your weekly progress reports are generally very enthusiastic and it is apparent by the number of discussions being taught, that you appreciate the value of the "Uniform System For Teaching Families" and the conversion power of this great program. I understand and sincerely appreciate your diligence and willingness to teach your families the new discussions, even with your "make shift" flip-charts. Within the next few days each of you will have your own official flip-charts. I'm certain you will be impressed by the beauty and potential of this visual aid. With the proper use and handling of the flip-chart, your teaching opportunities become a real wonderful and meaningful experience to your investigator families and to you and your companion. Our flip-charts were shipped from Sydney last week, via train, and should be in your hands before this weekend.

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Your mission office and headquarters is becoming a reality—we are in the building, at 124 Lutwyche Road, Windsor and although much remains to be done we are functioning. One serious problem is the delay on getting our telephones connected by the PMG. Although our new number (577066) hopefully will be in service within the next few days, you can still contact the office by dialing 914861. As your Mission President I want each of you to understand that my major responsibility in the mission is YOU. Please feel free to call me personally at any time, on any personal problems or question and I'll be pleased to assist you in any way possible. The Assistants and the office staff are to serve you and will do their very best to do so at all times. Remember, this is YOUR mission!

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During the Mission Presidents Seminar in Salt Lake City, last month, President Hartman Rector, Jr., of the First Council of The Seventy made a very interesting point. First he quoted The Doctrine and Covenants 107:99-100:

"Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.

"He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved shall not be counted worthy to stand."

He then called attention to the 38th verse of the first section of The Doctrine and Covenants:

"What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same."

President Rector then explained: "Once I have done my best...reached the potential of my capacity and talents and if I have the Spirit of the Lord with me, I then act and speak for God." What a beautiful and fulfilling concept, to know that if I really qualify myself in this great work which I have been called to do, I will literally act and speak for God. Of course we have been told this in many ways, but to fully comprehend the divine gift, the power and the authority which each of us possess, is a thrilling and wonderful experience.

Do you now qualify and do you act and speak for the Lord?

Today is the time for you to take personal inventory of all you are doing. Plan that today you will do all you can to exercise your talents and abilities and be worthy of the Spirit of the Lord that you will realize this glorious experience of actually acting and speaking for the Lord.

I pray for your continued health and strength and that through your thoughts and every action you will reach your potential and enjoy the warmth that comes from success in this work.

Faithfully your companion,

J. Martell Bird, President

This past week a wonderful family was brought into the gospel as a result of the efforts of diligent Elders. The joy of these Elders is best expressed in their own words:

"My most spiritual experience this week was the wonderful opportunity we had to baptize the ... family. What a great experience it was to be a part of their conversion. I feel the whole beauty of missionary work lies in the conversion of families. This family was the first that I had the opportunity to teach using the new discussions. I certainly do know the new discussions are inspired. There is no greater thing to look at on this earth than a family dressed in white prior to baptism...I just can't express the love I have for this mission. I look forward to each second!"

Another expressed it this way:

"My most spiritual experience this week was the baptism we had on Saturday... The Lord will bless a person with baptisms if he is doing what he should. Many times I've wondered where we were ever going to get enough discussions. It seems like every week we managed to find them somewhere. It's the same with baptisms. I'm thankful for the opportunity that I have to testify of Christ and Joseph Smith."

It was to gain experiences such as these that we have come on our missions. This satisfaction comes by converting families to the gospel. Let us center our minds upon achieving this goal.

C O N V E R S I O N S    T H I S    W E E K

<u>Name</u>	<u>Members of</u>	<u>Elders who motivated them</u>	<u>Source of Contact</u>
Brother Lust	Townsville Branch	Cordon & Holt	P.C.F.P.
Sister Howell	Toowoomba Branch	Hansen & Stoddard	P.C.F.P.
Metherall Family (5)	Inala Ward	Crandal & Ashcroft	Tracting

\*\*\*\*\* 7 CONVERSIONS

\*\*\*\*\* 1 FAMILY

"...choose you this day whom ye will serve..." (Joshua 24:15)