

We're going

'THE EXTRA MILE'



IN THE AUSTRALIA NORTHEAST MISSION

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Dear Fellow Missionaries:

"No man can be ignorant that he must die, nor be sure that he may not this very day."--Cicero

All too often a mission president receives a telephone call to advise of serious illness or even the passing from this life, of a dear friend or a loved one of a missionary. These are indeed sad experiences which test a missionary to the very core.

Although there have been several times when I have been asked to "break the news" to a missionary that a loved one had passed on, in every single instance, those at home requested the missionary remain in the mission and complete the call to serve the Lord and the people of Australia. In each such case, the missionary chose to remain in the mission and then obviously gave more of himself to the fulfilling of his calling. We certainly love and miss those loved ones who leave this life, and have no doubt but what we feel added responsibility and urgency to extend ourselves in doing the Lord's work when we realize how very close we remain to our dear ones that have passed on.

Realizing that death is inevitable for each of us and that "when" is the only question, we can appreciate the statement of Clive Staples Lewis..."The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is." With this understanding we must plan wisely to make the very best use of our time and talents. An "author unknown" has said..."I have given you life--now make the most of it."

As you read this, you are commencing the first minute of the first hour of the rest of your life! Now is the time, the very moment, for you to do whatever you must to improve yourself and accomplish your purpose here. The Lord chose and you were called to serve Him in Australia for a period of two short years. You don't have two years left, some portion of your calling has already passed and all you have left is the future--today. When all is said your future is now, today and just as surely your success and happiness depends upon what you choose to do today. Listen to the counsel of Moliere..."It is not only what you do, but also what you do not do, for which you are accountable."

The Lord has given promises to us as we labor as missionaries during this very brief two year period...promises of blessings that are truly eternal in nature and therefore each minute of each day that you are privileged to labor here, must be to the fullest of your talents and abilities. Arnold Glasow has said: "You get out of life what you put into it--that's the trouble!" Allow me to paraphrase this..."You get out of your mission what you put into it--that's the trouble or the blessing."

As you now commence the rest of your mission, do so with the unwavering resolution that you will do better, that you will be more diligent and that you cannot afford and will not waste time, which is your most precious asset. Make time count. Center your mind on your mission. "Do the thing you ought to do at the time it ought to be done." This is your life...this is your mission. Today is the only time to serve and honor your calling as a missionary. Yesterday has gone forever and tomorrow is always a question!

"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve..."

Faithfully your companion,

J. Martell Bird, President

At a recent M & D one of the Elders reported he had received word from a missionary in one of the other Australia Missions, that Church authorities had reversed their feelings about Elders playing basketball, at least on Preparation Day. He asked whether this change in policy would affect the Australia Northeast Mission? I assured

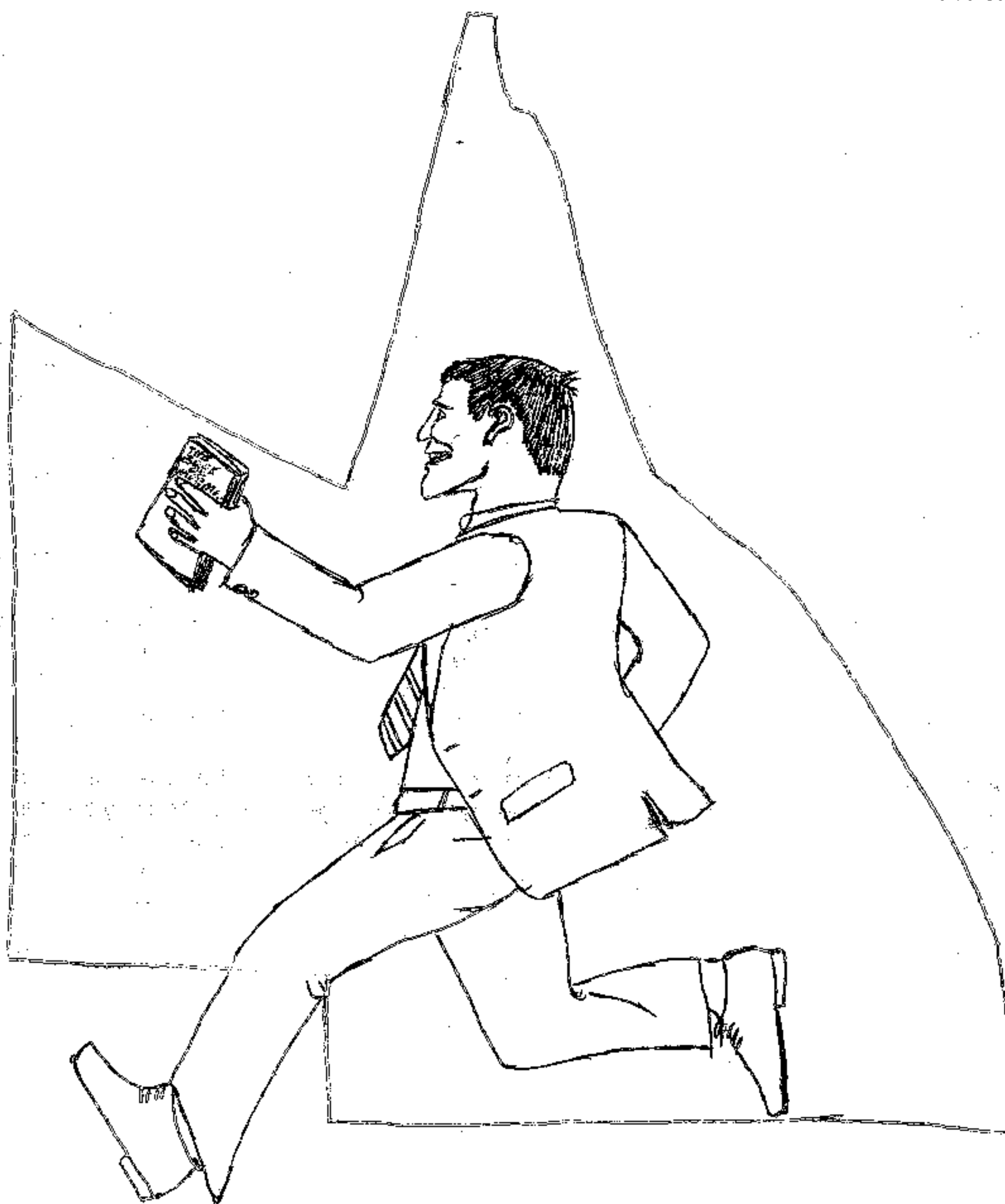
the Elder (as I assure you now) that nothing has come to my attention to give any indication that the brethren are now in favor of missionaries playing basketball or any other "body contact" sport on Preparation day or at any time. General Authorities who have supervised the mission over the past three years, and members of the Missionary Department, have always counselled against such activity, because of the chance for personal injury. They have encouraged other types of physical exercise, including volleyball, squash, badminton, tennis, golf, table tennis, etc., which can generally be enjoyed without personal injury.

May I encourage you to refrain from playing football, soccer, basketball, baseball, etc., as we have in the past, until I have the opportunity to make further inquiry from the Missionary Department. If there has been any change in their counsel, I assure you I will be most pleased to participate with you in basketball on Preparation Day.

JMB

CONVERSIONS THIS WEEK

<u>Name</u>	<u>Members of</u>	<u>Elders who Motivated them</u>	<u>How Contacted</u>
Robyn L. Morris	Chermside Ward	<u>Branson</u> & Menlove	
Leo Bellesini	Redcliffe Branch	Johansen & Bell	P.C.F.P.



"BE AN EXTRA MILER"