

We're going

'THE EXTRA MILE'



IN THE AUSTRALIA NORTHEAST MISSION

Volume 1

No. 5

August 28, 1973

Dear Fellow Missionaries:

The general success of this new mission and the prosperous events of this past week have caused me unbounded joy and excitement. I thank my Father in Heaven daily for the privilege of representing Him in this great country and for the blessing of participating in the birth of this new Australia Northeast Mission. I promise that if you continue to "go the extra mile" golden investigators and a wealth of spiritual experiences will be yours and you will realize the soul-quenching joy of converting families to the gospel.

This past week has afforded me the opportunity of visiting with many of you and I have seen and felt of your spirit and desire. While such an association is always a pleasure I have often pondered upon your genuine feelings.

It is quite apparent in some of your reports that the enthusiasm and spiritual food you receive during an M. & D. or an interview is left at the chapel and is never applied to your actual proselyting work. What a waste of spiritual nourishment and vigor.

I would like to quote the prophetic lesson taught by the apostle Paul:

"But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you."
(Galatians 4:18)

Paul did not institute this lesson in free agency, but it began with God and was taught and accepted by each one of us long before we came to this earth. With this gift comes responsibility, for it is through the correct use of this gift that we grow and progress. How many of you are capitalizing on this freedom of choice and are:

"Zealously affected always in a good thing"?

Your success as a missionary as well as an individual will largely depend on what you honestly do of your own free will.

"For behold it is not meet that I should command in all things for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward.

"Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness." (D & C 58:26-27)

Many missionaries are content with average, stale methods of proselyting. What is average?---the best of the worst and the worst of the best. It is nothing. Only by applying your God given talents can you effectively and diligently serve the Lord and feel good about your work.

It has been brought to my attention that some missionaries are overlooking the basic steps to missionary work; namely, Desire + Humility X Work = Success, and are short-cutting themselves right past the Lord's blessings. Some are merely going through the wind-up but are lacking the fundamental tools necessary for a solid delivery. The Prophet Joseph Smith, in an answer concerning the true doctrine of the church, said: "We believe in being honest...". This important concept includes

honesty in all areas of our missions; honesty with God, honesty with fellow missionaries, and honesty with ourselves.

Honesty with God includes humble and sincere prayer, pure and righteous thoughts, and the confessions of our innermost desires and emotions. It includes important principles like singing our praise and blessing to the giver of all good gifts, the Lord. Remember, God is not confused with the costume that sometimes covers our minds but sees to the very core of our souls.

Honesty with fellow companions includes genuine love and enthusiasm for the work in which we are engaged and unselfish and sometimes thankless service to all men. This means filling out our reports truthfully and correctly, and respecting the council of leaders. It includes truthful and sincere conversations to your mission president and conveying your genuine love of the work to your parents.

Honesty with ourselves means that we each accept what we are and who we are and make the most of every talent. It is admitting and confessing that you came on a mission to serve the Lord and doing this thing as though it meant your life...which it does. It means awaking every day with renewed eagerness to teach the gospel, and meeting each day with sincere enthusiasm. It means that you admit disappointment but never defeat, that you accept problems and treat them like challenges and admit that Satan is real but that you rely on the Lord's spirit for strength. Most of all, it means that you make up your mind to be successful and then to settle for nothing less than achieving that success which is your goal.

My humble prayer is that each one of you will realize that you have been entrusted with the noble gift of free agency and that by applying honesty to all parts of the work, success will be your reward. Your honest effort is never wasted nor are the experiences you have while truly going the extra mile. May you be zealously affected always in a good thing and do many things of your own free will is my humble prayer..

Faithfully your companion,
J. Martell Bird, President

CONVERSIONS THIS WEEK

<u>Name</u>	<u>Members of</u>	<u>Elders who</u> <u>Motivated them</u>	<u>How</u> <u>Contacted</u>
Ian Robertson	Toowoomba Branch	Hansen & Pender	Tracting
Helene Mary Gaston	Townsville Branch	Gordon & Holt	P.C.F.P.
Lynette Joan Cross	Mt. Isa Branch	Vasso & Jones	Tracting

TOTAL CONVERSIONS THIS MONTH TO DATE = 23
