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A First Message from President Randall

For the last few months Sister Randall and I have had the opportunity of getting to know President and Sister Roy. Our short time together has resulted in the opinion that all those who have associated with them during the last three years have been greatly blessed. Their love for all who have served with them has been very evident. They have obviously given sympathetic council, understanding and tireless devotion. All who have served with them have been strengthened spiritually – a strengthening that will become more and more valuable with each passing day. It is our prayer that President and Sister Roy will continue to be blessed for their tireless missionary service.

Sister Randall and I are excited about being part of the Canada Edmonton Mission. While the mission is young, the tradition of the Church in Canada and in the Edmonton area goes back to the early days of this dispensation.

What a great pleasure it is to serve the Lord in such a wonderful, beautiful area. We are looking forward to personally getting to know each of you. We are here to serve you. We take seriously Elder Ballard's statement that the purpose of a mission president and his companion is to 'protect, inspire, and lift missionaries and, through service, turn them into men and women of integrity, power and strength.'

One of the great blessings of this dispensation is that we have prophets – individuals who speak the mind and the will of the Lord and who are in direct communication with Him. As members of the Church we periodically have the opportunity of raising our right arm to the square to sustain them as representatives of the Lord. Speaking as part of the January 2003 General Leadership Meeting, President Hinckley said with reference to missionary work:

"Teach the doctrine, but let your teaching come from the heart of the missionary and not from a wooden presentation. Let the missionaries shake loose from their memorized lessons. Let them speak with great conviction prompted by the Spirit of the Lord. Let them do so with great earnestness. Every morning before they leave to go out to work missionaries should get on their knees and plead with the Lord to loosen their tongues and speak through them to the blessing of those whom they will be teaching. If they will do this, a new light will come into their lives. There will be greater enthusiasm for the work. They will come to know that in a very real sense they are servants of the Lord speaking in His behalf. They will find a different response in those they teach. As they do so by the Spirit, their investigators will respond under the influence of the same Spirit. This is the council of the Lord. It cannot be set aside with impunity. Following it will bring the promised results. Such teaching will become more challenging, more individualized, and more suitable to the needs of those who are being taught. This is the kind of teaching that will lead to a request for baptism."

Knowing that President Hinckley speaks for the Lord, following his instructions to teach by the Spirit with great earnestness and to get on our knees and plead daily with the Lord to loosen out tongues should not be difficult. As we follow the council of the Lord great blessings will come. A new light will come into our lives. We will have greater enthusiasm for the work. Each of us will come to know that we are speaking for the Lord. There will be a different response from those we teach. Such teaching will fit the needs of our investigators and will lead to REQUESTS FOR BAPTISM.

In order to be successful missionaries we must follow the council of the Lord. We are His agents and are involved in His work. This is His business and we represent Him. Let us make every effort to live, study, and work so that we teach the doctrine under the influence of the Spirit. As we do so, the promised blessings will come. There will be challenges and there will be moments of discouragement, but we must continue moving forward. We must continue making use of every minute and fulfill our call to give all of our time and attention to serving the Lord. He will bless us. We will become more effective advocates and messengers of the truth. We will become even greater men and women of integrity, power and strength.

Your servant, President Randall