

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

FIRST LETTER OF NEW PROJECT

As this new project of the Southern Far East Mission is begun, let us all consider its affects on our lives, on the, mission, and on those who will be given contact with the Gospel through its messages.

First: We who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are such because we possess a testimony of the divinity of the Book of Mormon, a testimony of the mission of the Joseph Smith, and a sure knowledge of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to Atoner for our sins and open the way for our return to God our Father in Heaven. In our daily activities in whatever we do, there are many occasions to recall to mind the responsibility of one who has such a testimony. We observe the actions of others who work with us, and who we live our lives with and see many examples of things which are contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. As members of the Church we have a duty to God and to our fellowmen to help in some way to correct these errors in the lives of the people we know. We can do this mostly by living an example before them. As each day passes and we are faced with the problems of life and society, we need aid in keeping our minds clear and our actions in conformity to the teachings of the Gospel. This small monthly paper will assist us in doing this, because in its pages we will find association with, others of our same belief who are facing the same problems we face. By keeping in contact with all the Saints in the Southern Far East Mission we will be able to gain strength through unity. By realizing that the great latter-day work of the Lord is being carried on by others than our own acquaintances, we will be less inclined to permit evil influence to enter our lives. Let us therefore determine to share the happiness and joy, the hardship and difficulties, with our brothers and sisters of this Mission by making this paper a lasting institution in our religious and social life. Let us gain the strength of unity which will be necessary to guide us through the most difficult times.

Second: Our mission is one of the newest in the Church. It is now celebrating its first year of operation in Hong Kong, and the missionaries who first arrived in August 1955 can look with satisfaction on the accomplishments of the first year of work. However, there are many things yet to be done and much work to be put forth before we can boast of a complete organization and an efficiently operating Mission. This Paper will be a great help in accomplishing these desired results. If we can share the success of each Branch and Group of the Mission, we will be able to improve our own lives and our own methods of work and living. If, through the mistakes of others we can be warned of dangers and pitfalls in life, we shall gain much towards our eventual goal of perfection. Through this paper the Mission office will have contact with each of the members of the Mission, and the members will have contact with the Mission office. The paper offers a means of discussion of problems, and answering questions which arise in the Branches and Groups each month. I am sure it can be easily seen that the Mission organization and work will be greatly benefited through this paper, and the members will also gain much from its services.

Third: The purpose of the Mission being established is to offer a chance to the people of this part of the world to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness. It also provides the organization through which the members of the Church can function and learn according to the requirements of the Lord. Since this is the purpose of the Mission, the greatest responsibility of the mission is to see that this purpose is fulfilled. This paper will aid greatly in accomplishing this work. Let us consider the work of establishing the Mission to be the most important work of our lives. In order to complete it properly we must send the message of the restored Gospel to all people who are willing to listen. Our Mission paper will be the means through which that message is taken to many. Your friends will be able to read it; your business associates will be given chance to know of your religious convictions through the pages of this paper; many who otherwise would not spend the time to investigate the Gospel may be brought to a knowledge of the truth through reading of the experiences of the Church members in the Mission.

Indeed, with the cooperation of the members of the Mission, this paper can accomplish all we have here outlined, and even more. I, therefore, urge and encourage you to assist in its development and initial difficulties. If we will all send the news and articles from our Groups and Branches, and if each individual will use the paper as a contact with the Church, we shall all gain much from this new project.

In keeping with the opening of this paper, Sister Heaton and myself would like to send personal regards to each member of the Church in the Mission. We pray for your continued well being and are interested in your spiritual

growth during your stay in this Mission. We offer you our services in any difficulty that may arise and ask that we be made part of your work here in the Mission. A great blessing has been given to each of us through the Gospel. Treasure the testimony you now possess as your most valuable possession and work to improve it's value. Become a companion of the Lord and permit Him to bless you. Give of your happiness to others and of your hope for the future to those who need the uplift of hope. Above all, remain true to the knowledge you have of the Gospel. God will bless you for your faithfulness in keeping His commandments. We must all admit that we need the blessings of the Lord each day. These blessings will come to us through obedience to the laws of God.

H. Grant Heaton, President

Southern Far East Mission

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