

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### *FAITH*

As time passes, we of the Mission are aware of the many opportunities which the Lord is placing before us to grow and develop, spiritually and mentally. Each day that passes brings some new experience which helps us to develop our minds and our faith. This daily growth is part of God's eternal plan for the progression of His children. To us, faith is the basis of all this growth. Without faith in the future purposes and opportunities promised by God, the daily experiences we have would not have so deep a meaning as they now have. Without faith in the future happiness of eternal life, we might be unable to remain faithful to the laws and commandments of God here in this life. When difficulties arise and we seem to become discouraged, it is faith which calls us to greater strength to overcome those difficulties. When we see our work and our hopes sometimes destroyed by the forces of evil, it is faith in the eventual victory of righteousness which permits us to start again to build hopes and remake our lives. Thus we can see it is very true that without faith we would be unable to accomplish the many things we can now accomplish. The Apostle Paul once said, **"Without faith it is impossible to please God."** (*Hebrews 11:6*) We please God by remaining true to the many covenants we have made with him. When we are living the Word of Wisdom, we please God. When we conduct our lives so that others can see our good works and thereby, glorify our Father in Heaven, God is pleased by our actions. When we honor the Sabbath day and on that day worship God, we please God. Do not all of these things come by faith? We obey the Word of Wisdom because we have faith in the revelations of God that to smoke tobacco, drink strong drinks, tea and coffee is not good for the body. We obey and honor the Sabbath day because we have faith that the Ten Commandments were given by God. Because we have faith in Christ, we live the commandment to do good to all men that they might be led to believe in God, therefore we try to obey this commandment. Thus, we can see that our daily actions are a result of faith in God and His will concerning us. Surely Paul was wise when he said, "without faith it is impossible to please God." However, there are many in the world and many among our own people who will say, ***"if I obey the commandments, it is not necessary to believe in God and all the strange stories in the Bible."*** Others will say, ***"I can see that the laws of the Church are good, but I cannot have faith in the story told by Joseph Smith."*** We must be careful that we do not fall into these errors. To believe in God and His Miracles is to have faith in His power. The ancient children of Israel did not continue to have faith, even though they had received many witnesses. Again let us read the words of Paul, **"But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the Law, For they stumbled at that stumbling stone."** (*Romans 9:31-32*) From this we can see that obedience to the law alone, without faith, is not sufficient. We must have faith to make our obedience to the law complete. How can we gain faith? In Romans we read, **"So faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."** (*Romans 10:17*) Also from Romans we discover, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to I think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (*Romans 12:3*) From these scriptures we can see that faith is a gift of God and every man is capable of faith. Thus, we can see that God is able to judge men according to the way they exercise this gift of faith. Lastly, let

us read the words of Hebrews about faith. **"Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things no seen."** (*Hebrews 11:1*)

On behalf of the Mission office, I encourage the members of the Church living in this Mission to develop faith in the future of God's work. Look forward with hope and gladness to the great work ahead. Be confident that God is watching His work here on the earth. Gain God's pleasure through faith and obedience in His eternal laws. By doing this we become faithful children, working out our salvation through gift of faith which God has given to each of us.

**H. Grant Heaton, President**

**Southern Far East Mission**

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