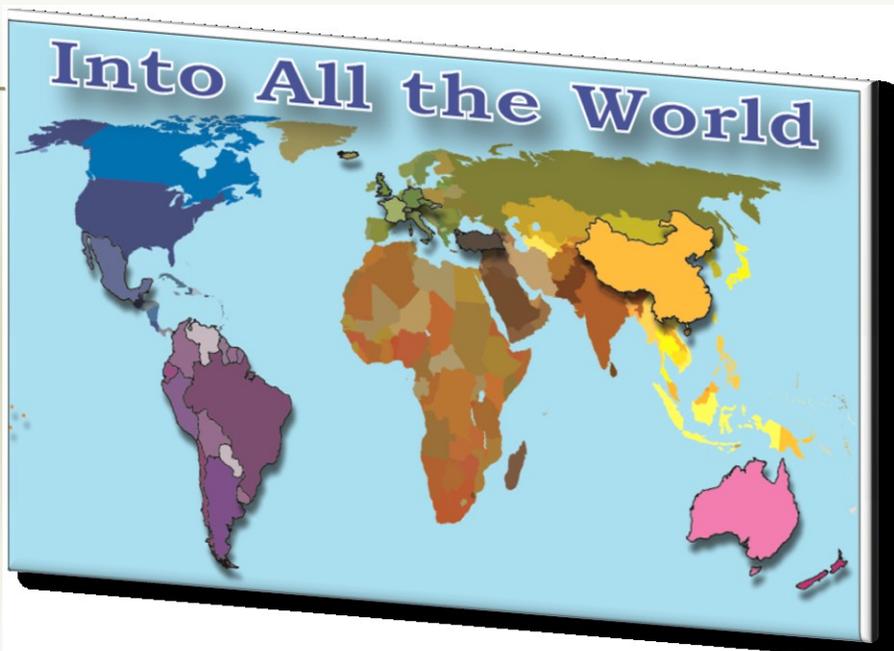




Lesson 41: "Every Member a Missionary," D&C 1:4-5, 30; 65; 109:72-74; 123:12; Our Heritage, pp. 116-17, 124-25.

Introduction

- ENGLAND - 1837
- TAHITI - 1844
- CHINA - 1850
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA - 1850
- FRANCE - 1850
- GERMANY - 1850
- ITALY - 1850
- HAWAII - 1850
- JAPAN - 1850
- MEXICO - 1850
- NEW ZEALAND - 1850
- SAMOA - 1850
- SOUTH AMERICA - 1850
- SWITZERLAND - 1850
- TONGA - 1850
- TURKEY - 1850
- AUSTRALIA - 1851
- ICELAND - 1853



President Spencer W. Kimball said: "When I read Church history, I am amazed at the boldness of the early brethren as they went out into the world. They seemed to find a way. ... As early as 1837 the Twelve were in England fighting Satan, in Tahiti in 1844, Australia in 1851, Iceland [in] 1853, Italy [in] 1850, and also in Switzerland, Germany, Tonga, Turkey, Mexico, Japan, Czechoslovakia, China, Samoa, New Zealand, South America, France, and Hawaii in 1850. ... Much of this early proselyting was done while the leaders were climbing the Rockies and planting the sod and starting their homes. It is faith and super faith" ("When the World Will Be Converted," *Ensign*, Oct. 1974, 6).

From the earliest days of the Restoration, Church leaders have sought to fulfill the commission to take the gospel to all the world. **President Kimball** expressed his confidence that we can continue to do so: "Somehow, ... I feel that when we have done all in our power that the Lord will find a way to open doors. That is my faith" (*Ensign*, Oct. 1974, 7).

This lesson discusses a few ways in which the gospel is going forth into all the world.

The Church is coming forth out of obscurity.

This year's course of study has shown how the Church began as a small group of people who were little known. The Church has now grown to include members in almost every country of the world. This dramatic increase in membership and visibility would have been difficult to comprehend during the Church's early days of struggle, persecution, and

poverty. But the Lord revealed the marvelous destiny of His Church through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Next Week
#42 Continuing Revelation to Latter-day Prophets
(See Study Guide)

Lesson Highlights

- The Church is coming forth out of obscurity.
- Latter-day prophets have challenged us to take the gospel to all the world.
- "Every member a missionary."
- Nurturing new converts is our continuing responsibility.

A study of this lesson will help inspire us to participate in taking the gospel to all the world and to strengthen new converts.



D&C 1:30. Leaders of the Church shall have power to bring it out of obscurity

D&C 65:1-6. The gospel will fill the whole earth. The recipients of the gospel will be prepared for the Second Coming.

D&C 109:72-74. The Church will come out of the wilderness and "shine forth...clear as the sun."

Latter-day prophets have challenged us to take the gospel to all the world.

One important way the Church moves forward throughout the world is through the missionary efforts of each member. Latter-day prophets have challenged us to make greater efforts to share the gospel as member missionaries and as full-time missionaries.

President David O. McKay became well known for his saying "*Every member a missionary.*" (see *Our Heritage*, pages 116-17).

Later, President Spencer W. Kimball called on Church members to lengthen their stride in missionary service. He asked Church members to pray that the doors of nations would be opened to the preaching of the gospel and to increase the number of prepared missionaries so we could enter those doors. (see *Our Heritage*, page 125, first two paragraphs). President Kimball's vision of how missionary work would move across the earth is now coming to pass.

"Every member a missionary."

D&C 1:4-5 and **D&C 88:81** teach of our responsibility to share the gospel. Think about what you personally can do to share the gospel this week. Some of the ways we can support the work include:

Prepare to serve full-time missions

President Spencer W. Kimball said:

"When I ask for more missionaries, I am not asking for more testimony-barren or unworthy missionaries. I am asking that we start earlier and train our missionaries better in every branch and every ward in the world. ... Young people [should] understand that it is a great privilege to go on a mission and that they must be physically well, mentally well, spiritually well, and that 'the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance' [D&C 1:31]" ("When the World Will Be Converted," *Ensign*, Oct. 1974, 7).

Parents and other adults can help young people prepare to be full-time missionaries by teaching them to be worthy and ready for a mission call at the proper time, sharing mission experiences with them, teaching them of the joys and blessings of missionary

The **Prophet Joseph Smith** declared, "*No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing; persecutions may rage, mobs may combine, armies may assemble, calumny may defame, but the truth of God will go forth boldly, nobly and independent, till it has penetrated every continent, visited every clime, swept every country, and sounded in every ear, till the purposes of God shall be accomplished, and the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done*" (*History of the Church*, 4:540).

President Gordon B. Hinckley taught that each of us has a responsibility to bring to pass this vision of the gospel filling the earth:

"Now, what of the future? What of the years that lie ahead? It looks promising indeed. People are beginning to see us for what we are and for the values we espouse. ...

"If we will go forward, never losing sight of our goal, speaking ill of no one, living the great principles we know to be true, this cause will roll on in majesty and power to fill the earth. Doors now closed to the preaching of the gospel will be opened. The Almighty, if necessary, may have to shake the nations to humble them and cause them to listen to the servants of the living God. Whatever is needed will come to pass.

"The key to the great challenges facing us and to the success of the work will be the faith of all who call themselves Latter-day Saints" (in Conference Report, Oct. 1997, 92; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 68).

work, telling conversion stories of their own or of ancestors, starting missionary funds for them, and teaching them how to work hard.

Serve full-time missions

All worthy, able young men ages 19 through 25 should serve full-time missions. Full-time missionary service is a priesthood responsibility for these young men. Women ages 21 and older may also be recommended to serve full-time missions if they desire. Older couples are also encouraged to serve missions when they are able to do so. All missionaries must be worthy.

Elder David B. Haight of the Quorum of the Twelve counseled: "*The goal of every physically able couple in the Church, just as it is for every nineteen-year-old young man in the Church, should be to serve a mission. No finer example can be given, no finer testimony can be borne by parents to children or grandchildren, than through missionary service in their mature years*" (*Ensign*, May 1987, 61).

President Gordon B. Hinckley:

"I plead with you, brethren; I ask of you, each of you, to become a part of this great effort. Every convert is precious. Every convert is a son or daughter of God. Every convert is a great and serious responsibility.."

(CR, Apr 1997)



Support full-time missionaries

We can support missionaries who are now serving by remembering them in prayers, writing encouraging letters, and contributing to the ward or branch missionary fund or the General Missionary Fund. We can support missionaries who are serving in our area by helping them find and teach investigators and by giving other assistance.

President Gordon B. Hinckley said: *"My brethren and sisters, we can let the missionaries try to do it alone, or we can help them. If they do it alone, they will knock on doors day after day and the harvest will be meager. Or as members we can assist them in finding and teaching investigators"* ("Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep," *Ensign*, May 1999, 107).

Share the gospel throughout our lives

Some ways we can share the gospel with others as part of our daily lives:

- Set a good example for family members, neighbors, and friends.
- Share copies of the Book of Mormon.
- Refer names of interested people to the missionaries.
- Share your feelings about the gospel with people.
- Invite people to Church activities, meetings, and firesides.
- Invite people to family home evening and to neighborhood activities.
- Invite people who are interested in genealogy to visit a Family History Center.
- Invite people to baptismal services.

Nurturing new converts is our continuing responsibility.

President Gordon B. Hinckley said: *"Any investigator worthy of baptism becomes a convert worthy of saving"* (*Ensign*, May 1999, 109). Each year, hundreds of thousands of converts are brought into the Church. These new members need to be nurtured and strengthened by all of us.

President Hinckley: *"It is not an easy thing to become a member of this Church. In most cases it involves setting aside old habits, leaving old friends and associations, and stepping into a new society which is different and somewhat demanding"* (*Ensign*, May 1997, 47).

President Hinckley taught that *"every convert needs three things:*

"1. A friend in the Church to whom he can constantly turn, who will walk beside him, who will answer his questions, who will understand his problems.

President Spencer W. Kimball said: *"It seems to me that the Lord chose his words when he said [that the gospel must go to] 'every nation,' 'every land,' 'uttermost bounds of the earth,' 'every tongue,' 'every people,' 'every soul,' 'all the world,' 'many lands.' Surely there is significance in these words! ... I wonder if we are doing all we can. Are we complacent in our approach to teaching all the world? ... Are we prepared to lengthen our stride? To enlarge our vision?"* (*Ensign*, Oct. 1974, 5).

Consider the ways you can lengthen your stride as you seek to share the gospel in your daily life.

President Kimball also said: *"Our great need, and our great calling, is to bring to the people of this world the candle of understanding to light their way out of obscurity and darkness and into the joy, peace, and truths of the gospel. I believe we must not weary in our well-doing. I believe it is time again to ask ourselves the question, what can I do to help take the gospel to others and to the inhabitants of the world?"* ("Are We Doing All We Can?" *Ensign*, Feb. 1983, 5).

President Hinckley requested that each priesthood leader accept the responsibility and set the example for finding and friendshipping investigators. He asked that this subject be discussed occasionally in sacrament meetings. He also asked that priesthood, Relief Society, Young Women, Primary, ward council, and stake council meetings be used to plan how to find and friendship investigators. (*Ensign*, May 1999, 107).

"2. An assignment. Activity is the genius of this Church. It is the process by which we grow. Faith and love for the Lord are like the muscle of my arm. If I use them, they grow stronger. If I put them in a sling, they become weaker. Every convert deserves a responsibility. ...

"3. Every convert must be 'nourished by the good word of God' (Moro. 6:4). It is imperative that he or she become affiliated with a priesthood quorum or the Relief Society, the Young Women, the Young Men, the Sunday School, or the Primary. He or she must be encouraged to come to sacrament meeting" (*Ensign*, May 1999, 108).

The Lord is guiding His Church and opening the way for the gospel to be taken to all the earth. We are encouraged to lengthen our stride as we prepare for full-time missions and share the gospel with those around us.

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- What experiences have you had in sharing the gospel with others?
- How have you been able to effectively strengthen new converts?

