

21 July 2008

HOW TO DO MISSIONARY WORK

LESSON #1 GETTING ORGANIZED UNDER PRIESTHOOD AUTHORITY

So that is my first question. You really have not mentioned the Branch President's interest in doing missionary work or his involvement with you in this project. Also you have not mentioned a Branch Mission leader. Do you have one? The reason that I ask that is that I have found that when you do any work in the church, no matter how hard you try, if you do not do that work in the Lords set pattern, you will not get very far. So that is my first question. Who are they and how involved are they (I almost hate to ask it this way... but even how interested are they?) I ask that because they are the key to the success of this project. Without them no success can be had. This has to be their project.

1. You have to get a missionary committee together that is headed by the Bishop or Branch President and lead by the Ward or Branch Mission Leader. This has to be their work or it is not the Lord's work!
2. You need to then have the Bishop or Branch President call as a calling in the church, members of a missionary committee and set them apart with a setting apart blessing. That then of course means that he has to decide if this is what you really want to do in the Ward or Branch and if so then decide if he wants to have a Ward or Branch Missionary Committee, and if he does then by inspiration decide who he wants to call to serve (and that does not have to be their only calling in the Branch).
3. Normally members of that committee would include a counselor from each of the priesthood and auxiliary organizations. An Elders Quorum counselor, Primary Presidency Counselor, RS Presidency Counselor... etc etc. They each should be involved in the missionary program of the branch because that is how you will do the missionary work, through their organizations.
4. Then as a missionary committee, you then need to start with setting goals and having a missionary plan. Goals would include things like how to fellowship people when the missionaries bring them to church, how to reactivate less active members (normally it is easier to reactivate a less active member than convert a new one), how to involve primary children in missionary work, having a youth missionary committee (it has been my experience every where I have lived that the youth always out baptize the adults), having branch projects like your out reach project that will help members meet non-members in an non-confrontive way, projects that will help bring non-members into contact with the church through service projects, genealogy programs, humanitarian projects etc etc. All of those kinds of things will be a part of the missionary committee plan. (We will cover many many of those kinds of things in the next lessons).

Cordell

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