

21 July 2008

HOW TO DO MISSIONARY WORK

Lesson #2 FAITH AND GOAL ACCOMPLISHMENT.

Having the faith that this really can be done is the very heart of the success of your missionary committee. It really should be lesson #1 but lesson one has to be getting organized.

Believing that I could do it is the key to all of the success that I have had over the years in doing missionary work. That may sound very simple and basic, but without that nothing will happen. You have to get those you are working with to believe that this can be done. That is why I wrote my book on Achieving Goals If you have not seen that you can see it on my web page at www.cordellvail.com/epistles). You have to set goals and then have the faith to believe that you can accomplish them.

What you are about to set out to do as a missionary committee to convert 1000's is IMPOSSIBLE (and I hope that will be your primary goal). At least impossible in the minds of many people. But as you saw from reading my book WATER THAT GOT TO THE END OF THE ROW.... it is possible to accomplish the impossible if you believe you can do it. I have had two different mothers tell me that getting their sons on missions was IMPOSSIBLE. Their own mother said that to me. One in my Stake in Bennion Utah (and his story is in the book) and another boy here where I live now. When we moved here 10 years ago he was in jail at the time and later, when he served a mission, he became the assistant to the president.... His mother told me it was IMPOSSIBLE to get him to go on a mission. But he went. He lives here in the ward in Seattle where I live now. His father was the bishop at the time and he was in jail. But I knew it was not impossible and the family all got together and with much fasting and prayer as a family, did the things that I outlined in my book WATER THAT GOT TO THE END OF THE ROW.. .and he repented, got out of jail and went on a mission (that was before they did the raising of the bar thing...) and became one of the greatest missionaries that ever served. I love the scripture where it says, "IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD? (Gensisi 18:14)

So here is a scripture that I would like to challenge you to make the heart and soul of your missionary committee. I would like to suggest that you all memorize this scripture (but more important.... BELIEVE IT):

ALMA 26:22 Yea, he that ^arepenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good ^bworks, and prayeth continually without ceasing—unto such it is given to know the ^cmysteries of God; yea, unto such it shall be ^dgiven to ^ereveal things which never have been revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto such **to bring thousands of souls to repentance**, even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to repentance.

That scripture is the heart and soul of what my family and I have accomplished in missionary work in our life time and also to what you are undertaking there in the Vaasa Branch as a missionary committee. We are setting out to convert 1000's of people. Ammon did not promise us that we could convert 10's or 100's but literally 1000's. I know that may sound fantastic at first to even think about it. But I can tell you from my own personal experience that it is possible for individuals just like you (and me) to literally cause 1000's of people to become members of the church. If you can not believe that then we will not get very far with this program. If the people who are working with you on the Branch Missionary Committee don't believe that with all their heart and soul we will not get very far.

So above all, it is critical to help every person on the missionary committee believe that

we can literally convert 1000's. Have the faith to believe that we can do that. Not 10's not 100's but believe in Ammon's Prophetic promise that we can as individuals convert (or cause to be converted) 1000's. I think it is important to understand that the promise does not necessarily mean that you as an individual will personally baptize 1000's people. I like to think of it more as CAUSE TO BE CONVERTED. So think about that. CAUSE 1000's TO BE CONVERTED. Here is an example. I baptized Hannu Hakkinen when I was in Finland 40 years ago. He grew up and went on a mission and on his mission converted a few people and has converted a few since then. Now there you have someone that I caused to be baptized to then in turn cause 5 or 6 others to be baptized. People that were CAUSED TO BE CONVERTED by one simple baptism I performed in 1964. Can you see how that would very quickly multiply, and now those 5 or 6 have gone on missions and converted 5 or 6 and those 5 or 6 have gone on missions and Well you get the picture. (And again I only give you these personal examples to help you and your missionary committee KNOW THAT THIS CAN BE DONE). When I was in the Army I became the Stake Mission President. While I was serving in that calling our stake mission converted more people than all the missionaries that served with me in Finland during the 2 ½ years that I served there. We caused 100's to be baptized. And now those 100's have baptized 100's and that already is more than 1000 just from that one experience. When we lived in North Carolina for 2 years, our family helped the missionaries convert 29 people. Those have now converted scores of others..... When I lived in the Bennion Stake in Utah where I wrote that book, 'Water That Got To The End Of The Row' we sent scores of young men on missions that would not have otherwise have gone. They converted scores of people and they have now after 30 years converted scores of other people. I can tell you that from the efforts our family has made over the years that we have been blessed to have the literal fulfillment of Ammon's promise in our lives and 1000's have been caused to be converted from our faith in the fulfillment of that promise he gave to us.

I hope that you won't mind if I start sending you some other things to read as we go along here. I have attached a letter to this email that I recently wrote to a young man who will be coming home from his mission next week. He was a long haired young man who never blessed the sacrament the whole time he was a priest because of that attitude. But as the priest quorum advisor, I had the opportunity to touch his life and he did go on a mission and did change his life and has become one of the best missionaries that ever served from our ward. So this letter I wrote to him was a letter to further to encourage him to continue to believe the things I taught him about setting goals as a missionary can continue. I was trying to encourage him in the letter to keep on being a missionary when he comes home. The reason I am sending you a copy of that letter is because in that letter you will find some more examples of converting 1000's.

So as a part of helping you train the missionary committee, if your branch president and branch mission leader feel it is appropriate, I would like to just send you all some things from time to time to read that will help encourage you to KNOW THIS CAN BE DONE. I wish there was some other way to do it than to share my own personal experiences with you but I don't know any other way to help each of you gain a testimony that this can be done. So if they agree to that, as a part of helping them do that, I would suggest that you

print out a copy of my book, “Water That Got To The End Of The Row” and have each of them read it so they can see that you really can do this. If I can do it you can do it. I am no different than any other member of the church. I was not a great missionary when I was in Finland. I struggled to learn the language and never actually taught the 6 discussions myself to anyone. But I was determined when I came home to not give up but prove to the Lord that I was not a failure like I felt I was in Finland as a missionary. I was determined to claim Ammon’s promise in my life so I could know that I really could be a good missionary.

So if your Branch President and Branch Mission Leader feel it is appropriate, you may want to also give the Branch Missionary Committee member a copy of my letter to Elder Drolette. I hope that as we go along here that none of you will feel that I am asking you to read any of these things to promote myself or what I have accomplished. That always worries me. I am only asking you do read these things to help you have the faith to know that they can be done by individuals. People who are just common ordinary members of the church like me WHO ARE STILL AFRAID TO ASK OTHERS ABOUT THE CHURCH EVERY TIME WE ASK... (and I am... every time.)

So there is lesson one and two of 15 or 20 that we will create....
GETTING ORGANIZED UNDER PRIESTHOOD AUTHORITY AND THEN
GAINING THE FAITH TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WORK ACTUALLY CAN BE
ACCOMPLISHED.

There is one other thing in closing I would like to share with you. As I sat there in the Cultural Festival at the temple dedication, I kept looking around and seeing all those 100’s of members of the church and I kept asking myself WHERE WERE THEY WHEN I WAS TRACTING 70 HOURS A WEEK AS A MISSIONARY? Every time I met a Bishop or Stake Presidency member there in Finland at the Temple Dedication I kept saying, “WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I WAS HERE? WHY COULDN’T I FIND YOU THEN?”. I know the answer to that question now. And as we go through these lessons that we are going to create together I will help you learn the answer to that question too.... (and notice I said together... this is not something that I am just going to teach you... we will all learn it together, your missionary committee with us).

So that is it for tonight. LESSON #2

I will try to keep doing this a little at a time and I hope that as we do, you will give me feed back and share information with me concerning the feelings of members of your missionary committee.

More good things will come in our lives, because we will make them come – Working Together!

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