

AFTER BAPTISM

By Bruce Nelson

After baptism, WHAT?

When a person or family join the church what is expected of them? What is expected of us, the members?

As has been said before from this pulpit, he has given us a three-fold mission: **first**, the teaching of the restored gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people; **second**, the building of the Saints in their faith and encouraging them in all of their activities to walk in obedience to the commandments of the Lord; and **third**, the great work of salvation for the dead.

President Gordon B. Hinckley 1st Counselor in First Presidency
April 1983 General Conference

We have a sacred responsibility to fulfill the threefold mission of the Church—first, to teach the gospel to the world; second, to strengthen the membership of the Church wherever they may be; third, to move forward the work of salvation for the dead.

President Ezra Taft Benson
April 1986 General Conference
A Sacred Responsibility," *Ensign*, May 1986, 77

The new member knows very little about the church, we the members are expected, like they are a child in kindergarten to be their teachers.

I am confident that the repeated wish of President Gordon B. Hinckley will be granted. He taught that all who come into the Church might be retained in full fellowship if they are nourished by the good word of God. I remember him saying that the last words that he might speak at the end of his service would be "retention, retention, retention." His words live on in the leadership of President Monson and in all of us as we qualify to have the power of a Lehi and a Nephi to nourish with the good word of God.

President Henry B. Eyring April Conference 2008

The three fold purpose of the church is 1 – Do missionary work. 2 – Redeem the dead – by doing genealogy and going to the temple to be baptized for our dead ancestors, which is missionary work. 3 - Edifying the Saints, or other members of the church, so they too, go to the temples and get their ordinance work done. We do this by every position we hold in Jesus Christ's church. A primary teacher is edifying the children, etc.

Here is what one ward in is doing. They are providing the newly baptized member or family the opportunity to do all of those things, within the first 4 – to 6 weeks.

During the time they are taught, the friends become those who fellowship them during their teaching. They are told about the temple and Elijah coming back. They are told they will be taught how to obtain the spirit of Elijah, by doing genealogy for their ancestors and being baptized for them. The ward has the professional teachers, who have been doing it a long time.

The goal is to keep them active in the church. Let's get them up to speed as soon as we can.

1 – The ward missionary is involved with them. Teaching them.

2 - The professional - Genealogy teacher - Family History Consultant. Goes over to meet them, teaches the whole family how to do genealogy, and researches names in their family. The family, those over 12 are worthy to go to the temple, to be baptized for the dead. Now, the church statistics are that 90% of those who go to the temple within 4 to 6 weeks remain active in the church.

3 - So the new family is trained and now able to do: missionary work – for the dead through genealogy and going to the Temple. If 90% stay active they are ready to edify the saints and their nonmember friends.

Also, all in the family have had a job. Remember to include the whole family in the training. Even 7 and 8 years old will learn and it will be one of the things they remember their whole lives.

The program could be going on each month with 2 families in the ward, that have been members, but have not done genealogy nor gone to the temple.

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