

**The Miracle of Modern Day Missionary Work**  
**Stake Conference Saturday night Session**  
**October 8, 2016**

I. Introduction

- A. Privilege to be the lead-off hitter & open this conference.
- B. I hope we all listen and mostly trust what the Lord whispers to us during this conference. And that we will write those thoughts down.

II. How amazing is missionary work? (Keys of Moses and Gathering of Israel)

- A. The Lord turned the latter day work over to: 18 – 23 yr. olds, No – dates, cars, jobs, school; Up at 6:30 a.m. & bed at 10:30 p.m.; study two hours/day; wear a white shirt and tie or a long dress.
- B. If that isn't enough here are a couple of samples from our mission
  - 1. To the Mission Nurse: I think I have a rash but I haven't looked yet
  - 2. I think I have a high temperature. Did you take it? Yes. What is it? 98.6 degrees
- C. Would you turn the growth of a company with 13M+ members over to this group?
- D. Why does it work? The story of Gamaliel. Acts 5:38-39
  - “And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone; for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought;
  - But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.”
- E. The Lord delivers his promise from D&C 84:85 to missionaries.
  - “Neither take ye thought beforehand what ye shall say; but treasure up in your minds continually the words of life, and it shall be given you in the very hour that portion that shall be meted unto every man.”
- F. And because of this miracles are performed. Take language for example. Many of you have sent sons and daughters to foreign lands where they learn another language. This also happens to those who come to the U.S. from another country. The story of Sister Bay-y-On.

III. What about our Sr. Missionaries

- A. I could have used another 10 Sr. couples in my mission.
- B. What do Sr. Missionaries do? Proselyting, office, visitor centers, public affairs, military relations, construction, and many others.
- C. A few might be like a few of the young Elders. Elder Dewey (Grimsrud), a rough, gruff, blue collar jet airplane mechanic. – Application said what do you do well? His answer: Swearing. His daughter on the way out, “Good luck with that one.” I had him in my office like a young Elder several times but I would not trade him for any other missionary in the world. What great work he and his wife did as they not

only kept the office together but taught and baptized several converts. His final testimony was sweet and humble as he taught the young missionaries.

D. Why are Sr. Couples needed?

1. Pres. & Sister Jackson - As a mission president your desire is to have obedient, faithful missionaries. A key ingredient is to have mature Sr. couples that can manage, lead, direct, council, coach and mother the missionaries in the mission. Our mission covered 6 countries and was more than 2,000 miles across. It was impossible to be everywhere to solve mission problems. 90% 1<sup>st</sup> generation members. 95% of members had never read a manual. Sr. couples helped run the branches – they were shadow leadership helping branch presidents, Elders quorum presidents, RS, YM, YW & Primary presidents. One of the biggest helps the couples did was prepare every YM and YW to go on missions so that when they return they are ready to be leaders – RS, Primary, bishops, EQP. (Elder & Sister Holyoak)
2. President Clayton - Our couples became our heroes, as we saw them find their niche, established special, life-long friendships with members, investigators, converts, missionaries, and community members. They got up day after day, and served so faithfully. They were incredible examples to the young missionaries. Some were very hesitant as to what they would be doing, what the expectations were, but they all grew to love the work, and many tears were shed when it was time for them to return home.
3. President & Sister Van Dam - Shake hands and hug people

E. How many Sr. couples are currently serving from our stake? Only four (4)

F. If you have been thinking of a mission I would say “Don’t be afraid. Don’t wait for your birth certificate to expire to serve a mission.”

G. D&C 85:85 holds true for Sr. missionaries

1. Kitt. – food & faith conference
2. Diane (my sister) – Kenya. “My testimony was multiplied. I thought it was built on a rock but now it is deepened and I understand the real meaning of conversion. My faith increased in what the Lord will do as he magnifies our calling. Taught 300 people because preacher picked up a pamphlet from a lady’s back yard. Invited them to teach about Moroni(e). When they went the plan of salvation was on the black board. The words I spoke that night were not my own.”
3. Me – Whitworth University. Professor Mohrlang, Dept. of Religion and Philosophy.

H. Pres. Uchtdorf: “Nevertheless, the Lord sees in you what He saw in Amulek—the potential of a valiant servant with an important work to do and with a testimony to share. There is service that no one else can give in quite the same way. The Lord has trusted you ... to bless and lift others. Listen with your heart and follow the promptings of the Spirit. Deep down, many want to serve their God. They want to be an instrument in His hands. They want to thrust in their sickle and strive with their might to prepare the earth for the return of our Savior. They want to build His

Church. But they are reluctant to begin. Often they wait to be asked. ... You may be surprised to discover a valiant servant of the Lord who otherwise would have remained hidden.

IV. The Lord is in charge. Gamaliel's statement is true!

A. He will put you where you need and should be. – The Lowe's, The Bakers.

B. Be like Jason Christensen.

- “I have to admit, because of the past few years, I have sometimes wondered “how” I would serve a mission physically. I hardly have the strength to live my life the way I want to. But when thinking this way, I realized that my life is a gift from Heavenly Father, so no matter what my condition, it is an honor to serve and how I might feel is not the issue.

C. Phillip and the Eunuch – Acts 8:30-31;

- Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me?

D. Extras

E. Paul in Acts 16

**Stk. Conference, Saturday night Adult Session, October 8, 2016 – Notes & Thoughts**

**Dieter Uchdorft, Priesthood mgt. Oct. 1, 2016**

Other Resources

4. My talk from 6/19/05, Spokane East Stake, Stk. Priesthood mtg. – How crazy is missionary work? Elder Devin Jones. Paul – I think myself happy.
5. How great is the need? I could have used 10
6. Don't wait for your birth certificate to expire!
7. Sins of omission, commission, and no mission
8. The Lord is in charge – he will put you where you need to be. – The Lowe's, the Bakers,
9. Proselyting, office, visitor centers, public affairs,
10. Romans 10
11. The Eunuch
12. Elder Lowe's letter
13. Elder Ballard –
14. Pres. Clayton
15. Diane – my testimony was multiplied. I thought it was built on a rock but now it is deepened and I understand the real meaning of conversion, My faith increased in what the Lord will do as he magnifies our calling. Taught 1200 people because preacher picked up a pamphlet from a lady's back yard. Invited them to teach about Moroni(e). When they went the plan of salvation was on the board.
16. Jason Christensen – “I have prepared my entire life to serve a mission. Since I was a little boy, I always knew that I would serve a mission for this beautiful Church of JCLDS. I have to admit, because of the past few years, I have sometime wondered “how” I would serve a mission physically. With the pain that I have dealt with, it sometimes had seemed to me it might be too hard to service a mission. I hardly have the strength to live my life the way I want to just to live easily. But when thinking this way, I realized that my life is a gift from

Heavenly Father, so no matter what my condition, it is an honor to serve and how I might feel is not the issue.

17. Pres. & Sister Jackson – As a mission president if your desire is to have an obedient faithful group of missionaries a key ingredient is to have mature sr. couples that can help manage, lead, direct, council, coach and mother the missionaries in the mission. Spread out missions that cover 6 countries, more than 2,000 miles. Impossible to be everywhere to solve mission problems impossible. 33 couples have come home and more than 50% have left to second or third mission. 1/3 of the 33 went back to Africa. Living conditions rugged, roads atrocious, churches extremely modest. But the missionary couples were all responsible, leadership orientated who appreciated heavy duty assignments. Sr. couples ran the branches – R.S., Primary – they were shadow leadership. 95% of members had never read a manual. 90% 1<sup>st</sup> generation members. Single biggest thing the couples did was 1) every YM and YW prepared to go on missions; ready to be leaders when return – RS, Primary, bishops, EQP; 2) Do 4 generation sheets; families flown to be sealed. One night a week they Sr. missionaries taught the importance of getting to temple. Elder Holyoak, center of Utah. She broke her leg, Dr. examined, she duck taped leg, made a crutch, and leg healed up perfectly. She didn't report or complain because she didn't want to go home.