



WORK WILL WIN

My how the past six months has flown by. It seems as though it was only yesterday that we were traveling the mission and becoming acquainted with the missionaries of the Canada Edmonton Mission. Since then we have had several missionaries leave us; several new ones arrive; worked through four transfers; conducted several hundred interviews; held four sets of zone conferences, met monthly with stake presidents; participated in two wonderful Christmas conferences; met with numerous pairs of missionaries for companionship study; attended several different wards, stake conferences and branches; worked with and taught bishops and branch presidents; held eight Zone Leader Council and Training meetings; participated in four new District Leader training sessions; talked in firesides and other church meetings more often than can remember; given several temple interviews; spent several hours on the phone working through missionary medical requests and problems; responded to lots of requests for exceptions to mission policy; read and given short responses to hundreds of letters to the president; and grown to love each missionary for their individuality, determination, and dedication to the work of the Savior.

On a daily basis, we have had brought to mind that this is indeed a gospel of work and there is no substitute under the heavens for planned, productive, goal oriented labor. Without goals, planning, and work, visions would never become a reality. It is work that spells the difference in the life of a missionary. Work takes us beyond mediocrity to achieving dynamic results. Receiving enjoyment and satisfaction from work is one of the hallmarks of a successful missionary experience.

On page 156 of Preach My Gospel we read: "Wherever you are assigned to serve, remember that the Lord has "suffered you to come unto this place; for thus it was expedient in [Him] for the salvation of souls." Work effectively to "lift up your voices unto this people; speak the thoughts that [the Lord] shall put in your hearts." If you do, you will receive the promise that "you shall not be confounded before men," and "it shall be given you...in the very moment, what ye shall say" (D&C 101:4-6). Effective work in sharing the message of the Savior is the key to our success. In order to fulfill our commitment to find, teach, baptize and confirm people and to help them become faithful members, we must work in an orderly, organized way. The end of each day should find us exhausted, but ready to plan for the next. We should make every effort to work so that at the end of the day we are certain the Lord is pleased with our effort and that we have felt his Spirit working through us.

There will be moments when we will feel discouragement. All go through those feelings, but "it is important to know, when you feel down, that many others do also and that their circumstances are generally much worse than yours. It's important to know that when one of us is down, it becomes the obligation of his friends (companion) to give him a lift. Such valleys of discouragement make more beautiful the peaks of achievement." (President Hinckley)

At this time of the New Year, let us all rededicate ourselves to the work of the Savior and realize more fully that this is missionary WORK. To quote President Benson: "if a missionary works, he will get the Spirit; if he gets the spirit, he will teach by the spirit; and if he teaches by the Spirit, he will touch the hearts of the people and he will be happy."

We love you. We appreciate your dedication, testimony, and love for the Savior. We express thanks for your efforts and continue to encourage you to find happiness and enjoyment in missionary work.

President and Sister Randall

