IN OTHER CHURCH MAGAZINES

THE NEW ERA

THE MESSAGE

BECOMING A *PREACH MY GOSPEL* MISSIONARY

By Elder David A. Bednar
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

You can do this! The Lord you represent and serve knows you can do this. I know you can do this.

As Apostle first, foremost, and always a missionary. For that reason, I am especially pleased to address you as fellow servants in this magnificent latter-day work.

WHAT IS A PREACH MY GOSPEL MISSIONARY?

A *Preach My Gospel* missionary is a servant of the Lord, called by prophecy and authorized by the laying on of hands, who proclaims the Savior's ever-lasting and restored gospel in His way (see D&C 50:13–14, 17–24; D&C 68:1).

The overarching purpose of a missionary described in *Preach My Gospel* is to "invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end."

The sacred responsibility to proclaim authoritatively the gospel and administer the saving ordinances has been in operation since Adam was driven from the Garden of Eden and will continue until "the Great Jehovah shall say the work is done."

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME *PREACH MY GOSPEL* MISSIONARIES

I want to discuss five basic requirements for becoming *Preach My Gospel* missionaries.

REQUIREMENT #1: *Preach My Gospel* missionaries understand that they serve and represent Jesus Christ.

Preach My Gospel missionaries know and understand whom they represent, why they serve, and what they are to do. Full-time missionaries are called to serve and properly set apart as servants and representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ. We bear witness of His name and of the reality, divinity, and mission of Jesus Christ to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people (see D&C 133:37).

We love the Lord. We serve Him. We follow Him. We represent Him.

His purposes must be our purposes. His interests should be our interests. His work should be our work. His ways should be our ways. His will increasingly should become our will.

As representatives of the Redeemer, we preach the fundamental doctrines and principles of His restored gospel simply and clearly. We do not present personal opinions or speculation. We proclaim and testify of simple restored truth in the Lord's way and by the power of His Spirit.

Preach My Gospel missionaries understand that the responsibility to represent the Savior and to bear testimony of Him never ends. Please remember Him in all that you think, in all that you do, and in all that you strive to become, and represent Him appropriately to all of Heavenly Father's children with whom you interact now and always.

REQUIREMENT #2: *Preach My Gospel* missionaries are worthy.

An essential prerequisite to becoming *Preach My Gospel* missionaries is personal worthiness before the Savior.

Let me state several simple truths just as clearly as I know how:

- We are authorized representatives of the Redeemer and Savior of the world.
- We are called to declare His restored and everlasting gospel.
- We cannot be stained with the spots of the world and authoritatively represent Him and act with power in His holy name.
- We cannot help others to overcome the bondage of sin if we ourselves are entangled in sin (see D&C 88:86).
- We cannot help others learn to repent if we ourselves have not learned to repent properly and completely.
- We can proclaim and preach with power only that which we are striving to become.
- We will be held accountable before God for our righteous desires and worthiness to act as His agents.

We are not required presently to be perfect. But we are commanded to be clean and to walk uprightly before the Redeemer of Israel. "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord" (D&C 38:42).

Repentance is a principle of hope and healing—not of discouragement and despair. Repentance indeed is humbling—but not frightening. Repentance is simultaneously demanding and comforting, rigorous and soothing. Repentance is a

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Developing Christlike Attributes

This month's *Come, Follow Me* lessons for youth focus on becoming more Christlike. One of the lesson outlines for Aaronic Priesthood and Young Women asks, "How can I become more Christlike?" Find ways to develop Christlike attributes using key teachings from *Preach My Gospel* in "Follow in His Footsteps" on page 40.

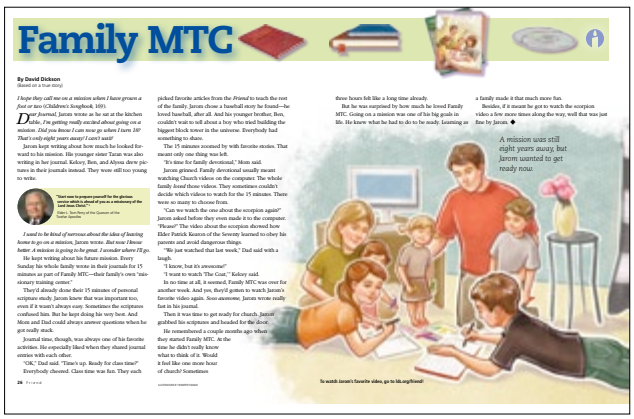
Real Mission Life

Youth often wonder what it's like to be a full-time missionary. In "Mission Life" on page 18, see what missionaries do in a typical week as they strive to bring souls unto Christ.

A *Preach My Gospel* Missionary

If you want advice on how to prepare to be the best missionary you can, read Elder David A. Bednar's "Becoming a *Preach My Gospel* Missionary" on page 2. Here Elder Bednar gives specific counsel on what it means to be an authorized servant of the Lord.

THE FRIEND


Family MTC

By David Dickson
(based on a true story)

I hope they call me on a mission when I have grown a foot or two (Children's Songbook, 105).

Dear Journal, Jaron wrote as he sat at the kitchen table, *I'm getting really excited about going on a mission. Did you know I can now go when I turn 18? That's only eight years away! I can't wait!*

Jaron kept writing about how much he looked forward to his mission. His younger sister Taran was also writing in her journal. Kelsey, Ben, and Alyssa also drew pictures in their journals instead. They were still too young to write.

"Start now to prepare yourself for the glorious service which is ahead of you as a missionary of the Lord Jesus Christ."
Elder Jeffrey R. Holland
of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

I used to be kind of nervous about the idea of leaving home to go on a mission, Jaron wrote. *But now I know better. A mission is going to be great. I wonder where I'll go.*

He kept writing about his future mission. Every Sunday his whole family wrote in their journals for 15 minutes as part of Family MTC—their family's own "missionary training center."

They'd already done their 15 minutes of personal scripture study. Jaron knew that was important too, even if it wasn't always easy. Sometimes the scriptures confused him. But he kept doing his very best. And Mom and Dad could always answer questions when he got really stuck.

Journal time, though, was always one of his favorite activities. He especially liked when they shared journal entries with each other.

"OK," Dad said. "Time's up. Ready for class time?"

Everybody cheered. Class time was fun. They each picked favorite articles from the *Friend* to teach the rest of the family. Jaron chose a baseball story he found—he loved baseball, after all. And his younger brother, Ben, couldn't wait to tell about a boy who tried building the biggest block tower in the universe. Everybody had something to share.

The 15 minutes zoomed by with favorite stories. That meant only one thing was left.

"It's time for family devotional," Mom said.

Jaron grinned. Family devotional usually meant watching Church videos on the computer. The whole family *loved* those videos. They sometimes couldn't decide which videos to watch for the 15 minutes. There were so many to choose from.

"Can we watch the one about the scorpion again?" Jaron asked before they even made it to the computer. "Please?" The video about the scorpion showed how Elder Patrick Kearon of the Seventy learned to obey his parents and avoid dangerous things.

"We just watched that last week," Dad said with a laugh.

"I know, but it's awesome!"

"I want to watch 'The Coat,'" Kelsey said.

In no time at all, it seemed, Family MTC was over for another week. And yes, they'd gotten to watch Jaron's favorite video again. *Sooo awesome,* Jaron wrote really fast in his journal.

Then it was time to get ready for church. Jaron grabbed his scriptures and headed for the door.

He remembered a couple months ago when they started Family MTC. At the time he didn't really know what to think of it. Would it feel like one more hour of church? Sometimes these hours felt like a long time already.

But he was surprised by how much he loved Family MTC. Going on a mission was one of his big goals in life. He knew what he had to do to be ready. Learning as a family made it that much more fun.

Besides, if it meant he got to watch the scorpion video a few more times along the way, well that was just fine by Jaron. ◆

A mission was still eight years away, but Jaron wanted to get ready now.

To watch Jaron's favorite video, go to lds.org/friend.

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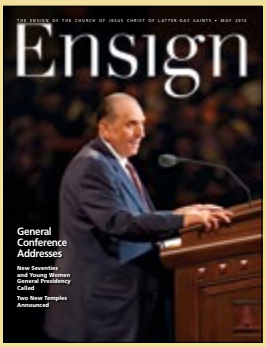
Be a Missionary!

Stories in the October *Friend* show how anyone can be a missionary—even in unexpected ways. "Prayers on the Pitcher's Mound" (page 10) tells about a team who used baseball to share the gospel. You can read accounts from children on how they have been missionaries in "I Can Be a Missionary Now" (page 24). In "Family MTC" (page 26), a young boy prepares to go on a mission—even though it's still eight years away. Read more about the Primary theme, "I Will Share the Gospel with All of God's Children," on page 28.



COMMENT

Conference Photos

I would like to express my appreciation for the photography in the most recent conference issue of the *Ensign* (May 2013). It was artistic, creative, and focused on the family. I couldn't put the magazine down until I saw all the photos!

Christine Hurst
Oklahoma, USA

Face Your Fears

The October issue features stories of children overcoming their fears. In "Monsters in the Closet" (page 36), Abby faces her fears through prayer, while in "Brand-New Deacon" (page 46), Benji overcomes his nerves about passing the sacrament for the first time.